



**GOVERNMENT LAW LIBRARIES  
SPECIAL INTEREST SECTION**



## **REPORT OF THE GLL-SIS AWARDS COMMITTEE 2024-2025**

Chair:

Catherine McGuire

Members:

Elizabeth Caulfield

Catherine Lemann

Leland Sampson

Jean Wenger

Sara Pixon, Board Liaison

### **Committee Work**

Catherine McGuire was reappointed as chair of the committee for the year. Leland Sampson joined the committee. All other committee members remained the same.

The committee met on November 21, 2024, to review tasks and plan for the year. Discussion included:

- Update of the shared Google Drive folder to include 2024-2025 year materials and to add access for Leland Sampson;
- Update of website links and information to reflect the current award year;
- Discussion of benefits of posting to the GLL list earlier in the year to give GLL members extra time to identify nominees;
- Possible establishment of criteria for nomination assessment, noting that some committees have rubrics;
- Early discussion of possible speakers in the Portland, Oregon, area;
- Deadlines for award submissions. This was confirmed as March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Between November 2024 and February 2025, committee members addressed or worked on several tasks:

#### Rubric for Assessment

Regarding the discussion about a possible rubric for assessment, the committee determined that the award descriptions provided sufficient rubric for evaluation purposes. Therefore, no formal rubric is required.

#### Website Content Update

At the request of the chair, Chris Siwa at AALLHQ updated the GLL-SIS website to reflect the new award year committee members, nomination deadlines, and to add the 2023-2024 year recipient names to appropriate award lists.



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### Request for Nominations Posting

On January 8, 2025, the first posting about awards was placed on the GLL List. A second notice was posted on February 4, 2025. A third notice was posted February 18, 2025. A final reminder was posted on February 26, 2025. As it had been noted that March 1 was a Saturday, the deadline was extended in the final notice to Monday March 3.

### GLL-SIS Handbook Review and Update

In February, GLL President Amy Small requested committee chairs to review and update the appropriate section of GLL-SIS Handbook. The GLL chair reviewed the section and provided comments and suggested edits as requested.

As the language about the Awards Committee had not been updated for some time, there were a few points of discussion. There were two main points under discussion:

1. Some years earlier, the Awards Committee had, in addition to soliciting nominations and awarding for GLL awards, sought among the GLL membership possible nominations for AALL awards. The Awards Committee will renew its responsibility for this task beginning in the 2025-2026 year. The committee will identify and forward to the GLL Board possible nominations for AALL awards. The Board will identify nominating persons to take on the actual nomination.
2. Earlier Handbook language had fluctuated between “speaker” and “VIP” in a manner that made it unclear as to who was responsible for locating these. It was also not clear that the two roles cannot be overlapped, per AALL policy. Going forward, the Awards Committee will be responsible for identifying a speaker for the recognition event. The Board will identify, if they wish, a VIP for the Conference.

### Recognition Event Speaker Search

The search for possible speakers began in January. The committee’s goal was to identify a speaker in the general Portland area who could speak to the concerns of the SIS. Committee members reached out to Oregon contacts for suggestions. A list of possibilities was created and circulated among members.

In February, the GLL Board notified the committee that they had identified an option for speaker and asked if they could move forward with the option. The committee agreed. Discussion ensued about the possibilities for VIP. After some back and forth, it was agreed that the Board would also identify a VIP.

### Awards

On March 20, 2025, the committee met to discuss nominations. Consensus was reached on awarding the Bethany Ochal Award to Larry Meyer and the Fishman Award to Emily Donnellan for the publication, *State Documents Bibliography: Oregon* (Hein, 2025). No other awards were given this year. The chair notified the committee’s Board liaison of the decision, and after approval, notified the award recipients. The chair also notified AALL via the online webform of the names and affiliations of the recipients for inclusion in the AALL Awards listing.

Announcement of the awards was made on May 6, 2025. Announcement was also made of GLL members



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receiving AALL awards:

- Marion Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, Lawrence R. (Larry) Meyer, Retired Law Library Director, Law Library for San Bernardino County
- Emerging Leader Award, John Murphy, Law Library Director, Anoka County Law Library
- Innovations in Technology Award, Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library
- Volunteer Service Award, Pauline Afuso

In late April, the chair began the process of ordering the awards from Crystal Cave. The recipients both chose to receive the crystals at the recognition event so arrangements were made to ship the awards directly to Portland, Oregon. The invoice cost for two awards was \$323.00, including tax and shipping.

In the coming months prior to the AALL Conference, the committee will follow up with the award recipients to ensure understanding of the recognition event timing and location.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine McGuire, Chair