

AALL Scholarships Aid Members' Continuing Education

by **Vicente Garces**

AALL offers scholarships to assist members in meeting the cost of continuing education courses through its *Type V: Law Librarians in Continuing Education Courses* scholarship. Scholarships of up to \$500 are awarded to law librarians with a degree from an accredited library or law school who are registrants in continuing education courses related to law librarianship. The two most recent recipients of this scholarship typify the characteristics that the scholarship committee looks for in awarding this scholarship.



Sophia Mowlanejad is a librarian at the United States Attorney's Office in Boston. She is a graduate of Simmons College Graduate School of Library and

Information Science and Suffolk University Law School. Mowlanejad provides research and reference service for the Office's 250 attorneys, paralegals, and interns. She has also taken a leadership role in promoting the use of computer technology in the U.S. Attorney's Office. In addition to providing instruction in computer-assisted legal research, Mowlanejad developed and maintains the Office's intranet and a database of appellate briefs filed by the Office's attorneys.

The appreciative comments of attorneys Mowlanejad has worked with testify to the instrumental role she has taken in advancing computer technology at the U.S. Attorney's Office: "... In my view, [Mowlanejad is] our best resource for computer-assisted research" ... "Simply put, Sophia is the connection between the people in the office, and the computer resources available to them" and "She has taken the initiative and almost singlehandedly brought prosecutors and support personnel into the computer age."

To further enhance her knowledge of computer technology, Mowlanejad enrolled in a course on personal computers offered through Harvard University's Division of Continuing Education. Her AALL Continuing Education Scholarship helped her meet the cost of tuition and fees.

Alison Ewing is the Head of Access Services and Reference Librarian at Arizona State University College of Law Library. She holds a Master of Arts in Library Science from the University of Michigan.



Through the library's faculty liaison program, Ewing supports the research and instruction of the law school's Spanish speaking faculty. She is also responsible for developing the library's Mexican law collection. Spanish language skills are essential to researching the law of Mexico and other Spanish speaking countries. Fluency in Spanish is also

essential to building a collection of materials from those jurisdictions.

The limited Spanish language skills Ewing possessed from recent course work were not adequate to fully meet the needs of the faculty, students, and library. As Ewing described it, "Without Spanish language skills, it is difficult to provide the value-added research I am able to provide in English." Therefore Ewing submitted a proposal and was granted sabbatical leave to enroll in a Spanish language immersion program in Mexico. The immersion program she has chosen includes instruction in legal vocabulary and terminology. As part of her sabbatical, Ewing also plans to visit Mexican law libraries and meet with book dealers in the Mexico City area. To assist Ewing in meeting the cost of her immersion program, the AALL Scholarship Committee awarded her a \$500 scholarship.

Whether it's retooling to acquire new skills, or enhancing already existing skills and knowledge, AALL Continuing Education Scholarships are available to help you meet the cost of continuing education. Applications and more information can be found at the AALLNET Web

site. **Upcoming applications deadlines are February 1, 2001, and April 1, 2001.**

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