



American Association of Law Libraries
MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

AALL Policy Positions for the Administration and the 111th Congress

With Headquarters in Chicago, the **American Association of Law Libraries** (AALL) is a nonprofit educational organization with over 5,000 members nationwide who respond to the legal information needs of many constituents: legislators, judges, and other public officials at all levels of government, corporations and small businesses, law professors and students, attorneys and members of the general public. AALL's mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries, to foster law librarianship, and to provide leadership and advocacy in the field of legal information and information policy.

Law libraries are affected by a broad span of public policy issues. The exponential growth of the Internet as a central point of access to information raises new legislative and policy concerns that are critical to law libraries and our users.

As documented in AALL's 2008 "Statement to The Obama-Biden Transition Team: Public Policy Positions of The American Association of Law Libraries," the Association's information policy goals relate to three categories of issues:

- **First, the importance of the public's right to access government information as a basic tenet of our democracy.**

AALL believes that a democratic society should afford its citizens complete, equitable and permanent access to its information. We believe that public information on government Web sites must be available without charge or restriction, and that it must be trustworthy and reliable, comprehensive and complete, and that information of historical value should be preserved for permanent public access. Our key issues include:

- Government's responsibility for managing the life cycle of online information.
- A public domain citation system for legal information.
- Adequate annual funding to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts for no-fee public access to PACER.
- Agency cooperation with the U.S. Government Printing Office's Federal Digital System.

- **Second, the preservation of the historic balance in copyright law between rights holders and users.**

AALL believes that an equitable balance between the rights of users of information and the rights of copyright owners and licensors is essential to innovation and to the free flow of information. Government should help maintain this balance by encouraging the free distribution of government information in all media and formats. This includes:

- Protection and promotion of fair use.
- Balance in free trade agreements and treaties.
- Orphan works legislation.

- **Third, the protection of personal privacy.**

AALL is committed to preserving the privacy rights and civil liberties of library users and all Americans. We are especially concerned with:

- The 2009 reauthorization of provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act, including National Security Letters and Section 215.

AALL's full "Statement to The Obama-Biden Transition Team: Public Policy Positions of The American Association of Law Libraries" is available at:

<http://www.aallnet.org/aallwash/AALLTransition2008.pdf>