

**NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & SPORTS LAW  
SECTION**

**Executive Committee Virtual Meeting – (Wednesday) March 9, 2022, at 12:30 PM**

Minutes of EASL EC Meeting

Attending by Virtual Conference/Telephone: Anne LaBarbera, Andrew H. Seiden, Arlen Appelbaum, Barry Skidelsky, Barry Werbin, Bennett Liebman, Bob Seigel, Carol J. Steinberg, Cheryl Davis, Christine-Marie Lauture, Diane Krausz, Donna Froscio, Elissa D. Hecker, Ethan Bordman, Imraan Farukhi, Innes Smolansky, Isaro Carter, Jason Baruch, Joan Faier, Judah Shapiro, Judith Bass, Kathy Kim, Louise Carron, Larry Sapadin, Les Greenbaum, Marc Jacobson, Mariam Chubinidzhe, Nyasha Foy, Pat Stockli, Paul Cossu, Paul LiCalsi, Rosemarie Tully, Sharmin Woodall, Sonia Autret

- 1) Approval of January 2022 Meeting Minutes – *Isaro Carter, Sec.; Barry Werbin, Chair; Carol Steinberg, Ass't Secretary.*

Ethan Bordman (EASL Chair) called the Zoom virtual meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance. Last-minute revisions were addressed, and the February minutes were deemed approved pending the corrections mentioned.

- 2) EASL Journal Status – *Elissa Hecker*

Elissa reported that the current journal would be published in April. The next deadline is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. That issue is the Title IX issue, and she only has one article for Title IX so far. The plan is to have a lot more, so Elissa asks that we spread the word to anyone who has something to say about what Title IX means to them and/or how it has changed their life. She asks that the Sports Law Committee send out an email blast, in particular.

Elissa has also asked that we all keep contributing to the EASL Blog. She is also open to other article ideas for this next journal and anyone interested in becoming a columnist.

- 3) Upcoming Pro Bono Clinic and Panel – *Elissa Hecker*

Elissa reported that the clinic on March 17<sup>th</sup> is overbooked (i.e., many EC members signed up). The Chair asked if there was a possibility to accommodate more volunteers by making the clinic an hour longer. Elissa let us know that for Dance NYC, that isn't possible, but for NYFA and the other Pro Bono clinics, it is. The next clinic will be planned after this one is completed.

- 4) Financial Report - *Judah Shapiro, Treasurer; Merissa Pico, Assistant Treasurer*

Judah reported that the personnel responsible for the reports and finances in Albany has changed, and a new person will be transitioning into the role this upcoming week. He also reported the good news that EASL had a net income of over \$20K last year, and we have about \$100K. He is hopeful that expenses will increase this year as we anticipate more in-person events, especially towards the end of the year. To predict what that budget should look like for a more typical year, he (and Kathy Kim) are looking at budgets from pre-pandemic years.

Kathy reported that income from events like the MBLC allowed us to have this net income in 2021. This net income has resulted in a surplus that is higher now than it was pre-pandemic. Kathy did ask that we all *overcommunicate* to Judah and the Officers before we spend any money to make sure we can truly accommodate the request.

The Chair asked whether we get a stipend from NYSBA for the student members that join EASL. Barry Werbin and Pat Stockli clarified that we do not. Barry added that student members count towards that 1500-member headcount that we would need for an additional delegate in the House of Delegates.

Regarding that headcount, Pat updated us that we currently have 1,358 EASL members. She also reported that we are in danger of losing 380 members because only 981 members have renewed their membership for 2022. That said, Pat let us know that she can get us a list of those who have yet to renew and work on advanced reach out.

Arlen Appelbaum asked if this 25% potential drop in membership was in-line with other NYSBA sections—Pat let us know she would have to look into that. Arlen also asked whether NYSBA has considered spacing out the renewal payments because they occur in December/January, when the annual NYSBA meeting registration fee is also due. Les Greenbaum volunteered to reach out personally to at-risk members in the 8<sup>th</sup> District—The Chair made a note to consider District Reps reaching out across the board.

5) District Representatives – Welcome District 12 Representative – John Bonsu

John Bonsu was absent, but we welcomed him as the new District 12 Rep. Districts 6, 10, and 11 still do not have Representatives—The Chair is still working on that, as is Rosemarie for District 10. District 11 only has two members, so that's not as urgent as the other two Districts.

