IN THIS ISSUE

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Welcome to Our New Readers!

UPDATES FROM THE HILL AND THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OFFICE

- Thanks to You, the Denver Advocacy Training Was a Great Success!
- 2010 Annual Meeting “AALL Public Policy Update” Highlights Our Key Policy Activities and Accomplishments
- Chapter Leaders Gather in Denver for Roundtable on Government Relations
- NCCUSL Drafting Committee Approves Draft Authentication and Preservation of State Electronic Legal Materials Act
- AALL Scores Department of Justice Revised Open Government Plan
- U.S. Archivist Ferriero Announces Task Force on Open Government and E-Records Management

OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY: CHAPTER NEWS

- New Case Study: California County Law Librarians Protect Law Library Funds

FREE TIME WELL SPENT: Further Reading for the Information Policy Junkie

- Cost of Classification Continues to Rise
- National Declassification Center Releases Inaugural Report
- President and Vice President Daily Public Schedules Now on WhiteHouse.gov
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Our New Readers!

It was wonderful to connect with so many of you at the AALL Annual Meeting in Denver. We spoke with many members who are new to advocacy, as well as our “advocacy experts.” For those who are new to the work of the Government Relations Office (GRO), we wanted to take a moment to introduce you to our advocacy resources.

The Washington E-Bulletin is your monthly summary of the information policy issues that we’re tracking, along with chapter news and interesting reading for the information policy junkie. Here’s where you’ll find a roundup of each month’s most important news at the federal and state levels.

In addition to the E-Bulletin, the Government Relations Office offers a number of tools to help our members track important information policy issues:

- The [Washington Blawg](#) provides the latest policy updates, news items, summaries of hearings and reports. You can sign up to receive updates by RSS feed or email.

- The [Advocacy Listserv](#) is a discussion list where we post policy news, [action alerts](#) and requests for information. For example, in March we asked listserv members to tell us what new information or data they would like agencies to publish online. Mary Alice then shared this information with the White House’s [Open Government Working Group](#).

  The listserv is also the primary mechanism for hearing from you about the policy issues arising in your state. For example, we rely on you to keep us informed about funding issues for state, court, and county law libraries; proposals to eliminate print legal resources in favor of online-only; digital authentication and preservation of online legal resources, and other key issues. Recently, LLAM Government/Vendor Relations Committee Chair Joan Bellistri sent a note to the listserv to alert members of the challenge they faced in Maryland to oppose the [elimination of the print Register](#).

- The [Advocacy Toolkit](#) offers information about our policy priorities, tips to help you become a more effective law library advocate at the federal and state levels, case studies, and resources for [AALL’s State Working Groups](#).

- The monthly “[Washington Brief](#)” columns in [Spectrum](#) give an overview of the issues the GRO is following.

Please visit the GRO space on AALLNET for all of our policy updates, letters, testimony, issues briefs and more – including an archive that dates back to 1995. Thanks for joining our Advocacy Team!
Thanks to You, the Denver Advocacy Training Was a Great Success!

On Saturday, July 10, 75 enthusiastic AALL and chapter members from 27 states joined us in Denver for the 2010 Advocacy Training, “Raising the Bar in Your State.” With an impressive set of speakers and members who came ready to discuss some of the most pressing challenges currently facing law libraries, this was one of our most successful trainings ever.

The training began with a welcome message from 2009-2010 Government Relations Committee Chair Camilla Tubbs. Camilla led the introductions of all the participants, and we were delighted that there was such strong representation from so many libraries, chapters and states.

Director of Government Relations Mary Alice Baish gave an overview of the AALL Strategic Directions on Advocacy and our current initiatives with the Law Library of Congress, Government Printing Office and National Archives and Records Administration. She also explained our collaboration with OpenTheGovernment.org to contribute to an audit of agency Open Government Plans. Advocacy Communications Assistant Emily Feldman then summarized the many Government Relations Office tools available on AALLNET and briefly explained the importance of the days’ breakout sessions.

Guest speaker Keith Ann Stiverson, AALL Observer to the NCCUSL Drafting Committee, then gave us a special update on the status of the draft Authentication and Preservation of State Electronic Legal Materials Act.

