

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

Executive Committee Virtual Meeting – (Wednesday) May 4th, 2022, at 12:30 PM

Minutes of EASL EC Meeting

Attending by Virtual Conference/Telephone: Anne LaBarbera, Arlen Appelbaum, Avita Delerme, Barry Skidelsky, Barry Werbin, Bob Seigel, Bridget Donlon, Carol J. Steinberg, Cheryl Davis, Christine-Marie Lauture, David Friedlander, Diane Krausz, Elissa D. Hecker, Ethan Bordman, Imraan Farukhi, Innes Smolansky, Isaro Carter, Jason Baruch, Joan Faier, Judah Shapiro, Judith Bass, Kathy Kim, Kristin Paradisis, Larry Sapadin, Lisa Mordkovich, Mariam Chubinidzhe, Merissa Pico, Phillip Hurwitz, Paul LiCalsi, Sarah Robertson, Sharmin Woodall, Sonia Autret, Steve Rodner, Steven Richman

- 1) Approval of April 2022 Meeting Minutes – *Isaro Carter, Sec.; Ethan Bordman, Chair; Christine-Marie Lauture, Ass't Secretary.*

Ethan Bordman (EASL Chair) called the Zoom virtual meeting to order and welcome everyone in attendance. Concerns about language in the minutes were addressed, and the April minutes were deemed approved pending the revisions.

- 2) EASL Journal Status – *Elissa Hecker*

Elissa reported that the summer issue of the journal now has sixteen articles, a lot of them on Title IX. She also reported that we have a new columnist—a financial planner.

The fall issue of the journal's tentative deadline is August—there is no specific date yet. At this time, Elissa reports that she is happy to accept submissions on a rolling basis.

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

Judah reported that, to date, we have an income of \$23,980, expenses of \$17,000 (the largest part of those expenses being scholarships). These numbers put our net income at around \$7,000, and our accumulated surplus is now sitting at \$102,429. Judah also reminded the EC that he is planning to take a trip up to Albany in the coming weeks.

- 4) District Representatives

The EASL Chair gave us a refresher on the districts, by number & corresponding county and they are as follows:

- 1st – Manhattan
- 2nd – Brooklyn
- 3rd – Albany
- 4th – Essex
- 5th - Oswego (& local cities)
- 6th – Cortland/Madison
(Open/No Rep)
- 7th - Monroe
- 8th - Allegheny
- 9th – Duchess
- 10th – Suffolk & Nassau
(Open/No Rep)
- 11th – Queens **(Open/No Rep)**
- 12th – Bronx **(Open/No Rep)**
- 13th – Richmond (Staten Island)

Marc Jacobson asked if it was a requirement that the representative lives/works in the district that they represent. Steve Richman and Barry Werbin clarified that it is a requirement that the representative lives or works in the district they're representing. It was acknowledged that we don't exactly need a representative in all districts because there are a few that only have 2-3 people in them.

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

- a) *Welcome Pam Lester (New Co-Chair of the Sport Law Committee) –Jill Pilgrim, Pam Lester*

Jill Pilgrim addressed the circumstances surrounding Jeff Aber stepping down as Co-Chair—he had a lot of personal & professional commitments that made him unable to continue. He was an amazing co-Chair and will be missed!

Jill Pilgrim transitioned into her introduction to her long-time friend and colleague, Pam Lester. Pam has been on both the legal side of entertainment as well as the business executive (C-Suite) and expressed that she is happy to join us. We welcome her to the EASL EC!

Jill also reported that she and Pam are already working on a program to celebrate the actual anniversary of Title IX (which is June 23rd).

- b) *May 12, 2022 - Spring Meeting – with Stan Soocher – Motion Pictures Committee*

The Chair reported that this meeting already has fourteen registrants, and Sharmin Woodall confirmed. The Chair also reported that a coupon code was offered so that the members of the Directors Guild, Producer's Guild, SAG-AFTRA, Color Change, and the Academy can attend for \$75.

Bob Seigel reported that the first panel will be from 12pm to around 1:30pm. Ethan (the Chair) will be moderating that panel. After the first panel, Stan Soocher's panel will begin. Another email blast will be going out to let people know about the panels.

Larry Sapadin added that it would be a great idea to promote the names of the panelists as previous promotions have not included the names. The panelists for this first panel on the meeting would be a big draw.

The Chair asked Sharmin what the next steps will be for the emails for this event. Sharmin confirmed that she will be sharing the information for registration on the EASL Community page after today's meeting and the email blast will go out either Friday (5/6) or Monday (5/9). Sharmin also let us know that there will be one e-blast for the Spring Meeting, and it will also be included in the weekly email.

- c) *June 2, 2022 – Freelancers Event – Rosemarie Tully, Anne LaBarbera, Diane Krausz, Bob Seigel*

Rosemarie reported that Cheryl Davis will be moderating this event and that it will be a lunchtime event. The topic of discussion will be the Freelance Isn't Free Bill that NY State is looking to make a law. The Author's Guild is heavily supporting this bill and through Cheryl, this event committee is looking to get their policy spokesperson to speak on the panel. Diane is also reaching out to the VLA to see how the NYC Freelance law is working out.

Anne LaBarbera reported that the Employment Law Committee is interested in co-sponsoring this event. Rosemarie reported that Bridget Donlon is coordinating the co-sponsorship communication, and Bridget confirmed that the Employment Law Committee has confirmed but the Media Law Committee has not. Bridget also mentioned that there was likely interest from the Young Lawyers Section. Anne LaBarbera can talk to Young Lawyers because she is the chair there and Judy Bass is a liaison for the Media Law Committee.

