

AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

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Committee Name: Awards Committee

**Major Activities
for 2016-2017:**

The AALL Awards Committee selects recipients for three awards: Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award; Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award and Hall of Fame Award. These awards recognize, support, and honor individuals and institutions who exemplify the Association's core values and the goals of leadership, education, and advocacy.

There were seven members of the committee in 2016-2017: Katrina Miller, chair; Michelle Cosby, vice-chair; Carol Bredemeyer; Terry Long; Darcy Kirk; Sarah (Sally) Holterhoff; and John Davey. Jean Willis serves as the Executive Board Liaison and Kim Rundle as the Staff Liaison. Katrina Miller, Michelle Cosby and Terry Long served as the chairs of a subcommittee responsible for one of the awards selected by the committee. This year, committee members served on all three of the subcommittees rather than just two subcommittees. Prior to the commencement of the nomination season, the chair worked with AALL staff to update all the award nomination forms available on AALLNET, particularly to ensure that the individual to whom nominations were to be submitted was correctly identified for each of the three awards.

The deadline for nominations for each of the awards was February 1, 2017. In addition to the numerous reminders which were regularly included in issues of the AALL E-Newsletter beginning in December, individual subcommittee chairs selectively notified appropriate AALL entities about the nomination process and deadline. The chair sent periodic reminders regarding AALL award procedures and deadlines to jury and committee chairs and asked the SIS Council chair to disseminate similar information on behalf of the committee.

After the February 1 deadline, subcommittee members worked efficiently to consider the nominations submitted for the award for which they were responsible. The goal is to complete the selection process and notify award recipients by mid-March. At the same time, jury chairs and chairs of other SISs that issue awards will complete the AALL Award Recipient Information form no later than April 1, 2017. The form, which is completed and submitted electronically, provides the information which serves as the basis for numerous activities, including the Awards brochure, Award plaque, E-News, Monthly News, AALL Spectrum announcement, signage at the Annual Meeting, and press releases.

Following the selection of the winners, the committee chair will work with AALL Headquarters staff, particularly Kim Rundle, to produce the Awards Brochure, plaques and other recognition and promotional material. In this capacity the chair also will work with the other award granting entities to ensure that Headquarters receives accurate information on all the AALL awards.

Chairs of the Andrews, Gallagher and Hall of Fame subcommittees will write articles for publication in the July/August issue of AALL Spectrum. In past years the articles appeared in an earlier issue, but due to deadlines for editing, the articles were moved to the July/August issue. In addition, committee members will prepare biographies for the new Hall of Fame members, which include the latest recipients of the Gallagher Award, using a template previously created for this purpose. These biographies will be added to the Hall of Fame inductees section of AALLNET.

Last year, the committee hosted a program at the annual meeting: "Gallagher Up Close and Personal: An Informal Conversation with the 2016 Recipients." Given the positive reception and attendance, the committee will host another "Gallagher Up Close and Personal" program at the 2017 annual meeting.

In 2015-2016 the committee received a request from outgoing president Holly Riccio to complete an evaluation of the AALL awards program. The committee offered a recommendation to the board regarding a full review of the AALL awards program. The board decided to appoint a special independent committee to review all awards

During the Andrews award deliberation process, a number of issues arose regarding criteria and submission of review copies. Over the remaining months, the committee plans to discuss the issues regarding the Andrews award criteria and other issues raised during the year.

Board items were submitted about past issues from Andrews award and to determine whether AALL should take over the administration of the Roy M. Mersky Spirit of Law Librarianship award that is currently

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administered by Dick Spinelli. The board decided that the independent review committee would address both the issues in the review of awards.

**Proposed Activities
for 2017-2018:**

In addition to its work on the three awards for which it remains responsible, the primary proposed activity for the committee in 2017-2018 is to review its work internally within the committee. The committee will also work with the independent committee established to review the awards, and may also seek to review its work externally with AALL Headquarters staff and Executive Board members to establish and clarify the duties, goals, responsibilities, and procedures of the Awards Committee.