AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

Name: Catherine Dunn  ID #: 106
Title: Chair  Submitted: 3/5/2012
Email: cmd77@law.georgetown.edu

Committee Name: Government Relations Committee

Committee Charge: The Government Relations Committee monitors all federal and state legislative, regulatory, and judicial developments, with the exception of copyright issues, that may affect the Association, law librarianship, law libraries, or the dissemination of information. The Committee coordinates with the Government Relations Office to communicate Association views on information policy issues to all levels of government. The Committee informs the membership of notable information policy issues and provides educational opportunities and tools for the membership in information policy and advocacy. The Committee selects one or more recipients for advocacy awards each year, and Committee members support the local advocacy efforts of chapters and individual members though liaison relationships and other efforts.

Major Activities for 2011-2012:

Participating in monthly conference calls to allow for an in-depth discussion of advocacy on information policy issues, including the development of strategies for networking with each Association chapter and SIS and general planning.

Working with the Government Relations Office to draft one-page, substantive issue briefs on a wide array of topics, including:

- Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act;
- Access to Congressional Research Service Report;
- The Congressional Record;
- Faster FOIA Act;
- Federal Depository Library Program;
- FDsys;
- GPO Funding;
- National Archives and Records Administration: Funding for Fiscal Year 2013;
- National Security Letters;
- Network Neutrality;
- Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER);
- Public Access to Taxpayer-Funded Research;
- Statistical Abstract;
- USA Patriot Act – Section 215; and
- Whistleblower Protections.

Creating a monitoring project in which each Committee member reviews one or more assigned RSS feeds for relevant postings on information policy issues and then alerts the Committee to his or her findings via the Committee's eGroup.

Hosting a series of programs on information policy issues at the upcoming AALL Annual Meeting in Boston in July of 2012, including:

- "Legislative Advocacy Training 2012: Becoming An Effective Advocate," which will center around the experiences/tips of a former legislative aid in Massachusetts before transitioning into breakout sessions on the enactment phase of the new uniform law on electronic legal materials (UELMA) and the future of the Federal Depository Library Program;
- A program entitled "The National Declassification Center – Will It Meet Our Expectations?" on the NDC's mandate and progress in addressing a growing backlog, an outsider's perspective on how the NDC is doing in meeting its goals, and tips for researchers who wish to access declassified documents;
- The "Building the One World Law Library – A Collaborative Approach" program on the Law Library of Congress' portal to and repository of local, state, tribal, national, international, and transnational legal and legislative information; and
- The annual "AALL Public Policy Update: Connecting Members to AALL Advocacy Efforts," an interactive conversation on AALL's top policy priorities between the chairs of AALL's three policy committees. At this update, the Committee will award the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award and the Public Access to Government Information Award.
### Proposed Activities for 2012-2013:

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<th>Proposed Activities</th>
<th>Regular activities to continue:</th>
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<td>• Meeting monthly by telephone;</td>
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<td>• Outreach to SISs and Chapters;</td>
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<td>• Monitoring information policy, advocating on AALL’s behalf, and educating members and the public about information policy issues of concern;</td>
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<td>• Awarding the PAGI and Oakley Awards; and</td>
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<td>• Developing and submitting AALL program proposals, including the Policy Update and the pre-meeting Advocacy Training Day.</td>
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### Specific Policy Issues in 2012-2013:

- Monitoring progress and supporting funding of the National Declassification Center;
- Advocating for UELMA adoption among the states; and
- Participating in relevant studies and conducting outreach, education, and advocacy in support of the FDLP in law libraries.

### Other Matters:

- Considering ways that AALL membership can and do participate in shaping AALL government information policies to ensure that AALL members feel that they are adequately able to influence Association policy. If changes are needed to allow members to participate more fully, recommending changes. Otherwise, considering whether additional education and outreach to non-GRC AALL members about their influence on policy is necessary;
- Evaluating how AALL policy positions can be made more accessible online to AALL members and non-members, such as Congressional staff; and
- Reconsidering the liaison relationship between committee members and SISs and Chapters, and considering the feasibility of establishing liaison relationships between Government Relations Committee members and advocates within AALL (as indicated by belonging to the Advocacy listserv). Perhaps targeted outreach and marketing on an issue-specific basis is an approach to consider in all liaison relationships.