The Government Relations Committee Officers in 2013-2013 were Susan Nevelow Mart, Chair, and Leslie Street, Vice-Chair. The Committee’s Board Liaison was Holly Riccio.

The Committee continued its long-term project of drafting one page, substantive issue briefs on a wide variety of topics. These are typically drafted at the request of the Government Relations Office (GRO), addressing pressing policy issues as they arise. They are available on AALLNET, and they can be used by AALL members or others to understand AALL policy positions and advocate for those positions. One-pagers can also be provided to policy makers, who then have a clear and convenient guide to AALL’s position. This year, GRC members wrote one-pagers on Reforms to the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, The USA FREEDOM Act, Ending Secret Law, Network Neutrality, funding for the Library of Congress, GPO, and the Legal Services Corporation, as well as on the proposed changes to the Federal Register and Code of Federal Regulations. For the first time this year, members of the GRC worked towards becoming expert in a particular area of the advocacy agenda by joining a subcommittee on Access to Government Information, Open Government, or Privacy.

This year, in concert with Digital Access to Legal Information committee, the GRC continued working toward the states’ adoption of the Uniform Law Commission Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). When enacted by a state, UELMA mandates permanent public access to official state legal documents published online. Widespread adoption of UELMA requires advocacy at the state level, which the GRO and the GRC have been supporting through webinars and online resources. To date, UELMA has been enacted in ten states.

At the annual meeting, the GRC offered or assisted with policy programs, including the pre-Conference Advocacy workshop. At the Annual Public Policy Update program, the GRC awarded the Oakley Award to Sally Holterhoff for her longstanding advocacy efforts, including her efforts to assure that digital legal information was authentic. The Mississippi College of Law Library received the Public Access to Government Information Award for their Legislative History Project.

Submitted by Susan Nevelow Mart, Chair, 2013-2014
August 11, 2014.