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1999

Richard W. Riley, Esq.
Secretary of Education
United States Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington DC 20202-0498

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, I am writing to invite you to be our guest at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries to be held in Washington, DC this year from 17 through 22 July. Our members would be most honored by your presence.

AALL, the national professional association for law librarians, has about 5,000 members, 2,000 of whom will attend the Washington meeting. AALL sponsors a Chapter VIP Program, VIP in this instance being a Valued Invited Participant. Knowing that you come from our region and that you have considerable ties to Law as well as to Education, your name came naturally to mind. It has been our experience in past years that invited participants have been impressed. They have felt their time well spent because they have been made aware of the quality and the tremendous range of information possibilities available in the modern law library.

Let me give you the background and rationale for this program: AALL encourages the Chapters to select non-AALL members to participate in the educational experiences and networking that take place at our yearly gathering. VIPs are encouraged to participate in the full range of annual meeting activities and may also be invited to speak at an educational program while in attendance. Basically it is a means of establishing an ongoing relationship with a legal professional from the academic, corporate or judicial sector, in the hope that the Chapter members will get to know their VIPs and that the VIPs will make suggestions for the Law Librarians that will enhance their ability to serve the profession and the community generally.

The schedule for this year is not yet finalized. I know that you have a great many demands on your time. VIP guests will attend a gala opening dinner on Saturday evening, 17th. There the guests will meet fellow participants, conference speakers, and the leadership of AALL and be introduced to the purpose of the meeting. The educational programs begin on

Sunday. There is an opening reception on Sunday evening. I think that you would particularly enjoy the opening luncheon on Monday. It is always a sit-down affair with an excellent speaker. We hope that our Chapter reception will be on Monday at the cocktail hour. There are, of course, educational programs and plenary sessions of general interest with speakers of national significance, which continue all week. The final social event is the closing banquet on Wednesday evening. VIPs are usually invited for Saturday evening through Monday. However, if it is beyond the limits of your time constraints to be present for several days, perhaps you would consider attending the opening luncheon, the Chapter reception or the closing banquet.

When you were in Law School at the University of South Carolina there was one librarian in the Law Library, Miss Sarah Leverette, whom you would recall. Miss Leverette was a member of AALL and one of the founders of the Southeastern Chapter. At the present time there are ten librarians here, five of whom have the JD degree as well as a Masters in Library Science. It also transpires that this year the incoming President and the Secretary of the Chapter are on the faculty of the Law Library. I have been in my present position as Head of Cataloging for over 20 years, and well remember your days as Governor. I also recall what a beautiful May morning it was for your son, Ted's, law commencement.

If Mrs. Riley would like to accompany you to some of the events, please convey our invitation to her. It would be our pleasure to include her.

I will contact you as soon as I know the final program. Meanwhile, I hope that you will be able to grant us the honor of your company during that week.

Yours sincerely,

Diana Osbaldiston, MS, MMA
Secretary
Southeastern Chapter American Association
of Law Libraries.