The Copyright Committeemet by monthly conference call during 2015-2016. The focus of the Copyright Committee's work this past year has been to provide useful information to our members and the public in general, and to address copyright related concerns particularly those raised by the Copyright Office when seeking comments on proposed changes to regulations and legislation.

The Copyright Committee has rewritten the Model Law Firm Copyright Policy in response to a survey circulated to law firm librarians. The survey demonstrated that law librarians are instrumental in creating and implementing copyright policy in law firms, but that they had many questions about the necessary elements of a strong copyright policy. In addition to the policy, the Committee drafted a Guidance Document to provide further information on complex issues. The policy is slated for review by Executive Board at their spring 2016 meeting. We believe this project contributes to the strategic directions of Authority and Advocacy.

The Copyright Committee has submitted comments in response to two requests for comments issued by the Copyright Office. The first sought comments related to the suitability of an extended collective licensing model to resolve issues with mass digitization efforts. The submitted comments were primarily drafted by Kelly Leong with the assistance of the Government Relations Office and are available on AALL’s Government Relations website. In summary, AALL does not support extended collective licensing as a viable solution to issues related to mass digitization. The second sought comments related to a change in rulemaking under section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The comments were co-drafted by Pam Brannon and Kelly Leong with assistance from the Government Relations Office and are available on AALL’s Government Relations website. In summary, AALL supports streamlining the rulemaking process of section 1201 through presumptive renewals of exemptions and permanent exemptions. We believe these comments contribute to the strategic directions of Authority and Advocacy.

The Copyright Committee completed its joint effort with DALIC to address state copyright issues. The project resulted in the creation of an excellent chart entitled Copyright Statutes for State Primary Materials, by our committee member June Casey, the document entitled Definition and Guidance for Evaluating Copyright Status of Online State Primary Legal Materials, and a flowchart to assist in examining state copyright. All the documents are available on AALL’s Government Relations website. We believe this project contributes to the strategic direction of Advocacy.

In an effort to help educate our members and the public on copyright related matters, the Copyright Committee composed various one-page advocacy pieces. The one-pagers are all available on AALL’s Government Relations website and cover the Google Books case (Ben Keele), extended collective licensing (Pam Brannon), and balanced copyright (Emily Feltren). In addition to these one-pagers, the committee drafted an update to the Georgia State University case related to e-reserves (Victoria Szymczak). We believe these one-pagers contribute to AALL’s strategic direction of Advocacy.

The Committee proposed three programs for the 2016 Annual Meeting focusing on intellectual property and AALL policies. One program was accepted focusing on determining copyright ownership. In addition to the annual meeting programming, the Copyright Committee created an update brochure for the 2015 annual meeting that was very popular with attendees. We believe these proposals contribute to AALL’s strategic directions of Advocacy and Education.

The Committee continues to reach out to members and the public through the My Communities Blog, twitter, and by keeping our online materials current. The Committee is ending the year with a review and update of our online materials to complement the new materials that have been added throughout the year, such as the joint DALIC materials and one-pagers. We believe these efforts contribute to AALL’s strategic directions of Advocacy.

The Copyright Committee in 2016-2017 will continue to monitor and comment on developments in copyright law. The Copyright Office has recently undertaken studies into orphan works, mass digitization, and revision of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act’s anti-circumvention provisions, and work on these
issues will continue into the next year. Maria Pallante, the Register of Copyrights, has also indicated that the Copyright Office will investigate revisions to the section 108 library exemptions. Major copyright-related litigation also continues, including an appeal to the Supreme Court in Authors Guild v. Google.

In the next year the Copyright Committee will continue to strengthen its work in commenting on and informing AALL members about developments in copyright law. The committee will develop and publish issue briefs on hot topics in copyright law. The committee will propose programming for the 2017 Annual Meeting or continuing education outside of the Annual Meeting. Finally, the Copyright Committee will continue its social media efforts and look for more effective means to keep AALL members informed of copyright law developments.