Judy reported that she spoke with Jacqueline Shell about the possible co-sponsorship, but she just wanted to share it with the committee members first. Bridget confirmed that with co-Sponsorship all that role requires is lending the name of the committee and then there is discounted attendance for committee members.

- d) *June 18th – Section Caucus/House of Delegates Meeting – Steve Richman*

Steve reported that the full agenda for this meeting hasn't been distributed yet, but there is a new resident of NYSBA who will start in June. There is an in-person meeting on Saturday morning and a Friday afternoon session as well.

e) *Chair needed for Publicity, Privacy and Media*

The Chair reported that there is still an opening and a need for a chair of the Publicity, Privacy, and Media Committee and made a call for volunteers. Marc Jacobson asked if there are members of the committee that are seeking a chair or if it was a committee that had no chair [and no members, assumedly]. Sharmin made a note that she can look up the exact number of members of that committee. Barry Werbin offered that there were a few members of that committee.

f) *Co-Chairs needed for Cowan/Bresler Committee*

The Chair reported that we will need two co-Chairs for the Scholarship Committee. He is stepping down due to being the EASL Chair and Christine-Marie will stay on this committee. The Chair reported that the roles are only intensive in the fall and especially the December/January period with submissions and grading. He also plans to have this committee reach out to the schools around Labor Day this year. If anyone is interested in co-Chairing this committee, they are encouraged to reach out to him

g) *Sponsorships – Anne LaBarbera, Phillip Hurwitz*

The Chair reported that he had been in conversations about creating a Sponsorship Committee, it is in the works. Those who have volunteered have put together a great letter to send out to prospective sponsors so, there needs to be a brainstorming session for prospective sponsors for different events.

Anne LaBarbera reported that they've just started putting together the materials for this Committee. Phillip Hurwitz reported on where he was in the process of drafting the introduction letter, Marc Jacobson volunteered to participate as he has been so successful at securing sponsorships for EASL or so long.

Marc suggested that we start with a menu of offerings like we always do for the MBLC.

6) Other Initiatives and New Business:

a) *EASL By-Laws – EASL EC review; Barry Werbin, Barry Skidelsky*

Barry Werbin reported that Sharmin distributed the latest version of the bylaws, and that the EC will have time between the two meetings to look over them and ask any questions.

Rosemarie Tully asked about the removal of the Second Vice Chair Position. The Chair assured that the current Vice Chair will finish their term. Rosemarie also gave us the backstory on how that role came to be for the sake of continuity in leadership for the EC. Barry Werbin responded that the By-Laws Committee viewed the role as unnecessary, especially after having considered the roles of the Chair and the Vice Chair and the history of both not having dropped at the same time. The bylaws also give the EC the power to replace an officer who has resigned. Rosemarie responded that it may not be a position that we always must fill but we may not need to remove the position altogether.

Barry Skidelsky noted that Rosemarie made some valid points and that we don't have to decide today because we have some time to think about it. He also had questions about the effective date about the bylaws once we submit them, noting that the section vote will be done in January 2023 at the Annual Meeting. The Chair decided that we will defer this vote on the Second Vice Chair position to the June EC Meeting. Judy Bass agreed that this was a good idea because there may be other comments on the bylaws that need to be addressed.

Barry Werbin asked Sharmin about the cover materials that were sent out along with the updated bylaws. Sharmin, Barry Skidelsky and Steve confirmed that they were there. Barry Skidelsky gave the EC a rundown of the changes that were addressed in the cover materials.

We also took a poll of where the EC was in the status of removing the Second Vice Chair position. *To be clear, this was poll and **not** an official vote.*

Rosemarie also asked Steve if removing the floor nomination language from the bylaws was the right thing to do. Steve explained the positioning on removing the language as in the last 20-30 years no one has ever nominated themselves from the floor so it doesn't look like it will be an issue in the future. A few EC members addressed their concerns of the plausibility of someone who had never been involved randomly nominating themselves from the floor of the Annual Meeting.

Anne LaBarbera very fairly addressed the issue of democracy, specifically of how one would then go about becoming an active member of the EC and becoming an officer. The Chair and Steve Richman addressed the usual path to involvement, which is usually someone reaching out to a current EC member and expressing interest in involvement. They are then invited to apply for an entry level position and then move their way up through the committee. In collective recent recollection, no one has ever been rejected.

The Chair let us know that if anyone is interested in joining the section committees to send them to him. Also, that he would like to get a welcome letter together to send to new members.

b) *EASL Mentorship Program*

The Chair briefly spoke about his progress on the Mentorship program. He mentioned that Isaro Carter and Mariam Chubinidzhe have already volunteered. Judah Shapiro also volunteered.

7) Chair's Remarks

Ethan thanked everyone for all of their hard work for all of the programs they've been putting on and planning. He has called for ideas for Fall and Winter events—we can send him an email after brainstorming our ideas. The Chair has also asked that we begin planning things further in advance because more time is better in terms of planning. To that effect, Rosemarie noted that the first MBLC meeting will be on 5/5.

Ethan asked Steve Richman about the Talent Agencies Act. Steve reported that he and Marc had a call with NYSBA's lobbyist and the Director of Legislation for Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (who is the Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee) but they haven't heard back from them yet. The Chair explained that Marc gave a great breakdown about the issues and what is being discussed about this Act—managers don't have as stringent guidelines as lawyers and that we should be exempt from those things if we elect to operate in the same areas as they do.

8) Future EC Meetings - Save the Date:

The next EASL EC Meeting will be Wednesday, June 1st, 2022, from 12:30 pm – 2 pm.

Future Meeting Dates are as follows:

July/August – No meeting

September 7th, 2022

October 12th, 2022

November 2nd, 2022

December 7th, 2022

9) Adjournment. The EC meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Isaro Carter, EASL Secretary