

Remarks from the Chair Happy Anniversary, EASL!

Included in this Special Edition of the *Journal* are articles from many of our Section Committees, wherein they discuss transitions in their particular fields of focus over the past 25 years and provide some clues as to where the field and the law may be headed. Collectively, they provide a unique overview of entertainment, arts and sports law which you are sure to enjoy.



Special thanks goes to our *Journal* Editor, Elissa Hecker, for her passion and expertise in making every edition of the *EASL Journal* extraordinary.

Our Anniversary Celebration is the product of a year's planning by our dedicated Anniversary Committee co-chaired by Jason Aylesworth, Marc Jacobson, Pamela Jones and Megan Maxwell. The Committee chose Monday, May 6, 2013 for the Gala Event. Its vision of a day of engaging CLE and an evening of lively entertainment created the perfect balance for our members. The Committee's goal was to offer something for every member—a program introducing Art Law for the novice, a Sports Law roundtable during lunch, focused CLE in the afternoon, and the levity of entertainer Jackie Hoffman in the evening over dinner at *54 Below* (known as Broadway's Night Club). To accommodate members traveling from various parts of the state, the Anniversary Committee secured favorable rates at The Warwick Hotel and organized dinner and entertainment events for the Sunday before. We are grateful to our Anniversary Committee for its extraordinary efforts and care in creating a most memorable experience and tribute to EASL on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary. Thank you to all Anniversary Committee members: Anne Atkinson, Jayson Aylesworth, Jason Baruch, Judith Bresler, Elissa Hecker, Marc Jacobson, Pamela Jones, Ezgi Kaya, Diane Krausz, Megan Maxwell, Steve Rodner, Barry Skidelsky, Jessica Thaler, Irina Tarsis, and Szyuan Zhu.

In 1984, EASL began as a Special Committee on Entertainment Law with about 20 members organized by Marc Jacobson. In 1988, it acquired Section status with Marc as Founding Chair. In its early years, EASL produced a variety of programs for its members with a selection of specialized courses and, in alternating years, a comprehensive, day-long seminar on entertainment law for the general practitioner. To this day, I still have the various program materials and can vividly recall many of the speakers, most of whom are legends in their fields, and the pearls of wisdom they generously imparted. In addi-

tion to the programs, EASL established its *Journal*, which would be published three times a year. Containing both scholarly and informal articles, the *Journal* was (and continues to be) distributed to Section members, and is now found in law schools and nationally and internationally by subscription.

Over time, EASL has consistently taken on new challenges and now, in addition to the mainstays of CLE programs and illuminating *Journal* articles, EASL offers its members a myriad of avenues to participate in shaping the evolution of the practice of law in the entertainment, arts and sports fields, as well as opportunities for public service. Among them are:

EASL Committees—These are the engines of our exceptional programming. We are fortunate to have great leaders in our various committees who continue to innovate with programs, such as the two-day *Legal Aspects of Producing Live Theater* (April 2013—Jason Baruch and Diane Krausz, Co-Chairs) and dare to bring the controversial to fore, e.g., *Is Manga a Crime? Non-photographic Images, Child Pornography and Freedom of Expression* (May 2012—combined committee Co-Chairs Jason Aylesworth, Megan Maxwell, Judith Prowda, Andrew Seiden); or be wildly adventurous with *The Business Entertainment Law Seminar at the CMJ Music Marathon* (October 2012—Christine Pepe and Keenan Popwell, Co-Chairs), or be simply sublime by organizing a tour of the Whitney Museum for its Biennial (May 2012—combined Committee Co-Chairs Ezgi Kaya, Kibum Kim and Judith Prowda). EASL Committees are open to all members, and we thank all of our committee members who continue to surprise and delight us with new adventures year after year.

EASL's Online Blog—Since its inception in 2009, I have been in awe of EASL's online Blog. Edited by Elissa Hecker, the Blog is a font of current information about the status of the law in the areas of entertainment, arts and sports. From *Hemingway's Cats* to the recent NHL lockout, you never know what you will next encounter in the EASL Blog, but you can be sure it will be timely, engaging, and informative. Most importantly, it is the constant flow of our members' contributions that keep the dialogue going.

EASL's Pro Bono Service—Under the leadership of EASL's Pro Bono Steering Committee (Elissa Hecker, Carol J. Steinberg, Kathy Kim, and Irina Tarsis), our members volunteer their time to do the public good by providing workshops, seminars, and legal advice to deserving artists *pro bono*. Any member may volunteer, and those that do return time and again to perform this meaningful service.

EASL's Mentor Program—Organized by EASL's Diversity Committee (Anne Atkinson and Cheryl Davis, Co-Chairs) this program aims to bring together seasoned practitioners and young attorneys to learn from each other. Sometimes we learn best by teaching, and EASL's mentorship program provides that opportunity to members through this rewarding experience. To be a mentor, you only need to offer a minimum of one hour per month of your time for a commitment of six months, and have at least three years of practical experience. For more information, please visit www.nysba.org/easlmentor.

EASL's Listserve—EASL's Listserve is an online discussion forum for members only. Here, members have the opportunity to share ideas, discuss topical issues, and learn from each other, without leaving their office chairs.

Back in 1993, when I first joined NYSBA, I thoroughly enjoyed EASL's general practitioner programs. As I continued my career, I looked forward to EASL's focused programs and *Journal* publications, and its expanded offerings as the years unfolded. Today, I value EASL as an open source for lively debate, scholarly instruction, challenging expansion, diversity in thought and person, and, perhaps most important, for the welcoming community of professionals that the Section continues to be.

So on this auspicious occasion of EASL's 25th Anniversary, I offer my sincere thanks and my applause to you, our members, for your time and energy in being active in our Section and for your support of our programs and events each year. You continue to make our community vibrant and meaningful, and I am confident it will continue to be so for many years to come.

Rosemarie Tully

EASL Executive Committee



EASL Section Current Section Chair and Former Section Chairs who were present at the Annual Meeting



Rosemarie Tully



Judith Prowda



Timothy DeBaets



Judith Bresler



Elissa Hecker



Alan Barson