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American Association of Law Libraries
Report to the Council
ABA Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
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Following are updates on some recent activities of the Association.

AALL's 110th Annual Meeting & Conference was held in Austin July 15-18, and featured keynote speaker [Bryan Stevenson](#). Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and author of the New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*. His remarks, urged our members to get proximate to injustice, change the narrative that sustains injustice, stay hopeful, and do uncomfortable things. His call to action inspired all our conference attendees, which numbered over 2,000.

The focus of many of the education programs at the meeting is teaching research and technology skills that prepare law students for the practice of law. In addition, our members have facilitated a program for hosting law firm librarians in their classrooms to talk about the research tools and platforms firms are using to deliver services to their clients.

In addition, we hosted our first-ever Innovation Tournament at the meeting, and had 19 entries competing for three final spots. The three finalists then pitched their idea on stage at the meeting. The purpose of the tournament is to encourage innovation in the field of legal information, and it met its goal. The finalists presented their innovation plans to a rapt audience, which also included a panel of judges.

The winners were awarded \$2,500 each to implement their innovations. The Judges' Choice Winner, Katherine Lowry, Baker & Hostetler LLP, presented her idea for Attorney-Facing Chatbots. The Audience Choice Winner, Jennifer Wondracek, University of North Texas-Dallas, presented a Virtual Reality Lab with Public Speaking Apps to help students prepare for future court appearances or other speaking situations.

While in Texas, AALL released a letter to the mayors and directors of convention and visitors bureaus of the major cities in Texas announcing that AALL will no longer host meetings in Texas due to recent actions by the legislature that discriminate against the LGBTQ community. We strongly believe that our Association, and our nation, are strongest when all people, regardless of race, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, disability, religion or national origin, come together and celebrate our differences

AALL has been busy at the federal level advocating for greater access to government information, balance in copyright laws, a more open government, and increased privacy protections for library users and the public. In July, we celebrated when the House

Appropriations Committee approved report language to require the Congressional Research Service to make its non-confidential reports publicly available. This is a change we've been advocating in favor of for more than 20 years.

We've also been actively lobbying to support the Fiscal Year 2018 budget requests of the Government Publishing Office and the Library of Congress/Law Library of Congress, including submitting [testimony](#) on the agencies' requests. During our Annual Meeting in July, AALL members sent [postcards](#) to their members of Congress in support of GPO and LC, and in favor of access to official, authentic government information.

Other issues at the top of our policy agenda include protection of net neutrality, reform of Title 44 (Public Printing and Documents), and modernization of the Copyright Office.

AALL participated in the Standards Review Committee Invitational Roundtable on July 14 in Chicago. The Association was represented by David Mao, Associate Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Georgetown Law. We appreciated the invitation, and the opportunity to participate.

The American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) is the only national association dedicated to the legal information profession and its professionals. Founded in 1906, AALL fosters the profession by offering its members knowledge, leadership, and community that make the whole legal system stronger. Of its nearly 4,500 members, more than 1,600 are law librarians at academic institutions. AALL is a member-driven nonprofit educational organization; an elected Executive Board and actively participating membership determine its policies and positions. For more information, visit www.aallnet.org.