

Join Us for Exciting Policy Programs in D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 6, 2009—AALL Advocacy Communications Assistant Emily Feldman and I look forward to welcoming you to D.C. for our Annual Meeting and Conference. It's especially fitting that AALL President James Duggan's theme this year is "Innovation" because the Obama administration has set ambitious policy and technical goals for a more transparent, participatory, and accountable federal government. We are working with federal agencies, the courts, and Congress on an array of policy issues that will vastly improve public access while at the same time strengthen the government's role in ensuring the electronic life cycle of its online information. What better place to learn about these important policy issues that impact our profession than right here in our nation's capital?



AALL Day on the Hill: Legislative Advocacy Leadership Training

Friday, July 24 • 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Each year, the Government Relations Committee (GRC) and Government Relations Office offer training on how you can become an effective advocate and join our advocacy team. With our hometown advantage this year, the training will include morning sessions covering AALL's top priorities and the "how-tos" of effective advocacy. In the afternoon, the fun begins as you practice your new skills in meetings with your Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. We are thrilled that more than 70 AALL members are attending this year's special event and will effectively deliver our message to their elected representatives.

(A2) Beyond Copyright? How License Agreements and Digital Rights Management Pose Challenges to Fair Use and the Provision of Electronic or Media Services

Sunday, July 26 • 1:30–2:45 p.m.

This Copyright Committee program will examine the intersection of copyright and contract, the *Digital Millennium Copyright Act* and its judicial interpretation, and legal theories designed to increase the scope of fair use. In addition, it will offer a case study on dealing with the ethical obligations and practical difficulties of providing service in the current environment.

(C1) Network Neutrality: The Debate Over the Internet Superhighway

Sunday, July 26 • 4:15–5:15 p.m.

The ability of libraries to provide equitable access to the diverse content and innovations of the Internet could be at risk unless measures are taken to promote "network neutrality" and assure the continuation of an open and nondiscriminatory Internet. Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.), a long-time friend of AALL and strong champion of fair use in the digital age, will offer his insights on how Internet neutrality will be achieved during the 111th Congress.

(E6) Discovering Advocacy Web Tools: Your Key to Influencing Congress

Monday, July 27 • 10–10:30 a.m.

How can you influence members of Congress to address the needs of law libraries? It starts with making that first contact. Emily Feldman will describe the many resources the Government Relations Office offers to help keep you informed about the latest information policy news and provide you with the right tools to build relationships with your elected federal and state representatives.

(G3) Evaluating Federal e-Life Cycle Management—A Town Meeting with the New Administration, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), and Government Printing Office (GPO)

Monday, July 27 • 4–5:15 p.m.

AALL has long been committed to holding the federal government responsible for ensuring the entire life cycle of its electronic information, from creation to authentication to preservation for permanent public access. This responsibility becomes especially critical when government entities eliminate print in favor of online-only access to information. I have the honor of moderating this program, during which high-level officials from the White House, NARA, and GPO will tackle these important issues from their unique perspectives. Join me in assessing and critiquing how well these agencies are meeting the digital information needs of the legal community and the public during the question and answer session.

(H5) Annual Legislative and Regulatory Update

Tuesday, July 28 • 9–10:30 a.m.

The Annual Legislative and Regulatory Update provides AALL members

with the latest news about our most important policy issues and efforts. As announced in this column last month, GRC Chair Steve Mirsky will begin the program by presenting the 2009 AALL Public Access to Government Information Award to the Sunlight Foundation and the 2009 Robert L. Oakley Member Advocacy Award to AALL member Rick McKinney. Please join us in honoring this year's two very deserving award recipients. Copyright Committee Chair Keith Ann Stiverson and I will summarize the past year's successes and fill you in on the Association's top priorities for 2009-2010.

(J3) Public Access to the Law in the YaOogle Age

Tuesday, July 28 • 2:30–3:15 p.m.

Recent studies indicate that many government data sources are essentially inaccessible to the general public, while others that are accessible contain nomadic formatting, making it difficult to search and find information. This GRC program will explore how the federal judiciary can serve as a model for the distribution of legal information in a way that can be read by feed readers and search engines, and downloaded in bulk by the public.

(J5) Advocating for Authentication of and Permanent Public Access to Electronic Government Legal Information

Tuesday, July 28 • 2:30–3:15 p.m.

Among the findings of the groundbreaking 2007 AALL *State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources* was the discovery that no state's online primary legal resources afford ready authentication by standard methods, and only eight states have provided for permanent public access to one or more of their online primary legal resources. The GPO, through its new Federal Digital System, is taking initial efforts to authenticate online information. This program, sponsored by the Electronic Legal Information Access and Citation Committee, will report on the results of its project to update the 2007 state reports this year. A speaker from the American Bar Association (ABA) will discuss how AALL and the ABA are collaborating on these important issues. ■

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