After a short coffee break, participants divided up into the two breakout sessions. The first, on developing tools to prove the value of public law libraries, featured a panel moderated by SCCLL-SIS Board Member Joan Bellistri. Special thanks to Grace Holloway, ALLA, Gwinnett County Law Library; Laura Orr, WESTPAC, Washington County Law Library; Larry Meyer, Council of California County Law Librarians, Law Library for San Bernardino County; and Jonathan Stock, SNELLA, Retired Connecticut courthouse law librarian, who shared their experiences and expertise with us. The main themes addressed during this breakout session were the need to collect and share data about library usage; the importance of collecting testimonials from library users to demonstrate the value of public law libraries to the community; and the advantages of forming relationships with allies such as state and local bar associations and the state law library, so that you’ll have their support when important issues arise.

The second breakout session on AALL’s State Working Groups featured a panel discussion moderated by Catherine Dunn, 2010-2011 GRC Vice Chair and co-coordinator of the D.C. Working Group. Janet Camillo, Montgomery County Circuit Court Law Library and member of the Maryland State Working Group, spoke about the Working Group’s successful effort to oppose the elimination of the print Maryland Register. Emily Janoski-Haehlen, 2009-2010 ELIACC Chair and coordinator of the Kentucky State Working Group, gave an excellent summary of the findings of the 2009-2010 updates to AALL’s State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Information and shared her experience working on the Kentucky inventory.
After the panel, Paul Lomio and Erika Wayne of the Stanford University Robert Crown Law Library discussed how they worked with volunteers in California to develop the prototype for the national inventory. Erika offered several tips to help working groups get started, including: start with small goals; give people specific tasks to help them get going; and use your own working group’s Google Group and the AALL State Working Groups Google Group to share information and ask questions.

The resources from the training, including the PowerPoint slides and the NCCUSL Draft Authentication and Preservation of State Electronic Legal Materials Act, are now available in our Advocacy Toolkit. We’re already looking forward to next year’s Advocacy Training session in Philadelphia that will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2011. We hope to see you there!

2010 Annual Meeting “AALL Public Policy Update” Highlights Our Key Policy Activities and Accomplishments

On Monday, July 12, AALL held its 2010 Public Policy Update – the once-a-year opportunity for our members to hear about the exciting work done during the past year by members of AALL’s Copyright, Electronic Legal Information Access & Citation and Government Relations Committees and the Government Relations Office.

The update began with the presentation of AALL’s most prestigious advocacy awards: the 2010 Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award to the ORALL County Law Libraries Special Interest Group (ORALL County SIG) and the AALL Public Access to Government Information (PAGI) Award to the Legal Information Institute (LII) at Cornell Law School.

The ORALL County SIG received the Oakley Award in recognition of their successful fight to ensure the future of Ohio’s country law libraries. LII received the 2010 PAGI Award for its innovative work to provide free online access to public legal information. Congratulations to both award winners!

After the presentation of the awards, 2009-2010 GRC Chair Camilla Tubbs discussed the GRC’s priorities over the past year. These include tracking and writing issue briefs on such topics as net neutrality and the state secrets privilege. GRC members also worked with the Government Relations Office to audit the Department of Justice’s Open Government Plan.

2010-2011 Copyright Committee Chair Roger Skalbeck highlighted the important issues on the table for the Copyright Committee this year, including his testimony in May 2009 for a new exemption to Section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and AALL’s opposition to the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement. The Copyright Committee just published new issue briefs on the Sec. 1201 rule-making process and exemptions and the Google Book Search. The Committee is also finalizing an issue brief on Creative Commons.
2009-2010 ELIACC Chair Emily Janoski-Haehlen discussed the committee’s 2009-2010 updates to AALL’s State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Information. The updates found that many states have responded to concerns in our 2007 report by adding new disclaimers that the online legal resource is for information only and not an official version. Unfortunately, more states are eliminating their print legal publications in favor of online-only without guaranteeing digital authentication, permanent public access or preservation. The committee is also working on a white paper on the development of AALL’s Uniform Citation Guide.

Director of Government Relations Mary Alice Baish highlighted the importance of advocacy in AALL’s strategic directions; the status of open government legislation we support on the Hill; and some of the ways in which we’ve been working with agencies to promote transparency in support of President Obama’s commitment to open government. Mary Alice’s PowerPoint Slides are available in our Advocacy Toolkit.

