Copyright Committee 2009-2010 Annual Report

The 2009-2010 Copyright Committee began the year with a newly revised charge approved at the summer Executive Board meeting, the first two paragraphs of which are reproduced here:

**PURPOSE:** The Committee serves to represent, promote, and advocate the Association's interests regarding copyright and other intellectual property issues in legislative, regulatory, and judicial affairs, including litigation.

**CHARGE:** The Committee shall monitor developments and shall inform and advise the Executive Board and the Government Relations Office on copyright and other intellectual property matters. In addition, the Committee shall inform the membership of notable intellectual property policy issues and other relevant matters, and provide educational opportunities and tools for the membership in copyright law.

The Copyright Office sent a series of questions to committee Vice Chair Roger Skalbeck as follow-up to his testimony before the Copyright Office requesting section 1201 exemptions for law/medical school teaching. We signed onto a joint statement primarily drafted by the Electronic Frontier Foundation to which we and a number of other library groups contributed.

The committee proposed one workshop and three programs for the Annual Meeting in Denver. The workshop and one of the programs were approved. Our workshop on “Creative Commons Implementation” was cancelled, but the committee hopes to present much of the content we had intended to cover through one or more webinars in the next year. Our program, “Ten Things Every Law Librarian Needs to Know About Copyright,” was one of the programs chosen for live streaming during the Annual Meeting.

Committee member Steve Melamut published the article, “Freeing Creativity: Understanding the Creative Commons Licenses,” in the April 2010 *Spectrum*. This is part of our campaign to educate the membership and encourage the use of these “some rights reserved” licenses in our own creations to encourage more explicit sharing of our own intellectual property. We also opened up lines of communication with the AALLNET Advisory Committee, *LLJ* and *Spectrum* Advisory Committee and editors, and the chapter presidents about encouraging the use of Creative Commons licenses on many of our print and web-based writings.

There has been no copyright legislation in the current Congress. We were asked by the California Library Association for our opinion of some proposed state copyright legislation, which we felt should be monitored if any legislative action were taken on it.

The Supreme Court has granted cert to one copyright case in the current term, *Costco v. Omega,* and AALL has signed on to an amicus brief authored by Public Knowledge.

We continue to monitor ACTA and support the efforts to keep the negotiations public and oppose attempts to bypass the legislative process and change copyright law through the international agreement process.
Web page revisions begun last year were completed, bringing our pages up to date. Special thanks to our webmaster Laureen Urquiaga, who continued to work on this project even when she was no longer a committee member.

Committee members completed two new issue briefs, which are available on AALLNET. Roger Skalbeck and Jennifer Wondracek prepared the brief on the Section1201 exemptions. Tracy Thompson-Przylucki authored an issue brief on the Google Book Settlement. Two more issue briefs are in process. Steve Melamut is working on an issue brief on Creative Commons, and George Pike will update the existing brief on the Georgia state case.

The committee commented on the copyright aspects of a proposed revision of the GRC policy. The committee hopes that AALL will work toward restoring copyright balance between creators and copyright holders for private works in addition to continued efforts to keep government works in the public domain and available to the public without restriction.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Shear
Chair 2009-2010