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Letter to Hazel Johnson regarding the SEAALL Nominating Committee, January 15, 1988

Larry Wenger

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January 15, 1988

Hazel L. Johnson
Long, Aldridge & Norman
134 Peachtree St., Suite 1900
Atlanta, GA 30043

Dear Hazel:

Thanks very much for the mid-year report, which I think is an excellent idea. It's an impressive list of things we have underway.

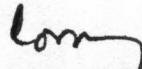
You asked for responses on two or three items, though I'm not sure how much I can add. With respect to Sally's Education Committee report, I do think the idea of an all day program is best, and would think that tying it in with our spring meeting, much like institutes precede or follow AALL meetings, would be a good way to begin. This would give an added incentive for individuals to request travel funds, since one trip could cover both events. I do think that some sort of long range plan for basic, followed by advanced, programs is also desirable. The old AALL rotating institutes were, as I recall, a very good training device and they were based on a four year cycle. If we could work towards a multi-year approach to this, a basic followed by an advanced reference course, for example, I think it would be worth doing.

Despite being on a nominating committee that put up two candidates per position, I confess I'm one of those who is more comfortable with single nominations per position, though your comment that less than 25 individuals have been nominated during the past 10 years does give me pause. My concern has not been that we don't have a large enough total pool, but rather that the number of people who have been actively involved in the Association and have developed the kind of track record that one would want to reward with nominations to office is fairly small. I do think that more active committees, the development of education programs and the like, will give more individuals the opportunity to help with the chapter and the rest of us a better basis for recommending nominees. I don't think we are quite at that stage yet, however.

Finally, and to the matter closest to my heart, alcoholic beverages at Association functions. I assume that the question of liability relates to what might happen if someone consumes too much. That may indeed be a risk, but this is one tradition I would certainly hate to see end and think it is a common enough practice generally to be risk worth taking.

If I think of anything else I'll be in touch.

Best regards,



Larry B. Wenger
Law Librarian

LBW/jbp