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## Praise for New ALA OIF Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone

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## Wednesday, June 3, 2009

### Praise for New ALA OIF Director Deborah Caldwell-Stone

I hereby praise the American Library Association's [ALA] new Acting Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom [OIF], **Deborah Caldwell-Stone**. Although she has only been in her [new position a short time](#), I already see a vast improvement in customer relations, so to speak.

Deborah Caldwell-Stone does something praiseworthy that I have to congratulate her on—she is responding online to various library advocates, something the previous OIF director never did, so far as I know. Deborah Caldwell-Stone, well done.

The first time I noticed she responded online was in the [eighth comment](#) to "[Tomorrow's Show - Banning Books and Sacking Library Board Members in West Bend](#)," by **Queery**, *Queery*, 28 April 2009.

The second time she responded online was in the [fourth comment](#) to "[West Bend Library Board - Lies, Anger, and Vengeance](#)," by **West Bend Citizen Advocate**, *WISSUP = Wisconsin Speaks Up*, 2 June 2009.

Ironically, [her OIF's own blog](#) does not allow comments. I have written about this before in "[New OIF Blog Deletes Free Speech](#)," **SafeLibraries**, *SafeLibraries*, 10 January 2009. I noted that while the blog allowed comments for a few days, it stopped that and deleted the existing comments. Censorship? "Free People Read Freely," the blog says. Apparently free people don't write freely.

However, given Deborah Caldwell-Stone's willingness to engage online, I hope she will exert her influence to finally allow the OIF blog to allow comments.

Once again, great job Deborah Caldwell-Stone. Great job, ALA.