

# Remarks from the Chair

Welcome to my first “Remarks from the Chair.” The photograph below is of Mark Miller and myself congratulating each other, for his election as President of the New York State Bar Association, and for my election as the EASL Section Chair. Two solo lawyers in Manhattan making good!

The photo was taken during NYSBA’s Annual Meeting week in late January 2018. On January 23rd, EASL presented two excellent continuing legal education panels. The first addressed concerns that arise when entertainment, visual, and performing arts related businesses decide to close for various reasons, and the second dealt with legal and business issues related to the proliferation of audio-visual content distributed across multiple platforms, greater media competition, and changing business models.

Thanks again to Beth Gould (EASL’s rock star liaison at NYSBA in Albany), my fellow EASL Annual Meeting program planning Co-Chairs (**Irina Tarsis, Ethan Bordman, Pamela Jones, Robert Siegel and Mary Ann Zimmer**), and of course to our superb panel moderators and speakers. Initial feedback from the packed house in attendance was very positive, with a few complaints that EASL’s 2018 annual program was not long enough!

If you were not able to attend the Annual Meeting, a transcript of our program is in this issue of the *EASL Journal*. However, it is no proxy for the good humor, food and drinks shared, and connections made, at the first ever post-program networking reception co-sponsored by the EASL and Intellectual Property Sections. As that was sold out well in advance; to avoid being shut out next year, please register early for our January 2019 annual program and reception.

During my tenure as EASL Chair, I hope to help increase the professional and personal benefits for all of our members, which in part can flow from more cross-pollination or collaboration among EASL members, other NYSBA Sections, and additional organizations related to entertainment, arts and sports.

EASL will continue to develop and present not only relevant and affordable CLE programs, but also more committee meetings, informal breakfasts and brown bag lunches, networking receptions, and other fun social events. Additional contemplated initiatives include increased efforts to create more job and work opportunities, mentoring, internship programs and pro bono clinics.

The best way to stay on top of all this is by visiting the EASL website ([www.nysba.org/easl](http://www.nysba.org/easl)), where you can explore our calendar of upcoming EASL events—such as the Pro Bono Clinic that took place

in February at the Gibney Dance Center, our 7th Annual Legal Aspects of Theatrical Production on March 27-28th at the Actor’s Temple, the EASL Spring Meeting in May (Details TBD), and EASL’s always popular “Overview and Introduction to Entertainment Law” on June 13th (Details TBD). This last program is filled with substantive information and practice tips for both newly admitted and experienced lawyers.

On EASL’s website, you can also access an archive of the *EASL Journal* or view the EASL Blog (both edited and managed by **Elissa D. Hecker**, a former EASL Chair, to whom we all also owe thanks), view membership rosters, join a committee, or participate in EASL’s online community (through which, in part, you can seek advice from colleagues regarding perplexing problems or share helpful contract forms and other documents). You can also read a brief biography about me.

If you would like to get more involved, have any questions or suggestions, or if I could be of help in any way, please contact me directly at 212-832-4800 or [bskidelsky@mindspring.com](mailto:bskidelsky@mindspring.com).

Thanks again for being an EASL member and for electing me as Chair at the start of our Section’s 30th year! I stand on the shoulders of a list of impressive predecessors, including *inter alia* (as we lawyers often write) our Immediate Past Chair **Diane Krausz**.

I look forward to hearing from, working with, and seeing you all at one of the many events that EASL provides for its members throughout the year.

**Best Regards,  
Barry Skidelsky**

