One of the most important activities of the Government Relations Committee (GRC) is recruiting AALL members to help with advocacy efforts. Members of Congress and their staffs respond best when they are approached by an AALL member-constituent or AALL chapter about the issues that are important to us. The year began with two very successful advocacy workshops held at the 2006 annual meeting: 37 attended the morning session for chapter leaders, and 24 attended the afternoon session for newer law librarians.

GRC monitored many important legislative and administrative developments and worked with members in various AALL chapters to contact legislators. Each GRC member served as liaison to several chapters and was responsible for keeping those members informed and active in our advocacy efforts. Net neutrality, the Open Government Act, the Fair Use Act, FOIA issues, appropriations for GPO, NARA, and the Law Library of Congress, are only a few of the issues we worked on this year. Our members were extremely helpful; they made the calls, sent the letters, and remembered to thank the government officials who responded well to our priorities.

The GRC received eleven nominations for the Public Access to Government Information (PAGI) Award, and after reviewing the nominations, unanimously recommended that Cathy Hartman, Assistant Dean of Libraries at the University of North Texas, and John Joergensen, Reference Librarian at Rutgers-Camden Law School Library, receive the award this year. The Awards Committee concurred.

GRC program proposals for the 2007 Annual Meeting that were accepted are: 1) the Advocacy Workshop; 2) the Town Meeting with GPO/NARA; 3) the Annual Leg/Reg Update; 4) Web-harvesting; and 5) Finding information on PACER. The first three programs have become annual events.

Under the leadership of AALL President Sally Holterhoff, a follow-up national summit on authentication was held in Schaumburg, IL in late April so that AALL leaders could work with invited state officials to help determine how authentication problems can be tackled in all the states. I served on the planning committee for the national summit and took part in the summit sessions that were held to find solutions. The summit succeeded beyond all expectations, and GRC will be involved in following up on future efforts to ensure that appropriate authentication principles are adopted by the states.

GRC Members for 2006-07 were: Barbara Brandon, A. Hays Butler, Paul Callister, Janet Fischer (Webmaster), Mary Louise Hess, Stephanie Hess, Scott Matheson, Larry Meyer, Maryruth Storer, Camilla Tubbs, Sally Wambold, and Kate Wilko. We felt privileged to have President Sally Holterhoff as our Board liaison. Mary Alice Baish, Associate Washington Affairs Representative, provided us with both stellar leadership and support throughout the year. Bryan Stevens, who assisted Mary Alice, returned to Pennsylvania; Elizabeth LeDoux provided part-time assistance in the Washington Office for several months. We hope that additional Washington Affairs Office support can be found,
because it really helps with our advocacy efforts, which require energy, imagination, and (perhaps above all), speed in responding to important issues that are vital to our members and to the future of law libraries.

Keith Ann Stiverson, Chair
2006-07