CONELL is a one-day program held on the Saturday before the Annual Meeting. The program is designed to introduce AALL to newer members of our profession/association. The morning program is dedicated to introducing the attendees to the Executive Board and some of the leadership, publishing, and committee opportunities provided by AALL. The afternoon program consists of lunch and a tour of our host city. This is an excellent opportunity for participants to network with their peers. The CONELL Committee also hosts Dutch treat dinners on the evening before CONELL as an informal way to meet a small group prior to the start of CONELL.

The committee has had busy year getting ready for Philadelphia. In January Jocelyn Kennedy was promoted to chair. The committee has maintained its cloud computing on Airset.com in an effort to archive committee materials. The committee also worked on: program and speaker lineup, Dutch treat dinners, Marketplace coordination, breakfast and lunch menus, an off-site tour (Discover Philadelphia), publicity (targeted advertising to new members), and staying within budget. This year’s CONELL was sponsored in part by LexisNexis.

In an effort to impart more networking opportunities, the CONELL Committee established an “Annual Meeting Mentor” program, soliciting volunteers from throughout the AALL community. Ninety-two established members of AALL volunteered to spend 30 minutes to one hour with a CONELL attendee to answer any questions the attendee may have. Fifty-two CONELL attendees signed up for mentors. It will assess the success of the program by following up, in September, with the participants.

Plans for next year’s CONELL are already in the works, with some exciting changes in the mix.

The 2010-2011 CONELL committee consists of: Jocelyn Kennedy, chair; Jessica de Perio Wittman; Lisa Goodman; Julie Pabarja; Janet Peros; Nathan Preuss; Ronald Wheeler, Jr., Board liaison; and Julia O’Donnell, staff liaison. The officers for 2011-2012 are Jocelyn Kennedy, chair, and Jessica de Perio Wittman, vice chair. Committee members are Lisa Goodman; Kristine Lloyd; Janet Peros; Nathan Preuss; Erika Wayne; Donna Williams, Board liaison; and Julia O’Donnell, staff liaison.

Jocelyn Kennedy
Chair, 2010-2011