



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GOING FORWARD TOGETHER

Empowering One Another in Challenging Times

W

ow, what a year we've had. I cannot believe I am already writing my last *AALL Spectrum* President's Message. The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating effects on people and the economy everywhere, and it continues to impact our profession in ways that we could never have imagined or foreseen.

Because of the coronavirus, we also cancelled our in-person 2020 AALL Annual Meeting this July in New Orleans. While there is no doubt this was the best decision for AALL to make, it still came with great sadness. Cancellation of an Annual Meeting has only happened two other times in the life of our Association, both occurring during World War II (1943 and 1944). I want to offer a special thanks to the Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Cathy Lemann and Fran X. Norton Jr., and the Annual Meeting Program Committee, chaired by Katie Brown, for their dedication and positivity as we navigated a change to our first-ever virtual conference.

The passion and resilience of law librarians and legal information professionals has never been more evident than it has been over these past few months. As we continue to help patrons and help each other, we must also take the time to acknowledge the achievements of our colleagues. This issue features the winners of the Marian Gould Gallagher Distinguished Service Award (the highest honor given by AALL), the Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award, and the Hall of Fame Award.

In addition to honoring the 2020 award recipients, this issue of *AALL Spectrum* also includes articles to help you develop best practices in your workplace. Read on to get tips for evaluating legal research databases, learn how to develop lightning lessons, how to conduct effective 50-state survey research, and so much more. Also, get up close and personal with the candidates for the 2020 Executive Board election by reading the article "Q&A Perspective: Get to Know Your 2021 AALL Executive Board Candidates."

It has truly been an honor to serve as President of AALL. This year's historic pandemic has made it all the more obvious how important we are to one another, and how helpful a supportive community can be. I will always treasure the connections that I have made with you over this last year, and I look forward to staying in touch with you for many years to come.

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