

**Proceedings of the Members' Open Forum Conducted
at the 102nd Annual Meeting of the
American Association of Law Libraries
Held in Washington, D.C.
Monday Afternoon
July 27, 2009**

¶1 **Mr. Cornell H. Winston** (United States Attorney's Office, Los Angeles, California): Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance at the Members' Open Forum. During the Open Forum, we do not have to follow the requirements imposed by parliamentary procedure. However, during this time we will be operating under Cornell's rules of order. During the Open Forum, issues may be raised to the President or Executive Director for further action. This year the President or designee will respond to presentations or comments at his discretion.

¶2 Each speaker may make a comment, not to exceed two minutes, and one follow-up comment. The Members' Open Forum is being recorded, so I ask that you would please utilize the microphones that are in the aisles and also state your name and your institution at the beginning of your comments. The microphones are now open for the Open Forum. Mr. Anderson.

¶3 **Mr. Steven P. Anderson** (Maryland State Law Library, Annapolis, Maryland): Thank you. I'd like to thank the Executive Board for supporting the advocacy workshop this Friday. I'd also like to thank the Executive Board for supporting the new part-time position of Vendor Relations Representative in the hiring of Marian Parker.

¶4 I want to further state that I think it is an important goal to continue the advocacy prong of the strategic directions, and I hope we go in that direction for the foreseeable future. Thank you.

¶5 **Mr. C. Winston**: Is there—Ms. Meadows.

¶6 **Ms. Judith Meadows** (State Law Library of Montana, Helena, Montana): I want to reiterate some of the thanks that Steve just gave the Board. I want to thank you for your support of the leadership program that was rolled out this year. I want to thank all of our outstanding senior members who readily volunteered to be mentors for the leadership fellows. I think it's a wonderful program. I heartily encourage the Board and Jean's committee to support further leadership efforts. We may not be able to afford an onsite academy. Think creatively on how we can provide that kind of training and encouragement to our younger members to follow our footsteps. Thank you.

¶7 **Mr. C. Winston**: Are there others? Camille.

¶8 **Ms. Camille Broussard** (New York Law School Library, New York, New York): I know that we have picked a series of cities in which we will meet for the

foreseeable future. But I also would like to suggest that we might at some point revisit and let people come back to New York or go to Chicago and make those two cities part of our home base again. (Applause.)

¶9 **Mr. C. Winston:** Are there others? Are there comments on the strategic directions? (No response.) Going once. Bob.

¶10 **Mr. Robert H. Hu** (St. Mary's University School of Law Library, San Antonio, Texas): This is not a comment on the strategic directions, but I would like to thank the AALL for its support for the first ever China-U.S. Conference on Legal Information and Law Libraries, which was a great success. This conference will continue every two years, alternating between the United States and China. So the next one will be in the United States in two years. We hope that AALL will continue to show its support. Thank you.

¶11 **Mr. C. Winston:** Are there—

¶12 **Mr. Ryan Saltz** (Florida Coastal School of Law Library and Technology Center, Jacksonville, Florida): I was a leadership fellow this past year, and I want to say, as far as the strategic direction of leadership, I would like to ask that the Board continue to hold this program and also keep it subsidized, which is what allowed myself to attend and allowed others to attend and helps develop leadership. So thank you very much.

¶13 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you. Ms. Billings.

¶14 **Ms. Carol D. Billings** (New Orleans, Louisiana): Thank you. In light of the sad fact that so many of our members have been unable to attend this meeting and are very concerned about their very jobs, I would hope that many of our chapters and SISs that customarily give grants for various purposes would particularly focus some of their efforts and grant funds on programs for people to attend this meeting. We have all seen the attendance at the meeting drop, and I hear that many people are not planning on attending the closing banquet because they had to cut back. So I would hope that our chapters would particularly concentrate on that effort.

¶15 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you. Are there others? Ms. Cursi-Gonzalez.

¶16 **Ms. Lucy Curci-Gonzalez** (Kenyon & Kenyon LLP, New York, New York): I want to thank the Board for its continued support of the liaison programs. We've found, particularly with the PLL, that the liaisons with the Legal Administrators Association and the Legal Marketing Association have been a great benefit to PLL. But I wish that it stated in the strategic plan that we will continue that support, particularly to PLL. We're sort of the canaries of the economy and have really borne the brunt of this economic downturn. So the continued liaisons and support and putting forth the value of what we do, particularly to our legal administrators and to the legal marketing people, has proven to be of great value.

¶17 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you.

