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ID #: 22
Submitted: 3/6/2009

Committee Charge:
CHARGE: One of AALL's Strategic Directions is Leadership - “that Law librarians will be recognized and valued as the foremost leaders and experts in legal information, research, and technology.” Although AALL recognizes leadership through a number of awards, most notably the Marian Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, there is a need for additional recognition of law librarians who have made exemplary contributions to the profession and AALL.

AALL should explore additional ways to recognize and acknowledge members who have provided excellent and sustained leadership to the profession through years of service and contributions.

The Special Committee will:

Explore policies, practices, and procedures used by other organizations to recognize and acknowledge the contribution of their leaders and other worthy members.

Recommend new ways that law librarians can be recognized within AALL, including possible creation of new awards, as well as the structure, timing, format, selection criteria, and funding needed to present any new awards.

Suggest any other methods that might be used to honor and recognize outstanding law librarians and/or AALL members. These methods might include the creation of a "hall of fame" (or similar structure), recommending additional ribbons for members attending the Annual Meeting, possible creation of a "Law Librarian Fellows" or Law Library Institute designation (similar to the American Law Institute), etc. The committee should also provide proposed structure, timing, format, selection criteria, and funding needed for any new forms of recognition suggested.

The Special Committee will prepare a preliminary report for the Spring, 2009 Executive Board meeting and a final report with recommendations for Board approval for the Summer, 2009 Executive Board meeting.

Major Activities for 2008-2009:
To begin its work, the Committee reviewed the recognition programs currently conducted by AALL and its SISs, including each of the awards listed within the "Awards & Acknowledgments" section of AALLNET (http://www.aallnet.org/about/awards.asp). This was followed by an examination of other professional association awards programs, including library-related associations such as the American Library Association, the Special Libraries Association and the Medical Library Association.

After this exhaustive review, the Committee proposes developing a "tiered" system of recognition, both in terms of the amount of time and expense necessary for the particular type of recognition, as well as the range of recipients – from awards to mid-career members to awards for sustained and/or prolonged distinguished service. Of the many awards and forms of recognition explored, the Committee will be further developing the structure, timing, format, selection criteria and funding necessary for six additional methods of recognizing AALL members.

The Member Recognition Committee's Final Report to the Board, to be submitted for the Summer 2009 Executive Board meeting, will provide specific details for creating and administering the six new methods of recognition and will make recommendations for the implementation of these proposed recognition programs.

Proposed Activities for 2009-2010:
This special committee's final report is due at the Summer 2009 Board Meeting -- and the committee will cease to exist in July 2009. If adopted by AALL's Executive Board, the committee's recommendations re: new methods of member recognition will be carried out by existing committees or other divisions of the Association.