The AALL Grants Committee’s charge is to “review and recommend to the Executive Board criteria for grant awards according to contemporary funding circumstances; coordinate the procurement, receipt and acknowledgement of grant funds; publicize the availability of grants, solicit applications, and award grants according to established criteria.” Funds for grants were made available through the generous support of LexisNexis and the many donations of individual members of AALL. Additionally, at the 2012 Boston meeting, AALL conducted a pilot project to sell ribbons for $1 apiece to assist in raising money for the grants program. This pilot raised about $350, and will be repeated at future conferences. Finally, due to an arrangement with William S. Hein & Co., the grants program received $1,200 in royalties from the inclusion of AALL publications within the Dick Spinelli Law Librarian’s Reference Shelf. Altogether, the Committee had $7,200 to distribute this year to grant winners.

This year, the Committee received a total of forty-three applications, up from thirty-one applicants the previous year. Of the 43 applicants 28 submitted student or newer member applications, while 15 submitted experienced member applications. The Committee offered 14 grants totaling $6,788. Ten of these grants went to students or newer members; 4 went to experienced members. All grants awarded were for registration costs to attend the Annual Meeting in Seattle; none were awarded for workshop costs.

In September, 2012, the revised grading forms used by the Committee were loaded onto AALLNET. These forms had been revised during the 2011/2012 year, but not loaded onto AALLNET then. Additionally, after consultation with the Committee’s staff liaison, Paula Davidson, changes to the application forms to ensure greater consistency between application and grading forms were incorporated onto the site in January, 2013. I heard from a couple of Committee members who indicated that they thought these improvements made the grading process straightforward.

In order to publicize the availability of grants, notices were placed on the LawLib listserv, as well as chapter discussion lists, in February and March 2013. The February, 2013 issue of the AALL Spectrum included a notice as well, encouraging members to apply for a grant. Finally, the March 4, 2013 weekly email update from President Jean Wenger mentioned the availability of grants through the program too.

In April the Committee commenced its biggest project of the year, which was to review the applications. As mentioned above, it had funds of $7,200 to award, and granted a total of $6,788 to the thirteen successful 2013 grant recipients.

The Committee concluded its activities at AALL Meeting in Seattle on Saturday, July 13. The Committee advertised the grants program and its activities both at CONELL and in the Activities Area, and the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 committees met together at that July 13 meeting.

As outgoing Committee Chair, I would like to thank Susan Boland, vice chair, Therese Clarke Arado, Suzanne Corriell, Christopher Dykes, Ruth Levor, and Alison Sherwin for their contributions and hard work. I also would like to express my appreciation for the guidance throughout this year of Amy Eaton, Executive Board liaison, and Paula Davidson, AALL staff liaison. Both were instrumental in providing insight into policy questions and procedural matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Parker, Chair
AALL Grants Committee, 2012-2013