

Remarks from the Chair

I am once again proud to tell you that our Section has been active, productive and able to present many programs and initiatives for our membership to enjoy. Our Annual Meeting highlighted two areas of wider interest: Current business and legal issues of interest to counsel in the larger production companies, and ways for celebrities and their representatives to cope with public relations and related crises that often occur. I thank my co-chairs, Eileen Matthews, Barry Skidelsky, and Brian Caplan, for their tireless work in assembling the excellent panels for these seminars. In addition, I applaud the members who attended the “ad-hoc” early morning meetings of the subcommittees available at the Annual Meeting for EASL members; these same meetings, which started last year, are an incredible resource



for future programs and other ideas that inspire and motivate the individual co-chairs for the rest of the year.

The early months of 2017 continue with more programs; notably our annual CTI Theater Program in late March, organized and run by Jason Baruch. Finally, we are looking forward to producing our annual June NYSBA seminar, which this year will focus on introducing two areas of entertainment law to generalists, with insights to the more complex issues in that field and ways to pursue them.

It is my hope and goal that 2017 will also provide more opportunities for our more “seasoned” practitioners to provide support, information and guidance to members interested in developing more career and practice skills in various areas. I welcome all suggestions and ideas that would increase our activities in that effort. Our outreach will include New York-based companies that have the interest and capacity to co-sponsor or assist programs that introduce members of EASL to various paths and alternative careers in the field.

Here’s to a productive and interesting 2017!!

Diane Krausz

Editor’s Note

It was a pleasure to see so many EASL members at the Annual Meeting in January. It was wonderful to hear about your ideas and meet many members who are interested in writing for the *EASL Journal* and Blog.

This issue presents timely articles regarding the media, FCC, social media, freelance workers in New York City, and immigration issues reflecting the rapid changes from Executive Orders and Cabinet decisions in the first 100 days of the Trump Administration, as well as more local legislation. Furthermore, during our Executive Committee session in January, the Executive Committee voted to protest any funding cuts to the National Endowment for the Arts. This action will be covered in a future issue.

EASL will continue to keep you updated on these and other issues through the *EASL Journal* and Blog.

Included herein are also the two BMI/Phil Cowan Memorial Scholarship winners and several excellent articles covering all areas of the EASL community. The Annual Meeting transcript will appear in the Summer issue.

I am pleased to welcome our newest columnists, Joan Frier and Judith Bass, Co-Chairs of EASL’s Committee on Literary Works and Related Rights with their *Lit Pub Law Notes* column. They join our other esteemed columnists who write the *Entertainment Immigration*, *Resolution Alley*, *Social Media*, *Television & Radio Committee*, and *Krell’s Korner* columns.

I look forward to hearing comments and to receiving submissions from you.

Elissa D. Hecker practices in the fields of copyright, trademark and business law. Her clients encompass a large spectrum of the entertainment and corporate worlds. In addition to her private practice, Elissa is also a Past Chair of the EASL Section, Co-Chair and creator of EASL’s Pro Bono

Committee, Editor of the EASL Blog, Editor of *Entertainment Litigation*, *Counseling Content Providers in the Digital Age*, and *In the Arena*, a member of the Board of Editors for the *NYSBA Bar Journal*, Chair of the Board of Directors for Dance/NYC, a Trustee and member of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A (CSUSA), former Co-Chair of CSUSA’s National Chapter Coordinators, and Assistant Editor and member of the Board of Editors for the *Journal* of the CSUSA. Elissa is a repeat Super Lawyer, Top 25 Westchester Lawyers, and recipient of the CSUSA’s inaugural Excellent Service Award. She can be reached at (914) 478-0457, via email at ehcheckerseq@ehcheckerseq.com or through her website at www.ehcheckerseq.com.



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