Name: David Hollander  
Title: Chair  
Email: dholland@princeton.edu  

Committee Name: AALL LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee  

Committee Charge: The Committee shall promote the writing of scholarly papers and coordinate a program at the Association's annual meeting offering an opportunity for the winners of the prize to present their work highlighting various aspects of their writing process. To this end, the Committee shall establish categories or divisions of eligibility of the appropriate criteria for selection of winning works; review and set the number of creative works which will be selected as winners; administer any financial award which may be available for distribution to winners; and review papers or creative works and select winners. The Committee shall recommend to the editor of the Law Library Journal those papers which are suitable for publication.

Major Activities for 2010-2011: 

Annual Paper Competition: The main activity that the Call For Papers Committee engaged (CFPC), and continues to engage in this year, is to promote, administer, and judge our annual paper competition. Submissions for this competition are due in March 1 (New and Open Divisions) and April 15 (Student Division). Once the paper submissions have arrived, the CFPC will read them and choose the winning papers. Each winner will receive $750 and the winning papers are recommended for publication in Law Library Journal.

Educational Session at Annual Meeting: The competition winners will present their papers at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Traditionally, a "featured speaker," in addition to the winners, is invited to speak about writing and the writing process. This year Mary Whisner, from the Univ. of Washington will be our feature speaker. As we determine the writing competition winners, we will continue to plan this educational session.

Writing Workshop: For the past two years, the CFPC has organized a writing workshop which has brought together experienced writers and aspiring writers to discuss issues relating to writing: choosing a topic, finding time, getting published, etc. This year, we decided to offer a revamped Writing Workshop and invite Amanda Irwin Wilkins, the director of Princeton University's Writing Program, to offer an advanced class in writing, using the same pedagogical methods used to teach writing to graduate students and faculty at Princeton University. The CFPC and Ms. Wilkins are currently planning details of this workshop, but the general outlines are decided: it will be hands-on, limited to 30 participants, and focus on the innovative system called "The Writing Lexicon," which was conceived at Harvard and fully developed at Princeton to train scholars to think about and discuss quality writing in a new and productive way. We will begin promoting this Writing Workshop in February, but sign-up will begin in April or May.

New Category: This fall, the CFPC has brought an Action Item before the Board to implement a new category in the paper competition for 2011-2012: the Short Form Division. The proposal was approved. The purpose of introducing the Short Form Division is to enable the CFPC to recognize a wider variety of quality writing that has not been represented in previous Call for Papers winners, due to the nature of the current prize categories, which tend to longer-form law review-style essays. Specifically the CFPC hopes to recognize writing that is appropriate for publication in AALL Spectrum, a national or local bar journal, a Chapter/SIS newsletter, or a similar type of publication. The CFPC is currently discussing details of this new category and details for its implementation, which will probably be as a pilot category for the first year. Next year's CFPC will evaluate the pilot program and decide whether to make the Short Form Division a permanent category. At the Board's request, an Information Item detailing our implementation plan will be submitted for the next Board meeting.

AALL 2010-2013 Strategic Directions: The activities of the CFPC are integrally connected to the AALL 2010-2013 Strategic Directions. The CFPC believes that all of its activities support the AALL core value of "lifelong learning and intellectual growth for law librarians." Also, the writing that the CFPC promotes, "enhances the stature of individual librarians as leaders in their workplace," and helps librarians "meet and leverage the challenges of the changing information environment in a global world."

Proposed Activities for 2011-2012: 

Continue to successfully offer the paper competition and present the winners at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

Continue to offer learning opportunities that promote writing skills.
Implement and then evaluate the new Short Form Division and determine whether to continue with the new category in subsequent years.