

*"Day in the Life" photo contest a rousing success*

Thanks to the hard work of the Public Relations Committee, including both past and present members, the "A Day in the Life of the Law Library Community" photo contest has been a rousing success by any standards. While in this issue of *Spectrum* we recognize the winning photographs, the real winners are those who took the time to participate in the contest. Members from nearly every type of law library submitted photos depicting what an average day at work constitutes for them, if not all of us involved in the law library profession.

### Contest Background

The "Day in the Life" contest began as an idea posited by the 2003-2004 Public Relations Committee. It was then planned and executed by the 2004-2005 committee and continued by current committee members.

One of the original inspirations for this contest was the lack of a substantial archive of law librarian and law library photos at AALL Headquarters. A second inspiration was to help celebrate AALL's upcoming 100th birthday. The contest was the perfect way to help commemorate the century mark of our organization. Finally, while maybe not an inspiration per se, the idea was to have fun.

In keeping with the Public Relations Committee charge, the public relations principle behind the contest was to, "promote members, member institutions, and the profession to AALL members, employees, the general library profession, the legal community, and the community at large. This includes increasing awareness and understanding of the profession of law librarianship and changing the image of law librarians."

As Holly Riccio stated in her December 2004 *Spectrum* column, "The end result of this project will be hundreds of photos documenting a single work day in the law library community, capturing the range of skills and tasks involved in law librarianship and providing a behind-the-scenes look at our profession today."

### Contest Logistics

The logistics were fairly simple for contest participants. AALL members were to take a wide range of photographs during National Library Week (and who could pick a better week to hold the contest?). The main guideline for taking the photos was to make sure that they depicted law librarians at work, in meetings, teaching, and everything else that we do on any given day of the week. Of course, we also wanted the photographs to capture the essence of law librarianship and to be visually attractive.

Voting was held September 12-26 on AALLNET, and a total of 355 AALL members voted for their favorite photos. The Public Relations Committee had initially narrowed down the nearly 200 entries to the top five in each category. Talk about a difficult task! With so many outstanding entries, the committee found it a tough process to whittle the field down to just the top five for each category. The categories included Librarians as Information Evaluators, Librarians as Information Managers, Librarians as Expert Researchers, Librarians as Teachers, Librarians as Trainers, and Librarians as Mentors. The final category was for Overall Best Picture.

Most of the voting was very tight, and some of the categories saw a difference of only 10-20 votes between first and second

place. The competition was tight for second and third place as well. One category saw a difference of only three votes, and another category had a difference of five votes.

### Summary by Numbers

To give you an idea of what the contest involved, let me break it down by the numbers. First, 55 individual librarians from 47 different libraries submitted a total of 183 photos to the contest. Of the entrants, 22 were from academic libraries, 16 were from private libraries, and 17 were from state, court, and county libraries. Libraries from 25 different states entered the contest with most of those libraries situated in the Pacific region, which had 12 libraries submit entries. The East North Central and West North Central were close behind the Pacific region with six entries each. California was the state having the most entrants with a total of eight. I should also note that the vast majority of photos were submitted online.

To give credit where credit is due, without the efforts of Sue Burch, Bridget MacMillan, Julia O'Donnell, Holly Riccio, Erika Wayne, and the rest of the Public Relations Committee, this contest would not have gotten off the ground. In fact, it is due to their efforts that the contest was such a success. The Public Relations Committee would also like to recognize the hard work put in by AALL Web Administrator Chris Siwa. It is thanks to Siwa that we were all able to view the pictures and vote online.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners at next year's AALL Annual Meeting in St. Louis. We look forward to seeing all of you there! ■

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