Chapter Leaders Gather in Denver for Roundtable on Government Relations

On July 12, more than 20 people attended the Chapter Leadership Roundtable on Government Relations in Denver. During the Roundtable, Michele Finerty, a member of the NOCALL Sacramento Sunshine Week Committee, gave us some terrific tips about planning a successful Sunshine Week event, including how to identify local panelists and co-sponsors, and promoting your event. Michele showed how easy it is for anyone to plan a local event for Sunshine Week. Next year’s Sunshine Week is March 13-19; we’ll let you know when the date for the national Webcast is announced so that you can start planning a local event for your library or chapter!

In addition, 2009-2010 GRC Chair Camilla Tubbs gave an update on SNELLA’s and AALL’s effort to save 4 of 6 of Connecticut’s courthouse law libraries. Maryland State Working Group coordinator Joan Bellistri then talked about how the Maryland State Working Group formed to stop the elimination of the print Register. Catherine Dunn and Leslie Street, co-coordinators of the D.C. Working Group, discussed the process they went through to begin populating their inventory.

Camilla also talked about the important role of GRC chapter liaisons, members of the committee who are paired up with specific chapters to offer support and keep the lines of communications open between AALL and the chapters on important policy issues.

Lastly, AALL Advocacy Communications Assistant Emily Feldman discussed AALL’s advocacy resources that the Government Relations Office provides to keep our members updated on the important policy developments in D.C. and help improve advocacy efforts at the federal and state levels. A special thanks to everyone who attended this year’s Chapter Leadership Roundtable and contributed to this our important discussion. We’re looking forward to another great year of working with our chapters to promote our policy priorities at the federal and state levels!
NCCUSL Drafting Committee Approves Draft Authentication and Preservation of State Electronic Legal Materials Act

AALL is the national leader in advocating for the authentication and preservation of online legal information. In 2007, we published the groundbreaking State-by-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources, followed by a National Summit on Authentication of Digital Legal Information to discuss the key issues raised in the report. This year, AALL’s Electronic Legal Information Access & Citation Committee released its 2009-2010 updates to the 2007 report to determine what progress states have made over since 2007.

During the National Summit’s closing session Minnesota Revisor of Statutes Michele Timmons, who is also a member of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL), offered to submit a proposal to NCCUSL to create a study committee to explore the complex issues regarding digital authentication. Fast forward to July 2009, when the NCCUSL Executive Committee unanimously approved the Study Committee’s recommendation to create a drafting committee to develop a state law on the authentication and preservation of online legal materials. Timmons, who chaired the Study Committee, was named Chair of the Drafting Committee.

As AALL President Joyce Manna Janto announced in her July E-Newsletter, the Committee of the Whole of NCCUSL conducted its first reading and approved the draft Authentication and Preservation of State Electronic Legal Materials Act on July 15, 2010. During the meeting, the Committee addressed many of the issues outlined in a memorandum written by Timmons and Reporter Barbara A. Bintliff, including the need for clarification of the relationship between the state’s official publishers and commercial publishers and the Commissioners’ wish to include “free access” to preserved, historical materials as an option. For more on the issues addressed at the meeting, please see Bintliff’s brief report of the commissioners’ discussions.

AALL Scores Department of Justice Revised Open Government Plan

In June, AALL contributed to a second audit organized by OpenTheGovernment.org to rank executive agencies’ Open Government Plans, which were initially released on April 7 as required by the Obama Administration’s Open Government Directive (OGD). AALL and the Government Relations Committee conducted the audit and reaudit for the Department of Justice (DOJ), which initially received the lowest ranking because of its lack of detail and failure to include links in its plan. DOJ responded positively to our feedback and took important steps to improve their plan, earning the 8th highest ranking of the revised plans.

Significantly, DOJ has promised to make publicly available its collection of digital legislative histories by fall 2010, and to provide access to significant court filings through its Web site, with an RSS/XML feed so the public can track the briefs as they are posted. DOJ will also begin attaching relevant court filings to press releases so that researchers, reporters and members of the public can more easily find and analyze these documents.
In addition, we are very pleased that DOJ expanded its description of the FOIA Dashboard, the agency’s Flagship Initiative. The FOIA Dashboard will make all agency annual FOIA reports accessible in machine readable formats for easy aggregation and analysis.

