

## A Memorable Year

It is almost time for me to pass the gavel—but not before we meet in Denver for our Annual Meeting. This year's theme, Summit 2010: Mapping our Future, should inspire us to take a look at where we are and dream of where we might be in the near and far term. I hope that you will join us July 10-13.

Every president is presented with challenges and opportunities. The economy has continued to be an issue for many members. It has also impacted AALL finances. The situation caused some consternation as members and Headquarters had to adjust to the new economic reality. I particularly commend AALL Treasurer David Mao, for his steadfast attention to the budget and the example he set for the board on frugality. It is never easy to make hard decisions that appear to impact only some sectors of the Association. Unfortunately, our best solution was to implement measures that spread the pain amongst all.

I am pleased that the new, improved AALLNET will be previewed in July. The new awards have been well received. The next Strategic Plan is in place to provide a framework for the next three years, and AALL2go and the AALL



Career Center will continue to provide valuable services for members.

Over the past year, I have written about how I came to Alaska four years ago and what I have learned about this state. My perspective has changed as I adjusted to a new environment and workplace. I learned a lot about myself and have gained a new appreciation for the process of making and keeping friends, and the importance of my family.

Some people thought I was crazy to move to Alaska. It certainly seemed out of character for someone who doesn't appear to be adventurous, but it has worked out well for me. It was time for me to try something and somewhere different. I admit that I did not totally sever my ties to New Orleans, leaving a fallback option in case Alaska did not work out. One of my father's sayings, "Nothing beats a trial but a failure," encouraged me to take this chance.

When I joined the AALL Executive Board as vice president in 2008, I thought I knew quite a bit about the Association and its various components. After all, I had been a chapter president, special interest section chair, AALL secretary, and had served on various committees. In the past year, serving as president, I have learned even more

about AALL. This experience has enriched my life and I am most grateful for having had this opportunity.

Roger Jacobs, director emeritus of the Notre Dame Law School Kresge Library, wrote me a note earlier this year. Regarding AALL, he writes, "The organization provided me with a foundation in law librarianship, a host of friends and colleagues who assisted my development and served as models for success as a law librarian, and numerous opportunities to grow in the profession." I could not have said this any better.

I have been a member of other professional organizations, but no other has provided the support that I have received from my colleagues over the years. I am most grateful for the help and support I have received from the Alaska Court System, my coworkers in the Alaska State Court Law Libraries, my colleagues at the Law Library of Louisiana, AALL Headquarters staff, the members of the Executive Board, and the members of the Association. Thank you so much for making this a wonderful, memorable year. ■

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