Committee Purpose: The Awards Committee shall oversee the granting of awards established by the Association as selected by various Association committees.

Committee Charge: The Awards Committee shall publicize award opportunities and coordinate the presentation of awards to recipients for the awards established by the Association. AALL committees will select one or more recipients every year for each award, or no recipient if none of the nominees are deemed sufficiently qualified.

Major Activities in 2014-2015: The AALL Awards Committee selects recipients for seven awards: Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award; Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award; Hall of Fame Award; Chapter Professional Development Award; Innovations in Technology Award; Law Library Publications Award; and Volunteer Service Award. These awards recognize, support, and honor individuals and institutions who exemplify the Association’s core values as outlined in the 2013-2016 Strategic Directions and the goals of leadership, education, and advocacy.

There were seven members of the committee in 2014-2015: Frank Houdek, chair; Pauline Aranas, vice-chair; Michelle Cosby; Tina Dumas; Rachel Gordon; Patrick Keohoe; and Katrina Miller. Suzanne Thorpe serve as the Executive Board Liaison and Kim Rundle as the Staff Liaison. Each member served as the chair of a subcommittee responsible for one of the awards selected by the committee, as well as a member on one or more of the other subcommittees. Prior to the commencement of the nomination season, the chair worked with AALL staff to update the nomination forms available on AALLNET, particularly to ensure that the individual to whom nominations were to be submitted was correctly identified for each of the seven awards.

The deadline for nominations for each of the awards was February 1, 2015. In addition to the numerous reminders which were regularly included in issues of the AALL E-Newsletter beginning in December, individual subcommittee chairs selectively notified appropriate AALL entities (e.g., the chair of the Chapter Professional Development Award sent a reminder notice to the Council of Chapter Presidents) about the nomination process and deadline. As a result of this effort, each of the awards for which the committee is responsible received a sizeable number of highly qualified nominations. Since the paucity of nominations has occasionally been a problem in the past for some of the awards, this was a gratifying result.

After the February 1 deadline, subcommittee members worked efficiently to consider the nominations submitted for the award for which they were responsible. The goal is to complete the selection process and notify award recipients by mid-March. At the same time, subcommittee chairs and chairs of other committees and SISs that issue awards will complete the AALL Award Recipient Information form no later than April 1, 2015. The form, which is completed and submitted electronically, provides the information serves as the basis for numerous activities, including the Awards brochure, Award plaque, E-News, Monthly News, AALL Spectrum announcement, signage at the Annual Meeting, and press releases.

Following the selection of the winners, the committee chair will work with AALL Headquarters staff, particularly Kim Rundle, to produce the Awards Brochure, plaques and other recognition and promotional material. In this capacity the chair also will with the other award granting entities to ensure that Headquarters receives accurate information on all the AALL awards, including Emerging Leader Award, AALL/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award, Excellence in Marketing Award, New Product Award, LLI/AALL Spectrum articles of the Year Awards, Public Access to Government Information Award, Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award, Minority Leadership Development Award, Distinguished Lectureship Award, and various Special Interest Section awards.

Chairs of the Andrews, Gallagher and Hall of Fame subcommittees will write articles for publication in the June 2015 issue of AALL Spectrum. In addition, committee members will prepare biographies for the new Hall of Fame members, which include the latest recipients of the Gallagher Award, using a template previously created for this purpose. These biographies will be added to the Hall of Fame inductees section of AALLNET.
Proposed Activities for 2015-2016: The coming year will mark the first in which the Association acts on the recommendations made by the Committee Review Task Force and approved by the Executive Board in fall 2014. In particular, a new committee structure will become functional in July 2015. Although some existing standing committees will sunset (e.g., Placement, Membership Development, Public Relations) and others will become "juries" with one-year terms (e.g., Grants, Scholarship, Spectrum/LLJ), the Awards Committee is one which will continue as a standing committee in 2015-2016. Nevertheless, the committee’s work will be significantly changed because selection of four awards which the committee currently handles will be transferred to new, annually appointed juries: Chapter Professional Development, Innovations in Technology, Law Library Publications, and Volunteer Service. The committee will continue to be fully responsible for the administration and selection of the Gallagher, Andrews, and Hall of Fame awards, but it will only publicize and coordinate the presentation of all other awards. It has been suggested that the members of the committee may serve in an ex officio capacity on the award juries, but that matter still remains to be resolved. In fact, in addition to its work on the three awards for which it remains responsible, the primary proposed activity for the committee in 2015-2016 is to work internally within the committee and externally with AALL Headquarters staff and Executive Board members to establish and clarify the duties, goals, responsibilities, and procedures of the Awards Committee under the newly adopted structure.