SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHARGE

Formation of the Legal Research Competency Special Committee was approved by the AALL Executive Board at its July 2014 meeting. Special Committee members were appointed to a two-year term with the following charge:

CHARGE:
1. Finalize the recommendations for the implementation plan to establish the PSLRC as the "gold standard" within AALL and for the legal community which will include a plan to operationalize at Headquarters many of the activities;
2. Continue to develop and implement training and best practices for all stakeholders and especially AALL members to share the PSLRC to their institutions and other stakeholders;
3. Continue to develop and implement strategies, including educational tools and best practices, to promote the "gold standard" to targeted external audiences and at the most appropriate venues;
4. Establish a process and timeline for periodic review and possible revision of the PSLRC. The Board approved the PSLRC in July 2013.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Charge #1: Implementation plan to establish the PSLRC as the “gold standard” to include a plan to operationalize at Headquarters many of the activities

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.

Legal Research Competency Brochure: A brochure was created 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. Revisions to the July 2014 brochure were suggested by the Committee and a revised brochure was designed and printed at AALL Headquarters in April. The revised brochure was placed on the LRC webpage and distributed in the registration materials for the SEAALL/ORALL chapter meeting in April 2015. See Legal Research Competency brochure [http://www.aallnet.org/pslrcbrochure-trifold](http://www.aallnet.org/pslrcbrochure-trifold)
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.

**Charge #2: Develop and implement training and best practices for AALL member stakeholders**

SIS Newsletters: Committee members plan to 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. Council of Newsletter Editors has been contacted to assist in expediting 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 spoke on a program entitled, Creative Assessment: Connecting Legal Research Instruction to Results, which examined and evaluated 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 created for the 2014 AALL annual meeting was displayed and legal research competency bookmarks were distributed at this program.

AALL 2015 Annual Meeting Program Proposal: 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.

AALL 2015 Annual Meeting Activities:

Coffee Talk:
- *Getting Buy-In for Legal Research Competencies – How Do You Do It?* Hosted by members of the Special Committee.

Poster Session:
- Poster #6: There's a Competency for That! Standards for the Successful Legal Researcher

Programs:
- *Creative Assessment: Connecting Legal Research Training and Instruction to Results* – two Committee members were speakers.
- *Get Schooled on Learning: Learning Outcomes and Assessment for Legal Research Instruction Under New ABA Standards 302, 314, and 315* – one Committee member was a speaker.
Charge #3: Develop and implement strategies, including educational tools and best practices, to promote to targeted external audiences

*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.

Charge #4: Establish a process and timeline for periodic review and possible revision of the PSLRC

When the Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency were submitted for approval by the AALL Executive Board in 2013, the Task Force indicated that it would be advisable to adopt a policy for periodic review and revision of standards for currency and relevance, to preserve their stability as the gold standard for research. It is anticipated that the Board would charge either an existing legal research competency committee or constitute an ad hoc group to complete this task.

The Legal Research Competency Special Committee suggests that the AALL Executive Board adopt a policy that would require periodic review and revision of standards for currency, particularly as AALL partners with other organizations on their adoption and implementation throughout the legal community. We believe that the Principles and Standards for Legal Research Competency should be reviewed at least every five years by a group representative of the Association’s various types of libraries.

**Committee Strategy for 2015-2016:**

**Webinars**: In collaboration with other SIS groups, 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**: Collect information about events, chapter meetings, conferences and other activities of AALL and external organizations that might relate to legal research competency. 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: 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. Compile a list of publication deadlines for media that would be appropriate for promoting discussion of competency standards.

Strategy for External Audiences: Develop a strategy for connecting with external audiences that intersects 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.

Respectfully submitted,

LEGAL RESEARCH COMPETENCY SPECIAL COMMITTEE
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