

ASCL Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
Minutes -- 2024
Annual Meeting of the Society on October 19, 2024

MINUTES
OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPARATIVE LAW, INC.

Held on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 11:00 am Central Daylight Time, Texas
A&M University School of Law

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Comparative Law, Inc. was called to order at 11:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time by President Máximo Langer, immediately following the adjournment of the meeting of the Society's Sponsor Members.

1. Secretary's Roll Call

A silent roll call was undertaken by written signatures of individuals attending in person. The following 20 Directors were present (in person or by proxy) at the meeting, and are listed following the name of their institution:

1. Alabama University School of Law: Clare Ryan
2. City University of Hong Kong: Virginia Harper Ho
3. University of Connecticut School of Law: Richard S. Kay
4. Emory University School of Law: Deepa Das Acevedo
5. Fordham University School of Law: Martin Gelter
6. George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School: Nuno Garupo
7. Georgetown University Law Center: Yvonne Tew
8. George Washington University: Francesca Bignami (proxy)
9. Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México: Julio Rios Figueroa
10. University of Iowa College of Law: John C. Reitz
11. New York University School of Law: Kevin Davis
12. Northeastern University School of Law: Margaret Woo
13. University of Pennsylvania Law School: Jacques deLisle
14. University of Pittsburgh School of Law: Vivian Grosswald Curran
15. Roger Williams University School of Law: Louise Teitz
16. National University of Singapore Faculty of Law: Gary Bell
17. University of Virginia School of Law: David Law
18. West Virginia University Department of Public Administration: Paolo Davide Farah
19. Willamette University College of Law: James A. R. Nafziger
20. University of Wisconsin Law School: Jason Yackee

In addition, the following 21 individuals were present (in person or by proxy) and represented the Director from their institution:

1. American University Washington College of Law: Fernanda Nicola
2. University of Baltimore School of Law: Mortimer Sellers
3. University of California, Davis School of Law: Raquel Aldana
4. University of California, Los Angeles School of Law: Máximo Langer
5. Columbia University School of Law; Benjamin Liebman
6. Drake University School of Law: Chistopher Hanel
7. Florida State University: David Landau (proxy)
8. Indiana University (Bloomington), School of Law: Hannah L. Buxbaum
9. Louisiana State University, College of Law: Nick Davrados
10. McGill University, Institute of Comparative Law: Helge Dedek
11. University of Michigan School of Law: Mathias W. Reimann (proxy)
12. Mississippi College School of Law: Philip McIntosh
13. University of Missouri-Kansas: Rana Lehr-Lehnardt
14. University of Nevada Las Vegas: Marketa Trimble
15. University of Oklahoma Law Center: Peter Kutner
16. University of the Pacific – McGeorge: Franklin Gevurtz
17. St. Louis University school of Law: Ira Herenda Trako (proxy)
18. St. Mary’s University School of Law: Steve Sheppard
19. Texas A&M University School of Law: Irene Calboli
20. Università di Trento Facoltà di Giurisprudenza: Luisa Antonioli
21. Tulane University School of Law: Ron Scalise

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 Meeting of the Board of Directors

Upon motion, duly seconded, the Minutes of the 2023 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society were approved by voice vote.

3. Report of the Treasurer

Treasurer Ronald Scalise presented his annual report of the Treasurer on the finances of the Society, as previously approved by the Finance Committee of the Society and circulated to the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer’s report indicates that the Society’s financial condition is strong. Dues collection was strong as well as revenue from OUP. The return to an in-person Annual Meeting was expected to increase expenses in 2023 and in 2024, as compared to 2022; however, Annual Meeting attendance has been lower than projected, resulting in expenses lower than budgeted for 2023 and 2024. Current dues levels are to be maintained, but the recommended budget for 2025 includes a recommended increase in the Annual Meeting reimbursement amount, which is the first such increase in some time (Item 10). Per Item 14 below, another recommended increase is the increase in funding support for the Younger Comparativists Committee, much of which goes toward travel subsidies for conference participants.

The Treasurer also presented the statement of income and expenses for 2023 and for 2024 as of October 8, 2024, as well as the proposed budget for 2025, both as previously approved by the Finance Committee of the Society and circulated to the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer invited discussion from the floor. No questions were raised. The budget was approved by voice vote.

