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AALL Recognizes Achievements in Law Librarianship and Contributions to the Legal Information Profession

CHICAGO – June 7, 2021— The [American Association of Law Libraries](http://www.aallnet.org) (AALL) today announces the final winners of its 2021 awards, including the Emerging Leader Award, Minority Leadership Development Award, Public Access to Government Information Award, Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award, and New Product Award.

The Emerging Leader Award recognizes newer members who have made significant contributions to AALL and/or to the legal information profession, and have demonstrated the potential for future leadership and continuing service.

This year's winners of the Emerging Leader Award are:

- **Ashley Ames Ahlbrand**, Assistant Director for Public Services, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana.
- **Elizabeth S. Graham**, Head of Technical Services, University of Maryland School of Law Thurgood Marshall Law Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- **Clanitra Stewart Nejdli**, Head of Professional Development and Research Services Librarian, Lecturer in Law, Vanderbilt University, Alyne Queener Massey Law Library, Nashville, Tennessee.

The Minority Leadership Development Award was created in 2001 to nurture future leaders by introducing minority law librarians to leadership opportunities within AALL. This award provides recipients with an experienced AALL leader serving as their mentor for at least one year and the opportunity to serve on an AALL committee during the year following the award.

This year's winner of the Minority Leadership Development Award is Mandy Lee, research and instructional services librarian at the Chicago-Kent College of Law Library in Chicago, Illinois.

Established in 1998, the Public Access to Government Information Award recognizes 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.

This year's winner of the Public Access to Government Information Award is Mike Lissner, executive director for the Free Law Project in Oakland, California.

Established in 2008, the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award is given to recognize an AALL member or group who has contributed significantly to AALL's advocacy priorities. The award honors the memory of Robert L. Oakley, AALL's Washington affairs representative (1989-2007).

This year's winner of the Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award is Mariann Sears, director of the Harris County Robert W. Hainsworth Law Library in Houston, Texas.

AALL's New Product Award honors new commercial information products that enhance or improve existing law library services or procedures—or products that improve access to legal information, the legal research process, or procedures for the technical processing of library materials.

This year's winner of the New Product Award is Casetext, based in San Francisco, California, for Casetext Compose.

"AALL is proud to be represented by so many outstanding individuals and organizations who continue to embody the values of the Association to advance the profession and the professional growth of its members," said AALL President Emily R. Florio. "The individuals and organizations we honor with these awards have each made significant contributions to AALL and to the legal information profession through service and leadership. We are proud of their ongoing advocacy to advance the legal profession, foster innovation, and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Congratulations to each of this year's winners for their well-deserved recognition."

For more information about the AALL Awards Program, please visit bit.ly/AALL-awards.

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 4,000 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.