Committee Name: Scholarships Committee

Committee Charge: 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.

Major Activities for 2012-2013:
• The Committee successfully redrafted several scholarship applications into a new single application form for all educational scholarships, including the George Strait Minority Scholarship. This new form addressed Executive Board concerns about requiring financial disclosures. The Executive board approved the new draft at the November board and it is now available for 2013 scholarship applicants. The Committee also revised the rubric for scoring scholarship applicants to reflect the changes made to the application form.
• To aid in public relations and fundraising efforts, the committee solicited testimonials from recent scholarship recipients about the impact of the awards. Working with AALL headquarters, some of these testimonials were used in a fundraising email letter sent to past scholarship recipients. The committee chair sent a personal thank you note to every individual who donated to the Scholarships Program in 2012. These actions further the strategic plan objective: “Develop new non-dues revenue sources to expand membership benefits, grants, and scholarships.”
• Publicity has been a focus of the committee's work: the committee emailed a press release about Educational Scholarships to a list of contacts at library and information schools; the committee authored a press release highlighting the Koslov and Continuing Education Scholarships and sent it to AALL chapters and SIS mycommunities discussion lists; and the committee sent a targeted press release about the Koslov scholarship to discussion groups and listservs with strong state, court, and county law librarian presence. Finally, the landing page of the Scholarship Committee website: http://www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Member-Resources/scholarships was edited to highlight scholarship opportunities for both individuals seeking a degree and individuals seeking training and continuing education opportunities.
• The committee intends to promote scholarship opportunities for AALL members by hosting an activity table in the exhibit hall at the 2013 AALL Annual Meeting.

After the April 1, 2013 application deadline, the committee will review and score applications and award scholarships to many deserving current and future law librarians.

Proposed Activities for 2013-2014:
Ongoing and proposed activities for 2013-2014 include the following: improving scholarship publicity to increase applicants for AALL Scholarships, especially for the Koslov and Continuing Education scholarships; developing new ways to solicit donations to the Scholarships Program fund; developing ways to assess the scholarships application process, perhaps by seeking feedback from scholarship applicants as part of the application process.