

Canadian Association for Legal Ethics
Annual General Meeting
London, Ontario – Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre
Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 7:30am

Attendees:

John Law (Alberta), Stephen Pitel (Western), Helena Lamed (McGill), Brent Cotter (Saskatchewan), Richard Devlin (Schulich/Dalhousie), Alice Woolley (Calgary), Amy Salczyn (Ottawa), Gavin Hume (FLSC), Anne Vespry, Micah Rankin (Thomson Rivers), David Wiseman (Ottawa), Alain Roussy (Ottawa), Mahnam Malamiry (Osgoode/York)

1. Call to Order

Brent Cotter (chairing) called the meeting to order at 7:35am.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: to adopt the agenda (Law; seconded Woolley). Carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting as circulated in draft (Hume; seconded Law). Carried.

4. President's Report

Richard Devlin thanked Stephen Pitel for hosting the 2015 annual conference. He thanked those present for getting up sufficiently early to attend the meeting.

Richard Devlin explained that CALE has lost its status as a registered charity as a result of an inadvertent failure to provide information as required to the charity authorities. He does not see this as a significant problem for CALE. It would be difficult to restore the status and so he does not propose doing so. Stephen Pitel commented that if a charitable vehicle were needed for a particular donation, it might be possible to use one of the members' universities, such as the host for the annual conference.

Richard Devlin noted that the CALE liason committee, working with the FLSC Model Code committee, had become inactive. Its work had been superseded by the FLSC adopting an open process for consultation and revisions on the Model Code, so that all members of CALE could be involved, as they chose, with the FLSC Model Code committee.

Richard Devlin noted that there had been a strong Canadian contingent at ILEC in London in July 2014. He also chronicled several recent appointments of legal ethics academics at various Canadian law schools.

Richard Devlin announced that the CALE legal ethics videos and accompanying guide are now available. There had been a formal launch event in Halifax, a media release and several news stories. The videos are on a password-protected part of the CALE website and the password can be obtained from him.

Richard Devlin reported that the results of his recent survey of members indicated strong interest in creating a password-protected exam bank, so he would set this in motion. He aims to cover exams from the past three years.

Richard Devlin reported that the results of his recent survey of members indicated little support for CALE taking public positions on issues. Concerns were expressed about how CALE would decide what positions to take and when to take them. He proposes not to pursue this issue further.

5. Election of Directors

The following were nominated to serve as directors until the next Annual General Meeting and agreed to stand: Brent Cotter, Richard Devlin, Adam Dodek, Jasminka Kalajdzic and Alice Woolley. There were no additional nominations. Those nominated were acclaimed.

6. Appointment of Officers

Motion: to appoint the following officers until the next Annual General Meeting: Brent Cotter (Chair of the Board), Richard Devlin (President), Alice Woolley (Vice President), Stephen Pitel (Corporate Secretary and Treasurer), Chantal Morton (Chief Information Officer), Mariette Brennan and Helena Lamed (Membership Coordinators), Marie-Claude Rigaud (Conference Coordinator) (Roussy; seconded Vespry). Carried.

Richard Devlin noted that it is expected that in a year's time some current directors and officers will decline to serve, opening up some positions. He encouraged expressions of interest from those willing to become involved in these roles.

7. Future Conferences and Annual General Meetings

Universite de Montreal offered to host October 23-24, 2015. This was enthusiastically accepted. Volunteering for the organizing committee, working with Conference Coordinator Marie-Claude Rigaud, are Helena Lamed, Stephen Pitel, Alice Woolley, Alain Roussy and Anne Vespry.

Stephen Pitel reported that the \$1800 provided by Calgary and Saskatchewan for the 2014 conference had been preserved and would be passed along to Montreal along with an additional small surplus of around \$500.

Stephen Pitel asked whether, with ILEC being at Fordham University in New York City in 2016, CALE should have its 2016 Annual General Meeting at that event as has happened at ILEC in 2012 in Banff. The consensus of the members was that in 2016 there should still be a Canadian venue for the CALE conference and Annual General Meeting. Gavin Hume pointed out that the

presentations at the CALE conferences of late had been of greater direct interest and relevance than those at ILEC, so he would value it happening each year. Richard Devlin thought that momentum should be kept up on the domestic front. There was some support for the idea that in 2016 a central Canadian law school should host to keep costs down, given the additional expense for some in 2016 of going to ILEC.

8. New Business

Brent Cotter addressed the idea, raised at the previous Annual General Meeting, of creating videos on substantive legal ethics topics that could be used by students working to meet the National Committee on Accreditation's competency in legal ethics. A subcommittee had been formed a year ago to consider this project but had not moved forward. He had spoken with Deborah Wolfe, Managing Director of the NCA, who had expressed interest in these videos. Gavin Hume confirmed that the FLSC had allocated \$150,000 to fund legal ethics projects and that could include the creating of these videos.

Richard Devlin informed members that Marie-Claude Rigaud had asked whether steps could be taken to increase discussion in French on the e-mail list. The members thought that posts in French to the current list should be encouraged and engaged with, and that this approach was better than creating a separate e-mail list in French. Blog posts in French should also be provided to Chantal Morton. Helena Lamed noted a desire to extend our audience into French communities, even for our English discussion, and that this could happen if more French was used on the e-mail list.

The members expressed thanks to Richard Devlin for organizing the Annual General Meeting, including preparing the materials for it, in the absence of the outgoing Corporate Secretary and Treasurer.

9. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn (Woolley; no seconder). Taken as carried.