



*American Association of Law Libraries*  
MAXIMIZING THE POWER OF THE LAW LIBRARY COMMUNITY SINCE 1906

## The AALL Washington E-Bulletin

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## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Submit Your Nominations for the 2012 Public Access to Government Information and Oakley Advocacy Awards**

The Government Relations Committee (GRC) is seeking nominations for the 2012 Public Access to Government Information (PAGI) and Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Awards. Please send your nominations for these prestigious awards to GRC Chair Catherine Dunn ([cmd77@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:cmd77@law.georgetown.edu)) by **February 1, 2012**.

#### ***Public Access to Government Information (PAGI) Award***

AALL presents the [PAGI Award](#) annually to recognize individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to protect and promote greater public access to government information. [Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington](#) (CREW) received last year's award for their unflagging commitment to opening up government through high-profile Freedom of Information Act requests and lawsuits.

#### ***Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award***

The [Robert L. Oakley Advocacy Award](#) recognizes outstanding advocacy work and significant contributions to the AALL policy agenda at the federal, state, local or international level. The award honors the memory of Robert L. Oakley, AALL's Washington Affairs Representative from 1989 until 2007. Nominees may be an AALL member or group.

Last year's winner was Joan Bellistri, Director and Law Librarian at the Anne Arundel County Public Law Library, who was recognized for her leadership and advocacy on behalf of law libraries in Maryland and her commitment to promoting equal access to justice.

Please submit your nominations to [Catherine Dunn](#) by February 1. Mark your calendars for the presentation of the awards during the Public Policy Update (H-1) at AALL's Annual Meeting in Boston!

#### ***Spectrum Article Highlights Effective Advocacy Techniques***

GRC Chair Catherine Dunn wrote an excellent piece for the November issue of *Spectrum*, "[Effective Advocacy: Making Yourself Heard](#)." The article includes specific tips on successfully influencing your elected officials, such as how to get the most out of your phone calls, emails and in-person visits. Catherine also highlights how the Government Relations Office (GRO) helps AALL members become effective advocates through its [action alerts](#) and online resources.

#### **STAY INFORMED/GET INVOLVED: News and Action Alerts**

#### **Update on the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act***

AALL continues to work with the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) to promote enactment of the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA)*. The first states we are targeting for enactment are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Tennessee and Wisconsin. On November 30, AALL President Darcy Kirk sent a [letter](#) to John Sebert, Executive Director, Uniform Law Commission expressing AALL's support for the Uniform Act.

The GRO is working with ULC and our members to identify possible sponsors in these priority states. If you are interested in helping with this effort, or if you know of a state legislator who might be interested in sponsoring the act in your state, please contact Interim Director of Government Relations Emily Feltren at [efeltren@aall.org](mailto:efeltren@aall.org) or 202/942-4233. Your relationships with legislators and other organizations with a stake in *UELMA* (such as state bar, library and archival associations) will be the key to our success.

For more information on *UELMA*, including a link to the final act, FAQs developed by observer to the drafting committee Keith Ann Stiverson, and President Darcy Kirk's letter, please see the new [UELMA page](#) in our Advocacy Toolkit. We will continue to add materials to this page, so be sure to add it to your bookmarks (Note: You can sign up for the RSS feed by clicking the [RSS icon](#) on the top right corner of the page).

## **AALL's Bill Tracking Chart**

Did you know that the Government Relations Office maintains a [bill tracking chart](#) on AALLNET, organized by issue, with links to statements of support or opposition? The bill tracking chart is part of our [Advocacy Toolkit](#) and is highlighted on the main [Government Relations page](#) of AALLNET.

This month, the GRO added the *Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)* ([H.R. 3261](#)) to the list of bills we are tracking. *SOPA* is similar to Sen. Patrick Leahy's (D-VT) *Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011 (PROTECT IP Act)* ([S. 968](#)), which is designed to go after copyright infringement online. *SOPA* goes even further than *PROTECT IP* by directing service providers to affirmatively monitor for infringement.

The GRO also added the *Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2011* ([H.R.3289](#)), introduced in the House this month by Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-CA-49) and Ranking Member Elijah Cummings (D-MD-7) and passed unanimously out of the Oversight Committee on November 3. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee reported out its version of the bill ([S. 743](#)) in October. Rep. Issa has said he wants to pass the whistleblower bill by the end of the year.

## **Government Relations Committee Adds to Collection of Advocacy One-Pagers**

AALL's Government Relations Committee members continue to write exceptional advocacy one-pagers for our growing collection. The one-pagers are used to influence Members of Congress, and are informative to anyone who wants to quickly understand our priority issues.

Each one-pager includes background information and talking points. Here is the list of current one-pagers:

- NEW! [Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act](#) by Melanie Oberlin
- NEW! [Access to Congressional Research Service Reports](#) by Emilie Benoit
- NEW! [The Congressional Record](#) by Julie Kimbrough
- [Faster FOIA Act](#) by Susan Nevelow Mart
- [Federal Depository Library Program](#) by Susan Lyons
- [FDsys](#) by GRO staff
- [GPO Funding](#) by GRO staff
- NEW! [National Security Letters](#) by Cindi Ernst
- NEW! [Network Neutrality](#) by Errol Adams
- NEW! [Public Access to Court Electronic Records \(PACER\)](#) by David McFadden
- NEW! [Statistical Abstract](#)

Thank you to all of the GRC members for their hard work and dedication to this important project.

