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Exciting Education Summit News

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Exciting Education Summit News

I am happy to report to you exciting news resulting from the work of the Education Summit held in September 2005, particularly the following decisions taken by the Executive Board at its April 1 meeting in Chicago.

- **Approval of an education manager position**, to be hired by AALL Executive Director Susan Fox.
- **Appointment of a one-year Special Committee on Continuing Professional Education** by Vice President/President-Elect Sally Holterhoff to work on implementation policies.
- Financial support through the transfer of \$25,000 from the Current Reserve Fund and through generous support from BNA, Inc., to a new line for **continuing education grants**.
- **A three-year exception to the AALL Financial Policy**, revoking application of AALL overhead fees to the cost of presenting continuing education programs outside the Annual Meeting.
- **Approval of an AALL Leadership Institute**, to be held in winter 2007 at the University of Arizona, proposed by Special Committee on Training the Next Generation of Law Librarians Chair Michael Chiorazzi.
- **Approval of an AALL Workshop on Law Firm Library Management**, generously funded by BNA, Inc., and geared to the needs of law firm librarians, proposed by Mark Estes, Jill Sidford, and Kay Todd.

What Do These Plans Mean for Members?

- Effective immediately, you will have **additional opportunities for proposing programs** outside of the Annual Meeting process. You are encouraged to submit grant proposals.
- **The Calendar of Events** is now operational, and you can add to it at www.aall.org/calendar.
- You will soon be able to use and contribute to an **online speakers bureau**.

Our three-pronged Strategic Directions include components on leadership, advocacy, and education. We have addressed education planning first and funded initiatives. You told us what you needed for educational opportunities, and we were happy to bring results to you.

Thanks to all of you for your hard work and dedication to make this happen. These initiatives result from the work of three task

forces that were appointed after the Education Summit: the Task Force on Framework and Oversight, the Task Force on Funding, and the Task Force on Calendaring and Speakers' Bureau. Task force reports are under the task force Web sites at www.aallnet.org/committee/committees.asp.

70th Anniversary Celebration of the Federal Register

I was honored to represent AALL at the March 14 gala event at the Government Printing Office (GPO) in Washington, D.C., commemorating the 70th anniversary of the first edition of the *Federal Register* (*FR*). Jointly sponsored by the National Archives and GPO, speakers in addition to me included Public Printer Bruce James, Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein, U.S. Senate President Pro Tempore Ted Stevens, and Solicitor General Paul Clement. It was an auspicious occasion before a packed auditorium that also honored five former directors of the Office of the *Federal Register*.

Public Printer James noted that not one day has passed since March 14, 1936, without an *FR* being published, a remarkable record. Weinstein commended the historic partnership between the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the Department of Justice, and the GPO—the three agencies that form the Administrative Committee for the *FR*. And Sen. Stevens noted that more than 2.2 million pages had been published since he was first elected to Congress in 1968.

Solicitor General Clement provided fascinating historical details, including a reminder that it was Erwin Griswold's 1934 seminal article, titled "Government in Ignorance of the Law—A Plea for Better Publication of Executive Legislation," in the *Harvard Law Review* that led to Congress enacting legislation to create the *Federal*

Register. Clement also noted the frequency with which his office cites to the *FR* in cases before the Supreme Court and that he believes it has frequently helped the government prevail.

My role was to talk about the importance of the *FR* to the legal community, libraries, and our users. I began my remarks by noting that law librarians like the *FR* very much because it brought order to a confused mass of regulations that people did not know about. As Clement had pointed out, before 1936, no official source for rules and regulations of federal agencies existed, nor were agencies required to make their rules and regulations available to the public. In fact, in a well known instance, *Panama Refining Co. v. Ryan* reached the U.S. Supreme Court before the attorney general realized that the action was based on a regulation that had been revoked prior to the time the original action had begun (see Roy Mersky's *Fundamentals of Legal Research* 8th ed., at 259). As a result of that case, in 1935 Congress passed the *Federal Register Act*, providing for publication of the *Federal Register* beginning in 1936. It was soon accompanied by a codification of the regulations by subject in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (*CFR*).

I took advantage of this wonderful

occasion to compliment both hosts of the event, the National Archives and GPO, for their great Web sites that provide free online access to the *FR*. I reminded the audience that historical collections of the *FR* are available in print and microform in law libraries and that members of the public can visit their local depository library



From left: U.S. Archivist Allen Weinstein, Solicitor General Paul Clement, AALL President Claire Germain, Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel Senior Counsel Rosemary Hart, U.S. Senate President Pro Tempore Ted Stevens, and Public Printer Bruce James presented at the 70th anniversary of the first edition of the *Federal Register* on March 14.

for reference assistance and guidance.

I also gently reminded the public printer and archivist that while we all embrace the transition to the electronic world, we must also ensure that the electronic versions of official legal documents—like the print—will one day be considered as official and authentic.

(continued on pg. 7)

We are not there yet at any level of U.S. government. Our hope is that the United States will follow the lead of other countries that have been using digital signatures to be official, authentic versions. This greatly enhances public access while saving money for the government.

I was thrilled to have this opportunity to publicly commend the Law Librarians

Society of Washington, D.C., for its wonderful *Research Guide to the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations*, last revised in February 2006. It was especially fitting to see its author, Richard J. McKinney, assistant law librarian at the Federal Reserve Board, in the audience enjoying the celebration.

Concluding my remarks, I reiterated

that the *Federal Register* is an essential tool that provides citizens with a comprehensive publication vehicle for all the regulations issued by federal agencies and the president. As such, for the past 70 years, it has been indispensable to the government's operations and to its communication with the American public.

Joyeux Anniversaire, Happy Anniversary! ■