

## The CRIV at the AALL Annual Meeting

### 1998–1999 Business Meeting

The Committee on Relations with Information Vendors (CRIV) held two business meetings at the AALL Annual Meeting in Washington. The Saturday, July 17, meeting provided a wrap-up of this year's activities and a de-briefing for members who are ending their terms with the Committee.

Frank Houdek reported very favorable comments about the Committee's activities over the past few months, some of them during Saturday's CONELL Marketplace. He reminded members to support the CRIV "Meeting of the Minds" sessions and encouraged constructive discussions with vendor representatives in the Exhibit Hall.

Subcommittee reports were given, followed by discussion of other current activities.

Of major interest was the AALL Executive Board's adoption of the CRIV's "Member Participation Guidelines," not only for the CRIV's governance, but also for use by the AALL Government Relations and Copyright Committees. Houdek noted the Board's appreciation for CRIV's acknowledgement of AALL members' concerns about vendor representation on the Committee.

The Committee expressed its appreciation to Bob Oakley, newly assigned Board Liaison, for producing AALL's response document to the FTC's request for comments on the *Guidelines* for the law book publishing industry. Oakley then thanked the Committee, on behalf of the Washington Affairs Committee, for its input and assistance with the document. The CRIV also commended Ken Svengalis for authoring the lead story, "The New Age of Legal Publishing," for the Member Briefing in July's *AALL Spectrum*. The CRIV Tools Subcommittee also provided preliminary information for this publication.

This meeting concluded with Betty Roeske's reminder of the PLL Technical Services Roundtable (July 19), which was to discuss LEXIS-NEXIS branding issues. Last was a discussion of unfinished and proposed new activities for the coming year.

### CRIV Educational Programs and Forum

On July 19, the CRIV sponsored two educational programs. The first, moderated by **Bob Berring**, featured a panel of legal publishing company heads in a roundtable discussion of future directions in the legal publishing industry. Panel members included **Donna Tuke Heroy** (Alert Publications), **Paul N. Wojcik** (BNA), **Rebecca Kernes Hensley** (CCH), **Paul Brown** (LEXIS Publishing), and **Howard M. Zack** (West Group). Bob Berring posed a number of questions, most relating to the stability of the legal publishing market, the future of print versus CD-ROM and online technology, and the possibility of future buyouts or mergers. A more detailed report of the questions and answers will appear in an upcoming *CRIV Sheet*. This educational session was very well attended. AALL members posed a few additional questions.

The second CRIV educational program, also on July 19, provided a counterpoint to the first. A roundtable panel of law librarians discussed the legal information publishing industry and responded to some questions and answers from the legal publishing heads during the preceding discussion. The librarians on this panel included: **Penny Hazelton** (University of Washington, Gallagher Law Library), **Judy Meadows** (State Law Library of Montana), **Ken Svengalis** (Rhode Island State Law Library), **Paulette Toth** (Richards & O'Neil LLP), and **Linda Will** (Greenberg Traurig). A report will be forthcoming on this well-attended session as well.

The CRIV hosted an Open House on Monday, July 19, immediately following the law librarian panel discussion. Replacing the Open Forum that has been held in past years, the Open House provided an informal opportunity for legal information publishers and law librarians to meet and discuss common issues and concerns. This new format is intended to provide a venue for more open communication, compared to the Open Forum format, which has tended to put legal publishers on the "hot seat." The CRIV will be evaluating the response to this change over the next year; your opinions are welcomed.

### 1999–2000 Business Meeting

The CRIV business meeting (Tuesday, July 20) began with introductions of this year's new Committee

members—**Stephanie Edwards**, **Claire Engel**, and **Anne Myers**, along with **Michael Beard**, who was unable to attend—and AALL Board Liaison **Bob Oakley**. **Michelle Wu** was also introduced as the incoming co-editor of *The CRIV Sheet*. She will co-edit with Richard Humphrey in his final year as editor and take over full editorship in July 2000.

Announcements and a few housekeeping items were followed with a recap of Saturday's business meeting and a review of continuing CRIV activities. Subcommittee chairs and members were commended for their diligence and productivity within the past year. The continuation of Subcommittee activities and the possibility of altering the focus of some of these activities over the next year were discussed. One question was whether to continue the CRIV's new Open House format, or return to the former CRIV Open Forum format. This discussion will continue as the year progresses.

A discussion of new CRIV activities for the coming year included comments on future vendor site visits. Several vendors have expressed interest in hosting the CRIV, but to date, no site visits have been scheduled. Frank Houdek took this opportunity to explain to incoming members the threefold purpose of vendor site visits: to bring to publishers' attention existing problems and issues of concern to law librarians; to establish face-to-face relationships between CRIV members and publisher personnel that will facilitate further communication; and to allow CRIV members to learn about the publishers' operations and be able to report the publishers' viewpoints to the AALL membership.

Discussion of other activities included the work of the CRIV Toolkit Subcommittee, the New Product Award Subcommittee, the Best Practices Subcommittee and the future of the AALL *Price Index for Legal Publications*. The meeting concluded with Committee assignments, which will soon appear on the CRIV home page.

Thanks to **Rosanne Krikorian** and **Lori Hedstrom**, who compiled the minutes for the business meetings. Their minutes provided the basis of this column.

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