6) Committee/Program Reports/Updates (ad hoc):

a) *Welcome Co-Chair of the Motion Pictures Committee – Larry Sapadin*

Larry Sapadin introduced himself. EASL welcomes him, and we are happy to have him.

b) *Welcome Young Lawyers Section Liaison – Sonia Autret*

Sonia Autret introduced herself. EASL welcomes her, and we are happy to have her as well. The Chair mentioned that we have another person interested in being a liaison between EASL and the Young Lawyers Section; they just need to sign up.

c) *Need New Chair needed for Publicity, Privacy, and Media*

David Faux stepped down as the Publicity, Privacy, and Media Committee chair, so we need a new chair there. He was also the District 11 Rep. If anyone has any suggestions or wants to volunteer as the new chair, Ethan is happy to consider them.

d) *Fine Arts Committee: The Art of Licensing, April 7<sup>th</sup> - Carol Steinberg, Paul Cossu*

Carol Steinberg reported that the Fine Arts Committee and the Pro Bono Committee have an event scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2pm. The panel is virtual and offers 1.5 CLE credits. It is a panel on art licensing, which Paul will be moderating.

Paul let us know that the panelist will include those from the Artist Rights Society, the First Look Institute, and an NFT artist. The panel is intended for artists mostly but attorneys as well because of the discussion of licensing agreements.

e) *Theatre and Performing Arts Committee – Jason Baruch*

Jason reported that the committee is planning to do their Spring event, but it is being planned for the fall in the hopes that it can be an in-person event. He reported that they aim for September/October for the two-night event--*Legal Aspects of Commercial Theatre Producing*. They will not be doing the event in conjunction with the Commercial Theatre Institute this time, but the format will be the same.

Aside from that event, Jason reports that they will be trying to have one more non-CLE program primarily intended for students, young lawyers, and transitioning lawyers. It will be about getting into the industry and the different paths people have taken to get into this practice area. There are hopes to get this program done before the summer.

7) Other Initiatives and New Business:

a) *Possible Mentorship Program – Ethan Bordman, EASL Chair*

The Chair mentioned his conversation with the person in charge of the mentorship program in the Young Lawyers Section. Their model was of interest, and the Chair opened the floor for any suggestions/feedback on what EASL can do for our program. The consensus was that it was a good idea, and many members indicated that they would volunteer to be mentors (which is excellent).

b) *Upcoming changes in NY Legislation (Talen Agencies Act of New York)*

The Chair briefly explained that the new legislation would allow attorneys to be exempt from registering as a talent agent/talent agency under the Talent Agencies Act. Things are on hold until April 1<sup>st</sup>, and we cannot lobby as EASL, but NYSBA can lobby on our behalf. The Chair stated that if anyone had any feedback, notes, comments, etc., please reach out to Steve Richman.

c) *Spring Meeting with Stan Soocher – Bob Seigel*

The Motion Pictures Committee event will be either Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, or Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. Bob reported that the idea for the spring meeting is to bring in different organizations and discuss the issue of diversity. He and Larry Sapadin will be reaching out to organizations like the Producer’s Guild of America, DGA, SAG-AFTRA, and probably the Academy itself (because they are introducing diversity initiatives in their selection criteria). It will likely span the typical 50-min length with 15/20 minutes for questions.

The Chair noted that if this diversity could be another 1 ½ hour program alongside the Stan Soocher program, we would have a good 3hr CLE program. The Chair also mentioned that he spoke with John Gibson at the MPAA before stepping down from the Motion Pictures Committee and suggested inviting him to the Motion Pictures Committee program.

8) Chair’s Remarks

Ethan reported that his transition has been going well, thanks to the help of Barry Werbin and Barry Skidelsky. He emphasized his interest in working on the EASL mentorship program and getting involved with reaching out to law students. He also noted how he intends to speak at as many events as possible to push EASL and EASL membership.

Ethan also addressed the status of the work being done on the bylaws. The bylaws will be discussed at the next meeting. Barry Skidelsky suggested that the group working on the bylaws have another forum due to the absences from the last one.

9) Future EC Meetings - Save the Date:

The next EASL EC Meeting will be Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 12:30 pm – 2 pm.

Future Meeting Dates are as follows:

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

July/August – No meeting  
September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022  
December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

10) Adjournment. The EC meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Isaro Carter, EASL Secretary