

Government Relations Committee Annual Report 2015-2016

The Government Relations Committee leaders for 2015-2016 were Peggy Roebuck Jarrett, Chair, and Richard Leiter, Vice Chair. The Board Liaison was Keith Ann Stiverson.

The GRC's purpose is to represent, promote, and advocate for the information policy interests of AALL. The internal focus this year was to expand and strengthen the work of the topical subcommittees that monitor public policy issues, develop expertise in complex areas, and share and discuss developments with the Director of Government Relations and the full committee. The subcommittees – Access to Information, Open Government, and Privacy – liaised with AALL chapters and special interest sections and wrote and posted monthly information updates to the AALL Advocacy listserv. Subcommittee members educated the community on the issues and encouraged members to take action.

GRC members, in both subcommittees and as a group, worked on a wide variety of legislative, regulatory, and policy issues, in cooperation with the Director of Government Relations. The committee monitored and wrote updates on major legislation including Freedom of Information Act reform, Electronic Communications Privacy Act reform, public access to Congressional Research Service reports, and appropriations for the Library of Congress and Government Publishing Office. On the regulatory side, GRC members assisted with drafting comments on Federal Communications Commission rulemaking on broadband privacy, as well as revisions to the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-130, Management of Federal Information Resources. Other issues followed included the Librarian of Congress nomination and changes to the Federal Depository Library Program as the Government Publishing Office continues work on the National Plan for the Access to U.S. Government Information and the implementation of a regional library discard policy.

For the 2016 Annual Meeting, the GRC assisted the Government Relation Office in planning and implementing the preconference Legislative Advocacy Training. We participated in the Public Policy Update and organized an educational program on archiving federal government web content at the upcoming end of the presidential term. We also had the distinct pleasure of presenting AALL's two advocacy awards. The Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award went to Sandra Levin for her efforts on behalf of California county law libraries to secure solid, sustained funding; the Public Access to Government Information Award went to the Florida Academic Law Libraries, in recognition of outstanding, grass-roots cooperation to make state legal information available electronically.

Submitted by Peggy Roebuck Jarrett, Chair, 2015-2016
August, 2016