

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

**Executive Committee Hybrid Meeting –
(Wednesday) December 6, 2023, at 12:30 PM**

Minutes of EASL EC Meeting

Attending by Virtual Conference/Telephone: Andrew Seiden, Anne Atkinson, Avita Delerme, Barry Skidelsky, Barry Werbin, Carol Steinberg, Cheryl Davis, Christine-Marie Lauture, David Friedlander, Diane Krausz, Elissa D. Hecker, Ethan Bordman, Ezra Doner, Imraan Farukhi, Isaro Carter, Jake Dore, Jason Baruch, Judah Shapiro, Judith (Judy) Bass, Judith Prowda, Kathy Kim, Larry Sapadin, Louise Carron, Les Greenbaum, Leslie Mark Greenbaum, Louise Carron, Marc Jacobson, Pam Lester, Phillip Hurwitz, Paul LiCalsi, Rosemarie Tully, Sharmin Woodall, and Steve Rodner.

1. **Approval of December 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The motion to review the November 2023 minutes has been tabled until the annual meeting.¹

2. **EASL Journal Status** – (Elissa Hecker)

Elissa shared that we were waiting on printed copies. The Spring 2024 Issue deadline is December 22, 2023. Elissa said she is always looking for submissions for the Journal & the EASL Blog.

3. **Financial Report** - (Judah Shapiro, Treasurer)

Judah provided a financial update, noting that the October figures for 2023 are in parallel with those from 2019, representing a 90% similarity in year-to-date comparisons. He highlighted a lower year-to-date expense but emphasized the importance of monitoring future trends. Judah anticipates providing a year-end report, potentially by the next meeting.

4. **Committee/Program Reports/Updates (ad hoc)**

4.1. **Sponsorship Committee**

Ethan mentioned they would circle back to discussing sponsorships, emphasizing the importance of great partnerships. He encouraged anyone with leads or ideas for sponsorships for the annual meeting to reach out to either Chairperson or himself, as there is ample time, approximately six weeks, to explore and secure sponsorships.

¹ The EC initially received the wrong version of the minutes.

5. Other Initiatives and New Business

5.1. Budgets for Section – Start thinking about initiatives for 2024 & Beyond

Ethan encouraged the EC to start thinking about initiatives for 2024. He reiterated the importance of considering new ideas. Ethan also mentioned a recent initiative from the Sports Committee, which involves monthly brown bag sessions. These sessions are casual events featuring a speaker. He expressed that it was a terrific event, suggesting that such gatherings could be beneficial regularly.

5.2. House of Delegates – Bennett Liebman – November 2024 Meeting - Recap

Barry Skidelsky shared that Bennet Liebman was not going to make the meeting, but Bennett has agreed to become the alternate delegate effective June 1, 2024.

5.3. Nominating committee- Barry Werbin

Barry Werbin provided an update on the nominating committee's progress, mentioning their extensive efforts through emails and Zoom meetings. He informed the group that they have a recommended slate for the upcoming positions, detailed in the agenda. However, there is still a vacancy for the assistant secretary/assistant treasurer role. Barry explained that they are actively seeking a younger member who has not yet been deeply involved in senior management of the EC. The committee has a shortlist of potential candidates and is waiting to hear from them.

Barry Werbin presented the proposed slate for the upcoming positions, pending approval and voting by the EC. The suggested slate includes Sarah Robertson as the chair, Judy Bass as the first vice chair, and Judah Shapiro as the second vice chair. The treasurer position will be filled by Isaro Carter, who has accepted the role after serving three years as secretary. The assistant secretary position is proposed for Christine-Marie Lauture, and Louise Carron is recommended for secretary. Barry Skidelsky and Ben Liebman are mentioned as current and future delegates based on the membership threshold, with Bennett serving until May 2024. Barry Skidelsky is also set to become the chair of the section's caucus. Barry Werbin noted that no changes are suggested for district reps. The EC is called upon to approve the slate, and the assistant treasurer's approval will be handled via email with a subsequent poll for voting within the next week or so.

5.4. Membership Committee

Barry Skidelsky suggested that members of the Membership Committee and Cowan Bresler Scholarship Committee coordinate with Ethan and Sharmin to promote scholarship opportunities actively. He recommended reaching out to law students, encouraging them to apply for the scholarship, and spreading the word that they can join EASL for free, even if they are not specifically interested in the scholarship.

