

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

Annual General Meeting (In Person) – Minutes

Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Hosted by Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba

Saturday, October 25, 2025 – 8:30 am (Central Time)

Members Present: Jakub Adamski (McGill), Basil Alexander (TMU), Gideon Christian (UCalgary) (8:37 am), Richard Devlin (Dalhousie), Julia Hughes (Lakehead), Gillian MacNeil (Manitoba), Andrew Martin (Dalhousie), Malcolm Mercer (LSO Tribunal), Wendy Parkes (Lakehead) (8:39 am), Stephen Pitel (Western), Amy Salzyzn (UOttawa), Deanne Sowter (TMU), Alan Treleaven (UVic), Les Walden (Justice Canada)

Observers Present: Deborah Book (Law Society of Alberta), Andrea Hilland (UBC)

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 8:33 am.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Alan Treleaven, seconded by Gillian MacNeil, to adopt the agenda – **Carried**.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

The title was changed to “Minutes” instead of “Agenda”.

Moved by Julia Hughes, seconded by Andrew Martin, to approve the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting as amended – **Carried**.

4. Approval of Members

Moved by Andrew Martin, seconded by Deanne Sowter, 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**.

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 Gillian MacNeil and her colleagues and the Faculty of Law at the University of Manitoba for their superb organization of the conference. This is the first time the conference has been held in Manitoba. Thanks to the FLSC, the Manitoba Law Foundation, the Marcel A. Desautels Centre for Private Enterprise and the Law, the Law Society of Manitoba and the University of Manitoba for their generous financial support.

In spring 2025 we continued, for a third year, our Travel Grants Program for attending our annual conference. This year we awarded one grant. We were able to provide this support 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.

CALE/AJEC continues to maintain two annual awards to recognize achievements in the field of legal ethics. This year the selection committee awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award to Malcolm Mercer, former Treasurer of the Law Society of Ontario and current chair of the Law Society Tribunal, and the Best Paper Award to Tayo Olarewaju for "Ethnic Affiliation Encounters Legal Ethics".

We partnered with the CBA and FLSC in the running of the 2025 Ethics Forum, held March 28 in Toronto. This was the second 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/AJEC co-chair. There were 84 paid registrants and feedback from attendees was quite positive. Several of the presenters were directors and officers of CALE/AJEC. Next year's forum will be on March 27, 2026.

Amy Salyzyn continues to serve on 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. CALE is aware that travel to the United States is an issue for many of its members and continues to monitor the situation. We have heard that remote attendance at the conference is planned as an option.

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

We made a lengthy and detailed formal submission to the Equity and Indigenous Affairs Committee of the Law Society of Ontario on its Consultation Report – Indigenous Cultural Training Course. We are developing a submission to the FLSC's Model Code Committee in response to its consultation about revisions relating to the duty to report. We continue to receive informal feedback about the usefulness of these submissions to the organizations that receive them. We are also monitoring arguments being made by CAUT as an intervener in an appeal in Alberta dealing with the scope of academic research for purposes of freedom of information requests.

For several years we have not had a director from an institution in Quebec, which is a gap in representation. We are pleased to have recruited Jakub Adamski from McGill University to join the board this year. We hope that this will assist us in staying connected to developments from *la belle province*.

Jakub Adamski thanked Stephen for reaching out to him to join the Board.

6. Corporate Secretary and Treasurer's Report

Basil Alexander, the Treasurer, Corporate Secretary, and Chief Information Officer presented his report on CALE/ACEJ's finances and the 2024/25 fiscal year. Key highlights included:

- Copies of the financial statement had been available in advance and were available at the meeting for review.
- The financial statements continue to be on a cash basis.
- Revenue from the assigned casebook royalties in 2024/25 was in line with expectations, and we expect at least one more year of revenue before the next edition.
- Graduate travel grants were disbursed totaling \$2500 in 2024/25 - \$1,000 for ILEC and \$1,500 for CALE/ACEJ conference.
 - In 2025/26, currently expecting \$500 for CALE/ACEJ conference, and ILEC will depend on whether the conference occurs and anyone goes.
- Some minor ongoing maintenance expenses not claimed in 2024/25 (e.g. website and domain name), will appear in 2025/26.
- All tax and corporate filings for 2024/24 are up to date.

Moved by Basil Alexander, seconded by Julia Hughes, to approve the following three motions together:

Motion to approve the internal financial statements for 2024-25 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.

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. Jakub Adamski is also being put forward to join the Board to fill the current QC gap, which will necessitate an increase in the Board's size from 11 to 12. No concerns were raised nor were any further nominations made.

Moved by Stephen Pitel, seconded by Richard Devline to increase the size of the Board of Directors to 12 – **Carried.**

Moved by Stephen Pitel, seconded by Andrew Martin, 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) – **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 8:47 am and resumed at 9:10 am.

8. Future Conferences and Annual General Meetings

Stephen Pitel announced that the Lincoln Alexander School of Law at Toronto Metropolitan University will host the 2026 conference in Toronto, with tentative dates of October 22-24, 2026 (pending scheduling of the annual FLSC meeting and other confirmations). He noted the various factors leading to this decision, including it being while since the conference was in Ontario and Toronto and the presence of two Board members now at Lincoln Alexander Law.

Basil Alexander and Deanne Sowter provide related comments as the conference co-coordinators, including potentially organizing a resulting special edition of the TMU Law Review for interested conference presenters. Discussion ensued about potential ideas and suggestions for the 2026 conference, including a special speaker with mandatory JD student attendance as part of a course, involving JD students more in the conference, issues for Teaching Panels as a result of JD student attendance, and promoting the conference within the law school and with alumni.

9. New Business

No new business was raised.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Gillian MacNeil, seconded by Julia Hughes, that the meeting adjourn – **Carried**.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 am.