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219 S. DEARBORN, ROOM 1637
CHICAGO, IL 60604

GRETCHEN E. VAN DAM
CIRCUIT LIBRARIAN

(312) 435-5352
FAX (312) 408-5031
gretchen_van_dam@ca7.uscourts.gov

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To: AALL Executive Board

Submitted by: Gretchen E. Van Dam, Chair,
Graduate Education for Law Librarianship Special Committee

Board Liaison: Lyonette Louis-Jacques

Requires: ACTION ITEM

Topic: Future of the Graduate Education for Law Librarianship Special Committee

SUMMARY:

The Special Committee for Graduate Education for Law Librarianship was created for the term of 2004-2007 to promote the offering of courses in law librarianship in graduate schools for library and information sciences and to work with the Diversity committee and the Recruitment Committee to increase awareness of law librarianship as a career choice to those in graduate library schools. It is the third special committee or task force appointed within the past ten years to address the same general issue of law librarianship education.

One of the committee's specific charges was to update the aallnet.org page(s) originally created by the Task Force to Enhance Law Librarianship Educations, specifically the "Depth of Offerings for Law Librarianship" at ALA-accredited library schools in the U.S. and recommend a standing committee to take on this task permanently. The web page(s) have been redesigned and updated by the committee and are current as of February 2006. The committee continues to receive updates and the page is now updated as soon as information is received. Also, the "Education for a Career in Law Librarianship" page has been redesigned to harmonize with the "Depth" pages and all outdated/inactive links have been removed.

Other components of the committee's charge have been more difficult to accomplish. As committee chair, I am disappointed that we've been unsuccessful at defining our agenda and action items. I understand it's unusual for a special committee to have a 3-year term – certainly that term is sufficient to define and accomplish some action items. But it may be that the charge of this special committee could better be accomplished by other committees at this point. In the AALL 2005-2010 Strategic Directions, two of the objectives listed under Goal II: Education are to "increase the number of library school programs for law librarianship and increase awareness of law librarianship." Accomplishing these general goals, which are similar to several found in the charge of the Special Committee, would seem to require an ongoing effort, rather than the short-term efforts of a special committee.

MOTION FOR BOARD ACTION:

- That the responsibility for updating the "Depth of Law Librarianship Offering" web page(s) on aallnet.org be permanently assumed by a standing committee, specifically, the Recruitment Committee
- That the Graduate Education in Law Librarianship Special Committee's term be set to expire in July of 2006 and the Board assign its charges to other committees, possibly the Recruitment Committee.