The SIS Council consists of the chairs of AALL’s thirteen Special Interest Sections. Its purpose is to improve communication among the Sections, provide a conduit for bringing the needs of the Sections to the AALL Executive Board, and provide a mechanism for distributing relevant information from Headquarters to SIS leaders.

A number of years ago, the SISs began using a matrix to schedule their meetings and programs. The matrix is open for viewing by all and allows for scheduling with a minimum of conflicting events. The matrix was open during October. Once the schedule is set, SIS leaders submitted scheduling forms to Headquarters.

Prior to the 2007 New Orleans conference, the SIS council took the lead on organizing the Association’s first ever volunteer effort. With the success of that initial effort, the SIS Council worked to create opportunities in Portland. Volunteers were sent to the Oregon Food Bank to pack food and to the Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge, part of the Portland Parks system, to eradicate invasive species, i.e. weed. Approximately 20 people participated at each location.

The SIS Leadership Training is held the Saturday prior to the Annual Meeting. Incoming chairs and vice chairs are invited to prepare them to handle their duties, better understand the inner workings of the Association, and get to know each other. In 2008, the group heard presentations on Annual Meeting programs and planning from AALL Director of Meetings Pam Reisinger who explained how to work with the matrix and the various deadlines throughout the year. AALL Education Manager Celeste Smith discussed the Continuing Professional Education program and encouraged SISs to develop programs outside of the Annual Meeting. AALL Director of Finance Paula Davidson explained how SIS finances work. AMPC Chair Paul George reviewed the process for submitting program proposals. The SIS Council was reminded that the newly revised SIS Handbook is an online only resource.

The SIS Council’s business meeting is held on Saturday afternoon. The chairs received reports on the 2008 Community Service Day held that morning. There was also discussion of the VIP program, the trial one-day registration waiver provided in 2008 for non-member speakers on SIS sponsored programs, and ways to increase exchange of ideas among the SISs.

Ron Wheeler, 2007-08 Chair of the Social Responsibilities SIS, was elected SIS Council Chair for 2008-09.

Catherine Lemann, Chair
2007-08