The Diversity Committee remained true to its charge to identify issues related to maximizing the diversity of the AALL membership during 2007-08. The committee consisted of Chair Ron Wheeler and members Michael Bernier, Raquel Gabriel, Michael Greenlee, Lori Lantos, Marvin Lamont Lewis, Teresa Miguel, Anne Robbins, and Miki Scholl. David Mao served as the committee’s Board Liaison.

The committee met in New Orleans in July 2007 and began discussing ideas for symposium topics and speakers. That initial brainstorm resulted in follow-up e-mail discussions and conference calls to solidify the Diversity Symposium topic and speakers. The title chosen for the 2008 Diversity Symposium is “Developing Diversity: Exploring Innovative Approaches to Recruitment into the Profession of Law Librarianship.”

Panelists include:

- Dr. Maurice Wheeler, Associate Professor, University of North Texas School of Library and Information Sciences. Diversity is one of Dr. Wheeler’s primary research areas, and he has written and presented extensively on this topic. Dr. Wheeler will help us to define diversity, identify useful indicators of achieving increased diversity, and help us to assess our own efforts with regard to diversity within AALL.

- Dr. Patricia Montiel Overall, Assistant Professor, University of Arizona School of Information Resources and Library Science. Dr. Overall will discuss the Knowledge River program at the University of Arizona which focuses on the needs and perspectives of the Hispanic and Native American communities.

- Jerome Offord, Director of Diversity Initiatives at the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). Mr. Offord will talk about ARL’s Initiative to Recruit a Diverse Workforce, ARL’s other initiatives involving the recruitment and retention of librarians from underrepresented groups, and what AALL can do to achieve greater diversity.

- Dwight King, Head of Research Services at the Kresge Law Library at the University of Notre Dame. Mr. King will discuss his law library’s participation in a project to recruit the next generation of librarians.

The Diversity Reception is scheduled to immediately follow the symposium. The Diversity Committee is grateful to LexisNexis for their generous financial sponsorship of the Diversity Symposium and Reception.

The committee participated in the selection of the Minority Leadership Development Award recipient for 2008 by forming a subcommittee, reviewing the applicants’ materials, and choosing a winner. Unlike past years, the committee chose the award winner without advice or consultation from the Grants Committee. This change in procedure for the selection of the Minority Leadership Development Award is intended to
be permanent. The 2008 Minority Leadership Development Award winner is Lauren Collins of Duke University. The award will be presented to Ms. Collins at the Diversity Reception.

The committee will spend approximately $4700 on the Diversity Symposium and Reception. Of that amount, only $2000 is covered by the LexisNexis sponsorship. Having a promise of support from the Executive Board without a designated budget to supplement the annual $2000 sponsorship is an ongoing issue for the committee.

Ronald Wheeler, Chair
2007-08