



**GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



AALL GLL SIS STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND

In 2015, the AALL GLL SIS Strategic Planning Committee (the “Committee”) reviewed its Strategic Directions for 2013-2016. The Committee made two preliminary recommendations: that the Section’s directions should continue to closely track those of AALL and that the time span for the directions should change from the previous five years to three years. These approaches were accepted by the Executive Board. This determined that future Committees would propose a 2019 revision of the GLL Strategic Directions (the “Directions”)

There was no action by the 2018-2019 Committee. The 2019-2020 Committee began communicating and planning in the early fall of 2019. December 2019, the chair resigned for personal reasons. The Board liaison worked with the Committee members, in February, to formulate how to proceed while awaiting appointment of another chair. It was decided to request an extension from the GLL Board of the 2015-2018 Directions through the end of 2020. The two committee members would begin to review the Directions, determine potential areas for revision, and identify stakeholders who could be consulted for input. The new chair came aboard in March. Although, the COVID-19 pandemic has been disruptive as we are learning to operate in a new reality, the Committee moved ahead with its current chair. The Committee met in April and May to develop recommendations to present to the GLL Board as to how the incoming Committee might proceed.

As our annual report to the Board, we would like to present a roadmap for the incoming committee with recommendations for re-writing the SIS’s Strategic Directions. We have drafted four specific recommendations as well as a proposed timeline.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Moving Away from 1:1 Alignment with AALL

At the time of its adoption in 2015, the GLL’s Strategic Directions were written to mirror the plan already set forth by AALL. This meant the two plans shared three main themes (*authority, advocacy, and education*), as well the primary goal defined for each. They diverged only in the GLL adjusting the objectives for each goal to better reflect the group’s specialized membership. While the AALL’s directions have since been updated, the GLL’s have remained identically aligned with the larger association’s earlier plan, which somewhat disconcertingly, was adopted all the way back in December 2012. In this way, we are now in the



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position to update a plan that is not just 5 years old, but nearly 8.

While AALL's three new themes (*talent, engagement, and alliances*) still roughly map to its earlier ones, moving forward the GLL should consider crafting a new set of directions, independent of what the association has already chosen for itself. In doing this, our group can cater more directly to the unique circumstances of our librarians and libraries. Instead of redundancy between the plans, our new directions can complement those laid out by AALL and instead focus specifically on government libraries. To effectively accomplish this would require a fair amount of research and surveying within our ranks to accurately discover where our strategic priorities should lie. It would also require a large degree of brainstorming from both future committee members and GLL board members. Nonetheless, this additional effort would be rewarded with a far more impactful plan we can use for the years ahead.

Drawing Inspiration from Others

Should the GLL decide to pursue a strategic plan independent of AALL's, it will be following the lead of several other special interest sections. This fact should assuage any initial hesitations about doing so. More importantly, however, it gives us the opportunity to examine what other SISes have chosen for themselves, and how they've decided to craft their directions. Examination of some of these plans will be an essential step in the process of rewriting our own. More than simply provide a template from which we can emulate, these other plans can provide us inspiration for the major themes we decide to emphasize, the goals we choose to pursue, and also the ways in which we might structure our plan for easier consumption and future updates.

After looking at the ALL-SIS's plan, for example, we may decide it to be in our interest to structure a goal or two that speaks to the organization of our SIS itself and how to best address the variety of librarians and library types within our section. Or we may look at RIPS-SIS and choose to adopt their "Goal – Strategy – Action Item" hierarchy. We may even choose to go on our own path completely. Whatever we decide, however, should be informed by, and follow, a review of what others have done already.

Membership Input

Considering the five-year gap since the last Strategic Directions were written and the recent, rapid local and worldwide changes directly affecting our members, it is strongly recommended that the committee conduct a survey of GLL members. There are several valuable objectives for the survey. Foremost the data collected will provide insight into the current identity of our members, as individuals and institutions.



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Further, it is recommended, that the survey ask our members to assess the value of membership benefits; evaluate the role of our section in AALL; and define our relevance in relation to the needs of their internal and external stakeholders. This input from our members will be invaluable to drafting a set of strategic directions which reflect the specific circumstances of the GLL.

Diversity

With respect for and acknowledgement of the national conversation regarding Black Lives Matter, it is strongly recommended that the committee include a statement about diversity as a value in the Strategic Directions. This may also be incorporated into the goals, such as recruitment efforts to ensure that members of the GLL-SIS are representative of the communities that they serve or education to help dismantle systemic bias and racism within the legal system.

PROPOSED TIMELINE FOR INCOMING COMMITTEE

June 24th – Submit proposal to Board at meeting

July 8, 2020 – Virtual SIS Meeting, new committee's term begins

July/August 2020 – Time for the new committee to get established and up to speed

September 2020 – Using recommendations of the current committee and other SIS's strategic plans as a guide, identify several possible goals/strategies for the SIS

October 2020 - Develop survey questions

Mid-October 2020 – Submit survey for Board approval

November 2020 – Disseminate survey

December 2020 – Survey response deadline

January/February 2021 – Survey analysis

March 2021 – Finetune choice of Strategic Directions

April/May 2021 – Work on draft of proposed Strategic Directions

June 1 – Complete draft of proposed Strategic Directions

July 1 – Finalize proposed Strategic Directions

July 17-21 - Annual Meeting