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# Anatomy of the AALL Scholarships and Grants

By VIOLA A. BIRD\*

The American Association of Law Libraries Scholarship and Grants Program may not have reached its age of majority, but it is a well developed teenager. Like other teenagers, there has been some confusion over its activities. Thus, some explanation is merited here for a better understanding of its purpose and selection procedures than has been possible through the year-after-year announcement of names of donors and recipients. Probably even those who attended an institute or convention under the sponsorship of the program understand little more than that their checks arrived shortly before the meeting date and gave them real financial assistance which made the trips possible.

The basic purpose of the program is to give financial assistance to people who have proven or who possess potential ability in law librarianship and who show promise of future usefulness and permanence in the profession. The list of recipients is a record of the fulfillment of this purpose. The contribution of the program to AALL is evident through the participation of these recipients in its activities.

From the program's inception in 1953 to the present time, as funds and donors have increased, changes in procedures have become necessary. However, the purpose of the program has remained the same.

The program which began as AALL scholarships was revamped in 1966 by executive board action. It now has two categories, namely, GRANTS and SCHOLARSHIPS. To distinguish them, each will be discussed in some detail.

## GRANTS

Grants are financial awards to give assistance in attending AALL institutes and annual meetings.

The grant program, carried on by contributions from law book publishers, has developed from three awards donated by one firm in 1953 to thirty-seven donated by eight firms in 1966. No solicitation of funds has been undertaken by the AALL, but in a steady succession publishers have participated on a voluntary basis. Usually participation has come in the form of

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an offer of a given amount of money for a designated number of grants to be awarded under specific terms. (Since there is considerable variation in these contributions, the details of each may be found in the appendix.)

Jurisdiction for acceptance of the offer to participate rests with the executive board; and after terms of the contribution are clarified, the procedures of operation are turned over to the Scholarship Committee for administration.

The wishes of the donors are adhered to as closely as possible depending upon the applicants in a given year. For example, four grants are designated as foreign awards. Foreign is to be interpreted to include Canada and Puerto Rico. If in a particular year there are not four applications filling this description, the committee must use its discretion in awarding them to relatively qualified applicants.

Specific rules for making the award have been drawn up and adopted by the executive board and the committee works within the framework of these rules. An occasional question has been raised concerning one of these rules.

When there are sufficient applicants, only one award should be made to a person and no award should be made to a previous recipient, provided, that two awards may be made to a person in a single year, and awards may be made to previous recipients in order to prevent lapse of an award.

This rule is followed carefully by the committee, but in any given year the committee must work with the total number of applicants for that year. Some years, those who have received an award previously have had to be eliminated from consideration because an abundance of qualified applications were received. Rarely, but it has occurred, a previous recipient has been awarded a grant "to prevent lapse of an award." This situation is rare; usually there are many more qualified applicants than grants to be awarded.

In 1966, a blanket amount was contributed with the only stipulation that it be used for awards for attendance at the institute. It could have been one grant of \$500, five of \$100, or any other variation determined by AALL. That year a grant was available for each applicant, without this lump sum.

When the situation was made known to the

executive board, it asked the committee to suggest a solution. The committee developed a plan which met with the approval of the board. Ten applicants indicated their intention of attending the institute as well as the annual meeting the following week, with the resulting extra expenses of tuition and housing.

These ten, along with the other successful applicants, received grants on the established zone basis to assist them in attending the convention, and in addition were awarded \$50 each, in effect a tuition grant. The plan was completely satisfactory to both the donor and the grantees.

Zone? What is the zone basis, you ask, if you are still with us? The amount of awards has varied through the years, some by designation of the donors and some through established plans of operation. Even Solomon would have had a difficult time in determining what amount should be awarded to each applicant, all of whom "could use the financial assistance" and had "fine recommendations." Factors other than these were considered by the committee each year but were extremely difficult to weigh on monetary scales.

After some study and consideration, the board approved the use of three zones, working much as postal zones do, with the distance of travel determining the amount to be granted. Depending upon the location of the institute and annual meeting, the committee each year will establish three zones, granting amounts of:

1. Local and environs	\$ 75.00
2. Central	125.00
3. Coasts (Distant)	175.00

Donors have cooperated in this plan by contributing a specific amount for a certain number of grants and leaving determination of the area of these zones and corresponding amounts to the administration of the committee.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS

The second phase of the program is an attempt to meet the needs and wishes of the association to do something about the formal education of law librarians. There had long been talk of developing a program of scholarships for use in accredited library schools. At the St. Louis meeting Louis Piacenza challenged the association to initiate such a plan.

In June 1966 a step in this direction was taken when the executive board adopted a program of professional scholarships financed by

three different funds. These are the Helen C. Newman Memorial Fund, the West-Sidney B. Hill Scholarship Fund, and the AALL Scholarship Fund. While the first two are separate funds, they operate under a joint plan.

"The purpose of the scholarship program," as stated by the board, "is to give financial assistance to deserving persons who have shown an interest in becoming professional law librarians and in fulfillment of that interest: (1) become degree candidates in an accredited library school, or (2) take special courses in law librarianship for credit at accredited library schools."

The Helen C. Newman Memorial Fund was established through generous contributions of devoted relatives and her many friends in AALL. There seemed no more fitting way for the association to use these gifts than to put them to work in preparing others to follow in her chosen profession.

Through the years, contributions of West Publishing Co. had built up a sizeable surplus in undesignated funds. It was with great pleasure that Mr. Harvey T. Reid received the announcement that the association wished to use this money for library school scholarships. At his request, the funds were given the designation Sidney B. Hill Scholarships, in honor of a long and valued friendship.

Under the present plan, the Helen C. Newman Memorial Scholarship and the West-Sidney B. Hill Scholarship are to be awarded in alternating years as long as funds remain or sufficient funds are accumulated for further development of the program.

