For many years, the Research and Publication Committee has been 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 2011-2012, the committee received and reviewed four applications for research grants: three for the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Grant and one for the grant through the AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis®. The committee selected two grants for funding through the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Grant Program: Leslie Street and Julie Kimbrough were awarded a grant for their project entitled "Assessing Collection and Holding Patterns for Print Primary Legal Materials: A Fifty-State Database." Melanie Oberlin and Robert Willey were awarded a grant for their project entitled "Comparison of Research Speed and Accuracy Using Westlaw and WestlawNext." The committee declined to approve a grant for funding through the AALL Research Fund: An Endowment Established by LexisNexis®.

The committee in 2011-2012 approved a final report from John Cannan regarding a research grant awarded during 2010-2011, for his Drupal Constitutional History Research Project. The committee thanks everyone who participated in the research grant competition and those whose generous support made the grants possible.

In July 2012, the committee was informed that Wolters Kluwer has decided not to continue to fund the AALL/Wolters Kluwer Law & Business Grant; Wolters Kluwer will instead focus its support on other AALL funding opportunities. The committee appreciates Wolters Kluwer’s generosity it has shown over many years in funding the Research Grant. During 2012-2013 the committee will consult with the AALL Board to determine if other funding opportunities are available to continue the grant program.

The committee also administers 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 committee received three nominations and selected Anne Klinefelter, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Kathrine R. Everette Law Library of the University of North Carolina School of Law, to be awarded the second annual Distinguished Lectureship. Prof. Klinefelter delivered her address, entitled “Should Librarians Retire the Privacy Ethic?,” at the Annual Convention in Boston on July 23, 2012. The lecture will be published in the Law Library Journal at a future date.

The committee is charged with periodically reviewing and proposing changes to the AALL Research Agenda. In 2011-2012, a subcommittee was formed to undertake this effort. The subcommittee conducted two meetings by conference call, and subcommittee members drafted
proposed revisions to the Research Agenda. The work of this subcommittee will continue into 2012-2013.

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. The committee did not receive any proposals for this series during 2011-2012.

The members of the 2011-2012 AALL Research and Publications Committee were: Sara Sampson, Chair; Luis Acosta, Vice Chair; Terry Ballard, Kim Clark, James M. Donovan, Mark Engsberg, Julie Graves Krishnaswami, Evelyn L. Ma, Sima Mirkin, and Renee Rastorfer.

Luis Acosta
Vice Chair, 2011-2012