Government Documents Special Interest Section Bylaws (May 2013)

Article I: NAME

The name of this special interest section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) shall be the Government Documents Special Interest Section (GD-SIS).

Article II: OBJECT

Section 1. The object of the Government Documents Special Interest Section shall be to disseminate information on government documents to the AALL membership; to further continuing education of law librarians in the area of government documents; to coordinate the activities of law libraries in representing their interests to public and private groups with regard to the publication, dissemination, citation, and use of government documents; and to work in cooperation with documents groups in other associations and organizations.

Section 2. The special interest section shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to any AALL member requesting affiliation with the Section as provided in the AALL Bylaws. Membership shall be renewable each year.

Article IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers.

The officers shall consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Past Chair, a Secretary/Treasurer, and one Member-at-Large.

Section 2. Duties of Officers.

The officers shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their offices and such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee or the membership.

Section 3. Terms of Office.

The Vice Chair/Chair-Elect shall serve a three-year term, the first year as Vice Chair, the second year as Chair, and the third year as Past Chair. A new Vice Chair/Chair-Elect shall be elected each year. The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve a two-year term, and shall be elected every other year. The Members-at-Large shall serve two-year terms, with the terms staggered so that one new Member-at-Large assumes office in the alternative year to the Secretary-Treasurer. Officers shall serve until the adjournment of the annual business meeting.
Section 4. **Nominating Committee**

There shall be a Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Committee, to consist of three (3) members, none of whom shall be a member of the Executive Committee, and none of whom shall be a candidate for office at the succeeding election. Each member of the committee shall serve for a term of one year. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall be designated by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. **Nominations and Elections**

(a) The Nominating Committee shall nominate at least one candidate for each office.

(b) All candidates must be members in good standing of the special interest section.

(c) Names of candidates, together with their written acceptances, shall be presented by the Nominating Committee to the Chair in sufficient time to enable the Chair to inform the members of the nominations.

(d) Further nominations may be made upon written petition of five (5) members. Such petitions, with the written consent of the nominees, should be filed with the Secretary/Treasurer, who prepares an official ballot, including nominations by petition.

(e) The Secretary/Treasurer shall provide a copy of the ballot to each member of the special interest section. Marked ballots shall be returned to the secretary/treasurer by a specified deadline. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected and shall be so reported at the special interest section's annual meeting, at which time the ballots shall be destroyed. All candidates shall be notified of the results of the election at the earliest possible time.

(f) All of the above procedures must be scheduled and executed so that elections are completed at least two (2) months prior to the date of the AALL annual meeting.

(g) In case of a tie vote, a run-off election shall be held at the annual business meeting. Run-off elections shall be by secret ballot. The ballots shall be immediately counted and the candidate with the largest number of votes declared elected.

(h) All vacancies in offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee for an interim term until the next regular election of officers, at which time said vacancies shall be filled by election, except that the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect shall automatically become Chair upon a vacancy in such office and shall continue in that office until the expiration of the term for which that person was originally elected to serve as Chair.
Article V. **MEETINGS.**

Section 1. **Annual Business Meeting.**

There shall be an annual business meeting of the Government Documents Special Interest Section, held in connection with, or during the annual meeting of AALL. The scheduling of the annual meeting during the annual meeting of AALL shall be cleared with the annual meeting program chair, or as otherwise provided in the AALL Bylaws. Meetings shall be open to all members of the association (AALL), but no person may vote in any meeting who is not a special interest section member in good standing.

Section 2. **Quorum.**

A quorum shall consist of the members present at the meeting.

Article VI. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers named above in Article IV, Section 1 and the Past Chair.

Article VII. **COMMITTEES.**

There shall be such standing or special committees as the executive committee, or the membership, shall create.

Article VIII: **PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The Government Documents Special Interest Section shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries. The rules of order mandated by the Association’s Bylaws shall govern all deliberations of the Section.

Article IX: **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Section by a majority of the members present and voting, or by majority of the votes cast by a mail or electronic ballot conducted by the Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. Notice of proposed amendments shall be provided to the special interest section's members, or be published in the special interest section's newsletter, 30 days in advance of the meeting, or of the mailing of ballots.