Members of the 2009-2010 Grants Committee are: Patty Wellinger, chair; Pauline Afuso, vice chair; Whitney Alexander; Georgia Chadwick; Catherine Peterson Chick; Michele Finerty and Heidi Heller. Our Board liaison is Ruth Hill.

The committee’s primary responsibility is to administer the AALL Annual Meeting/Workshop grants program, which covers registration fees to attend the AALL Annual Meeting or one of the Workshops affiliated with the AALL Annual Meeting. Grants may not be used for other AALL programs.

Unlike the past two years, no changes were made or proposed in our charge, application forms, or procedures. The applications were updated and posted on the AALLNET website. Our committee webmaster updated the links to various chapter grants.

Public relations activities included e-mails to all chapter presidents, SIS chairs, and caucus liaisons to request that they forward details to their groups’ listservs and/or newsletters for distribution. E-mails were also sent to all ALA-accredited library schools. Several reminders were included in the AALL president’s e-mail update. Links to the grant forms were made available in several places on the AALLNET website, including the Annual Meeting section.

The 2009-2010 committee had $5,000 to distribute, thanks to the generosity of LexisNexis. There were 15 winners: 7 winners from the experienced category, 3 new members, and 5 student members from a total of 57 applications. There were no workshop grants this year. Names of winners were posted on AALLNET, mentioned in Spectrum and the president’s e-mail. Winners’ names will also be posted on a sign in the Convention Center and in the AALL Awards brochure.

For comparison – the 2008-2009 committee awarded $5,300 to 15 people from a pool of 47 applications. In order to try to generate more funding, the Grants Committee proposed an ad in AALL Spectrum, which was created for us by Headquarters staff. It was not very successful, perhaps due to the timing or the continuing economic downturn.

Several committee activities occurred during the AALL Annual Meeting in Denver. Pauline spoke about the Grants Committee to the attendees of the chapter/SIS leadership training. Patty represented the committee at the CONELL Marketplace and at the Lexis Grants and Scholarship dinner at the Botanic Gardens. Georgia created a display for the Exhibits Hall to promote committee activities, and Pauline spoke at the Business Meeting to encourage donations next year.

The chair recommends that next year’s committee focus on developing ways to increase funding so that we can assist more deserving candidates in attending the 2011 AALL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. In addition, several problems were discovered with the applications and scoring forms that need to be addressed for a smoother process next year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patty Wellinger
Chair 2009-2010