Name: Regina Watson  
Title: Chair  
Email: rwatson01@hamline.edu

Committee Name: Price Index for Legal Publications Committee

Committee 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 2011-2012:

The committee met in conjunction with the AALL Annual Meeting in July 2011 to begin work on the 2011 Price Index. The committee found that the publication list for the PILP has not been revised materially for some years and may not give full consideration to some current Web-based products. The committee launched a two-year effort to revise the list, in keeping with price-index best practices and the need to provide year-to-year consistency, so that index changes convey meaningful information. Additionally, the committee planned actions in response to the Full Report of the AALL Price Index Review Task Force. Considering membership survey results and other information, the Task Force concluded that PILP continues to play a vital role for AALL membership and would benefit from appointment of a continuing paid editor.

Soon after the meeting, the committee assisted Chair Regina Watson in preparing a draft job description, required and preferred qualifications, role delineation, and other documents to assist AALL in recruiting a PILP Editor. The committee chair and vice-chair Daniel Campbell worked with other AALL participants in screening, interviewing, and selecting the incoming PILP Editor.

The vice-chair continues to investigate price-index best practices and has begun developing a process both for periodic revision of the publication list and for proper consideration of emerging legal information products.

The chair solicited and obtained 2011 price data directly from the four major legal information vendors. In initial review, the chair found that the 2011 data conform to PILP’s established standards, with one major anomaly. The committee discovered that for some years, LexisNexis has been supplying price data not for the year in question but for the following year. For example, instead of supplying 2010 data for the 2010 index, LexisNexis supplied 2011 data. The committee unanimously agreed to discontinue this error, and Lexis was required to submit 2011 data for the 2011 index. The chair will explain the impact of this correction, in the introduction to the 2011 PILP. The chair continues to work with the Big Four in resolving less serious anomalies.

Using various sources, committee members collected and submitted price data for publications of smaller vendors, and the chair is reviewing the data.

The chair will work with the new PILP Editor and AALL staff in ensuring the index calculations are completed on time.

Proposed Activities for 2012-2013:

The Committee will continue to implement the task force recommendations contained within the 2011 Full Report of the AALL Price Index Review Task Force and looks forward to continuing to provide a viable and valuable budget and collection development resource to AALL Members. The Committee looks forward to working closely with AALL Staff and the recently hired PILP Editor to implement the recommendations contained within the Full Report.

The Committee will continue its work on evaluating and/or implementing improved policies and methods for more efficiently reporting certain Index categories and how best to identify and add new or omitted titles to the Index. In doing so, the Committee will consider the impact any new
Initiatives in this area will have on the Index and the 2010 base year reset.

The Committee will evaluate and implement improved methods of entering data to help streamline the process, improve data accuracy, reduce data redundancy, and enable for complex data manipulation. Also, the Committee will work to improve methods to ensure that vendor-specific information is recorded and made available to future members to help streamline data gathering.