The Treasurer also presented information on actual and projected investment income, including investment performance for 2022-2023 and as of Oct. 28, 2024. The Treasurer noted that the Finance Committee will continue to regularly review all of the investments of the Society.

The Treasurer invited discussion from the floor. Questions were raised regarding how investments may be deployed. The President responded that funds are generally kept in reserve but that a portion of the funds will be used to hire an AJCL Editorial Fellow. He invited the further input of all Directors on this matter.

The following Treasurer's recommendations were presented by prior circulation to the Board of Directors:

The Treasurer recommends that the proposed 2025 ASCL budget be approved and that:

1. Dues for Sponsor Members for 2025 remain at \$900;
2. \$10000 be paid for the services of the Executive Assistant;
3. \$5000 be paid for the services of an Editorial Assistant;
4. \$5000 be paid to defer costs of the 2025 annual banquet;
5. Up to \$3000 be paid to support a thematic comparative law conference;
6. Dues be paid to the American Council of Learned Societies in the amount of \$1000;
7. Dues be paid to the International Association of Legal Science in the amount of €1000;
8. Dues be paid to the IACL/AIDC in the amount of €250;
9. Up to \$1000 be paid in reimbursement for travel to the ACLS and the IALS by ASCL officers;
10. The maximum reimbursement for each Sponsor member represented at the 2025 Annual Meeting be set at \$700;
11. Up to \$3000 be paid to recipients of prizes for scholarship authorized by the

Society;

12. Up to \$2000 be paid in travel reimbursement to the recipient of the Society's Lifetime Achievement award;
13. Up to \$3000 be paid for expenses associated with the 2025 Comparative Law Works-in-Progress Workshop;
14. Up to \$8000 be paid for reimbursement of expenses for participants in and other costs of conferences and events to be sponsored by the Younger Comparatists' Committee;
15. Up to \$2500 be paid for website maintenance;
16. Up to \$2000 be paid for technology support and enhancement;
17. Up to \$2000 be paid for accounting services; and
18. Up to \$2000 be paid for miscellaneous office and transaction fees.

The Treasurer's recommendations were adopted by voice vote.

President Máximo Langer expressed the Society's thanks to the Finance Committee and to the Treasurer and the Society's administrative officer, Ms. Christina Roux.

4. Board of Directors Meeting Suspended – Meeting of the Board of Editors of the *American Journal of Comparative Law* Convened

- **Report of the Editors-in-Chief**

The Directors meeting was suspended and the meeting of the Board of Editors of the *American Journal of Comparative Law* was convened. Both Editors-in-Chief, Vivian Curran and Jacques DeLisle, were present at the meeting and presented their report on the Journal, having distributed a Publisher Report and Annual Accounts Statement for the Journal from Oxford University Press to all Editors in advance of the meeting.

Editor-in-Chief Vivian Curran noted the publication of the first issue and the completion of the second issue of Volume 72. The first issue of Volume 73 is also in production, with publication anticipated in March 2025. The second issue will include the Private International Law bibliography. She also noted the publication of work by 8 authors eligible for the Yntema Prize. She then presented the highlights of the financial results and scholarly impact of the Journal during the last year. She noted in particular the continued selectivity and high quality of the scholarship published in the Journal, as well as its diversity, including both regional and methodological diversity and its reach across a broad range of areas of public and private law. She noted the overall rise of the Journal's impact factor in recent years, though it has declined slightly from the high of 1.5 in 2022 to its

current level of 1.3. OUP's profit and loss account, which has been reviewed by the Joint Audit Committee of the Society (chaired by the Treasurer) was presented. Subscription management and advertising has been satisfactory, and overall OUP profits attributable to the ASCL for 2023 have increased by over 75% as compared to 2022, much of which is attributable to online subscriptions and open access revenue.

The Editors-in-Chief reported that the speed of production from submission to publication has improved and that consultations are ongoing with OUP about this issue. The Journal aims to reduce this time period to within one year or less, in keeping with student-edited law reviews, and to prioritize publication on time-sensitive topics or those accepted from scholars under tenure review. Editor-in-Chief Jacques DeLisle noted that the Journal especially encourages submissions by North American-based scholars, and recommended that the Journal's single-submission rule remain in place. He also observed that the Journal's general policy of not allowing an author to publish with the Journal more than once in three years should help attract a larger number of quality submissions from North American-based scholars while maintaining the Journal's commitment to author diversity.

