Committee Name: Legal Research Competency Special Committee

Major Activities for 2014-2015:

Survey: In September 2014, the LRC Special Committee surveyed AALL members via several forums about awareness and use of the AALL Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency (PSLRC). Of the 136 respondents, 118 are familiar with the AALL Principles & Standards for Legal Research Competency and 65 respondents reported that they incorporate aspects of the Principles & Standards into their teaching, training, CLEs, or other instructional programming. Of those 65, 21 respondents report assessing or testing for legal research competency using aspects of the Principles & Standards. A number of the respondents provided descriptive information.

Article in PD Quarterly: Members of the LRC Special Committee published an article in PD Quarterly in February 2015 (Creating a Legal Research Audit: Assessing Competency), geared toward the legal professional development community and the use of the competencies across the stages of a legal career. Included in the article is a link to a survey for seeking information about organizations’ use of the Principles and Standards in instruction, training, professional development, CLEs, and the testing and assessment activities associated with instruction.

Board Motion for Approval of a PSLRC Revision Policy: A motion request is being placed on the AALL Board Agenda for the April 2015 meeting to adopt a revision policy for the Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency. If approved the Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency will be reviewed for currency every five years upon recommendation of the AALL Executive Board.

SIS Newsletters: Committee members will publish articles in various Special Interest Section newsletters in upcoming months to raise awareness of the PSLRC and propose ways to apply the principles and standards in the workplace. The Committee has contacted the Council of Newsletter Editors to expedite distribution of this article to all SIS newsletter editors.

ORALL chapter meeting: A member of the LRC Special Committee presented a poster session and distributed bookmarks at this chapter meeting in October 2014.

SEAALL/ORALL Chapter meeting program: The chair of the LRC Special Committee will be speaking on a program entitled, Creative Assessment: Connecting Legal Research Instruction to Results, which will examine and evaluate various forms of assessment that can be used to determine whether competency has been achieved pursuant to the principles and standards articulated in the PSLRC. A poster and bookmarks created for the 2014 AALL annual meeting will be on display and distributed at this program.

Legal Research Competency Brochure: A brochure was created last year and distributed to all registrants at the AALL annual meeting in July 2014. The remaining brochures were distributed at the AALS library section meeting in Washington, D.C. in January 2015. A revised brochure is currently being designed and will be distributed in the registration materials for the SEAALL/ORALL chapter meeting in April 2015 and placed on the LRC webpage.

Legal Research Competency Web Center: The LRC Special Committee is continuously refreshing and enhancing the content of the web center with the goal of promoting the PSLRC and providing opportunities to read about legal research competency, to share assessment examples and to contribute experiences applying them. To that end, we have created a SHARE webpage and a unique LRCSC email address to encourage idea sharing and dialog.

AALL 2015 Annual Meeting Program Proposals: The LRC Special Committee proposed a deep dive program designed to share knowledge and seek input about concrete examples on the implementation of the PSLRC in both law schools and legal practice environments, and how various stakeholders value and use legal research competencies. The program was not accepted. Instead we will propose a Coffee Talk to engage participants in conversations about aspects of legal research competency.

Contact Former Competency Task Force Members: During the remainder of this year, Committee members will contact members of previous competency task forces to enlist their participation in raising awareness of the PSLRC, in formulating a strategy to promote the PSLRC to internal and external audiences, and in generating conversations about legal research competency. We hope to add their
names and involvement to the Legal Research Competency web center to widen the circle of interest in improving legal research competency within the legal community.

**Proposed Activities for 2015-2016:**

AALL 2015 Annual Meeting: Members of the LRC Special Committee are scheduled to speak on two different programs about assessment of legal research competency (Creative Assessment: Connecting Legal Research Training and Instruction to Results) and developing learning outcomes as required by new ABA standards for law school accreditation (Get Schooled on Learning: Learning Outcomes and Assessment for Legal Research Instruction Under New ABA Standards 302, 314, and 315). In addition, the Committee plans to hold a Coffee Talk to share activities and experiences about how to improve and assess legal research competency.

Webinars: The Committee plans to develop a series of webinars designed to engage thought leaders and people interested in legal research competency in conversation about competency standards, assessment mechanisms, research instruction techniques, and more. The goal is to gather ideas and experiences about successful implementation of the Principles and Standards that can be compiled and disseminated widely.

Calendar of Conferences, Events & Chapter Meetings: The Committee will collect information about events, chapter meetings, conferences and other activities of AALL and external organizations that might relate to legal research competency. We will create a calendar of upcoming events and deadlines so that we can maximize program proposals and other avenues to promote the PSLRC at these events.

Media & Scholarly Communications: The Committee plans to improve connections with internal and external audiences through timely articles in publications, blogs, websites and other media circulated by organizations such as NALP, AALS, ALA, legal writing instructors, law librarianship educators and more. We expect to compile a list of publication deadlines for media that would be appropriate for promoting discussion of competency standards.

Strategy for External Audiences: It is imperative that the Committee develop a strategy for connecting with external audiences that intersect with legal research competency. The Committee has compiled a list of potential external stakeholders and will suggest and prioritize initiatives to forge strong collaborations and partnerships with these groups.

Legal Research Competency Web Center: The next phase of web center design will focus on promoting successful practical applications of the PSLRC, developing outreach content to enhance connections with external audiences, and evaluating web analytics to optimize access to critical information.