

Gallagher Award Recipients Named

by Carol J. Parris

The AALL Awards Committee is very pleased to announce the 1999 recipients of the Marion Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Awards: **Eileen H. Searls** and **Edgar J. Bellefontaine**.

The Marion Gould Gallagher Award is presented to individuals who have completed or are nearing completion of an active professional career. The Award is given in recognition of outstanding, extended, and sustained service to law librarianship and to AALL. Each of this year's recipients personifies the very essence of the Gallagher Award. Both have made substantial contributions to AALL with sustained service that the award contemplates. They have worked behind the scenes for many years making AALL an organization of which to be proud.

Eileen H. Searls graduated with a BA, JD, and MSLS from the University of Wisconsin and in 1951 joined the law library profession as a cataloger at the Yale Law Library. In 1952 she moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to take the position of Law Librarian at St. Louis University Omer Poos Law Library, where she is still. In 1964 she became a Professor of Law and for many years she was the only woman to hold that status at St. Louis University.

Eileen has served the law library profession with distinction and dedication on the local, regional, national, and international levels. She has chaired and served on many AALL committees as well as co-chaired local arrangement committees for the two national AALL conventions held in St. Louis since she became a member in 1959. She is a charter member of the International Association of Law Libraries in addition to holding memberships in the American Library Association, the American Society for Information Sciences, the American Association of Law Schools, and the American Bar Association. She is a past president and charter member of the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries.

Due to her interest in resource sharing, she co-founded the Mid-American Law School

Library Consortium, the Jesuit Law School Library Consortium, the Law Library Microform Consortium, and served as the founding chair of the Council of Law Library Consortia. In all these consortia she has been a tireless worker. More important, she has taught others to build and maintain consortia relationships so these groups can continue to work with each other long after her tenure.



Eileen has been a mentor to many young law librarians who have learned from her excellent example as well as profited from her sage advice. She encourages, exhorts and cheers her proteges on to

attain greater and greater heights.

Eileen Searls has given her commitment, her professional insight, her time, her attention and her years of library experience and service to benefit the law library profession. Her distinguished contributions throughout her career personify the all the ideals of the Gallagher Award.

Edgar J. Bellefontaine obtained his BA in 1958 from the University of Maine and his JD from Boston College Law School in 1961. He was the Director of the Social Law Library in Boston, Massachusetts, from 1961 to 1998.

Upon his retirement he became the Librarian Emeritus of the Social Law Library. He has been the Director of the Supreme Judicial Court Historical Society since its inception in 1990. He has served on various AALL committees and chaired the AALL Public Relations Committee and the Certification Board as well as serving two terms on the Financial Advisory Committee. He has served as President of the State, Court and County Libraries in 1982-83 and served as President of the New England Law Library Consortium from 1990 to 1992. He is a



member of the American Bar Association, The Massachusetts Bar Association, and the Boston Bar Association.

Edgar Bellefontaine was the recipient of the Henry C. Lind Award in 1991; the West Excellence in Government Law Librarianship Award in 1993; the Daniel G. Holland Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995; the Chief Justice's Award for Distinguished Service to the Judiciary; the Inaugural Edgar Award for Innovation, Excellence, and Dedication to the Practice of Law Librarianship; and the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession in 1997.

He was also recognized by the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* as one of the most influential lawyers in Massachusetts in the past 25 years.

Many law librarians regard Edgar as one of the major mentors of their careers. Through his example many law librarians have learned far better ways of managing a law library. Although he was busy running a large law library, he always had time to share his experiences with others. The Social Law Library became the training ground for library students who later found employment in law libraries throughout the United States.

Throughout his illustrious career, he has never lost his love for the profession and has continually taught other law librarians how to do the same. He is the kind of law librarian all of us wish to become: tireless, innovative, adaptable, and service-oriented. He has created a legacy through his commitment to the profession that exemplifies the very heart of the Gallagher Award.

The Gallagher Awards will be presented during the Association Luncheon on Monday July 19, 1999, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. Please join the Awards Committee and the Association in congratulating the 1999 Marion Gould Gallagher Award recipients, Eileen Searls and Edgar J. Bellefontaine.

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