Scholarship Committee Annual Report 2011-2012

The Committee shall review and recommend to the Executive Board the types of scholarships needed for the advancement of the profession and the recruitment of qualified persons into the field of law librarianship; develop, review and set guidelines for awarding scholarships for each category of scholarships. The Committee shall also publicize the availability of scholarships, solicit applications, and award scholarships according to established criteria.

The ALL Scholarship Committee received 38 applications for 2011-2012 year and the Committee was pleased to award 14 scholarships to 12 individuals totaling $28,800.00 to the following recipients in support of their educational goals. Awards were divided among the scholarship funds as follows.

**AALL Thomson West**

Katharine Hales  
Amy Lipford  
Lucie Olejnikova

**George A. Strait Minority Scholarship**

Claire Hand  
Cattleya Concepcion  
Donyele Darrough

**LexisNexis/John R. Johnson Memorial Scholarship**

Catherine Biondo  
Rachel Decker  
Cassie DuBay  
Claire Hand  
Michelle Hook-Dewey  
Jason Murray  
Lucie Olejnikova  
Jessica Randall

**Marcia J. Koslov Scholarship** (Jointly established by AALL and member Marcia J. Koslov, this scholarship is directed at members who serve as librarians in state, court, or county libraries.)

No awards were made this year.

**Law Librarians in Continuing Education Course Scholarship**

No awards were made this year.

At its 2011 meeting, the Scholarship Committee set the following goals: to revise and merge the various scholarship application forms into a single form; to revise the score sheet to reflect the changes in the application form; to improve applicant response by increasing publicity about
these scholarships; to improve financial support of the scholarship funds; and, to make awards of the funds available to the strongest candidates.

AALL Headquarters staff worked closely with the Committee to highlight giving opportunities on the web page to encourage member donations to the various Scholarship funds. Thank you to AALL, LexisNexis, Thomson West, and all donating members for generously providing the funds required to keep these scholarships growing. It worked closely with Chapters and SIS groups as well as President Kirk to publicize the availability of scholarship opportunities. In addition, the committee developed a database of library and information school contacts best positioned to alert their students to the availability of AALL scholarships and emailed these contacts to encourage them to tell students about the AALL opportunities. The result of our publicity campaign was a twofold increase in the number of applications.

By late spring, the Committee was prepared to read carefully the 38 files from a remarkable group of applicants who made its task of awarding limited funds to support outstanding current and future law librarians in the completion of their education extremely difficult. Although work on the single application form was not completed in time to implement its use this year, the Committee utilized the revised scoring sheet developed last fall. Upon notification from Headquarters to all recipients, the Committee received numerous touching letters of gratitude for the awards. The Chair worked with AALL Headquarters staff to notify unsuccessful applicants and encourage them to consider applying again, if appropriate.

At its March meeting, the Board reviewed the single application form and wondered whether AALL was asking for too much personal financial information. The Board asked the Committee to review the form. The Board at its July meeting reviewed the revisions and asked the Committee to make further changes.

Committee members were: Sally Wiant, (Chair); Jennifer Duperon, (Vice Chair); Terry Long; Michael Bushbaum; Michael Hannon; Lashondra Parham (who resigned late spring); Phebe Poydras; Eric Young (appointed to fill Lashondra’s remaining term); Donna Williams (Board Liaison); and Hannah Phelps (Staff Liaison).

I take this opportunity to congratulate all of our scholarship recipients, thank the committee members for their dedication and hard work, and give special thanks to Hannah and Donna for their extraordinary assistance.

I know the Committee members agree that the best aspect of serving on this committee is that we provide much-needed funds to AALL members. If you have not already considered a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please do so because even the smallest annual contribution allows us to support our current and future leaders of AALL.

Those of you beginning the pursuit of a degree, please consider applying for a scholarship in spring 2013!

Sarah K. Wiant, Chair 2011-2012