Barry Skidelsky shared that in his anticipated role as section caucus chair, he aims to promote greater collaboration between sections and encourage them to adopt engagement guidelines similar to those implemented by EASL, thanks to Marc Jacobson's efforts. He highlighted an example of the importance of a pipeline program for diversity. Barry S. emphasized the goal of aligning with a more organized pipeline system, mirroring the Association's structure. He stated the need for a coordinated plan to achieve diversity goals, referencing the aim to reach 1,500 members by the year-end.

Ethan motioned for the EASL Executive Committee to accept the proposed slate from the nominating committee for 2024 to 2026, as presented by Barry Werbin. Barry Werbin seconded the motion and thirded by Carol Steinberg. There were no opposing votes or abstentions, and the motion passed.

Ethan mentioned that he plans to contact liaisons who are law student representatives for the current membership. He emphasized that this approach is the fastest way to enroll new members as they can join for free, and to consider this time especially since law students have upcoming final exams. With a dozen law schools in consideration, this strategy could potentially result in nearly instantaneously increasing the membership by 54 people. Ethan expressed his intent to work on this outreach initiative.

5.5. *The Organization of Major Sports Events: Opportunities and Challenges – International Section – December 5th 12pm Eastern/6pm Central (Paris Time) - Pitor Wojtowicz, Barry Werbin – Recap*

Barry Werbin shared feedback on a co-sponsored program by the State Bar's International Section, EASL's International Section, and Sports Section. He praised the program but noted it could have been better planned timewise, initially set for a 60-minute international webinar that faced timing issues. Barry mentioned a registration problem, stating he received no announcements from EASL or the State Bar about the program one week before the event. He expressed uncertainty about the final registration count. Despite these issues, Barry acknowledged the program's excellence, featuring speakers from the Paris 2024 Olympics, LA 2028 Olympics, FIFA, and Legends Hospitality. The discussion covered significant challenges like ambush marketing, IP control, sponsorship issues, and the practicalities of managing large-scale global events.

5.6. Talent Agencies Act of New York –

Ethan briefly mentioned that there is little happening until January 2024. He informed the group about a previous phone call with Senator Kevin's office, during which he and Mark Jacobson discussed proposed legislation. Ethan plans to follow up in January to ensure that the matter is brought to the floor of the State Legislature. He noted he will do the appropriate introductions to the new EASL Chair to take over the next steps.

5.7. MBLC

Rosemarie Tully discussed the challenges and successes of the recent event, acknowledging the twists and turns leading up to it, with a few surprises on the day itself. She expressed gratitude to Joyce Dollinger for her significant efforts in organizing the program. Rosemarie also thanked the co-chairs, including Paul LiCalsi, Diane Krausz, Steve Rodner, Jared Leibowitz, Marc Jacobson, and Brian Caplan. Special mention was made to Sharmin, referred to as the "unstoppable super," for her flexibility and contributions. Rosemarie highlighted the importance of law student volunteers who helped manage the technical aspects of the event. Despite initial uncertainty about the reception, she was pleased that many attendees stayed, making the day a success. She praised the fantastic panels and closed by expressing anticipation for the litigation, which did not disappoint at the end of the day.

Sharmin mentioned that the event recording has been edited but is taking some time to be uploaded to the dashboard. If any registered individuals want to be transferred the recording on-demand or online version, they need to reach out to her. Although it is not ready yet, Sharmin assured that the recording is being prepared.

5.8. NYSBA:

Ethan raised concerns about reported issues with the NYSBA EASL website, particularly regarding registration problems for events like the annual meeting and difficulties logging into the site. He asked if anyone else had faced similar problems and encouraged them to share their issues so that Sharmin could investigate and address the website-related issues. It was mentioned that members of the EC had issues navigating the website to register for both the general program and the EASL program and reception. There were requests for assistance through the chat to register by telephone, successfully signing up for the event and EASL program but not the reception. It was highlighted that there is a lack of information about the cost and registration process for the reception. While there might be a new way to register online, they emphasized the importance of ensuring that phone support staff have accurate cost information and can assist in registering for all components, including receptions, especially for individuals less familiar with online processes.