¶18 **Ms. Merle J. Slyhoff** (Biddle Law Library, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania): I realize that the Association does many things to try to help with the greening of the profession and also to further future law librarians, and I would like to publicly acknowledge and commend NELLCO for their decision this year to forego tchotchkes at their booth and to instead make a contribution to their new Founders Fund for Future Law Librarians. (Applause.)

¶19 **Mr. C. Winston:** Are there other individuals? (No response.) Going once, going twice—well, let me take off my moderator hat for just a moment for the Open Forum and replace it with my member hat. These comments are my own, and they do not represent those of the Department of Justice or the United States Attorney's Office. I have to say that before I make a statement.

¶20 Tomorrow my term as an Executive Board member will come to a close. I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to thank AALL membership for this awesome privilege. I could not have imagined in 2006, when I started on the Board, the wonderful experience I would have. It has been a challenge, but also a joy. I have thoroughly enjoyed the chapter visits and meeting the membership in places I probably would not have gone to on my own, since many of them did not have dead presidents. And yes, I have even borrowed a few ideas.

¶21 Working with my fellow Board members has created friendships and heightened my respect for the Board and its membership. I could not have asked for a better group of individuals to work with. Our composition changes every year, but the work carries on.

¶22 Special thanks goes to AALL Presidents Claire Germain, Sally Holterhoff, Ann Fessenden, James Duggan, Vice President Cathy Lemann, Secretaries Darcy Kirk and Ruth Hill, Treasurers Joyce Janto, David Mao, Board members Ann Myers, Kathie Sullivan, Steve Anderson, Leonette Louis-Jacques, Janice Henderson, Jean Wenger, Sally Wise, Carol Bredemeyer, and Christine Graesser.

¶23 The work of the Headquarters staff is wonderful. My responsibilities were made easier because of the fine work of Executive Director Kate Hagan and the Headquarters staff. To Pam Reisinger—thanks for putting up with a problem Board member and my cumbersome travel requests.

¶24 Again, to the membership I say: Thank you from the bottom of my heart. (Applause.) Now I will replace my moderator hat and I will recognize—

¶25 **Mr. Mark E. Estes** (Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library, Oakland, California): Cornell, I'm sorry to ask anything after that. That rocked, man. But looking around here, to my colleagues who are in this room, I must express my disappointment in what we have done or failed to do today. We did not bring enough of the newer members with us. We must get them to attend these events, the Open Forum, the Business Meeting. If we don't do that, our leadership programs, despite the good investment that they are, will fail. We've got to bring people to this ourselves. Thank you. (Applause.)

¶26 **Mr. C. Winston:** Thank you, Mark.

¶27 **Mr. John R. Beatty** (St. Thomas University Law Library, Miami Gardens, Florida): I'm a member of the Gen X/Gen Y Caucus, and I was a Leadership Fellow along with Ryan. I would like to say that most of my colleagues that are in Gen X/Gen Y right now are not here because most of them are using this as an opportunity to visit the exhibit hall or to eat lunch. I have to say the compressed schedule is killing us. We're all starting at 7:00 a.m. with breakfast meetings and ending at 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. at social events and receptions, and most of us find that pretty much every day we have to be in two or three places at once at least one time.

¶28 We ask that you please, please look into this and do whatever you can so that we can be a part of SIS leadership, caucus leadership, etcetera, but not have to run from one meeting to the next every year. Thank you. (Applause.)

¶29 **Mr. C. Winston:** Are there other individuals? (No response.) If not, we will—sorry, Janet.

¶30 **Ms. Janet Sinder** (Thurgood Marshall Law Library, University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland): I'm not letting you get away that easily. Just to follow up on that comment, I know last year and the year before the Board said that they were going to look into the shorter schedule and reconsider in a few years. Do we have any idea of when that reconsideration is going to take place?

¶31 **President James E. Duggan** (Tulane University Law Library, New Orleans, Louisiana): As Cathy Lemann suggested in her report, her one issue next year will be a review of the entire Annual Meeting, which will include, I believe, a review of not only the shorter meeting, but looking at other possibilities as well.

¶32 As you all know, apparently we're all old in here. None of us are youths. But it's a problem as old as the hills. We all have the same concerns about having to be two or three places at once. So it's not new. Cathy has decided to solve that next year with her review committee. (Laughter.)

¶33 So I guarantee you that next year we will have results for you that will make sure you never have to be in more than one place at one time. The Business Meeting will be filled at the Annual Meeting. Every seat will be filled, and we will have a surplus in our budget. So look for it next year under your next President, Cathy Lemann. (Laughter and applause.)

¶34 **Mr. C. Winston:** Are there others? (No response.) If not, before I gavel it closed I'll say, I'm not old, I'm just well preserved. So with that, we will gavel the Members' Open Forum closed. Thank you very much.