The standards for awarding either of these scholarships may be stated briefly:

Application may be made for a scholarship upon provisional admittance to an accredited library school in the U.S. or Canada. A scholarship may be granted contingent upon acceptance as a degree candidate in an accredited library school.

The applicant must hold a degree in law to be eligible for this scholarship, and preference shall be given to graduates of U.S. and Canadian law schools.

Preference shall be given to members of AALL but scholarships are not restricted to members. Preference shall be given to citizens of the U.S. and Canada.

Preference in selection shall be given to applicants working for degrees in librarianship with emphasis on courses in law librarianship. Applicants over forty years of

age will be considered only under unusual circumstances.

Scholarships are awarded in amounts up to \$1,500 depending upon the tuition of the school to be attended. A scholarship is for one year's continuous study leading to a degree or on an alternate plan of study acceptable to the committee.

The first Helen C. Newman Memorial Scholarship was awarded in 1967; applications are being received for the first West-Sidney B. Hill Scholarship which will be awarded in 1968 for use in the school year 1968-69.

Establishment of the Louis Piacenza Scholarship Fund was approved by the executive board in June 1967 but it is not in operation currently.

A second type of scholarship: The AALL scholarships are awarded from a fund established in 1960 by the executive board with contributions from chapters, In Memoriam gifts, bequests, and other donations. One or more scholarships shall be awarded annually depending upon the sufficiency of the funds.

Applicants must have applied for admittance to a special course in law librarianship offered at an accredited library school, and the scholarship may be granted contingent upon acceptance for registration.

Scholarships are restricted to members of AALL and preference shall be given to citizens of the U.S. and Canada. Applicants over forty years of age will be considered only under unusual circumstances.

AALL scholarships are awarded as tuition scholarships in an amount up to \$150, plus \$25 for incidental expenses.

The scholarship plan is a basic one which may be developed as funds and needs are expanded. It brings AALL into a program similar to those which other special library associations, such as the Medical Library Association, have offered for several years. Experience gained during the next few years, while present funds are being used, will aid in future planning.

Dollars alone cannot measure the success or value of the program through the years, but the dollar amounts are impressive. Over \$25,000 has been invested by our law book publishing friends in 194 promising recipients. The association is indebted to them for this confidence and support.

Many of these 194 had their introduction to the activities of AALL through this financial

assistance. They have repaid it with their contribution to the work of the association. At this time 164 are active members, not just names on the roster, but people with records of committee membership, contributors to the *Law Library Journal*, participants in convention and institute programs, and board membership, to mention just a few.

The Scholarship and Grants Program has been a success; it may be changed in many ways to meet future needs and trends, but its value to the association and the law library profession rates a round of applause.

## APPENDIX

### GRANTS

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 4 awards<br>(\$600.00)    | <p><i>MATTHEW BENDER</i> (established 1953)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A younger member of the AALL who is unable to attend the annual convention because of financial reasons, and</li> <li>2. Who plans to remain in the profession for an extended period, and</li> <li>3. Will qualify and benefit from the program and institute held in connection with each year's convention.</li> </ol>                            |
| 2 awards<br>(\$250.00)    | <p><i>OCEANA</i> (established 1956)</p> <p>Preferably for foreign law librarians. "Foreign" is interpreted to include Canada and Puerto Rico. If no suitable foreign law librarian can be secured, the committee may award to non-foreign applicants.</p>  |
| 1 award<br>(\$125.00)     | <p><i>MILES O. PRICE TESTIMONIAL</i> (established 1957)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Candidates <i>shall be</i> a member of AALL.</li> <li>2. Shall have not more than 5 years professional law library experience.</li> <li>3. Shall be regarded as a promising member of the profession.</li> <li>4. To be used for convention, institute or formal course in librarianship as selected by successful candidate.</li> </ol> |
| 10 awards<br>(\$1,250.00) | <p><i>WEST-SIDNEY B. HILL</i> (established 1958)</p> <p>Any deserving law librarian who is having to pay his own expense may</p>   |

	be eligible regardless of age or experience, if his presence is judged important at the meeting. In years when there is an institute, it may be wise to use five for institute and five for convention but this is within discretion of committee.	2 awards (\$250.00)	<i>FRED B. ROTHMAN COMPANY</i> (established 1963) For convention or institute Will be annual until cancelled.
2 awards (\$250.00)	<i>W. H. ANDERSON COMPANY</i> (established 1959)	2 awards (\$250.00)	<i>BOBBS-MERRILL</i> (established 1963) For convention or institute
	1. Candidates must be young (in library experience)	4 awards (\$500.00)	<i>WILLIAM S. HEIN</i> (established 1966) For convention Two U.S. Two Canada
	2. Must be otherwise unable to attend	Unspecified number (\$500.00)	<i>LAWYERS CO-OPERATIVE—BAN-CROFT-WHITNEY</i> (established 1967) For institute only
	3. For convention ONLY.		

## AALL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The American Association of Law Libraries has initiated a program of scholarships for professional education in librarianship. Two types of scholarships will be awarded annually.

The 1968 award will be a West tuition scholarship up to \$1500, honoring Mr. Sidney B. Hill, who was, for over 25 years, the Librarian and General Manager of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

Applications for this scholarship, to be used in 1968-69, must be received by February 1, 1968.

In addition, up to \$150 for tuition with \$25 for incidentals will be awarded in 1968 to a member of AALL taking a special course in law librarianship for credit at an accredited library school. This scholarship will be awarded from the AALL Scholarship Fund contributed to the association as special gifts or memorials.

Applications for this scholarship, to be used during 1968-69, must be received by March 1, 1968.

Information concerning these scholarships may be obtained from the

Scholarship Committee  
AALL Headquarters  
53 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604