### **Senate Rejects Anti-Net Neutrality Measure**

On November 10, the Senate [voted](#) 52-46 against [S.J. Res 6](#), a resolution that would have overturned the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) [net neutrality rules](#). The House passed an identical resolution (H.J. Res 37) in April. Just before the Senate vote, the White House released a [Statement of Administration Policy](#) reiterating President Obama's support for net neutrality and pledging that the President would veto the measure if it reached his desk.

Thank you to all of you who responded to our action alert by urging your Senators to vote "No" on S.J. Res 6. Your calls made a difference! Special thanks to GRC member Errol Adams who quickly drafted an advocacy one-pager on net neutrality that included effective talking points. The FCC's rules went into effect on November 20.

### **President Obama Issues New Memorandum on Records Management**

On November 28, President Obama issued a [Memorandum of Managing Government Records](#). The new memo is a positive step toward ensuring better e-records management practices at federal agencies.

The memo requires each agency to submit to the Archivist of the United States a report that describes the agency's plans for improving or maintaining its records management program, including electronic records. This is an especially important requirement in light of the troubling findings of the National Archives Records Administration's (NARA) [2010 Records Management Self-Assessment](#), which found that 95 percent of agencies are at high to moderate risk of compromising the integrity, authenticity, and reliability of their records.

The memo also requires the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Archivist to develop a new Records Management Directive. The Directive will focus on:

- (i) creating a Government wide records management framework that is more efficient and cost effective;
- (ii) promoting records management policies and practices that enhance the capability of agencies to fulfill their statutory missions;
- (iii) maintaining accountability through documentation of agency actions;
- (iv) increasing open Government and appropriate public access to Government records;
- (v) supporting agency compliance with applicable legal requirements related to the preservation of information relevant to litigation; and
- (vi) transitioning from paper-based records management to electronic records management where feasible.

We commend the White House for taking this step toward improving agency records management practices. AALL will continue to work with the White House and NARA to ensure that agencies have the support they need to implement the memo's requirements.

### **New Registry of "Controlled Unclassified Information" Aims to Standardize Markings**

In November 2010, AALL commended President Barack Obama for signing an Executive Order ([E.O. 13556](#)) to address the patchwork system of control markings that is used to keep unclassified information out of public reach. President Obama's Executive Order followed a recommendation in the [Moving Toward a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Right-to-Know Agenda](#) report, to which AALL contributed, that the White House issue a directive to agencies to reduce the use of information control markings.

The E.O. directed agencies to review their control markings and submit a catalogue of proposed categories and subcategories of Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI). Importantly, the E.O. stated that, "If there is significant doubt about whether information should be designated as CUI, it shall not be so designated." The E.O. directed NARA to serve as "Executive Agent" to oversee agency compliance with the order and lead the effort to create a national registry of control markings.

On November 4, 2011, the National Archives Controlled Unclassified Information Office established a publicly available [registry](#) reflecting the initial categories and subcategories of CUI, as required by the E.O. Agencies must now develop a CUI compliance plan by December 6 that describes who is responsible for CUI management and finalizes categories and subcategories of CUI markings.

### **FREE TIME WELL SPENT: Further Reading and Resources for the Info Policy Junkie**

#### **Nixon Library Releases Grand Jury Testimony**

On November 10, the Nixon Presidential Library [released](#) the transcripts of President Nixon's grand jury testimony. The library also released segments of five transcripts of White House taped conversations from 1971 and 1973 and approximately 3,000 pages of formerly classified national security materials, including National Security Council materials and Henry A. Kissinger

telephone conversation transcripts. The materials are available through [FDsys](#), [Scribd](#), and NARA's [Our Archives Wiki](#).

### **CRS Report on Privacy and Civil Liberties Board**

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) released a newly updated report this month, "Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board: New Independent Agency Status." The mission of the Board, created by the *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004* ([P.L. 108-458](#)) on recommendation of the 9/11 Commission, is to review privacy and civil liberties issues impacted by the government's national security policies and programs. On August 25, AALL joined 17 other organizations on a [letter](#) urging President Obama to nominate individuals to the remaining three positions on the Board. The CRS [report](#) is available through the Federation of American Scientists.

### **2011 Wickersham Award Winner Justice John Paul Stevens Interview on YouTube**

In June, the Friends of the Law Library of Congress presented the 2011 Wickersham Award to former Supreme Court Associate Justice John Paul Stevens. You can now [watch](#) the award presentation and interview by Gwen Ifill on the Library of Congress YouTube page.

### **Virtual Tour of the Law Library of Congress Reading Room**

Do you or your library users wonder what the reading room of the world's largest law library looks like? The Law Library of Congress has developed a [short video](#) (47 seconds) showing what to expect when visiting this tremendous institution.

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