

*In memoriam*  
**Alexander Peter Allain**  
**1920-1994**

To describe the depth of Alex Allain's influence on librarians in the United States is a study of how one citizen with great knowledge, idealism, and open-heartedness can influence an entire profession. Born in Louisiana in 1920, Mr. Allain spent a great part of his life defending that most basic guarantee of freedom in American life, the right of expression. Awarded a law degree from Loyola University in New Orleans in 1942, he used that knowledge of the law to develop a nation-wide mechanism for the defense of librarians serving the cause of intellectual freedom.

Mr. Allain was a widely traveled man, having served during the latter years of World War II in Casablanca as a liaison officer with the French Navy and as a personal aid and administrative assistant to Commodore Lyman S. Perry. It was during the nineteen fifties, when libraries both overseas and stateside were under attack as hotbeds of communist sentiment, that Alex Allain began his vast service to libraries with an appointment to the first St. Mary Parish Library Board of Control. He pursued his interest in the work of trustees, and in 1963 he was instrumental in the formation of the American Library Trustee Association (ALTA) Committee on Library Freedom. Here at home he organized the Council of Louisiana Trustees (COLT) to coordinate library and library trustee activities throughout the state.

Mr. Allain chaired the first Louisiana Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee in 1964 and remained in that position for several years. While maintaining his law practice and personal commitments to the Louisiana Knights of Columbus and scouting, he also wrote extensively on library development and trustee education. Nationally, he was much in demand as a speaker on trustee and intellectual freedom issues. Perhaps his greatest achievement was in helping to establish the Freedom to Read Foundation in 1969, and, as its first President, guiding the Foundation through the first five years of its existence. Thereafter, he served as the Foundation's Special Counsel.

He won numerous awards for his service to our profession, including LLA's Modisette Award for Trustees (1965), ALA's Trustee Award (1969), the University of Illinois' Robert B. Downs Award (1973), ALA Honorary Life Membership (1975), the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award (1979), the Freedom to Read Foundation Roll of Honor Award (1989 and 1999), the Southeastern Library Association President's Award (1990), and the LLA Intellectual Freedom Award (1991).

With libraries as the focus of animosity from all sides of the political spectrum, librarians might wish that Alex Allain were here to offer his wise legal counsel, to articulate the ideals of our profession, and to lend us the courage to withstand attacks on those ideals. It is with pride and appreciation that we dedicate this revised edition of the Louisiana Library Association Intellectual Freedom Manual to the memory of Alexander P. Allain.