AALL will continue to work closely with DOJ’s open government officials to ensure that the plan is effectively implemented. For additional background on agency Open Government Plans, please see our issue brief on the Obama Administration’s Open Government Directive.

**U.S. Archivist Ferriero Announces Task Force on Open Government and E-Records Management**

Since his appointment in November 2009, United States Archivist David Ferriero has been taking important steps to make the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) more visible and to address the lack of proper e-records management at Federal agencies.

This month, Ferriero sent a notice to all NARA employees announcing the launch of the Archivist’s “Task Force on Agency Transformation.” The new Task Force will produce a report that identifies and recommends strategies to address, “the key issues, barriers, and opportunities relating to NARA’s leadership in open government, electronic records management, and organizational effectiveness.” The Task Force will use social media to reach out to and solicit feedback from NARA staff, key stakeholders and members of the public.

In addition, Ferriero stated during a July 22 hearing in the House Oversight and Government Reform Information Policy, Census and National Archives Subcommittee on Web 2.0 that NARA will issue a new Bulletin this fall that will expand on how agencies’ use of social media platforms may impact e-records management. Currently, agencies are directed to follow NARA’s 2005 guidance on managing Web records and the 2006 guidance on the use of new Web technologies, including RSS feeds, blogs and wikis. NARA is currently conducting a study on Federal agencies’ use of Web 2.0 technologies to identify what kinds of records agencies are creating and their potential long-term value.

We were also pleased that NARA published an Open Government Plan, though it was not required to do so, which outlines the agency’s plans to become more transparent, participatory and collaborative.

**OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY: CHAPTER NEWS**

**New Case Study: California County Law Librarians Protect Law Library Funds**

Anne Bernardo, Chair of the Council of California County Law Librarians (CCCLL) Legislative Committee wrote an excellent case study on the CCCLL’s successful effort to oppose a proposal that would have wiped out a significant portion of library filing fees in order to help close the Courts’ $360 million shortfall in State general funds. The case study explains how the CCCLL swiftly sprang into action with the help of NOCALL, SCALL and SANDALL a lobbyist, patrons, the California Bar Association, and the local bar association. Thanks to their effective efforts to explain to legislators the harm this proposal would have on California’s county law
libraries, the proposal was dropped in both the House and Senate. While CCCLL celebrated this important victory, they continue to actively monitor the budget process in case the proposal resurfaces before the state budget it adopted in the fall.

**FREE TIME WELL SPENT: Further Reading for the Information Policy Junkie**

**Cost of Classification Continues to Rise**

On June 25, the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) released its Fiscal Year 2009 Cost Report. The total security classification cost estimate within Government for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 is $8.81 billion, an increase of 2 percent from FY 2008. Declassification costs increased $1.92 million, or 4 percent since FY2009, reflecting President Obama’s Executive Order and accompanying memo that established a 2103 deadline for making publicly available the 400 million pages currently in the backlog at NARA. As always, estimates for the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency and several other national security agencies are excluded from these figures because those estimates are classified.

**National Declassification Center Releases Inaugural Report**

The National Declassification Center (NDC), established by President Obama’s Executive Order 13526 and located at NARA, recently released its first Bi-annual Report on Operations of the National Declassification Center. The report summarizes the work the NDC has accomplished since January 1, 2010, including releasing a draft Prioritization Plan that establishes deadlines for declassification, launching a Web site and a blog, and working with agencies to address the backlog of records at NARA.

The Memorandum on Implementation of the Executive Order, accompanying the Executive Order establishes that the NDC will help make public by December 31, 2013 the declassified records from the backlog of more than 400 million pages of records previously subject to automatic declassification. The NDC reported that its work with agencies has thus far resulted in the release of 7.8 million pages from the backlog.

**President and Vice President Daily Public Schedules Now on WhiteHouse.gov**

On July 26, the White House began posting President Obama’s and Vice President Biden’s daily public schedules online. The schedules are available via RSS feed, and there’s an option to add their schedules to your personal calendar. This is another small but important step toward meeting President Obama’s commitment to “usher in a new era of open Government.”

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