Recruitment to Law Librarianship Committee Annual Report 2011-2012

The Recruitment to Law Librarianship Committee was busy in a number of areas this year, with the focus on revamping the Recruitment Ambassador program to a more virtual and local program, instead of a regional and national program as originally designed. Vice Chair Wendy Moore proposed and presented an Ignite session at the SEAALL Annual Meeting entitled “Fill These Shoes: Recruiting for Law Librarianship” in March 2012. The program focused on what every member can do to be a recruiter to the profession and where to find information about the profession on AALLNET.

AALLNET
The committee also began reviewing the links on AALLNET under “About Law Librarianship” for accuracy. The focus this year was on the list of schools which offer joint JD/MLS programs. Upon the completion of this update, the Chair, working with our AALL Headquarters Staff Liaison, sent letters to the Career Services Departments of the library schools and law schools of the joint degree programs, along with the “Careers in Law Librarianship” brochure, outlining the purpose of the committee.

Working with AALL Headquarters staff, we changed the “Careers in Law Librarianship Brochure Request Form” so that it may now be submitted electronically directly from the website.

Inquiries to the Committee
The Committee is the first contact for individuals interested in information about law librarianship. These individuals create the connection by visiting the “About Law Librarianship” section under “Careers” on AALLNET. There were between 20-25 contacts made, and the chair responded with information related to the individual inquiry. There were numerous follow-up e-mails directly to the Committee Chair for additional information. One such inquiry led to the identification of a professionally active AALL member in an academic library near the inquiring individual’s town, followed by a virtual introduction of the participating law librarian and the individual, paving the way for them to set up a tour of the law library. Helping to facilitate these sorts of local recruitment to law librarianship connections is something that the Committee hopes to do more of in the future.

A portion of the inquiries about law librarianship came from law students or practicing attorneys looking for alternative career paths. Several inquiries were from persons asking about the necessity of obtaining the dual degrees, the type of legal training required to become a law librarian and how to transition into law librarianship.

AALL Annual Meeting
The committee hosted a table in the Exhibit Hall and during the CONELL Marketplace at the Annual Meeting in Boston. Vice Chair Wendy Moore created an informative poster board that was displayed on both tables. Both tables received a large amount of traffic and many questions from both new and old members on how each could become ambassadors for the Association and the profession. A total of 149 of the “Careers in Law Librarianship” brochures and 19 of the
brochure request forms were distributed at the two tables. This indicated a level of interest in the Committee’s work and an ongoing interest among all members.

The chair wishes to thank all members of the committee. They are Wendy Moore, Vice Chair; Susan Lewis, Board Liaison; Julia O’Donnell, Staff Liaison; and Members Sarah Jaramillo, Sarah Montgomery, Miriam Ann Murphy, Kirstin Nelson, and Thomas Sneed.

Whitney A. Curtis  
Chair, 2011-2012