

From the President

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Building Bridges

AALL Newsletter
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No. 7	March	February 7
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No. 9	May	April 4
No. 10	June	May 2

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The theme for our next Annual Meeting in New Orleans, is "Building Bridges." At the risk of stealing Margie Axtmann's idea, I would like this whole year to be one of building bridges. On the last day of our wonderful meeting in Minneapolis, I exhorted all AALL members to build one bridge during the year. Make a connection between yourself or our profession and one organization or individual that needs to be better related to law librarians and law librarianship.


What bridge can you build? Take your law school placement officer to lunch to talk about careers for attorneys in law librarianship. The recruiters in law firms need to know why law students and attorneys should be interested in the information services offered by the firm's library. Want to teach a law library course in library school? The dean and other library school faculty need to know about you and law librarianship. Check your local bar directory. Is the local chapter of AALL listed? Involve another organization in an important librarianship issue. Do you exhibit at your state bar convention? Are there other AALL committees or groups you should communicate or form liaisons with? If each of our 4,700-plus members takes it upon him or herself to build one relationship—make one connection—in 1990/91, our profession will reap the benefits.

AALL is working to build bridges as well. Last March the Executive Board approved the appointment of two special committees. Consistent with the draft of AALL's long-range plan and with some of my own concerns, the Board approved the appointment of a two-year Public Relations Committee and a one-year Recruitment Committee.

The Special Committee on Public Relations, ably chaired by Edgar Bellefontaine, has been charged with coordination of all public relations efforts of the Association, specifically, 1) to implement as many of the 1987 recommendations of the AALL Committee on Public Relations as possible, and 2) to recommend an appropriate organizational structure for permanent implementation of all AALL public relations efforts.

Martha Brown, Director of Programs for AALL, has already compiled a list of contacts to receive information from AALL and is handling a wide variety of other public relations tasks. Judy Genesen, Executive Director, has, in her various roles, made a name for AALL and enhances our reputation on a daily basis. But, there is a great deal more we must do to enhance the stature and image of law librarianship and law librarians. Edgar's committee will be working to determine exactly what we need to do as an Association and to find the right long-term organizational mechanism to implement their recommendations. Working with Edgar on this committee are Don Dunn, Frank Houdek, Mike Miller, Pat Strougal, and Mary Whisner. They will be happy to get your good ideas!

Margaret Leary is chairing the Special Committee on Recruitment. The Recruitment Committee has been charged with identifying ideas for recruiting qualified individuals, including minorities, into law librarianship. In addition, the committee will recommend the appropriate organizational mechanism for implementing their report. This committee has a particularly important role in light of the dwindling number of ALA-accredited library schools (Columbia being the most recent to close its doors). Our entire profession is at risk if we cannot attract talented people from law and library schools. Joining Margaret are Gail Daly, Shelley Dowling, Roy Mersky, Myra Saunders, and Janet Zagorin. They welcome your ideas.

As we look to this coming year, we must strengthen our ties with other related organizations, formally and informally. Whether on a local or national level, we must become better known to our various constituencies. I look forward to working with the Executive Board, the Headquarters staff, and you to build bridges in 1990/91. I am honored to serve you and AALL. I am proud to be a law librarian! 

Penny