

Photo courtesy of Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau



*A stunning arch with usable space connects old and new exhibit areas at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Set in the heart of downtown Seattle, the center is within easy walking distance of more than 6,000 hotel rooms.*

## Maximize Your Annual Meeting Experience

*Build Competencies, Sharpen Skills and Network with Colleagues*

*by Ruth J. Hill*

Legal information professionals from across the country will converge in Seattle for the AALL 96th Annual Meeting and Conference July 12–16 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

As the premier educational and networking event for the law library community, the Annual Meeting consists of an array of educational

programs, workshops and social events. It provides AALL members with opportunities to hone current skills and learn new skills that will maximize their professional success. In announcing this year's theme, "Maximize Today — Envision Tomorrow!," AALL President Carol Avery Nicholson emphasized, "We should take advantage of every opportunity to do the very best that we can with every moment we have" while "shap[ing] the future in ways that will benefit our constituents and employers ... ensur[ing] that we are valued and acknowledged for our expertise."

**MAXIMIZE** today  
**envision**  
tomorrow

### Programming Emphasizes AALL Competencies

Using the meeting theme in conjunction with the recently adopted AALL Competencies of Law Librarianship as a guide, the Annual Meeting Program Committee selected more than 75 educational programs and workshops that will meet the educational needs of today's legal information professionals for this year's conference. Although the slate of programs covers all the competencies, the following competencies provide the focus of the 2003 Annual Meeting: teaching, collection care and management, and information technology. Here's a sampling of the program topics that will be presented in Seattle:

- Envision the Future Teaching Role of Law Librarians (teaching)
- Creating and Maintaining Legal History Collections (collection care and management)
- Maximize Business Research Skills (reference, research and patron services)
- Diversity is Good Business (library management)
- Envision the Future: The ABA's Efforts Towards a National Law Library (reference, research and patron services)
- Maximize International Licensing Agreements (information technology)

This year's conference will introduce new 30-minute programs. These "mini-sessions" offer more flexibility for AALL entities that want to create

programs that don't require traditional panel discussions or speakers at podiums yet still adequately address members' needs. Some of the 30-minute programs at this year's Annual Meeting will include sessions on the basics of Securities and Exchange Commission filings, OCLC's conversion from Passport for Windows to Connexion, techniques to obtain American Indian tribal codes, and the best acquisitions Web sites.

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## Keynote Speakers to Focus on Electronic Services and Information Management

This year's plenary sessions will feature two librarians discussing the cutting-edge role that information professionals will play in today's fast-paced, ever-changing world. Both speakers will explain why law librarians must maximize their informational skills today as they envision the challenges of tomorrow's libraries.

Peter R. Young, director of the National Agricultural Library, will present Plenary Session I at 3 p.m. on July 13. Young, former executive director of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, will share his thoughts on how the status of the profession will change as electronic services in libraries evolve in the digital age.

Eugenie Prime, manager of Hewlett-Packard Corporate Libraries, is the keynote speaker for Plenary Session II at 9 a.m. on July 15. While you may recall seeing Prime in advertisements for Hewlett-Packard stating, "What the Internet needs is an old-fashioned librarian," Prime is anything but. She will cover how librarians are integral to information management, digital libraries, strategic planning and knowledge management.

## Honoring Award Winners

As always, one of the highlights of the conference is the Association Luncheon. This year AALL will recognize the achievements of the 2003 AALL Award recipients at the luncheon. Nicholson will hand out awards such as the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award, the Joseph L. Andrews Bibliographical Award, the AALL/LexisNexis™ Call for Papers Award, the *Law Library Journal* and *AALL Spectrum* Articles of the Year supported by CCH, and the AALL/West Excellence in Marketing Awards. Make it a point to attend the luncheon and applaud the accomplishments of your colleagues.

## Beyond Educational Programs

Besides offering exemplary educational programs and workshops, the Annual Meeting gives members access to small group meetings to share ideas, tours of Seattle firm and academic libraries, opportunities to talk with vendors and numerous relaxing social events.

In addition to the Association Luncheon, the other Annual Meeting social events include the Family Social Hour; the Opening Reception sponsored by LexisNexis; the West Customer Appreciation Event; and the Closing Reception, Banquet and Dance.

Law library vendors are also a big part of the Annual Meeting experience. The Exhibit Hall will feature vendors with tools designed to help law librarians manage daily on-the-job challenges. Those products will include books, computer hardware and software, online services, furniture, office equipment, and bibliographic services.

Annual Meeting attendees will also be able to see Seattle's cultural and historical attractions. AALL has coordinated several low-cost sightseeing tours, including Sample Seattle: A Deluxe City Tour, the Historic Pioneer Square and Seattle Underground Tour, and the "Best of the Best" Washington Wine Tasting Tour.

Check out the local law libraries in Seattle. Attendees will get the chance to tour the Seattle University Law Library, the King County Law Library, the University of Washington Gallagher Law Library, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Perkins Coie LLP, Heller Ehrman White and McAuliffe LLP, and Preston Gates and Ellis LLP.

The AALL 96th Annual Meeting and Conference has been designed for members to benefit from the expertise of their professional colleagues in the Pacific Northwest setting. AALL invites you to participate in the Seattle meeting as law librarians position themselves as leaders in information, research, management and technology — for today and tomorrow.

The 2003 Annual Meeting Program Committee members are Tom French, Lyonette Louis-Jacques, Betty Roeske, Brian Striman, Kay Moller Todd, Karen Westwood, Gail Warren (ex officio) and Chair Ruth J. Hill.

*Ruth J. Hill (ruth.hill@lls.edu) is head of reference services at the Loyola Law School Rains Law Library in Los Angeles.*