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Letter to Grace Culbreth regarding formation of SEAALL, February 10, 1954

Sarah Leverette

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Miss Grace Culbreth, Librarian
Law Library
The Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association
319 Bank of Commerce Building
Norfolk 10, Virginia

Dear Miss Culbreth:

Your letter of January 22 addressed to Miss Mary Oliver has been referred to the secretary of the organization for answer. A very heavy schedule delayed my immediate response for which I offer my apologies.

The formation of a Southeastern Law Libraries Association is a step which we feel will prove most beneficial to all law libraries in the southeastern area. As you note from Miss Oliver's letter and report on the Carolinas Chapter meeting in Chapel Hill and Durham, North Carolina (which if you have not received we shall be glad to send to you) organizational steps were taken and plans were made to petition the American Association of Law Libraries for chapter status at the national convention in Miami in June.

A proposed constitution and by-laws has been prepared under which it is provided that members of A.A.L.L. shall not pay any dues to the chapter. Non-members shall pay one-half of A.A.L.L. dues.

Among other things the purpose of organizing a southeastern law libraries group is to further develop the spirit of cooperation among law libraries in the area and thus increase available resources and the general usefulness of all member libraries. Following this principle and the theory that research is becoming increasingly important in the law library field, an immediate project was planned — that of developing a sort of cooperative growth and loan scheme by ascertaining the present resources of the law libraries in this area as to their strongest individual fields and thus reflecting the logical spheres for expansion for the various libraries. This would prevent the necessity for expensive duplication and would make available to all members, through inter-library loan, the holdings of other libraries in the group. This, of course, does not in any way anticipate interference with individual libraries, but would provide a more integrated system of wise buying and service from all libraries for our patrons.

If the picture given herein leaves any questions in your mind, please do not hesitate to write me for further information.

Sincerely yours,

Sarah Leverette, Secretary
Carolinas Chapter, A.A.L.L.
Southeastern Law Lib. Ass'n