5.9. Diversity Committee – Anne Atkinson, Cheryl Davis, Robert Seigel, Larry Sapadin

Anne provided a comprehensive summary of the speakers and topics covered in the program. The program covered diversity programs in various guilds, State tax credits, diversity efforts in awards shows, and an interview with the author of the UCLA Hollywood Diversity Report. Anne expressed appreciation for the efforts of everyone involved, acknowledged the attendance both online and in person, and mentioned the challenges in encouraging more in-person participation. She thanked Larry Sapadin for his contributions and highlighted the need to address notification issues for future events.

5.10. The Future of ADR in Sports – Kyle-Beth Hilfer

Kyle Beth was not present at the meeting.

5.11. Law Students in the Mix: An EASL Networking Event – Possible Dates - February (13, 15, 20, or 22) 2024, Kristin Paradisis

Kristin was not present, but Ethan mentioned Kristin has potential speakers for the upcoming event, including Andrew Morris III from the National Football Players Association, Honor Williams from Blavity, and Charlie Larios from Sony Music Entertainment. She also invited recommendations for arts or fashion attorneys to speak. An e-blast will be circulated once all speakers are confirmed.

5.12. Negotiating Sports Contracts – The Basics – Jill Pilgrim & Pam Lester

Pam shared that the event focused on activating and attracting younger members to the organization. Pam shared plans for monthly events, with the next one scheduled for January 8th, covering the negotiation of sports contracts. The speakers for this event are Brian Sokolow, the chair of the Logan Lobe Sports Law Practice, and Chinette Cohen, the executive director of the Hampshire Classic Horseshow. Pam invited suggestions for future speakers and topics, emphasizing the informal and flexible nature of the monthly events.

5.13. AI Committee Update Task Force - Barry Werbin, Judy Bass

Barry W. mentioned his focus on AI in the context of the annual meeting, highlighting a planned panel on the impacts of AI on the entertainment industry. They have already conducted an initial planning call for this event. Barry W. acknowledged the abundance of AI-related activities and updates across various organizations, and they plan to delve deeper into internal AI updates after the New Year. The presidential summit at the annual meeting will feature a panel discussion on AI as one of the topics.

5.14. Annual Meeting – Thursday, January 18th, 2024 10:30 am to 11:30 am – at Dorsey

Ethan provided information about the upcoming annual meeting on Thursday, the eighteenth. He mentioned an open house at the Hilton where various committees, including Sports, Motion Pictures, MBLC/Music, Theater & Performing Arts, ADR, Diversity and Fine Arts will have tables. He checked if any other committees wanted a table for the open house. He outlined the schedule, including the EC meeting from 11:30am to about 12:45pm, followed by the annual meeting. Ethan reminded everyone about the December 15 deadline for early bird pricing at \$120, including registration for the annual meeting and the section. He clarified that this fee covers the presidential summit despite the registration process indicating it as "included." Ethan mentioned that the price would increase by about \$100 after December 15.

Ethan provided an update on the annual meeting agenda. The first panel will focus on "Making Sense of Fair Use in a Post-Warhol World," featuring Michael Donaldson, Philippa Leongard, and Amy Adler as speakers. The second panel, moderated by Pam Lester and Jill Pilgrim, will be "The Influence of Money in College Sports: Coaches' Salaries, Student-Athlete Name-Image-Likeness, Conference TV Deals, Gambling & Title IX". The event will conclude with an "The Impact of AI on Entertainment" panel featuring Ann Burdick, Jonathan Handel, Umair Kazi, and Vish Mohan, Esq.

Ethan opened the floor for discussion and emphasized the need for speaker materials and bios as soon as possible. He also mentioned a request for a table for diversity, which was approved.

6. **Chair's Remarks**

Ethan mentioned briefly The Presidential summit is scheduled from 1 to 4 PM on January 17th, the day before the annual meeting. For those attending in person, it's an opportunity to participate in the summit.

7. **Dates of Future EC Meetings – Save the Date:**

Future Meeting Dates – Wednesdays 12:30pm – 2pm

2024

Thursday, January 18th, 2024 – Annual Meeting – see above for Tentative Schedule

First Wednesday of the Month

February 7th

March 6th

April 3rd

May 1st

June 5th

July - NO Meeting

August - NO Meeting

September 4th

October 9th (Moved as Religious Holiday on October 2nd)

November 6th

December 4th

Respectfully submitted,
Isaro Carter, EASL Secretary