AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Name: Price Index for Legal Publications Committee

Committee Charge: CHARGE: The Committee shall:

- establish the categories of material to be included in the index
- collect data on pricing of legal publications
- provide information regarding the methodology and data sources used to compile AALL’s Price Index for Legal Publications
- monitor changes in legal publishing that affect the index

Major Activities for 2009-2010: The main activity for the 2009-10 Committee has been to compile prices for the 2009 Price Index. This year, there was some additional work involved as Thomson Reuters agreed to submit West prices. West prices were last supplied by the publisher in the 2003 Price Index. As a result, the committee members spent time identifying title changes and cessations from the West title list last used in 2003. This has slightly delayed our publication process this year. The publication timeline is for prices to be sent to headquarters in mid to late March 2010 as West has promised to submit pricing in late February 2010.

Proposed Activities for 2010-2011: The Committee’s primary objective for 2010-11 is to compile the annual Price Index for Legal Publications. The West pricing issues continue to require clarification, and it is hoped these will soon be resolved. It would be interesting to note, as well, if electronic vs. print costs are becoming an important pricing structure to monitor.

If time permitted I would like to explore establishing a document to detail the particulars of how this committee functions, i.e. how we establish the categories of material to be included, how we collect data and compile it, and what we do to monitor the legal publishing industry. This is an expansive charge for one committee and perhaps we want to limit the work of the committee to simply gathering the pricing details. The introduction to the Price Index is a useful place to discuss some of these points, however, it would be helpful to the Chair, VC to have a more comprehensive history of correspondence, emails, discussions, etc on the issues of interest. Of course, it would be helpful as well, to have an advisor/editor as a liaison for continuity and institutional history.