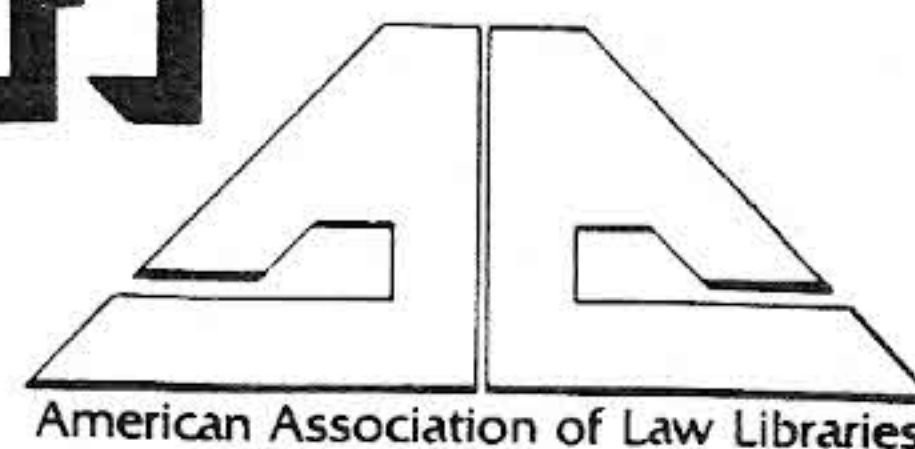


# NEWSLETTER

State, Court, and County Law Libraries Section

VOLUME 13, NO. 2

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American Association of Law Libraries

SCCLL ANNUAL MEETING - SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 5, 1987

Hyatt Regency Hotel - Chicago, Illinois

7:30 - 8:30 Executive Board Meeting

8:00 - 8:30 Registration & Continental Breakfast (See form inside.)

8:30 - 9:30 Business meeting (See agenda information inside.)

9:45 - 11:45 PROGRAM

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## Establishing Justice for All... Coordinating Local Law Library Services

State Survey: Barbara L. Golden, *Minnesota State Library*, Moderator  
Erick Baker Low, *National Center for State Courts*

Coordination through the State Law Library:

Maureen D. Well, *Connecticut State Library*

Coordination through the Court Administrative Office:

Ruth Ann Fraley, *New York State Office of Court Administration*

Coalition of Self-Governing Libraries:

Shirley David, *Sacramento County Law Library*,  
President, *Council of California County Law Libraries*

The Federal Model:

Ann T. Fessenden, *U.S. Court of Appeals, Eighth Circuit Library*



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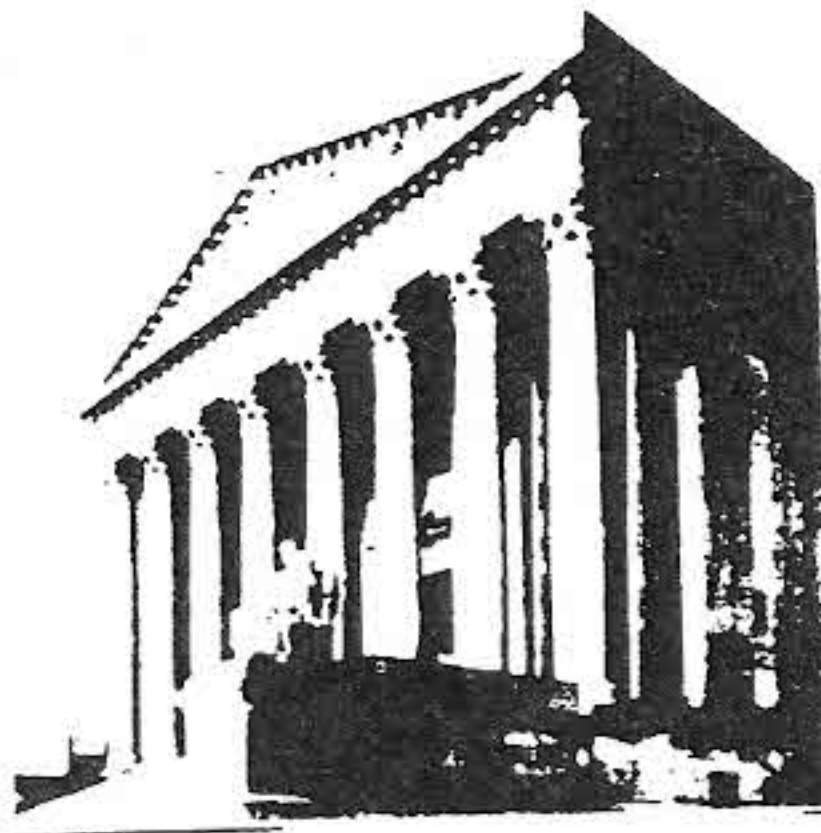
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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Since the registration materials for the 80th Annual Meeting of the AALL have arrived in the mail, a reminder that July 5, 1987 will creep up on us faster than we think. One of the topics that has the potential of being hotly debated in Chicago is the restructuring of the Association's membership categories. By now, you must have received the straw ballot from the Membership Committee to survey the sentiment of the association members on this important issue. You must also have read the message from Lally Casaway, President of AALL, in the February 1987 issue of the AALL Newsletter discussing some of the issues involved, and expressing her personal feelings toward the matter. Briefly stated, there are three major concerns that led to the re-consideration of the Association's membership structure. These concerns are: (1) the accounting and recordkeeping problems that are caused by the institutional memberships; (2) the role and privileges of the increasing number of independent, free lance librarians and library consultants; and, (3) the role and privileges of those law librarians that are employed in various capacities by the publishers and non-library organizations. While problems with institutional membership recordkeeping by the headquarter staff may be resolved without much fanfare, the implications surrounding the other two issues call for closer scrutiny by all members of the Association.

In reviewing these issues, there are a few personal observations that I would like to share with you. Consider for a moment, what our reasons were when we decided to join the law libraries association. Was it simply to fulfil our "civic duty"? Or, did we join because we wanted the opportunity of continuing our law librarianship education, and the professional enrichment that comes from the wit and wisdom of our peers? Is it true that we join together as a group - from the special interest section to the national association - because of our shared interest and desire to promote and achieve the common goals of our chosen profession? Should it not be our expectation that the group we join be representative of our position and the defender of our interests?

The membership of an organization is primarily composed of people of common interest. This segment of the organization is the major, and, most likely, the majority of the membership. They rightly enjoy the special privileges as well as bear the added responsibilities of such membership. While an organization should welcome a broad spectrum of interested parties into its membership, and keep the channels of communication open to all, it is, by all concern, a special interest group. If the active membership of AALL is to include anyone that is interested in law librarianship, what will the position of the Association be when libraries are laying off their own librarians and contracting those operations to outside, independent services? What action will the Association take when libraries as a whole are being indicted for infringing on the publishers' copyright?

The re-definition of membership categories is too important an issue to be taken lightly. There are a great deal of options and alternatives in re-designing the structure. As bylaw changes are going to be proposed, I urge you to give this matter some serious thought. I have asked Edgar Bellefontaine, Social Law Library, Boston, to draft a position paper for our Section. Please make your feelings known to him. I hope that at our State, Court, and County

