



**GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



REPORT OF THE GLL-SIS AWARDS COMMITTEE

2022-2023

Chair:

Emily Donnellan

Members:

Elizabeth Caulfield

Catherine Lemann

Chi Song

Jean Wenger

Sara Pic, Board Liaison

The Committee worked on ...

Emily Donnellan was appointed chair of the Awards Committee in October 2022 following Jean Willis's retirement. Thank you Jean for your years of service to the GLL Awards Committee! There were no other changes in committee membership.

Emily emailed the committee in November 2022 about GLL speaker ideas. Emily also inquired if there were any rubrics for rating candidates. There were none. A rubric may be something for the committee to consider in the future but for now we are not inundated with candidates making it necessary.

The committee updated AALL website information with Chris Siwa to update the awards deadline and add a new chair email address.

In December 2022 the GLL Strategic committee reached out and requested the Awards committee answer questions about our committee charge and how we fit into the strategic plan. Our answers are included in attachment 1 at the end of this report.

On January 3, 2023, the committee began soliciting for nominations for GLL Awards.

At the end of January, the committee fielded a question about Fishman Award eligibility. The question was:

Would a committee with one person who is a GLL-SIS member be eligible to apply for the award or would all members of the group need to belong to GLL-SIS?



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The committee, in conversation with the executive board, determined that only one author need be a GLL member.

We have updated our award language to now read:

This award recognizes a Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section member's contribution to the field of government law librarianship through a scholarly publication (e.g. peer-reviewed publication where footnotes are expected such as Law Library Journal, AALL Spectrum, and the Bar Association Journal) on a topic of concern to government law libraries. The publication must be authored by a Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section member and have been published in print or electronically within the last year. **If the publication has more than one author, at least one author, contributor, or editor must be a Government Law Libraries Special Interest Section member.**

The committee sent a second call for award nominees on February 7, 2023.

Between the second call for awards and the deadline of March 3rd we received 5 award nominations.

The committee reviewed each of the nominees and ultimately all 5 nominees were selected to receive the awards they were nominated for. On April 4th, 2023, I notified all GLL award winners via email. I loved sending those emails and celebrating the hard work of GLL members!

While reviewing nominees the Awards committee also grappled with a question about the key differences between the Bolden and Fishman awards. It was determined that the committee needs to re-work the language of those awards for clarity. This will be something we tackle before soliciting nominations for 2024. We will also be giving further guidance about what the committee means by year – calendar vs AALL year.

Beginning in April I started the process of ordering awards from Crystal Cave. We chose to ship awards directly to the recipient this year rather than shipping them to AALL. Only 1/5 award winners are attending AALL. Crystal Cave received our check payment on May 30, 2023 and shipped awards June 01, 2023. The total for the awards and shipping was \$569 for 4 awards. Jean Willis stated that she preferred to not receive a physical award.

The final task the committee had to complete was finding a VIP Speaker for the GLL Breakfast. I reached



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out to multiple people but David Leonard, President of the Boston Public Library, graciously agreed to speak with us. In the coming weeks I will work with the Executive Board to get David anything he needs in relation to the conference.

In the coming months the committee will be working on the following action items:

- Provide David Leonard resources for the AALL Annual Meeting.
- Committee to discuss and provide guidelines for what we mean by “year”
 - Calendar year
 - AALL year
- Refine qualifications for Bolden and Fishman awards.
- Rubric or Scoresheet Design (If needed)

Respectfully submitted,

Emily S. Donnellan



Attachment 1: GLL Strategic Plan Questionnaire.

1. Which goal(s) encompass your committee's work?

- I do not believe the Award Committee falls into the narrow strategic goals laid out. If anything, we may fall in to Networking or Education. With the objective of the committee being to showcase, celebrate, and share the Advocacy, Networking and Continuing Education work of GLL members.

2. How does your committee's work advance the goals of GLL?

- It showcases the work of GLL members and also gives members something to strive for. An award from the SIS is the cherry on top of an already amazing project. Librarians don't do projects for an award but it is always great to be recognized by ones peers for doing something extraordinary.

3. Are there activities that your committee would like to add or adapt to better support the plan? Anything you would discontinue?

- I would like the committee to better publicize each of the awards that GLL offers. I think they are all currently lumped together and there is no history for the awards listed on the website. thus carry less weight when they are won. I would consider doing a discussion for each award on the GLL listserv so that both old and new members can better acquaint themselves with the history of these awards, past award winners, and would be more excited to submit themselves or their colleagues to win these awards.
- I wouldn't discontinue any of the awards until we've done more research and better publicizing of these awards but the GLL Awards committee is responsible for finding a speaker for the GLL breakfast. This does seem to be outside of our charge.

4. In your committee's work, do you see additional goals to consider for future planning or do you see any changes that we need to make?

- I would consider how the award committee fits into the strategic goals outlined. It doesn't seem to fall neatly in to any one box but rather straddles each of them and celebrates the work of our members.
- We currently don't have a rubric for the awards we give out. A committee member shared that they haven't had very many applicants for the awards so it hasn't been an issue so far. I believe we should create a rubric to ensure that each applicant is evaluated on the same criteria and the award committee is not biased.
- Another possible avenue to generate more award nominations would be to interview the award winners (past and future) and publish a bit about themselves and their award-winning



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project in the GLL listserv. We could also link that interview along with the winner's name on the page of past winners. Right now, some of the awards just list a name and no project information so it is hard to use them as a guide when nominating other people.

5. How can we help your committee to implement the plan?

- To implement any of the plans we would likely need a directive to complete the work and executive board approval if applicable.