

Remarks from the Chair

Introduction

Welcome to 2019! As I enter the midpoint of my two-year term as Chair of the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law (EASL) Section, I look back with pride to the accomplishments achieved—which were made possible by the hard work and dedication of EASL's Executive Committee, invaluable contributions of our CLE program planners and speakers, and, of course, participation by Section members like you. Thank you all!



As we all look forward and head into 2019—the 50th anniversary of *inter alia* the first Led Zeppelin album (remember LPs?), the first Boeing 747 jumbo jet flight, Apollo 11's Eagle moon landing, the Stonewall riots, installation of the first ATM (which was at Rockville Center on Long Island), the first message sent over Arpanet (forerunner of the Internet), the incorporation of Walmart, and the Jimi Hendrix concert I was at on New Year's Eve 1969 in the Fillmore East—I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve as EASL's Chair, and to continue working with an amazingly talented, collaborative and collegial group so focused on creating or enhancing professional and personal value for our fellow Section members and for the creative community at large.



2019 Annual Meeting

As those of you who personally attended it know, EASL's 2019 Annual Meeting held on January 15th at the Hilton in NYC (as part of NYSBA's Annual Meeting week) was a huge success, with several survey results going so far as to say "best ever." If you missed it, a transcript of EASL's program is included in this issue of the *EASL Journal*.

The transcript includes presentations from two CLE panels on underlying rights and adaptations—the first

focused on transactions, and the second on litigation (both of which were organized by Judith Bass and Anne Atkinson)—and from a third CLE panel on ethics for entertainment and other lawyers (which was organized by Ron Minkoff). Congratulations and thanks again to the organizers, the program planners who also helped, and of course the panelists!



Prior to the panels, Scott Connolly and John Mixon (two students at Saint John's Law School, a serendipitous occurrence) were also announced as winners of EASL's annual Phil Cowan Memorial Scholarship writing competition for law students (again co-sponsored by BMI). Each received a \$2,500 scholarship and free EASL membership for 2019. Both of Scott's and John's articles are also included in this issue of the *Journal*.

In addition, those present at our Annual Meeting were advised of a special discount made available to EASL members who might be interested in attending this year's South by Southwest (SxSW) program to be held from **March 8th through 17th** in Austin, Texas. EASL's Rosemarie Tully and Diane Krausz have also planned a special CLE program to take place at SxSW on March 14th.

Networking

Immediately following the conclusion of EASL's 2019 Annual Meeting, about 100 or so of us migrated over to Bill's Burger Bar in nearby Rockefeller Center for a fun networking cocktail reception (an open bar with premium liquor and tasty food), which for the second consecutive year was jointly sponsored by the Intellectual Property Section. A good time was had by all, and some valuable connections were made.

Upcoming Events

You may already know that the EASL and IP sections of NYSBA also collaborate from time to time on pro bono clinics—such as the recent one from **February 23rd**

at Hunter College in New York City, organized by Elissa Hecker for the Dance/NYC Symposium. EASL conducts many pro bono clinics, such as for visual artists and musicians. We would like to do more, but need your help.

EASL remains eager to work with members, other NYSBA Sections, law schools, and additional organizations on pro bono clinics, CLE programs, networking or social, and other events. We constantly seek to explore new ways to best serve not only our members but also the creative community and others, while we continue to present popular recurring and ad hoc CLE programs.

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For example, this year's annual EASL/CTI Theatre Law program will take place on the evenings of **March 27th and 28th** at a new location in New York City, the Theatre Center (formerly known as the Snapple Entertainment Center). Plans are also underway *inter alia* for EASL's annual Spring Meeting (date TBD) and for our annual Music and Business Law Conference in November. EASL and its various committees are likewise planning additional programs and events.

We would also like to continue coupling networking opportunities with discounted tickets for small groups of EASL family and friends to attend live theatre, concert, and sports events. What's your pleasure? If you have any ideas or space available for any EASL program or event, please let me know.

Please also note that, because we are all members of a state-wide bar association, EASL welcomes suggestions for additional CLE and other programs or events to take place not only in Manhattan but also elsewhere across the Empire State. EASL's District Representatives have been encouraged to help members become more engaged and receive added value.

New Membership Initiatives

EASL already has several new membership initiatives underway. Among them are recently adopted Engagement Guidelines, which suggest ways how we all might better help recruit and retain members of our Section, foster engagement and more active participation by committee co-chairs and members, encourage law students and younger attorneys to become more involved in EASL

committees and other activities, and to enable a succession plan for future Section and NYSBA leaders.

These Guidelines include budgets and goals set for each EASL committee to hold four meetings, programs or events per year (e.g., CLE programs, breakfast or brown bag lunch meetings, telephone conference calls, social or networking events, etc.), with limits imposed for each committee chair to serve no more than three consecutive years (and thus provide additional opportunities for other EASL members to serve in leadership roles). We are also open to establishing one or more new committees if there is sufficient interest (e.g., at least 10 members).

Of course, establishing, leading or joining one of our committees are not the only ways for EASL members to become more actively engaged and to promote our mutual interests. As always, you are encouraged to become an engaged and active participant in any of a number of ways.

For example, you could write an article for the EASL Blog or *Journal*, join a committee, be involved with a Committee or Section CLE program or other event, or use our online community to ask or answer questions, seek or offer employment opportunities, share documents and more.

To paraphrase Rod Serling, your opportunities are limited only by the boundaries of your imagination. I ask that you please take action on the suggestions above for a growing and more engaged Section membership, including by physically attending one or more of our programs or events. For more info, please visit www.nysba.org/easl.

If you would like to become more involved in EASL, or if I could possibly help you or anyone you might refer, please contact me by e-mail (bskidelsky@mindspring.com) or by telephone (212) 832-4800. I hope to talk with you or see you soon, and thanks again for being one of EASL's approximately 1,500 members.

Best,

Barry

Barry Skidelsky, EASL's Chair, is a New York City-based attorney and consultant with a national practice. Having substantial experience in diverse corporate, transactional, litigation/ADR and regulatory matters, plus a background as a musician, radio broadcaster, bankruptcy trustee, FCC trustee, arbitrator and General Counsel, Barry most enjoys applying his expertise and interests by working with other lawyers, lenders, investors, owners, operators and creative talent who are involved with entertainment, digital media, telecommunications, and technology.

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