Hello AALL Members,

Time has flown by since I became AALL President at the close of the Annual Meeting & Conference this past July. I wanted to take a moment to highlight some of the projects we have been working on to ensure that we continue to advocate for you and for the profession. The great news is that we are making tremendous progress in accomplishing the goals articulated in our 2022-2025 Strategic Plan.

An important part of the mission of AALL is to advocate for the profession. In September, as soon as we learned of the ABA proposed revisions to the Library and Information Resources Standards (Chapter 6 of the Standards), we knew we had to share how these revisions would impact the profession. We sought your input and submitted comments to the ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback.

The AALL Executive Board also approved the Antitrust Compliance Policy. This policy provides guidance to members on this important and often tricky issue to ensure that the Association remains compliant with the law, especially given recent changes in antitrust enforcement and guidance. I encourage all members to review this policy and to reach out to AALL if you have any questions. I hope members had the opportunity to attend the training that legal counsel provided on October 24. We will be offering a second session in early 2024, since the first one was so well-received.

With AALL being an organization that is 117 years old, it is important that we periodically review the governance of the Association. We believe this is the right time to begin this project to ensure we have modern policies, procedures, and values so AALL remains a strong and high performing association for many years to come. This project started during the fall Executive Board meeting with the Board hearing from an expert in Association governance. We will provide updates to members as we progress, please stay tuned.

I am excited to share that planning for the 2024 Annual Meeting & Conference is underway. The theme for the 2024 Conference—Lead.Innovate.Transform—speaks to how we, as law librarians and legal information professionals, continue to provide the leadership our organizations need to find the innovative and creative solutions that will help improve and transform the work we do.

We received a lot of wonderful program ideas from members through the IdeaScale site, which were incorporated into a list of must-have-programs for the Annual Meeting. In October, 125 program proposals were submitted for the 2024 Annual Meeting & Conference, and the Annual Meeting Program Committee (AMPC) is now in the process of reviewing submitted proposals using an anonymous evaluation process. AMPC leaders will meet in Chicago December 7-8 to select programs for AALL 2024. Accepted programs will be announced in January 2024.

I am in the process of creating two Special Committees this year to continue to move the Association forward.

- The AI and Legal Information Special Committee will investigate the challenges and opportunities for law librarians and legal information professionals to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) into AALL’s educational mission, and to remain the go-to experts on everything related to AI. The committee will work to identify ways to educate members about AI at all levels of expertise, and to establish best practices for the use of AI in the profession.

- The Inclusive Community Outreach Special Committee will recommend actions to help our Association create an environment of belonging and engagement for all our members, particularly in support of AALL’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy. The committee will recommend new opportunities for AALL members to engage and network with each other, as well as identify ways members can further mentor and assist each other.

The recommendations from each of these Special Committees will assist the Executive Board in determining where additional resources should be allocated for the future.

As a professional Association, AALL relies on our many, amazing volunteers, and I hope that you will consider responding to the next call for volunteers, which will open on November 13 and close on December 13. We offer a
A diverse array of committees and award juries to choose from. Their descriptions will provide insight into the respective roles and time commitments for each. The volunteers who are appointed through this process will begin their terms in July 2024.

The AALL Executive Board members value your feedback and want to hear from you. I encourage you to attend the November 14 AALL Virtual Coffee Chat: Check in with Your AALL Executive Board and continue connecting with us. Please feel free to contact me directly at jliebert@omm.com or president@aall.org. We have started the 2023-2024 year with a bang, and I look forward to a fantastic year full of opportunities for our Association!

June Hsiao Liebert
AALL President

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