Research and Publications Committee 2009-2010 Annual Report

The Research and Publication Committee is responsible for administering two research grant programs: the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Grant Program and the AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis®. To this end, the committee informs AALL members of the availability of the grants and grant-cycle deadlines, evaluates grant applications, selects grant recipients, determines award amounts, assures that grant recipients comply with grant requirements, approves reports, and so on.

In 2009-2010, the committee received and reviewed five applications for research grants. In the fall of 2009, the committee selected two grants for funding through the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Grant Program: Susan Nevelow Mart was awarded $2,225 for her project, “The Effects of Automation on the Relevance of Citator and Digest Results in Westlaw and Lexis,” and Stacey L. Bowers was awarded $2,775 for her project, “Reintroducing the Value of Law Librarians to Public Librarians Through the Identification and Use of Emerging Technologies and Resources.” The committee selected one grant for funding through the AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis®. Deborah Dennison was awarded $450 for her project, “OBAR/Mead Data Central Papers Project.”


The committee fulfills a number of other AALL publication-related charges, including reviewing proposals for additions to the AALL Publication Series, published by William S. Hein & Co., Inc. Last year, the committee received one proposal for the Series. The committee chair and the AALL director of publications conducted an initial review of the proposal for consistency with the AALL Publications Statement of Purpose, financial soundness, and general feasibility. Unfortunately, the proposal did not meet the threshold requirements for the Series and was therefore not forwarded to the committee for a full review.

Finally, the committee was charged with developing criteria for and administering a new AALL award, the AALL Distinguished Lectureship Award. This award was created by the AALL Executive Board to honor members with a unique perspective on the history, practice, or philosophy of law librarianship, who will share their knowledge and expertise with other members in a lecture given at the annual meeting. The AALL Research and Publications Committee, in coordination with the editors of Law Library Journal and AALL Spectrum, will choose the recipient from among the qualified nominees. The first recipient will deliver a lecture at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

The members of the 2009-2010 AALL Research and Publications Committee are: Pamela Melton, chair; Adeen Postar, vice chair; Molly Brownfield; Julie Jones; Shawn Nevers; Amy Osborne; Joshua Phillips; Margaret A. Schilt; Kama Sue Siegel; and Sharon Wang.
Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Melton
Chair 2009-2010