

AALL Representative Annual Plan

September 9, 2008

Barbara Bintliff

Name of Organization to Which You Serve as Liaison:

American Bar Association, Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

Name of Your Primary Contact with the Organization:

Hulett (“Bucky”) Askew, Consultant

Maxine Klein, Assistant to the Consultant

Goals and Objectives for Year:

This representation is one that is informational in nature, to a great extent. The Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar is the accrediting agency for US Law Schools. Its membership is drawn from among law school deans and faculty, practicing lawyers, members of the federal and state judiciary (usually at the federal district or circuit court level and state supreme court justices), and members of the public (recent examples include university presidents, the CEO of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, a past president of the national League of Women Voters). This is an extremely important networking relationship for AALL.

Many of the issues with which the Section deals directly impact academic law libraries. For example, issues regarding status of librarians (especially directors, but impacting all law school librarians) and changes in the accreditation evaluation from the present system to an output measurement system are before the Council currently. My goal as representative is to attend all of the Section’s Council (i.e. executive board) meetings to which representatives are invited (a maximum of four per year), with the objective of restoring AALL to visibility and leadership among those organizations interested in legal education issues and policies.

For this year and the next two to three years, I will make every effort to provide input into Council policies and decisions affecting academic law libraries, focusing on the two mentioned above: status and output measurements. I will keep the Council informed of AALL activities and positions, both orally and in writing, and will keep AALL informed of relevant Council and Section activities. I will communicate with the AALL President, Washington Affairs Representative (on occasion), Executive Board, and other entities, as appropriate, to ensure that I am communicating positions and policies accurately and that all reports I deliver are approved in advance.

In addition, I would like to begin the process of educating the Council’s members on the importance of authenticating electronic legal documents. Most legal professionals are

unaware of the extent to which states and the federal government are moving to electronic publishing yet neglecting to provide for authenticated sources of primary legal documents. Creating systems that provide authoritative electronic legal resources is a major AALL initiative, and the Council includes many people who could be very influential in changing governmental practices.

Liaison Function with other Committees or Special Interest Sections

As noted above, I will coordinate closely with the AALL President, and the Washington Affairs Representative, Executive Board, and the Academic SIS Chair, as appropriate. Developing the Academic SIS into a more responsive body for providing input into AALL positions on ABA actions would be desirable; it may be useful for the AALL President, the Academic SIS Chair, the Executive Director, and me to discuss this at an early date.

Resources

AALL financial resources are needed to cover travel expenses for four meetings annually (airfare, hotel, some meals, and ground transportation). The meetings generally involve a one-night stay, and several meals are provided by the Council (usually one dinner and a continental breakfast). If the Academic SIS becomes more involved in helping formulate AALL's positions to be communication to the Council, it may be possible for the SIS to contribute to the costs of the representation.

My institution will contribute my time and all office support. I will also need time from the various AALL entities noted above, primarily the President, for consultation and approval of communications.