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AALL Announces the 2018 Public Access to Government Information Award Winner

CHICAGO – May 29, 2018 — The [American Association of Law Libraries](http://www.aallnet.org) (AALL) today announces Kyle K. Courtney and the State Copyright Resource Center Team at Harvard University Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as recipients of the 2018 AALL Public Access to Government Information Award.

A principal tenet of AALL is the right of equal access to information for all to ensure an informed citizenry and to promote a just and democratic society. Established in 1998, the Public Access to Government Information Award is given to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to protect and promote greater access to government information, thereby increasing the public's knowledge about the workings of government.

Courtney and the State Copyright Resource Center Team at Harvard University have created an innovative website that helps users easily access information about the copyright status of their state's legal information. By offering an easy to navigate, free to use digital resource, the State Copyright Resource Center website educates the public on copyright law and policy and provides advocacy tools for open access advocates and libraries.

“AALL is proud to recognize the work of Kyle K. Courtney and the State Copyright Resource Center Team at Harvard University Library with the 2018 AALL Public Access to Government Information Award,” said AALL President Greg Lambert. “Through their work and advocacy to ensure information about the copyright status and openness of state legal information, they create a multiplier effect that can inspire others to advocate for greater access to legal information in the public domain. We applaud them for their efforts.”

Courtney is the copyright advisor for the Harvard University Library, where he has worked for the past eight years. He joined the legal information profession in 2005. Courtney holds a bachelor's degree in history from Mary Washington College, a juris doctorate from Suffolk University Law and a master of library science degree from Simmons College. Prior to joining the Harvard University Library he worked at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston.

He most recently was a member of the National Conference on Copyright of State Legal Materials Special Committee from 2016 to 2017.

“It’s an honor to accept this award on behalf of my colleagues,” said Courtney. “We believe the work we do is fundamental to both the legal and cultural institution communities, and at the center of providing greater open access and transparency to government information, including law and policy surrounding copyright. We are humbled to be recognized for our efforts.”

The Public Access to Government Information Award winner will be recognized at the upcoming 111th AALL Annual Meeting & Conference, to be held in Baltimore from July 14-17, 2018.

For more information about AALL’s Public Access to Government Information Award, visit bit.ly/AALL-publicaccess.

To learn more about the 2018 AALL Annual Meeting and to register, visit www.aallnet.org/conference.

About AALL

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906 on the belief that people—lawyers, judges, students, and the public—need timely access to relevant legal information to make sound legal arguments and wise legal decisions, its more than 4,100 members are problem solvers of the highest order. AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org.