

AALL Committee Activities and Action Plan

Name: Pamela Brannon

ID #: 206

Title: Chair

Submitted: 3/1/2017

Email: pbrannon@gsu.edu

Committee Name: Copyright Committee

**Major Activities
for 2016-2017:**

The Copyright Committee in 2016-2017 continued its work on behalf of AALL as an advocate for a balanced and sensible copyright policy. To carry out this work, the committee met monthly by conference call, with project-specific conference calls as needed.

The Committee was active in promoting AALL's policy priorities before Congress, the Copyright Office, and the Library of Congress. These projects relate to AALL's strategic goals of leadership and community, as the Copyright Committee's participation in these activities reinforces AALL's role as a necessary advocate for a balanced copyright system to promote access to information.

In July 2016, the Committee (represented by Kelly Leong, Pam Brannon, and Emily Feltren) met by phone with the Copyright Office in response to the Copyright Office's call for comments regarding potential revisions to Section 108. In the meeting, AALL emphasized the importance of Section 108 to libraries and the need for flexibility in any updated language.

In October 2016, the Committee submitted comments to the Copyright Office in response to its call for additional comments on the functioning of 17 USC 1201. In the comments, the Committee highlighted the need for permanent exceptions for assistive technologies and circumvention of malfunctioning and obsolete technological protection measures.

In January 2017, the Committee submitted a response to the Librarian of Congress' request for input on the necessary qualities of and priorities for the next Register of Copyrights. The response discussed the need for the next Register to have a balanced approach to copyright and strong managerial qualities, and emphasized the need for an improved recordation and registration system and access to historical registration information.

Also in January 2017, the Committee submitted comments to the House Judiciary Committee in response to its proposal to move the Copyright Office out of the Library of Congress and establish it as an independent legislative agency. AALL opposes moving the Copyright Office out of the Library of Congress; in the comments, we reiterated that position, addressed necessary IT upgrades in the Office, and advocated for library and user group representation both in the Office itself, through the position of a Chief Knowledge Officer, and on its advisory committees.

In spring 2017 the Committee drafted comments in response to the Copyright Office's study on the protection of the moral rights of attribution and integrity in United States law. In the comments, the Committee reiterated the importance of fair use and the public domain in the U.S. copyright system.

The Copyright Committee also continued its efforts to educate members and the public on issues related to copyright law. These efforts address the strategic directions of knowledge, leadership, and community, as the Copyright Committee's efforts in this direction assist in sharing knowledge about copyright issues with AALL membership and positioning AALL members as experts on copyright issues relating to legal information. The Committee proposed one program focusing on intellectual property for the 2017 AALL Annual Meeting; the program was not accepted. The Committee also updated its brochure and developed a new activities area display for the Annual Meeting.

The Committee's education efforts also included the creation of new issue briefs and one-pagers. The Committee released an issue brief drafted by Committee member Sarah Reis on Fox News Network, LLC v. TVEyes, Inc., a Second Circuit fair use case. All Committee comments, issue briefs, and one-pagers are available on the AALL Government Relations website. Finally, the Committee continued to post to the My Communities Blog and on Twitter relating to developments in copyright law.

The Copyright Committee has undertaken a new project this year, the development of a new model copyright agreement for law journals. This project is led by Vice-Chair Benjamin Keele. The new model agreement incorporates language designed to allow posting of journal articles in open access repositories. The draft model agreement is currently under review and is set for submission to the Executive Board for the summer 2017 meeting. This project relates to AALL's strategic goal of leadership, as well as the core organizational value of access to legal information.

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**Proposed Activities
for 2017-2018:**

The Copyright Committee will continue to monitor developments in copyright law in the courts, Congress, and the Copyright Office. When appropriate and in consultation with the Government Relations Office, the Committee will submit comments on legislative and administrative proposals.

The Committee will continue to inform AALL members on copyright issues through its issue briefs, AALLnet blog, and proposing educational programming.

Finally, if approved by the Executive Board, the Committee will encourage adoption of its model copyright agreement for academic law journals.