



**GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



REPORT OF THE GLL-SIS AWARDS COMMITTEE 2023-2024

Chair:

Catherine McGuire

Members:

Elizabeth Caulfield

Catherine Lemann

Chi Song

Jean Wenger

Sara Pixon, Board Liaison

Committee Work

Catherine McGuire was appointed chair of the Awards Committee by Karen Westwood in September 2023. There were no other changes in committee membership.

The committee held its first meeting of the year on October 30, 2023. During the meeting, the committee identified several tasks for the year:

- (1) Creation of a Google Drive shared folder through which the committee can stay updated and on task;
- (2) Update of website and nomination form content to reflect new contact name and submission due date;
- (3) Identification and inclusion of biographical information about individuals for whom awards are named (Bolden, Fishman, Ochal, Werner);
- (4) Clarification of the meaning of the word “year” related to award eligibility;
- (5) Clarification of language distinguishing the Bolden and Fishman awards;
- (6) Identification of possible speakers to solicit for remarks at the GLL recognition event in Chicago 2024.

Immediately following the meeting, a Google Drive shared folder was set up. All committee members requested and were given access.

The most complex of the initial tasks was clarification of the language about each award on the GLL website and nomination forms. The committee reviewed notes and drafts from the 2022-2023 year and determined there were several differences, all small but of some significance to the nomination process: (1) the descriptions of each award on the GLL Awards website included more descriptive language than the nomination forms; (2) the word “year” was not specifically delineated; (3) the 2022-2023 GLL report misidentified a language



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amendment as belonging to the Fishman award rather than the Bolden award; as these two awards are quite similar, the distinguishing language is key to determining which written material may be eligible or deserving of each award.

The chair reviewed the full language about each award on the GLL website, the AALL award webpages, and the 2022-2023 nomination forms and determined that much of the confusion was one of organization and inconsistency. Proposed amendments to the GLL and AALL websites as well as the nomination forms were drafted to ensure the websites and nomination forms mirrored each other. The revised language was sent to the committee's Board liaison, Sara Pixon, for review and forwarding to the Board. The committee had been particularly concerned with the timing that would be necessary to get approval of any language changes from the Board. However, as the revisions did not make any changes of significance to any award, all were posted to the GLL and AALL sites by Chris Siwa on January 10, 2024.

The committee had discussed a desire to include biographical information about each of the persons for whom awards had been named. The members felt that the awards would have more meaning to people if they understood why each carries the name it does. Biographical information was collected and added to the webpage for each award.

On January 18, 2024, the first call for award nominations was posted to the GLL List. Over the next week, committee members posted the call for nominations to regional lists. Reminder notices were posted in early February and late February. The due date for all nominations was March 1, 2024.

On April 5, 2024, the committee met to discuss nominations. Consensus was reached on awarding the Fishman Award to the co-authors of the publication, *Animal Welfare Laws* (Hein, 2023), by Stefanie Pearlman and Melissa Serfass. No others were awarded for this year. The chair notified the committee's Board liaison of the committee decisions. On April 15, 2024, the chair notified the recipients of their selection for the Fishman Award. The chair also notified AALL via the online webform of the names and affiliations of the recipients, for inclusion in the ALL Awards listing.

Announcement of the awards was made on May 1, 2024. The committee also announced the receipt of AALL awards by GLL members: the Excellence in Community Engagement Award to the Law Library of Louisiana and Louisiana State Bar Association for Legal Education and Assistance Program (LEAP); and the Emerging Leader Award to Marcelo Rodríguez, Foreign, Comparative and International Law Librarian and Professor of Legal Research, University of Arizona College of Law.



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In early May, the chair began the process of ordering the awards from Crystal Cave. The determination was made to ship the awards directly to the recipients, as was done last year. The recipients were both grateful for the direct shipping. Crystal Cave received the check in payment on May 24, 2024, and will notify the chair when the items are shipped. The total for the awards and shipping was \$310.00 for two awards. Upon receipt of the awards, the recipients have agreed to take photographs of themselves with the awards and send to the chair for use in the GLL-SIS Board business meeting and the GLL-SIS general archives.

Throughout the year, the Awards Committee surveyed the possibilities for a speaker to provide remarks at the annual recognition event. In mid-May, 2024, the announcement was made that David Mao had been named the new Librarian of the Supreme Court of the United States. With his history of AALL involvement and leadership positions in library- and law-related institutions, the committee felt he would be an excellent speaker. Mr. Mao accepted the committee's invitation to provide remarks at the recognition event in Chicago.

In the coming month prior to the AALL Conference, the committee will follow up with the award recipients and Mr. Mao to ensure understanding of the recognition event timing and location and to ensure the awards are successfully received by the recipients; and the chair will attend the GLL-SIS Business Meeting to present information about the committee's activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine McGuire, Chair