AALL Awards Committee

2014–2015 Annual Report

The 2014–2015 AALL Awards Committee consisted of Michelle Cosby; Tina Dumas; Rachel Gordon; Patrick Kehoe; Katie Miller; Pauline Aranas, vice-chair; and Frank G. Houdek, chair. The chair was pleased with the commitment and outstanding work ethic of each member. They not only stayed on task and met every deadline, but they did it with excellence and good cheer. They are all “award winners” in the eyes of the chair.

The primary responsibility of the Awards Committee in 2014–2015 was to select recipients for seven of the Association’s awards: Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award, Hall of Fame Award, Chapter Professional Development Award, Law Library Publications Award, Innovations in Technology Award, and Volunteer Service Award.

In addition, the committee was responsible for overseeing AALL’s entire Awards program by working, where necessary, with the entities which select recipients for the other association-wide awards, and by handling various administrative matters pertaining to the program. The latter typically entailed coordinating efforts with AALL Headquarters staff, particularly Kim Rundle, the committee’s staff liaison, and Suzanne Thorpe, the committee’s Executive Board liaison. As in the past, most of this work fell to the committee chair, although the vice-chair was involved as well. Included among these tasks was ensuring that information provided on AALLNET for the submission of award nominations was accurate, publicizing the awards nomination process and deadlines, providing complete and accurate information to Headquarters about those selected to receive awards, and providing assistance in the completion of the awards brochure which is distributed at the Annual Meeting and, ultimately, posted on AALLNET. This year the chair also worked with staff members Chris Siwa and Ashley St. John to provide and maintain up-to-date profiles of AALL Hall of Fame members on AALLNET and, for the first time, to add photographs of the inductees to the profiles. The chair wishes to acknowledge the care and attention given to all of these tasks by Ms. Rundle, Mr. Siwa, and Ms. St. John.

With the goal of facilitating the performance of its primary responsibility—selecting recipients for the seven awards listed above—and ensuring that the workload was evenly divided among committee members, the chair divided the committee into subcommittees for each award. Members chaired one subcommittee and served on at least two others. To provide more detailed information about the awards directly administered by the Awards Committee, excerpts from reports prepared by the chairs of each subcommittee is presented in the following paragraphs.

Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award (Frank Houdek, subcommittee chair)

The subcommittee was pleased to consider eight outstanding library professionals who were nominated and supported for this award by numerous appreciative colleagues. Despite the fact that it had happened only once before since the creation of the Gallagher Award in 1984, the subcommittee ultimately decided that both the large number of nominees and the sheer weight of their many accomplishments justified presenting the award to four individuals in 2015. The subcommittee selected Timothy L. Coggins, Associate Dean for Library and Information Services Professor of Law, University of
Richmond School of Law Library; Penny A. Hazelton, Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Library and Technology Services, University of Washington Gallagher Law Library; Sarah (Sally) Holterhoff, Government Information / Reference Librarian and Associate Professor of Law Librarianship, Valparaiso University Law School Library; and Sarah (Sally) Wiant, Professor of Law, Washington and Lee University School of Law.

In addition to participating in the selection of recipients for this year’s award, the subcommittee’s chair also worked with AALL President Holly Riccio and AALL staff members on several administrative matters pertaining to the award. First, in an effort to increase awareness of and appreciation for this year’s Gallagher Award winners, the chair will host an hour-long session titled “Gallagher Up Close and Personal: An Informal Conversation with the 2015 Recipients” at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on Sunday, July 19. This will provide an opportunity for conference attendees to hear from these esteemed individuals above and beyond the short address each will make at the Association luncheon on Tuesday. Second, given the prestige of the Gallagher Award, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that its recipients also are automatically inducted into the AALL Hall of Fame as if they haven’t previously received that award. Among this year’s recipients, for example, only Timothy Coggins is an existing member of the Hall of Fame, inducted in 2011. The chair discussed ways to more publicly recognize the new Gallagher Hall of Fame members, including introduction along with the other Hall of Fame Award winners at the Business Meeting and the addition of an appropriate acknowledgment on the plaque which they receive for the Gallagher Award.

Hall of Fame Award (Pauline Aranas, subcommittee chair)

The subcommittee received nine excellent nominations. The subcommittee found it helpful to coordinate discussions with the Gallagher Award subcommittee for two reasons: (1) the Gallagher recipients are automatically inducted into the Hall of Fame; (2) there could be overlapping nominations. The subcommittee also affirmed the practice of prior years, concluding that it was appropriate for committee members to go beyond the list of those nominated for the award and offer the names of other individuals who they deemed worthy of consideration. Given the size and excellent quality of the pool of nominees, however, subcommittee members decided not to follow that approach for 2015.