The Editors-in-Chief expressed their thanks to the Book Review editors, Joshua Karton and Richard Albert, and to the Executive Editorial Board.

- **Update on Contract with Oxford University Press**

President Máximo Langer thanked the Journal Editors and prior editors Helge Dedek and Franz Werro for their work on behalf of the Journal. He reported that the Journal's current OUP contract concludes at the end of 2025 and that OUP has proposed a renewal of the contract that includes a proposal to move the Journal entirely online. He proposed the formation of a publication task force to make recommendations regarding long-term publishing arrangements for the Journal to be presented and discussed at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

The President invited discussion from the floor. He addressed questions regarding the reported rise in non-subscription income, which is due in part to increases in open access revenues. Editor-in-Chief Jacques deLisle observed that a future decline in OUP's traditional sources of revenue is anticipated but has not yet occurred. Irene Calboli suggested that AALS Section Chairs for the AALS Sections on Comparative Law, European Law, East Asian Law, and others should encourage submissions to the Journal through those Sections.

There being no further discussion, the meeting of the Board of Editors was adjourned and the President reconvened the Board of Directors meeting on motion duly seconded.

5. Directors' Meeting Reconvened

6. Report on the ASCL Blog.

Ioanna Tourkochoriti invited contributions to the blog. A mini-symposium on articles recently published in the Journal will continue with posts based on an abstract by the author and invited comments. Self-nominations for books and other works to be featured on the blog are welcome.

7. Report on the ASCL Studies on Comparative Law series published by Cambridge University Press

Series Editor Mortimer Sellers reported on the books recently published and in press in the ASCL Studies on Comparative Law book series published by Cambridge University Press and invited proposals for more books in the series. The series is open to research monographs and edited volumes. *A Cosmopolitan Jurisprudence: Essays in Memory of H. Patrick Glenn* (Helge Dedek ed.) has been published (2024). Section editors are needed for a proposed second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* (Gary Bell & Tim Sellers, eds.).

8. Report of the Nominating Committee and the Election of Officers and Executive Committee Members

Richard Kay, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the report of the Nominating Committee and the nominations for the Society's officers and executive committee members. There were no nominations from the floor. The results of the elections were as follows:

Honorary President: Maximo Langer (2024-2026)

President: Hannah Buxbaum (2024-2026)

Vice-President: Tim Sellers (2024-2026)

Secretary: Virginia Harper Ho (2024-2026)

Executive Committee: Afra Afsharipour (2024-2026); Ioanna Tourkochoriti (2024-2026)

9. Report of the Prizes Committee

Chair Margaret Woo presented the report of the Prizes Committee. The Prizes Committee unanimously awarded the following three Prizes:

1. The Colin Picker Prize.

Awarded to Akshat Agarwal (Yale) for "The Promise of Constitutional Parents' Rights." An Honorable Mention was awarded to Pavithra Rajendran for "Butterfly Effects: Women and Criminal Law - A Comparative Analysis of Sri Lanka with United States of America."

2. The Hessel Yntema Prize.

Awarded to Shitong Qiao (Duke) for "The Authoritarian Commons: Divergent Paths of Neighborhood Democratization in Three Chinese Megacities."

3. The ASCL Lifetime Achievement Award.

Awarded to Richard Helmholz of the University of Chicago. Professor Helmholz is the author or editor of more than two dozen books that have appeared in French, German, Italian and Spanish, as well as English, and dozens of journal articles, including:

- *Natural Law in Court* (Harvard University Press, 2015)
- <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674504585>.
- *Marriage Litigation in Medieval England* (Cambridge University Press, 1974).
- *Canon Law and English Common Law* (Selden Society, 1983).
- *The History of the Canon Law and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, 597-1649* (Oxford University Press, 2003)
- *Roman Canon Law in Reformation England* (Cambridge University Press, 2004).
- *The Spirit of Classical Canon Law* (3rd ed.) (University of Georgia Press, 2010).

Dr. Helmholz is widely known for his research on the influence of canon law on the common law.

All of the Prize recipients accepted their awards in absentia.

10. Report of the Annual Meeting Program Committee

President Máximo Langer expressed the Society's thanks to the Annual Meeting Program Committee, including Chair Jason Yackee, Padideh Ala'i, Nuno Garoupa; Máximo Langer (ex officio); Margaret Lewis; Fernanda Nicola; and Songjoon Cho.

