

Washington Brief
July 2008

Don't Miss the Advocacy Programs in Portland

For those of you preparing to join AALL in Portland for the Annual Meeting and Conference, there are many policy-related programs to whet your appetite. The Washington Affairs Office and Government Relations Committee (GRC) are pleased to sponsor the Annual Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training on Saturday, July 12, and the Legislative and Regulatory Update on Tuesday, July 15. In addition, there are many exciting programs, summarized below, for those of you interested in learning about some of the important information policy issues the Washington Affairs Office is engaged in. Please check the Final Program for room numbers.

Emily Feldman, AALL advocacy communications assistant, and I hope to see many of you there. For those of you who cannot attend this year's Annual Meeting, be sure to plan for next year's conference right here in Washington, D.C.—mark your calendars for July 25-28, 2009.

Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training **Saturday, July 12, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.**

This practical half-day workshop will teach you important new skills to enable you to join AALL's advocacy team. It will also be the first opportunity for you to meet Feldman, AALL's advocacy communications assistant. We have an exciting agenda this year, including a panel on "County Law Libraries: Facing Challenges, Finding Solutions," moderated by GRC member Angela Baldree. Other panelists include Joan M. Bellistri, Jacquelyn Jurkins, and GRC member Larry Meyer. Feldman and I will be on hand to update you on the hottest issues on our plate. We hope to see you there.

Explore the Secret Workings of the FISA Court (B-1) **Sunday, July 13, 3-4 p.m.**

The impact of the *USA PATRIOT Act* and the *Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA)* Court on libraries has been widely discussed, as librarians continue to be concerned that the privacy of library patron records may be compromised. This panel discussion, moderated by GRC member Camilla Tubbs, is going to be one of our most exciting programs. It will feature former *FISA* Court presiding judge and U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia Chief Justice Royce C. Lamberth and Thomas M. Susman, director of the American Bar Association Government Affairs Office.

Judge Lamberth will share his unique insights into the secret world of *FISA* requests: how they are handled, how useful they are in obtaining foreign intelligence information, how the *PATRIOT Act* and subsequent amendments have expanded government surveillance, and what impact librarians' concerns have had on this type of government activity. Susman will offer his perspective on the secret court from the viewpoint of an attorney who has decades of experience championing freedom of information issues.

Official but Not Authentic: The Future of Electronic Legal Information (C-4)
Sunday, July 13, 4:15-5:15 p.m.

Access to Electronic Information Committee Chair Joan Shear and two delegates from AALL's April 2007 National Summit on Authentic Legal Information in the Digital Age will share their follow-up activities and experiences related to the need for authentication of electronic legal information.

Michele Timmons, reviser of statutes for the state of Minnesota and a member of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, will talk about her role in the recently approved new study committee on "Online Authentication of Legal Materials." Thomas Wrosch, senior policy advisor in the Office of the Secretary of State of Oregon, will talk about specific technological solutions that state governments could implement to authenticate their online legal resources.

Flashlights, FOIA and Advocacy: Tools for the Explorer in Search of Disappearing and Restricted Federal Documents (F-1)
Monday, July 14, 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Thousands of federal agency documents have been removed from Web pages, and presidential records have been restricted in the name of national security or executive privilege in recent years. Many open government groups, including AALL, say the restrictions have gone too far and are advocating for legislation to provide better information access.

Speakers Anne Klinefelter and Susan Nevelow Mart will identify samples of disappearing and unpublished federal executive branch materials that law libraries and their users are likely to seek and will provide up-to-date guidance on how *FOIA* and *E-FOIA* may help in securing access to these important resources.

2008 Annual Legislative and Regulatory Update (H-3)
Tuesday, July 15, 9-10:30 a.m.

The Annual Legislative and Regulatory Update provides you with an annual report on the work of the GRC and the Washington Affairs Office. GRC Chair Scott Matheson will moderate the program and present the 2008 AALL Public Access to Government Information Award to OMB Watch, whose executive director, Gary Bass, will not only accept the award but also be our guest speaker. Copyright Committee Chair Keith Ann Stiverson and I will present our respective updates for the year.

Last but not least, as approved by the Executive Board in April, we will all recognize Bob Oakley's legacy by the presentation of a plaque, honoring him as the first recipient of the new AALL Member Advocacy Award, to his widow, Barbara Oakley. The new award, to be named the Robert L. Oakley Member Advocacy Award beginning next year, will be given annually to one of our members who has been an outstanding advocate for law libraries and legal information at the federal, state, or local level.

Copyright Issues in the 110th Congress (I-4)

Tuesday, July 15, 10:45-11:45 a.m.

Copyright Committee Chair Keith Ann Stiverson will moderate this important program that will cover the recently introduced federal bills on orphan works and the Report of the Section 108 Study Group issued in March. We are honored that Register of Copyrights Marybeth Peters will join us again this year as a panelist, because her knowledge and commitment to these issues are unsurpassed.

Jonathan Band, attorney for the Library Copyright Alliance (LCA), of which AALL is a founding member, will provide the library perspective. Band will also briefly discuss the international work the LCA is involved with, including the World Intellectual Property Organization Development Agenda.

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