

CALL Chapter Visit Remarks
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**Changes, Challenges & Community:
What AALL and CALL mean for You**

It's a real privilege to be here with you today, both as a long-time CALL member and as a visitor from the American Association of Law Libraries. When I attended a CALL meeting for the first time in 1983, Judy Gaskell was CALL President. It's great that she's here with us today, back to visit from the U. S. Supreme Court Library.

When I've made visits to other chapters, even if I've already known some of their members, the visit has always been the first time I've been to their chapter meeting or seen their members all together as a group. And every one of the 31 AALL chapters is special and unique, with its own personality. So the way I prepare for those visits is to do my homework--to research the chapter history, the characteristics and strengths of their group, to find out which of their members have gone on to serve AALL on the national level, and to discover any other interesting details.

But when I considered my visit to CALL, I started figuring and I was a bit amazed to realize how far I am from being a first time attendee--today is at least my 40th CALL meeting, though I think there are a few of you here today who could top my record. So while I did spend some time preparing for today, I had a pretty good idea what I was getting into with this meeting and what this chapter is like, with no investigation needed!

I have learned quite a bit about CALL by being a member for 23 years, especially when I served as CALL President in the mid-1990s. Then in 1997 when we celebrated CALL's 50th anniversary, I found out even more about the founding and distinguished history of this chapter. Denise Mahaney was CALL President that year (serving her 3rd term in that position) and I still remember something she said as part of the celebration. She observed that "anniversaries are times to reflect on the development of a relationship."

I think Denise had it exactly right—relationships are the key component of anniversary celebrations. Through the years CALL has developed a very special relationship among the law librarians of this city and within the legal community. On reaching our half-century milestone, CALL also acknowledged this chapter's strong ties to AALL from the very beginning. CALL's first president was William Roalfe, who had already been quite an influential AALL president and had already helped found SEAALL, the Southeastern Chapter of AALL, which was

the first AALL chapter. The founding of CALL received much support from AALL and CALL became 3rd group to affiliate with AALL as a chapter. Through the years, the contributions of CALL members have been tremendous asset to the success of AALL, including:

Members of the AALL Executive Board: Mary Lu Linnane, Patricia Patterson, and now Lyonette Louis-Jacques.

Secretaries of AALL: Susan Siebers, Gail Edelman Webb

Treasurer of AALL: Bill Murphy

Plus, many CALL people have served as members and chairs of AALL committees and special interest sections.

And when I become AALL President in July, I will be either the 4th or the 5th CALL member to hold that office (I haven't researched this in great detail but it depends on whether you count William Roalfe, who was AALL President before CALL existed. Others have been Jean Ashman, William Murphy, and Janis Johnston.)

But now it's 2006 and time for AALL to have an anniversary of its own— at our annual meeting in St. Louis in July, we'll be celebrating 100 years as an association (and I'll have more to say about that celebration in a few minutes...). I firmly believe that a great deal of the strength and continuity of AALL's century of service to law librarians is due to the relationship it has with its chapters around the country.

Through the years I've certainly been in the audience with you to hear many talks by other AALL representatives, but today I am really pleased to have this chance to share with you some thoughts on changes and challenges that we all are facing and the importance of the relationship that exists between CALL and AALL.

And as an aside, I have to say that, whether you are aware of it or not, that relationship between CALL and AALL has been an especially close one this past year. That just might be the result of nearly daily lunchtime discussions between the CALL President and the AALL Vice President in the staff lounge at Valparaiso University School of Law...

It's all well and good for me to stand here and talk about relationships on a large scale, but some of you may be wondering, how exactly does AALL, a national organization, relate to the work that each of us does every day as law librarians—here in Chicago and in the Midwest? Is AALL in touch with our work lives and relevant to our concerns? I think the answer is YES and I'd like to give you some examples of why I think so!

One important responsibility of a national association is to think of the big picture and to take the long view that we don't have time to think about when we are dealing with our jobs every day. The AALL Executive Board has done that by developing a set of Strategic Directions to carry us ahead to 2010.

This document is much more streamlined than AALL's previous strategic documents, which is appropriate in a time when things are changing so quickly. As Bill Gates has said, "There is never a reliable map for unexplored territory." So instead of a detailed map such as our previous plans have been, we have now set AALL's course in the direction of three priority areas: LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY.

Within those areas, the Board has recently developed some short and long term priorities. We are also asking AALL committees to create action plans that track the three directions and we're suggesting this approach to our special interest sections as well. And we are encouraging AALL chapters to consider following our lead as well by focusing on these three big areas.

Looking first at the EDUCATION Direction: As many of you are aware, last Sept., AALL held an Education Summit out in Oak Brook, sponsored by BNA. The summit brought together a group of 60 AALL members and leaders, including several people from CALL. If you check the CALL website in the Members Only section, you'll find an excellent summary of the summit, written by Mary Lu Linnane, who was one of the attendees.

