

**American Association of Law Libraries**  
**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES SPECIAL INTEREST**  
**SECTION BYLAWS**

**(Originally approved July 1992; amended May 2005)**

**Article I: NAME**

The name of this Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) shall be the Social Responsibilities SIS.

**Article II: OBJECT**

The object of the Social Responsibilities SIS shall be to act as a stimulus to the Association and its members by focusing attention on, providing a forum for discussion of, exchanging information about, and proposing resolutions on critical social issues that affect library workers as members of the profession and as members of the human family. It shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries.

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**Comment:** Grammatical correction

**Article III: MEMBERSHIP**

Membership shall be open to any AALL member requesting affiliation with the Social Responsibilities SIS, as provided in the AALL Bylaws. Vendors may be members, but may not vote or hold office. The SIS welcomes and encourages diversity among its members.

**Article IV: MEETINGS**

There shall be an annual meeting of the SIS held during the annual meeting of AALL. Other meetings may be held at such times and places as the Executive Committee may elect, or the Special Interest Section membership direct.

The SR-SIS shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the Bylaws of the American Association of Law Libraries. The rules of order mandated by the Association's bylaws shall govern all deliberations of the Section.

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**Comment:** AALL Bylaws Committee suggested we include this language to be in conformance with the SIS Model Bylaws

**Article V: OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. Officers.**

The officers shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and a Secretary/Treasurer. The Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect shall be elected annually by the SIS. The Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect shall automatically become Chair after one year, and shall so serve during the second year following his or her election. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected biennially by the SIS.

## **Section 2. Duties of Officers.**

The Chair, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, and Secretary/Treasurer shall perform the duties usually pertaining to their respective offices, and such other duties as may be assigned by the SIS Executive Committee or the membership.

## **Section 3. Executive Committee.**

There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the officers named above, and the Immediate Past Chair.

## **Section 4. Standing Committees.**

~~There shall be a Standing Committee on Law Library Service to Institutional Residents and a Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues. There shall be such other Standing or Special Committees as the SIS Executive Committee shall create, or shall be created by a majority vote of those present and voting at any annual meeting of this SIS. Unless otherwise provided, committee Chairs shall be designated by the Chair of the SIS.~~

## **Article VI: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Section 1. Nominating Committee.**

The Immediate Past Chair of the Section shall serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee and shall appoint two others to serve until the next annual meeting.

### **Section 2. Election Procedures.**

- (a) The election of officers will be conducted every year by mail or electronic ballot, to be completed not later than two months prior to the annual meeting.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall present at least one candidate(s) for each office to be voted on, the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect every year and the Secretary/Treasurer every other year. Further nominations may be made upon written petition of five voting members. Such petitions, with the written consent of the nominees, shall be filed with the Secretary/Treasurer not later than April 1st.
- (c) In the event paper ballots are used, the Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare the ballot, including nominations by petition, and mail a copy of the ballot to each member of the Section. Ballots shall be marked, sealed in plain envelopes, and returned to the Secretary/Treasurer for tabulation by the first week in May or two months prior to the AALL annual meeting, whichever is earlier.
- (d) In the event electronic ballots are used, the details of conducting the election shall first be approved by the Executive Committee. The Committee shall ensure that an election conducted by electronic balloting is fundamentally fair and preserves the right of secret ballot.
- (e) The candidates receiving the largest number of votes for each office shall be elected and this shall be reported to AALL Headquarters, in the Section Newsletter, and at the annual meeting by the Chair of the SIS. All candidates shall be notified of the results of the election by the Chair of the SIS at the earliest

possible time. In case of a tie-vote, the successful candidates shall be determined by lot conducted by the Nominating Committee.

### Section 3. Vacancies

- (a) If a Chair leaves office, the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect will assume that position's duties.
- (b) All vacancies in other offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee for an interim term until the next Section Business Meeting at which an election would be held or the next regular election cycle, whichever is sooner.

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**Comment:** This is not a policy change, only a correction of the formal title of the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect.

## Article VII: ~~Amendments to the~~ Bylaws Standing Committees

### Section 1. Standing Committees.

There shall be a Standing Committee on Law Library Service to Institutional Residents and a Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues. There shall be such other Standing or Special Committees as the SIS Executive Committee shall create, or shall be created by a majority vote of those present and voting at any annual meeting of this SIS. Unless otherwise provided, committee Chairs shall be designated by the Chair of the SIS.

### Section 2. Standing Committee on Law Library Service to Institutional Residents.

- (a) Purpose. The primary purpose of this Committee is to provide an avenue for members to advocate for and share information about law library services to institution residents including prisoners.
- (b) Membership. Membership shall be open to all AALL members interested in institutional libraries, particularly prison law libraries, and issues such as providing law library service to prisoners, sharing information about currently available library services for prisoners, access to legal information by institutional residents and advocating for all of the aforementioned issues.
- (c) Officers. A Committee Chair shall be appointed by the SR-SIS Chair annually at the annual meeting for the upcoming year.
- (d) Vacancies. In the event of a vacancy, a new Committee Chair shall be appointed by the SR-SIS Chair.

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**Comment:** This description was added to more fully detail the purpose and functions of this Standing Committee in the SR-SIS governing document.

### Section 3. Standing Committee on Lesbian and Gay Issues.

- (a) Purpose. The primary purpose of this Committee is to provide an avenue to members for interaction and discussion of issues within the group, but also within the larger American Association of Law Libraries, to the extent of making all members aware of and react to the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons within the law library community. The Committee is also intended to serve as a vehicle for dissemination of information, including but not limited to the provision of programs for AALL and other such groups. In addition, the Committee serves as a social force in bringing the membership together at AALL meetings.
- (b) Membership. Membership shall be open to all people interested in the individual rights of others, whether they be lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual, or

transgendered. Thus, membership is open to all AALL members who are sensitive to and concerned about the rights and interests of sexual orientation and gender identity minorities.

- (c) **Officers.** The Executive Committee shall be installed at the annual meeting for the upcoming year. The Executive Committee will include a Chair, a Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and the Immediate Past Chair. Each Executive Committee member shall take office at the end of the annual meeting. The Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect will become Chair at the annual meeting the year following the election.
- (d) **Election of Officers.** The election of the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect will be conducted every year at the annual meeting of the Standing Committee. Nominations may be received by the Chair in advance of the meeting or by nomination from the floor. The candidate receiving the largest number of votes by the members present and voting shall be elected.
- (e) **Vacancies of Offices.** If a Chair leaves office, the Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect will assume that position's duties. A vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect shall be filled by the remaining members of the Executive Committee for the remainder of the term.

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**Comment:** This description was added to more fully detail the purpose and functions of this Standing Committee in the SR-SIS governing document.

## **Article VIII: AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

### **Section 1.**

These bylaws may be amended at the annual business meeting of the Section by a majority of the members present and voting, or by a majority of the votes cast by a mail or electronic ballot conducted by the Secretary/Treasurer. Any amendment must be presented to the AALL Bylaws Committee for review before it is submitted to the Section membership for vote.

### **Section 2.**

Notice of proposed amendments shall be mailed to the Section members, or be published in the Section's newsletter, or be sent by electronic mail to the members' electronic mail addresses of record with AALL, thirty days in advance of the annual meeting, or of the mailing of ballots, or of the conducting of an election by electronic ballot. Members may request a paper copy of the proposed amendments upon request to the Secretary/Treasurer.

SR-SIS Bylaws available on AALLNET:

[http://www.aallnet.org/sis/social\\_responsibilities.asp](http://www.aallnet.org/sis/social_responsibilities.asp)