AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee 2010-2011 Annual Report

Committee members were: David A. Hollander (chair), Jenny Lentz (vice chair), Connie Lenz, Mark Podvia, Lucy Curci-Gonzalez (Board liaison), and Hannah Phelps (staff liaison).

The committee made awards in the three categories:

**Open Division**
David L. Armond, Brigham Young University School of Law Library
Shawn G. Nevers, Brigham Young University School of Law Library
*The Practitioner’s Council: Connecting Legal Research Instruction and Current Legal Research Practice*

**New Member Division**
Margaret Butler, Georgia State University College of Law Library
*Resource Based Learning and Course Design*

**Student Division**
William Cross, University of North Carolina School of Law
*Restoring the Public Library Ethos: Copyright, E-licensing, and the Future of Librarianship*

Awards were presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia at the “Librarian as Author” program session (F-4) scheduled for July 25, 2011, at 10:45, during which, in addition to hearing a short presentation by each of the winners, Mary Whisner of the Univ. of Washington, was the featured speaker.

The committee sponsored a Writing Workshop at the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The committee invited Amanda Irwin Wilkins, director of Princeton University’s Writing Program, to conduct a workshop using the methods used at Princeton to teach advanced writing skills to graduate students and faculty. Wilkins conducted a workshop that was hands-on (workshops often include actual writing during the workshop), yet would not require attendees to come with a work in progress.

Attendees began to explore a new method, pioneered at Harvard and then Princeton, called “The Writing Lexicon,” to think about what makes for good and effective academic and professional writing. While past Writing Workshops sponsored by our committee have appealed mainly to inexperienced writers, this workshop was aimed at both inexperienced and experienced writers. We are excited to be able to offer the opportunity for AALL members to benefit from an actual college-level writing class conducted by a professor of writing.

The committee offered both an action item and an information item to the Executive Board during the year, designed to broaden the reach of its programs in the 2012 competition.

**Action Item**
For the fall Board meeting, an action item was submitted by the committee chair, inquiring whether the Board would approve a revenue-neutral idea to broaden the appeal of the Call for Papers competition to writers of “short-form” articles, and also to begin to encourage and honor this form of writing.

Supporting documentation listed two proposals for accomplishing this action item:

**PROPOSAL ONE:**
Add a fourth category, the “short form,” and rename the other three: “student long form,” “new member long form,” and “open member long form.” Under this proposal, to stay revenue-neutral, the total prize money (currently $225 - $750 for three categories) would be divided by four categories, lowering the prize for each to $562.50. The CFP Committee is not aware whether permission from the sponsor, Lexis, is required make such a change.

**PROPOSAL TWO:**
Keep three categories (and the $750 prize level), but reorganize them by combining the “new” and “student” categories: (1) short-form (which is open to students, new and “less-new” librarians); (2) new member/student long-form; and (3) open member long-form. Perhaps under this scenario we could lower the number of years required to qualify as “new” from five to three, since the new members and students will be competing against each other.

OUTCOME: The Board approved this proposal, expressing a preference for Proposal One. The Board also asked for an information item to be submitted for the spring meeting describing our implementation plan.

**Information Item**

For the spring Board meeting, the committee submitted an Information Item outlining its plan to implement the new “short form” division in the 2011-2012 Call for Papers competition.

The executive summary of the information item:

The AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Committee plans to introduce a new category of prize for 2012, to be called the Short Form Division. The Short Form Division will carry a prize of $300. The prize will not include a recommendation for publication, (as winners in other divisions are recommended for publication in Law Library Journal), in order to allow this category to attract entrants appropriate to a variety of short form publications. The new division will be a pilot for one year, and the committee will evaluate its success at the end of the 2011-2012 year.

David A. Hollander
Chair, 2010-2011