Discussion at the summit focused on what kind of a continuing professional education program AALL could create for law librarians in the next 3 years, in addition to annual meeting programming. What should the role of chapters and special interest sections be in that program? This discussion was much more focused on the needs of chapters than previous iterations of AALL education planning. There was a great sense of excitement, with some very concrete proposals.

One project that has already resulted from the Summit is a Calendar of Events that has been available for the past several months on the AALL website, AALLNET. It is a clearinghouse of national and chapter continuing education programs taking place around the country and throughout the year, posted by groups or individuals. The driving force behind the calendar is CALL's own Lyonette Louis-Jacques and its future success will depend on individual AALL members and groups keeping it current and robust by posting information about upcoming programs.

Also resulting from the Summit is a Speakers Directory, which is actually being launched today on AALLNET. This Directory is a database of names and information about speakers who are recommended by AALL members. The purpose of this resource is to help chapters and other groups who want to put a

program together and need names of speakers who may be able to deliver the content they want. Like the calendar, this project has involved months of preparation, with Lyonette at the helm and its value as a resource will depend on AALL members contributing speaker information to it.

A third result of the Summit is a new Grant Funding program, which will provide funds for education programs, in two categories. One is for groups, such as chapters, who want to put on their own continuing education programs and who just need a little extra money to pay for an outside speaker or some technology or whatever. The second category of grant money will be available when individuals or groups come to AALL with an idea for an educational program that they would like to work with AALL to carry out and they seek both financial and organizational support. More details will be coming soon on the grant funding and how to apply for it.

AALL is in the final stages of hiring an Education Manager who will direct AALL's new continuing professional education effort. Working with that new staff person this year will be a new Special Committee on Continuing Professional Education that I have recently appointed. The committee will be advising the Education Manager about setting up the new grant funding program, about working with chapters and other groups who propose programs, and about publicizing all the new opportunities. Among the people I've appointed to this special committee are CALL members Susan Siebers and Gretchen Van Dam.

I can give you a sneak preview about some other initiatives in store for my Presidential year:

One area of interest is committees. To me, this seems to fit into the LEADERSHIP Direction...in order to lead effectively, we need to have the most efficient organizational structure we possibly can. There is a trend these days among non-profit associations to cut down the number of standing committees they use to do their work and instead to make more use of short-term task forces to work on discrete projects. It's not clear how this trend could best be applied to AALL—we like our committees and I think the same thing is true of chapters such as CALL. I remember my very first job in CALL was being on the Continuing Education Committee in 1989, chaired by Judith Wright and I was quite excited to be asked to coordinate a program on legislative history. Committees continue to be a great way to draw new members into the work of an organization. But in AALL we sense it's time for an overall review of our committees. So I have appointed a Special Committee on AALL Committee Structure, which will be studying our current set of committees and making recommendations to the Executive Board, possibly suggesting changes in the number or makeup—maybe ending some committees and starting some new ones.

In the meantime, with the present AALL standing committees, there are at least 8 CALL members currently serving as members or chairs. [Chris Simoni, Naomi

Goodman, Mike Bushbaum, Keith Ann Stiverson, Gretchen Van Dam, Mary Lu Linnane, Bridget McMillan, and Eloise Vondruska]. And for next year (2006-07), I have asked Keith Stiverson to chair the AALL Government Relations Committee and I've been happy to appoint 8 other CALL members to new terms on various AALL committees (Ruth Bridges, Gail Hartzell, JoAnn Hounshell, Katie Leonard, Steve Probst, Betty Roeske, Gretchen Van Dam, & Susan Siebers).

Also, at this year's annual meeting, AALL will be providing an expanded leadership training session for new committee chairs. I know that CALL has been doing something similar for the past few years, which is a great idea—to help committee leaders be as effective and productive as possible.

Several other initiatives I have in mind fall under the third of AALL's strategic directions, ADVOCACY.

One I am very excited about is a new Special Committee on Pro Bono Partnerships...The idea sprang from a conversation at a chapter meeting last November, where I was the visitor from AALL. The basic idea is to promote and increase cooperative efforts between law librarians and the providers of pro bono legal assistance (such as bar associations, legal aid services, and voluntary attorney networks). The committee will be looking at programs that some AALL groups already have in this regard and encouraging chapters, SISs, and individuals to start or become involved in similar efforts. No matter where we work, we have many opportunities as law librarians to provide pro bono public service, with the side benefit of also raising our visibility within the legal community. We can do such things as

- assist under-served members of the public directly (state/county/court law libraries)
- contribute our skills to our employers' pro bono efforts (firm libraries)
- support students who are fulfilling pro bono requirements (law school libraries)

So I hope perhaps CALL will consider joining this pro bono effort in some way.

Another Advocacy initiative is a plan we have to hold an Advocacy Summit in the Spring of 2007. One good possibility is tying it to the 50-state survey that has been conducted this year by AALL members. The purpose of the survey is to determine if the online versions of state statutory and administrative codes (that most states are now creating and sometimes substituting for former print versions) are recognized by the state as being official or authentic. The answer in nearly every state is NO. Another issue, addressed in an earlier AALL 50-state survey, is whether provisions are in place for permanent public access.

