

Canadian Association for Legal Ethics / Association canadienne pour l'éthique juridique

Annual General Meeting – Minutes

Faculty of Law, University of Victoria

Saturday, October 21, 2023 – All Times Local Time

Members Present: Basil Alexander (UNB), Gideon Christian (Calgary), Emma Cunliffe (UBC), Adam Dodek (UOttawa), Julia Hughes (Lakehead), Phil Lord (Moncton), Gillian MacNeil (Manitoba), Shadi Nasseri (Osgoode), Wendy Parkes (Lakehead), Pooja Parmar (UVic), Stephen Pitel (Western), Amy Salzyzn (UOttawa), Deanne Sowter (Osgoode), Chris Sprysak (Alberta), Ian Stedman (York), Alan Treleaven (UVic), Rob Lapper (UVic) (joined at 8:37 am)

Observers Present: Michael Lucas (LSBC) (joined at 8:37 am), Mark Mossey (FLSC) (joined at 8:37 am), Lesley Small (LSBC) (joined at 8:37 am), Simon Wallace (Osgoode) (joined at 9:16 am)

Regrets: Richard Devlin (Dalhousie), Andrew Martin (Dalhousie)

Amy Salzyzn (Chair of the Board) chaired the meeting, and Basil Alexander (Corporate Secretary, Treasurer, and Chief Information Officer) took the minutes.

1. Call to Order – Amy Salzyzn called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Julia Hughes, seconded by Pooja Parmar to adopt the agenda – **Carried**.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Gillian MacNeil, seconded by Alan Treleaven to approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting as circulated – **Carried** with Emma Cunliffe abstaining.

4. Approval of Members

Moved by Gillian MacNeil, seconded by Emma Cunliffe to approve all of the individuals listed on the website under the heading “Members” as the current members of CALE/ACEJ (with any other previous outstanding memberships terminated).

Motion **carried unanimously**.

5. President's Report

Stephen Pitel provided the following President's Report:

We are in the course of hosting a successful annual conference. Thanks are due to Vice-President Pooja Parmar, her team of colleagues and the University of Victoria for their superb organization efforts. Thanks are also due to FLSC for financial support.

We transitioned important aspects of our information technology. After many years of excellent work, Amy Salyzyn ceased to be Chief Information Officer. Basil Alexander agreed to take up the position. Amy has transitioned running the web site to Basil and to me and running the listserv to Basil. Basil in turn successfully migrated the listserv from University of Ottawa to a public, more accessible platform. We have kept the web site information current and updated it as a record of key events during the year.

In May 2023, we implemented a new Travel Grant Program to support graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the field of legal ethics and professionalism who attend the annual conference. We were able to do this because of funds we receive from production and sales of Woolley, Devlin & Cotter, *Lawyers' Ethics and Professional Regulation*, 4th ed (2021). Thanks are due to all involved in with that book.

We ran our annual awards program, and the selection committee awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award to Senator Brent Cotter. We did not receive submissions for the Best Paper Award.

We partnered with the CBA and FLSC in the running of the 2023 Ethics Forum, held in March in Toronto. We have subsequently worked with the FLSC and CBA to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to set out more formally the expectations of each partner for this annual event. It has not yet been signed but we expect that it will be in the autumn.

We made two formal submissions to the National Requirement Review Committee. This committee of the FLSC is considering changes to the requirements for the accredited common law degree. Our submissions are posted on our web site. They focus on aspects that deal with legal ethics and professionalism. We also wrote to the Model Code committee of the FLSC to urge it to move forward with changes to the Model Code on the issue of former judges returning to practice.

Through the actions of our directors we have continued to build awareness of CALE/ACEJ. Richard Devlin made submissions in Ottawa about changes to the *Judges Act*. Amy Salyzyn and Deanne Sowter are both active public commentators on legal ethics. Several directors co-wrote an article in the Canadian Bar Review analyzing the new *Ethical Principles for Judges*.

Amy Salyzyn thanked Basil Alexander for his work in transitioning the listserv to Google Groups.

6. Corporate Secretary and Treasurer's Report

Basil Alexander provided the Corporate Secretary and Treasurer's Report and explained the motions.

Key highlights included:

- Paper copies of the financial statement were available at the meeting, and copies were previously available through Corporations Canada for free.
- CRA approved change in fiscal year end to April 30th (in place as of 2022-23).
- Revenue for 2022-23 reflects two years of assigned casebook royalties (i.e. 2021 and 2022) paid in same year; casebook revenue expected to be in range of \$4,500-5,000 per year going forward.
- First Travel Grant expense reimbursements totalling \$1,000 will show up in next (2023-24) fiscal year.
- Tax and other corporate filings for 2022-23 are up to date.

Moved by Basil Alexander, seconded by Adam Dodek that the following motions be approved omnibus:

- Motion to approve the internal financial statements for 2022-23 as prepared by the Corporate Secretary and Treasurer and approved by the Board.
- Motion to approve the corporate and tax filings by the Corporate Secretary and Treasurer.
- Motion to waive any applicable statutory audit/review and public accountant appointment requirements until the next annual general meeting.

Omnibus Motion – **Carried unanimously.**

7. Election of Directors

Stephen Pitel noted that the current directors (Basil Alexander, Gideon Christian, Richard Devlin, Adam Dodek, Julia Hughes, Gillian MacNeil, Andrew Flavelle Martin, Pooja Parmar, Stephen Pitel, Amy Salzyn, Deanne Sowter) were all willing to serve another term. No further nominations were made.

Moved by Alan Treleaven, seconded by Emma Cunliffe to elect the noted individuals as CALE/ACEJ's directors for a term expiring as of the next Annual General Meeting (or until their successors are elected, if an election does not occur then).

Motion **carried.**

On general **consent**, the **AGM recessed** for the newly elected Board to hold its first meeting (to appoint officers and for other business), with the understanding the AGM would resume upon completion of the Board meeting.

AGM recessed at 8:44 am and resumed at 9:16 am.

8. Future Conferences and Annual General Meetings

Stephen Pitel announced that Dalhousie University will host the 2024 conference and AGM. It was appropriate to go back to Dalhousie since it last hosted the conference on behalf of eastern Canada seven years ago and since CALE/ACEJ's roots began with a small meeting at Dalhousie. He also advised that he is optimistic about finding other conference hosts for after 2024, although those discussions are only preliminary for now.

9. New Business

There was discussion about potential listserv reminder issues, and Basil Alexander will take the points raised into account when sending an appropriate update/reminder message to listserv subscribers.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Pooja Parmar, seconded by Julia Hughes that the meeting adjourn.

Motion **carried by consent**. Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am.