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**American Association of Law Libraries Announces  
2023 Hall of Fame Award Inductees**

**Sara Galligan, Barbara Gontrum, Ellen McGrath &  
Jean M. Wenger honored by AALL**

**CHICAGO – May 16, 2023** —The [American Association of Law Libraries](http://www.aallnet.org) (AALL) announces four longtime association members have been honored with the 2023 Hall of Fame Award.

This year's inductees are:

**Sara Galligan**, Retired Director, Ramsey County Law Library, Saint Paul, Minnesota

**Barbara Gontrum**, Law School Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Francis King Carey School of Law, Baltimore, Maryland

**Ellen McGrath**, Retired Cataloger, The University at Buffalo State University of New York, Charles B. Sears Law Library, Buffalo, New York

**Jean M. Wenger**, Director of the Law Library/Senior Lecturer, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law, Chicago, Illinois

The Hall of Fame Award was established in 2009 to recognize AALL members who have made significant, substantial, and long-standing contributions to the profession of legal information management—such as writing for legal publications, serving in AALL leadership roles, working with outside organizations on behalf of the profession, or serving as exceptional role models for their colleagues.

Inductees have been AALL members for a minimum of 25 years and have contributed significant service to the legal information profession in association leadership positions.

“The 2023 Hall of Fame Award inductees are a testament to the power of knowledge, dedication, and innovation in the legal profession,” said AALL President Beth Adelman. “Each honoree has made significant contributions to the field of law librarianship, and their legacy will continue to inspire and guide future generations of legal information professionals.”

Galligan, Gontrum, McGrath, and Wenger each offered their thoughts on what it means to be a 2023 AALL Hall of Fame Award inductee.

“I want to thank the AALL members and my colleagues for this prestigious recognition; and those who took the time and effort to nominate me” said Galligan. “I am truly honored to be admitted to the AALL Hall of Fame. I am grateful for the many co-workers, colleagues, board members, and AALL members who assisted me in local and national law library projects and initiatives. It was heartening to see many initiatives result in transformative resources for law library patrons. On a personal level, I am grateful for the extraordinary friends and colleagues that over the years have been transformational for me. My sincere thanks for the wonderful Hall of Fame Award and all it represents.”

“It is truly an honor to be inducted into the AALL Hall of Fame and to join the past honorees for whom I have great admiration,” said Gontrum. “AALL provided many opportunities for me to learn from others, develop skills, and make close friendships within the profession. Special thanks to everyone who was associated with the University of Maryland Law Library during my years as director, and to Kathie Price for being a terrific mentor. I also want to thank those who were responsible for my nomination and selection for this incredible honor.”

“The AALL Hall of Fame Award is truly an unexpected honor,” said McGrath. “I want to extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues who nominated me and who have championed my work over the almost forty years I have been a member of AALL. I humbly accept this award on behalf of all my fellow technical services colleagues. We often work behind the scenes, laying the foundation that helps make the magic of discovery happen. I have always felt so at home within the Technical Services (TS) and Library Systems and Resource Discovery (LSRD; previously the Online Bibliographic Services) Special Interest Sections. I am fortunate to have learned and grown as a law cataloger through the building of invaluable relationships with my teachers, mentors, peers, and ultimately, life-long friends. I have never held office at the highest level of AALL, but I believe this award reflects the esteem that the Association holds for the essential work of law catalogers and other technical services librarians. As I reflect on my fulfilling and rewarding career, I am grateful to AALL for playing an instrumental role in making it possible.”

“I am honored and privileged to be inducted into the AALL Hall of Fame,” said Wenger. “As the preeminent association for law librarians, AALL has been my professional home for many years, and receiving the recognition from colleagues and friends makes this moment very special. Throughout my career, law librarian colleagues have been unfailingly generous with their time and talents. Their encouragement and mentorship led me to the many volunteer opportunities within AALL sections, committees, and chapters, culminating with my election to the Executive Board. The skills and knowledge acquired through the volunteer opportunities in AALL enable me to become a better law librarian and enrich the work I greatly enjoy. I wish to especially thank my work

colleagues at Cornell, Cook County, and Chicago-Kent law libraries for their support over the years. Thank you to my colleagues who nominated me, and to AALL for this award.”

For more information about the Hall of Fame Award, visit [bit.ly/AALL-hof](https://bit.ly/AALL-hof).

### **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 3,500 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](http://www.aallnet.org).