Take Illinois, for example. The survey reports that while Illinois does provide free online access to its primary legal materials, none of these online versions can be

considered the official version. In fact, the online versions include disclaimers which prominently state that they are unofficial. And even if the online resources were declared official, there is an Illinois Supreme Court rule that still requires citation to print versions of such materials as statutes and cases. The survey entry for Illinois concludes that free, authentic, web-based access to official state primary legal materials will not be available in Illinois anytime in the near future.

As law librarians, we are very aware of the issues involved with this problem—the missing pieces in the transfer from print to electronic. After the AALL survey is completed and published, we might be able to offer some solutions that states could adopt, perhaps a model act that states could use to amend their laws and maybe a list of best practices for states to follow so they can provide official and authentic online versions of their primary legal materials, which will be accepted by their state courts. So stay tuned for more about this issue and the Advocacy Summit.

Well, I've been working up to the 2006 annual meeting, which is coming up July 8th through 12th in St. Louis. As always, it will be AALL's premier educational and networking event, with an extra twist this year since it's also our special centennial celebration. The theme of the meeting is Pioneering Change. I'd like to urge you to come, even if you can only attend part of the meeting. St. Louis is a great city and it's only a 5-hour drive from Chicago

Because of the centennial, there is extra emphasis this year on inviting VIP guests to join us at the annual meeting, people from the legal community around the country as well as foreign guests. I understand that CALL is hosting a VIP guest, which is great. Special features of the annual meeting include the wonderful programs: Jean Wenger is Chair of the Program Committee (AMPC). 7 CALL members are participating in educational programs as speakers or coordinators (Heidi Frostestad Kuehl, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Susan Siebers, Chris Simoni, Keith Stiverson, Gretchen Van Dam, and Jean Wenger).

There will be two great plenary speakers (Linda Greenhouse and Bob Berring) and a special Presidential program on legal information from the French perspective. For more details, check AALL's website, AALLNET. The deadline for the lower early-bird registration fee is June 1 (next week), so don't delay making a decision.

Of course, there are always many special opportunities available for chapter leaders at the annual meeting to help chapters, such as leadership training for incoming chapter presidents and vice presidents, and training sessions and roundtables for chapter leaders on topics such as professional development, finances, meeting management, public relations, & membership development. Also there will be the usual meeting for newsletter editors, as well as events held by various chapters (including the traditional CALL No-Host Dinner).

Believe it or not, it's not too early to start thinking about 2007 and the annual meeting we'll be having in New Orleans. Theme is: Rise to the Challenge! This theme reflects the spirit that enabled the people of our host city New Orleans to survive a disastrous storm and its aftermath and to begin rebuilding—great inspiration for what a community can accomplish. As law librarians we also need to rise to face a multitude of challenges. Rising means not just reacting to events or changed circumstances, but rather looking ahead, anticipating new developments, and taking the lead in areas where we are the real experts. For many law librarians, an important part of this proactive approach is participating in educational programs at the AALL annual meeting—whether as a speaker or as a member of the audience—to learn about issues confronting our profession.

CALL member Allen Moyer is a member of the Program Committee (AMPC) for the 2007 annual meeting. I hope that in 2007, as in 2006, there will be a number of CALL members involved in planning and putting on programs.

One new aspect for 2007 is a change in the length of the annual meeting...one day shorter. This new streamlined schedule will require many changes in the traditional way we have scheduled events. Everyone will need to be a little flexible to make this work. But it is what members have told us they would like: less time away from office and home and a hotel stay that is one night shorter. We have come up with a schedule that will allow us to have just as many educational programs in 3 days as we have been having in 4 days.

The tentative schedule: An opening event will be held on Saturday night. On Sunday morning there will be a kick-off general session with a keynote speaker. Educational programs will be scheduled throughout the day on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday—at this point we're looking at a total of 66 programs. We are eliminating the Association Luncheon and the second business meeting. The meeting will end on Tuesday night with the Closing Banquet.

So, these are just a few of many things that AALL is doing to make a difference in the lives of individual , law librarians--which we are able to do as a national professional organization, by using our collective strength, brain power, and clout.

There is a quotation I like that seems relevant here. It's by Jane Addams, famous Chicagoan and noted social worker and reformer. Listen to what she had to say about the value of working together as a community:

“The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.”

As her words point out, our individual successes are often not enough—we need to work together toward our common goals. Rather than going it alone, if we collaborate in our professional organizations, both CALL and AALL, and pool our

talents and energy, we can confront changes and challenges together, multiply our successes, and make a difference in the common life we share as law librarians.

I have no doubt that the leaders and members of CALL will continue the excellent work for which this chapter is known. And AALL will continue to welcome the energy and commitment, the diverse viewpoints, and the fresh ideas that CALL members bring to our national association. It's been an honor to be here with you representing AALL and today, as always, I'm very proud to say that I'm a member of CALL.