The nominees were all very accomplished, leaders in their respective work environments and significant contributors to the profession. The factor that carried the most weight for selection was a record of sustained and significant or distinguished service to the Association throughout much of the person’s entire career. The subcommittee acknowledged that the award is not a “law librarian hall of fame,” but rather the AALL Hall of Fame.

The subcommittee selected the following individuals for induction into the AALL Hall of Fame in 2015: Ann T. Fessenden, Circuit Librarian, U.S. Court of Appeals Library, St. Louis, Missouri; James S. Heller, Director of the Law Library, Professor of Law, and Professor of Public Policy, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia; Phyllis C. Marion, Associate Dean for Library and Information Resources and Professor of Law,
Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award (Katie Miller, subcommittee chair)

The subcommittee received six nominations, but one item was nominated twice, so the subcommittee considered five different nominees. After due deliberation, the subcommittee selected two publications, *A Bibliographical Catalog of William Blackstone* by Ann Jordan Laeuchli; and *Appeals to the Privy Council from the American Colonies: An Annotated Digital Catalogue*, by Mary Sarah Bilder, Paul A. Freund, and Sharon Hamby O’Connor, to receive the 2015 Andrews Award.

The subcommittee discussed whether there should be a separate award for blog posts or works that are not scholarly monographs. Suggestions included establishing a subcategory or suggesting to the president that such items be considered for an AALL Presidential certificate of achievement. The subcommittee believes that the Awards Committee may wish to consider this matter at its 2015 meeting or in the coming year.

Volunteer Service Award (Tina Dumas, subcommittee chair)

The subcommittee received nominations for three individuals, each of whom was highly qualified. It selected two recipients for 2015: Donna K. Bausch, Law Librarian, Norfolk Law Library; and Leonette M. Williams, Associate Director for Collection and Administrative Services, Asa V. Call Law Library, University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

One nominator was not able to provide the nominee’s C.V. or resume, as requested on the submission form. However, she contacted the subcommittee chair before the due date and suggested alternative forms of documentation providing similar information, such as a detailed AALL profile, including leadership activity, as well as articles outlining the nominee’s activities. For future reference, Frank Houdek maintains an “AALL Leaders” index which lists “leadership” activity (e.g., chair of committee, president of a chapter, etc., but not mere membership on a committee) for individuals from 1969 to the present. Frank is willing to provide information on future nominees, if needed, to supplement nomination forms.

Since nominees for this award may not be previous recipients of other awards, the subcommittee recommends checking nominees’ names against the list of previous award winners on AALLNET, as well as the Awards Index included in the *AALL Reference Book*, supplemented on an annual basis by Frank Houdek.

The subcommittee discussed and ultimately agreed that being the recipient of the Volunteer Service Award should not preclude an individual from eligibility for other leadership awards in the future.

Chapter Professional Development Award (Michelle Cosby, subcommittee chair)
The subcommittee selected the San Diego Area Law Libraries chapter as the recipient for the One-Time Chapter Professional Development Award. The other three applications were from Maryland, New York, and New England chapters, all for the One-Time Award. The subcommittee did not receive any applications for the Comprehensive Chapter Professional Development Award.

**Innovations in Technology Award** (Rachel Gordon, subcommittee chair)

The subcommittee considered four strong nominees this year. After due deliberation, it selected the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library for its digitization of Maine primary law and the manner in which it made this material available online as the recipient of the 2015 award. The subcommittee members were a pleasure to work with and were prepared and engaged.

While it is not clear how the new award juries will work in 2015–16, the chair notes that it was helpful to have individuals from the Computing Services Special Interest Section serve as subcommittee members. They brought up technical considerations about the nominations and were able to share their knowledge of projects similar to the nominees that the non-CS-SIS subcommittee members were not aware of. On a small technical matter, one of the applicants pointed out that the nomination form should be updated to indicate that four copies of the application form—rather than five—should be mailed to the contact person.

**Law Library Publications Award** (Patrick Kehoe, subcommittee chair)

The subcommittee received eleven nominations of which six were for the print award, one was for both the print and nonprint awards, and four were for the nonprint award. All were judged to be of excellent quality and to reflect favorably on the work of our colleagues. After due deliberation, the subcommittee selected one recipient for each award. Boston College Law Library’s “The Law in Postcards,” co-created by Laurel Davis and Lily Olson, received the Print Award. The University of Florida Lawton Chiles “Legal Information Center Annual Report Timeline 2013/2014,” with Avery Le primary designer, received the Nonprint Award.

The 2014–2015 Awards Committee will complete its work at a joint meeting with the 2015–2016 committee at the Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on Saturday, July 18, 2015. Pauline Aranas will serve as chair of the 2015–2016 committee and Katie Miller will serve as vice-chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank G. Houdek
Chair, 2014–2015 AALL Awards Committee