

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

Annual General Meeting (In Person) – Agenda

Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University

Saturday, October 26, 2024 – 8:30 am (Atlantic Time)

Members Present: Andrew Bernstein (Torys), Richard Devlin (Dalhousie), Adam Dodek (UOttawa), Matthew Dylag (Dalhousie), Julia Hughes (Lakehead), Gillian MacNeil (Manitoba), Andrew Martin (Dalhousie), Malcolm Mercer (LSO Tribunal), Tayo Olarewaju (UBC), Wendy Parkes (Lakehead), Pooja Parmar (UVic), Stephen Pitel (Western), Amy Salyzyn (UOttawa), Kerry Simmons (CBA BC), Les Walden (Justice)

Observers Present: Ifeanyi Henry Oguegbu (USask), Brandon Trask (Manitoba)

Regrets: Basil Alexander (UNB), Gideon Christian (Calgary), Deanne Sowter (Osgoode)

Amy Salyzyn (Chair of the Board) chaired the meeting, and Stephen Pitel (President) took the minutes.

1. **Call to Order** – Amy Salyzyn called the meeting to order at 8:29am.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Pooja Parmar, seconded by Gillian MacNeil, to adopt the agenda – **Carried**.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Julia Hughes, seconded by Gillian MacNeil, to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting as circulated – **Carried** with Andrew Martin abstaining.

4. Approval of Members

Motion by Julia Hughes, seconded by Andrew Martin, 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) – **Carried**.

There was a brief discussion of steps taken to keep the list on the website up-to-date.

5. President’s Report

Stephen Pitel provided the following President’s Report:

We are in the course of hosting a successful annual conference. Thanks to Richard Devlin, Rebecca Parker, their colleagues and the Schulich School of Law at Dalhousie University for their superb organization of the conference. Thanks also to the FLSC, the NSBS, the Law Foundation of Nova Scotia, McInnes Cooper and Cox & Palmer for their generous financial support.

There was a strong CALE/ACEJ presence at the International Legal Ethics Conference, held July 17-19, 2024 at the University of Amsterdam. Several of our members presented at the conference. Amy Salyzyn was elected to the board of the International Association of Legal Ethics, the organization that runs ILEC. The next ILEC will be in December 2026 at the University of Houston.

In April 2024 we offered a travel grant to support graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the field of legal ethics and professionalism who attend ILEC. In May 2024 we continued, for a second year, our Travel Grants Program for attending our annual conference. We were able to provide this support, benefitting four people in 2024, 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 John Law, long-time faculty member at the University of Alberta.

We partnered with the CBA and FLSC in the running of the 2024 Ethics Forum, held March 22 in Toronto. This was the first year under the framework in our Memorandum of Understanding with the CBA and the FLSC that sets out more formally the expectations of each partner for this annual event. I was the CALE/ACEJ co-chair. There were 70 paid registrants and feedback from attendees was quite positive. Next year's forum will be on March 28, 2025.

Under Basil Alexander's leadership, we had a solid year in managing our information technology. We maintained an informative listserv that reaches over a hundred readers [ed: about 350] interested in legal ethics and professionalism and kept our website up to date. The listserv remains a very effective way for CALE/ACEJ to inform the community of its key activities and initiatives.

We made a lengthy and detailed formal submission to the Model Code Committee of the FLSC. It is considering changes to the Model Code to address Call to Action 27 of the TRC Report. We also made a submission to the Law Society of Ontario in response to a consultation about increasing the scope of licensee reporting and disclosure of pending charges and findings of guilt. We continue to receive informal feedback about the usefulness of these submissions to the organizations that receive them.

The top issue of the past year was the impact of generative artificial intelligence. It took center stage at most conferences as the core theme or primary session. CALE/ACEJ is fortunate that two of our directors, Amy Salyzyn and Gideon Christian, are thought leaders in this area. They have endured a punishing schedule of presentations but in so doing they continue to build profile for CALE/ACEJ.

Amy Salyzyn expressed appreciation for the work of the President over the past year. Applause followed.

6. Corporate Secretary and Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Treasurer and Corporate Secretary Basil Alexander, the President presented his report as provided. Copies of the financial statement had been available in advance and were available at the meeting for review. Revenues reflect one year's worth of assigned royalties from the casebook and expenses of \$1000 funded the travel grant program. All tax and corporate filings are up-to-date.

Moved by Adam Dodek, seconded by Richard Devlin, to approve the following three motions together:

Motion to approve the internal financial statements for 2023-24 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.

Carried.

Adam Dodek expressed appreciation for the work of the Treasurer and Corporate Secretary over the past year.

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 Salyzyn, Deanne Sowter) were all willing to serve another term. No further nominations were made.

Moved by Les Walden, seconded by Kerry Simmons, 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 8:52am and resumed at 9:21am

8. Future Conferences and Annual General Meetings

Stephen Pitel announced that the University of Manitoba will host the 2025 conference in Winnipeg, with dates to be determined, chosen to avoid the annual FLSC meeting and, if possible, not to conflict with an annual access to justice conference in Ontario. No potential host has as of yet been identified for 2026, when it might seem to be Ontario's turn to host. Any interested members should contact the President.

9. New Business

No new business was raised.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Pooja Parmar, seconded by Andrew Bernstein, that the meeting adjourn. Motion **carried** by consent. Meeting adjourned at 9:26am.