



Meet a New Member,

Courtesy of the First Year Free Program

Another in an occasional series of interviews with new AALL members who joined through the **First Year Free Program**

Bruce Beesley is an attorney and chair of the Board of Trustees of the Washoe County Law Library in Reno, Nevada. In 1998, when Beesley was named the Nevada Library Association Trustee of the Year, the nomination material stated that "Every library serving the public in Nevada needs a Bruce Beesley." He received his free membership courtesy of Sandy Marz, the law library director.

"We have to go through our county for budget appropriation," said Marz.

"Bruce is always available to go to those meetings and hearings with me. He was also instrumental in keeping our law library building project alive as there were influential government officials who wanted the space for themselves."

AALL Spectrum: How did you become acquainted with the law library profession?

Beesley: I come from a family of book lovers. Also, my wife is a lawyer who originally thought she wanted to be a librarian. She worked as a clerk for the county supreme court and through a natural progression, I met Sandy Marz. Eventually I was asked to serve on the board of trustees.

AALL Spectrum: What is the role of a library trustee?

Beesley: The board of trustees for Washoe County is essentially a board of directors. We are responsible for the overall supervision of the law library. We do have a couple of more specific functions, such as evaluating and recommending salary raises for the law librarians. Our most important duty is dealing with the county, lobbying for increases in the book budget, convincing the county that not everyone is on the Internet. This particular board spent a great deal of time and effort getting the new library space. We were able to secure non-governmental funding, such as grants and gifts from foundations.

AALL Spectrum: We couldn't help but notice the historical facts that you record on your daily voice mail. What is that about?

Beesley: I am a history buff. I majored in biology in college, but I am really interested in history.

AALL Spectrum: Where do you find these tidbits?

Beesley: A client of mine introduced me to the Capitol Hills Blues Web site and I find some things there. I also listen to National Public Radio, which, here in Nevada, broadcasts a lot of historical information.

AALL Spectrum: How did you end up in the practice of law?

Beesley: I didn't get into medical school, so I had to do something.

AALL Spectrum: What kind of law do you practice?

Beesley: I am a commercial litigator. I like to say that I am keeping the world safe for interstate banking.

AALL Spectrum: What role do you think that you could play in AALL?

Beesley: I think that I could share my experiences as a trustee with members in similar positions. Our board has had a number of challenging problems; we have been sued a couple of times. I don't say that our solutions were the best ones, but I think that I could share some valuable information from our experiences.

I don't think that I would be much help on Internet issues, although I do have one interesting experience to share about surfing the net. I was hired to repossess a demilitarized Czech aircraft that somehow ended up in Nevada. I was able to find a picture of one on the Internet. I e-mailed the photo to the sheriff so that he could positively identify and confiscate the aircraft for my client.

The First Year Free Program was created in 2000 to promote the open membership policy passed in 1999 and to reward institutions for submitting their dues on a timely basis. Library directors are encouraged to offer membership to a law librarian or to a non-librarian associate who has never been a member of AALL. First Year Free coupons are valid throughout the 2000-2001 membership year.

