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GPO ACCESS SELECTED AS TOP LEGAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC ACCESS SITE

GPO Access, GPO's acclaimed Internet information service (www.access.gpo.gov), recently was selected as one of the top 50 legal research web sites for 1999 by *Law Office Computing* magazine, and was named best research site for laws and best Government site overall by the newsletter *legal.online*. It has also been chosen as the first recipient of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) Public Access to Government Information Award.

The April/May 1999 issue of *Law Office Computing* presents its choices for the top 50 legal research web sites nationwide. The sites were selected "based on several years of experience in a large law firm setting, covering almost all practice areas." The sites named as the top 50 "are favorites of both law librarians who are constantly bombarded by research questions, as well as those personally used and bookmarked by attorneys and paralegals doing their own research." In addition, the winning sites were picked "based on their usability . . . The sites listed here have a good layout, easy-to-use interfaces, and load into your Web browser relatively quickly." **GPO Access** is one of just seven Federal Government web sites included among the top 50.

As reported in the April issue of *Chicago Lawyer* magazine, each year the newsletter *legal.online* picks the "Best of the Web for Lawyers." This year, the newsletter selected **GPO Access** as both the "best research site for laws" and the "overall best Government site," noting that "beyond its extensive databases of primary laws, it also houses the Federal Bulletin Board, a collection of more than 4,500 Federal agency documents."

GPO Access has been chosen as the first recipient of the AALL's Public Access to Government Information Award because "GPO has developed and enhanced the **GPO Access** system to make it the official, no-fee, one-stop public access point for the growing universe of web-based electronic Government information. The GPO Access system meets and exceeds criteria established for this award in every respect." The award will be presented during the AALL conference in Washington, DC, on Monday, July 19, 1999.

Remarking on these developments, Public Printer Michael F. DiMario stated, “It is extremely gratifying to see the dedicated work of GPO’s professional staff recognized in this manner. It means we are achieving our goal of providing effective, comprehensive public access to Government information.”

GPO Access is one of the few Government websites established by law and one of the longest running, beginning operation in 1994. It is virtually the only Government website that provides easy, one-stop, no-fee access to information from all three branches of the Federal Government. Approximately 70 applications make information available from more than 1,000 databases, representing more than 92,000 individual titles. **GPO Access** also provides links to an additional 45,000 titles on other Federal websites. Overall, more than 277.5 million documents have been retrieved by the public from **GPO Access** since 1994. Monthly document retrievals today average more than 19 million, or about 836 gigabytes of information.

The recognition bestowed on **GPO Access** by *Law Office Computing* magazine, *legal.online*, and the AALL follow GPO’s recent receipt of a Hammer Award from Vice President Gore’s National Partnership for Reinventing Government for the role played by **GPO Access** in making unclassified scientific and technical information from the Energy Department publicly accessible via the Internet. In 1998, **GPO Access** was named one of the 15 “Best Feds on the Web” by Vice President Gore and *Government Executive* magazine.

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