

To: AALL Executive Board

From: Awards Creation and Review Special Committee
Cassie DuBay, Chair
Suzanne Corriell, Member
Sarah Morris, Member
Michael Saint-Onge, Member
Kim Rundle, Staff Liaison
Gregory Lambert, Board Liaison

Re: Awards Creation and Review Special Committee review and recommendations

Date: March 12, 2018

- I. **Committee Charge:** The Awards Creation and Review Special Committee shall review the AALL Awards program to ensure the program is providing recognition in the appropriate categories. This review includes making recommendations for the creation of new awards in recognition of work being done in emerging services, practices or communications in legal information and law librarianship, which the current program does not address.
- II. **Committee Review Process:** The Committee approached the review with a two-step process. 1) Consider awards given in the areas of emerging services, practices or communications among peer groups and their respective associations; and 2) Review or propose new awards based on the research performed in step 1. Peer groups and respective associations considered were: law professors, law firm partners, judges / court attorneys, legal administrators with influence over our members, and other librarian groups.
- III. **Committee Conclusion:** After review of peer groups and respective association awards, and review of AALL's current award program, the Committee makes two recommendations: 1) To revise the current Innovations in Technology Award; and 2) To propose a new award titled Excellence in Community Engagement. Additional information and draft language for each award is below.
- IV. **Recommendations:**

Innovations in Technology Award (Revised)

Purpose for Revision: The committee feels the criteria should be broadened and revised to make it clear that recipient(s) need not create a *new* application or technology; rather, recipient(s) could simply make an innovative use of an existing application or technology.

Key Concepts and Phrases Discussed: Planned or implemented a project, delivers (business) value or service, transformational impact, share knowledge effectively.

New Award Language: The Innovations in Technology Award was established in 2009 to recognize an AALL member, SIS, chapter, library, or any other group affiliated with the Association for their innovative use of technology in the creation, development, modification, or visionary use of an application or resource for law librarians or legal professionals.

New Award Criteria:

- If the nominee is an individual, they must be a member in good standing of AALL.
- Nominee’s technological project/innovation must impact and benefit library users and/or the legal information community and support the strategic goals and business objectives of their organization.
- Nominee’s innovative use of technology must demonstrate how librarians/information professionals effectively and efficiently serve as the human connect between technology, the information, and the user experience.

Excellence in Community Engagement (New)

Purpose for Addition: The committee was inspired by the [Elevate Award](#) as given by the Association of Legal Administrators. The goal of this award is to honor persons or groups who have demonstrated excellence in community engagement, collaboration, visibility, networking, and/or member-to-member relationships. With appropriate language, this new award may honor would-be applicants of the now-eliminated Excellence in Marketing Award.

New Award Language:

The Excellence in Community Engagement Award honors outstanding achievement in public relations activities by an AALL member, SIS, chapter, library, or any other group affiliated with the Association.

Community engagement is a critical responsibility of every member of the library profession. It is important to recognize and acknowledge outstanding contributions achieved by the Association’s members in raising the visibility of the profession and its Association. It is the intention of the AALL to issue the Excellence in Community Engagement Award to inspire, educate, and encourage community engagement by the AALL membership.

New Award Criteria:

- If the nominee is an individual, they must be in good standing of AALL.
- Nominee’s engagement project or initiative must demonstrate achievement in community engagement or raising the visibility of the Association. For purposes of this award, “community” may include networking among institutional members, Association members, business partners, information users, or other population.
- Nominee’s engagement project or initiative may include digital or electronic technology, print materials, events, programs, or campaigns as a vehicle for promotion, marketing, or engagement.

- Entries may be a single promotional effort or related promotions conducted over the course of a year.