

Washington, D.C.:

At the Crossroads of a Region, a Nation, and the World

After a hiatus of several years, the AALL Annual Meeting returns to Washington, D.C., in 1999. The Annual Meeting's "At the Crossroads" theme is a particularly apt description for this city. Since Washington sits not only at the crossroads of the nation, but also at the crossroads of a region and the world, the city offers visitors three dimensions to experience and enjoy.

At the Crossroads of a Region

The District of Columbia, originally carved out of the state of Maryland in 1790, lies along the Potomac River, just north of Virginia. The city at the heart of the region combines the best attributes of a large, diverse metropolis with small neighborhoods, green parkland, and open spaces. Cultural attractions include first-run and Broadway shows at the National and Warner theaters, as well as remarkable regional theater at Arena Stage and The Shakespeare Theatre. Top-flight art exhibits are staged at the Corcoran Gallery and the Phillips Collection, and concerts by internationally renowned soloists and musicians are sponsored by the Washington Performing Arts Society. Sports fans relish the new MCI Center, the arena that is home to the NBA Washington Wizards, WNBA Washington Mystics, NHL Washington Capitals, and the National Sports Gallery. RFK Stadium is host to DC United professional soccer. With eight colleges and universities within the city limits, the city's intellectual resources are tremendous (and the

student population fuels the local nightlife). Neighborhoods for exploration range from historic Georgetown and Foggy Bottom to the vibrant streets of Adams Morgan and the U Street corridor. Open space abounds, much of it federal land, and it serves as the city's backyard. After work, co-workers join softball games on the grassy fields along the Mall, joggers wend their way through picnickers at Rock Creek Park, and fishermen try their luck at Haines Point.

Surrounding the city is a rich array of attractions in Maryland and Virginia. More than just suburban bedroom communities, these states boast cities older than Washington (Old Town Alexandria, Virginia), picturesque neighborhoods (Kensington and Takoma Park, Maryland), two enormous state universities (University of Maryland in College Park and George Mason University in Virginia), the fascinating Newseum adjoining the USA Today headquarters in Rosslyn, Virginia, as well as the site attracting the most visitors annually to the Washington, D.C., area: Potomac Mills Mall (Dale City, Virginia).

visit the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress, conveniently found next door. While Congress, the Court, and the White House may seem like the familiar backdrop of the nightly news, only visiting the sites fully conveys the splendor of these majestic buildings and the awe-inspiring sense of history at the root of these seats of national government. Must-see national monuments include the Washington Monument, the Jefferson, Lincoln and new FDR Memorials, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Washington is also the locus of many national museums and cultural institutions, from the



From First Street, gazing up in wonderment at the U.S. Supreme Court.

National Gallery of Art, National Archives, and US Holocaust Memorial Museum to the complex of museums which make up the Smithsonian Institution (including the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of American History, and the National Zoo). Washington offers a site to visit for every interest: from the FBI and the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing ... to Mount Vernon and the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site ... to Ford's Theater and the Washington National Cathedral.

At the Crossroads of the World

Washington, D.C., is truly an international city, besides being a regional and national nexus. The city is home to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as the embassies of nations large

At the Crossroads of the Nation

Washington, D.C., is of course the Nation's Capital, and no first trip to Washington would be complete without a tour of the U.S. Capitol or the White House. In addition, surely every self-respecting law librarian must



A side view of the Smithsonian Institution Building, popularly known as the Castle, which was originally completed in 1855.

by Peggy Fry and Laura Whitbeck

and small. These embassies are islands of national culture and heritage, often holding concerts, lectures, or exhibits in buildings which showcase the best in architecture and design. A stroll along Embassy Row is an ideal way to complete a virtual worldwide tour while still inside the city limits. Many merchants support the city's international interests, with specialty shops carrying country maps, foreign language books, and the latest on international politics. The city's immigrant residents diversify its workforce and enhance its cultural offerings, and many ethnic restaurants flavor its cuisine in the streets of Chinatown and Adams Morgan.

In short, Washington, D.C., offers AALL Annual Meeting attendees three dynamic cities in one, at the crossroads of the

region, the nation, and the world. We look forward to welcoming you!

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The Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, home of the nation's leading 19th century African American spokesman from 1877 to 1895.

Discover Washington, D.C., on the Web

Discover Washington, D.C., the Official Tourism Web site of Washington, D.C., (<http://www.washington.org>) has links to Theaters, Sports, Monuments and Museums, the Smithsonian Institution, Art Galleries and Area Attractions under "What to See." Use the search form under "Where to Eat."

Law Librarians' Society of Washington, D.C., Inc. (<http://www.llsdc.org>)—the local Chapter Web site!

Library of Congress (<http://lcweb.loc.gov>). Take a look at the exhibitions.

National Park Service (<http://www.nps.gov/nacc/>) includes links to numerous well-known and not-so-well-known monuments and parks.

Smithsonian Institution's site (<http://www.si.edu/>) has links to pages for each of the museums under "Map of the Mall."

Washington, D.C., City Pages (<http://dcpages.ari.net>) features an index to a wide range of topics and lists with contact information for each.

Washington, D.C., Registry (<http://dcregistry.com/>). Click on Arts and Entertainment for a large list of links under "Search D.C."

Washington Metropolitan Area Transport Authority—a.k.a. Metro (<http://www.wmata.com/>)—provides maps and timetables for the Metro Rail and bus services.

The Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>) has put together a great traveler's resource in its Visitors' Guide, including theaters, restaurants, museums, memorials, etc.

Washington Sidewalk (<http://washington.sidewalk.com>) is a searchable site containing information on restaurants, arts, events, etc. Be sure to check "Places to Go."

Washingtonian Online (<http://www.washingtonian.com>) has "Things to do in Washington." Visit "Restaurants/Dining" for detailed reviews.

Welcome to Washington, D.C., "America's First City"—The Official Home Page of the District of Columbia (<http://www.ci.washington.dc.us>)—under Tourism, choose "Attractions beyond the Monuments: D.C. Neighborhoods."

Photos courtesy of the Washington D.C. Convention and Visitors Association