Jason Yackee, Chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee, presented the committee's report and thanked all conference participants for their proposals and contributions to the 2024 Annual Meeting. The 2025 Annual Meeting will be hosted by McGill University on the topic of "The Paris Congress at 125: Decolonizing the Tradition of Comparative Law." The President invited proposals for Sponsor Members to host the annual meeting of the Society in 2027 following the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL) quadrennial General Congress in 2026 in Berlin.

11. Report of the Younger Comparativists Committee

Clare Ryan, Co-Chair of the Younger Comparativists Committee (YCC), gave a report on the YCC. The current co-chairs are Clare Ryan (2023-2025) and Michael Da Silva (2022-2024). The incoming Co-Chair of the YCC is Yueh-Ping (Alex) Yang (2024-2026). The 2024 YCC Annual Conference is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society. Strong submissions were received and the conference was well-attended. The Co-Chair also expressed thanks for the support of the Society.

The YCC board for the up-coming year will be:

Clare Ryan, Senior co-chair; Yueh-Ping (Alex) Yang, Junior co-chair; Zehra Gulay Kavame Eroglu, Treasurer; New board members: Alan Koh; Akshat Agarwal.

The YCC will discontinue its online book talks series featuring recently published books by younger comparative scholars but welcomes suggestions on how to continue engaging the YCC membership throughout the year.

The YCC has moved its Member Planet platform subscribers over to a Google Group, which can be joined by emailing YCC@ascl.org. The YCC proposes to reinstate a Business and Finance Law workshop as well as other mid-year field-specific workshops.

The YCC also put forward three calls for the annual prizes– the Colin B. Picker Graduate Prize, the Phanor J. Eder Prize in Comparative Law, and the Richard M. Buxbaum Prize for Teaching in Comparative Law. The following prizes were awarded by the Prizes Committee for scholarship by younger comparativists:

1. The Colin B. Picker Prize

The Colin B. Picker Prize was awarded, as noted above, to Akshat Agarwal (Yale) for his article "The Promise of Constitutional Parents' Rights."

Honorable Mention was awarded to Pavithra Rajendran (Notre Dame) for "Butterfly Effects: Women and Criminal Law - A Comparative Analysis of Sri Lanka with United States of America." which received the second highest amount of support in the voting.

2. Phanor J. Eder Prize

The Phanor J. Eder Prize was awarded to Jasmine Oesterling (JD candidate, Akron) for "‘I Can’t Breathe’: A Comparison of Racial Inequity and Police Brutality in France and the United States."

No nominations for the Richard M. Buxbaum Prize were received and the YCC has discussed how to increase participation, including sending out the calls earlier in the year and reaching out to Sponsor Members’ research deans. The YCC encourages all members of the Society to nominate younger colleagues for the Buxbaum Prize and to encourage submissions for the scholarship prizes.

12. Report on the International Academy of Comparative Law

Gary Bell, who serves as the Secretary-General of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL), announced that the IACL would celebrate its 100-year anniversary in Paris at the Sorbonne Law School (Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne) on November 15-16, 2024. IACL Members are encouraged to vote on the 52 new associate member candidates and 7 chair members. He also noted that the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with the IACL Congress in Berlin from 28 Sept. to 3 Oct. 2026. Topics for the IACL Congress will be confirmed and the ASCL will appoint reporters at that time.

13. Continuing and New Business

President Máximo Langer announced that the Society's Works-in-Progress Workshop led by Jackie Ross, Jacque deLisle, and Kim Scheppele will be held May 1-3, 2025 at the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign-Urbana.

The President expressed further thanks to the members of the Executive Committee and other Society committees for their leadership.

No new business was raised.

14. Announcements

Stephen Sheppard of St. Mary's School of Law announced a forthcoming book on *American Law in a Global Context: The Basics* (OUP 2025) co-authored with George Hoi Kang (UBC Allard)). The book is designed for students from civil law jurisdictions who are enrolled in U.S. LLM programs.

Margaret Woo (Northeastern) announced the completion of the Comparative Procedural Law and Justice Project online (<https://www.cplj.org/>), which involved the work of 100 comparative procedural scholars in 17 teams across different jurisdictions world-wide.

The President invited applications for the inaugural AJCL Editorial Fellow position.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Harper Ho
Secretary, American Society of Comparative Law, Inc.