

ASCL Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors
Minutes -- 2025
Annual Meeting of the Society on October 18, 2025

MINUTES
OF THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPARATIVE LAW, INC.

Held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 11:51 am
Eastern Daylight Time
McGill University, Faculty of Law

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Comparative Law, Inc. was called to order at 11:51 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time by President Hannah Buxbaum immediately following the adjournment of the meeting of the Society's Sponsor Members.

1. Roll Call

A silent roll call was undertaken by written signatures of individuals attending in person. The following 15 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 California at Davis: Afra Afsharipour
4. Georgetown University Law Center: Yvonne Tew
5. University of Iowa College of Law: John C. Reitz
6. New York University School of Law: Kevin Davis
7. Northeastern University School of Law: Margaret Woo
8. University of Pennsylvania Law School: Jacques deLisle
9. University of Pittsburgh School of Law: Vivian Grosswald Curran
10. Roger Williams University School of Law: Louise Teitz
11. National University of Singapore Faculty of Law: Gary Bell
12. West Virginia University Department of Public Administration: Paolo Davide Farah
13. Willamette University College of Law: James A. R. Nafziger
14. University of Western New England: Timothy Webster
15. University of Wisconsin Law School: Jason Yackee

In addition, the following 15 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. Durham University: Zhiyu Li
4. Florida International University: Jorge Esquirol
5. Florida State University: David Landau
6. Harvard University: Mariana Pargendler
7. Louisiana State University, College of Law: Nick Davrados
8. McGill University, Institute of Comparative Law: Helge Dedek
9. University of Nevada Las Vegas: Marketa Trimble
10. University of Notre Dame: Emilia J. Powell
11. University of Oklahoma Law Center: Peter Kutner
12. St. Mary's University School of Law: Steve Sheppard
13. Texas A&M University School of Law: Sri Ragavan
14. Tulane University School of Law: Ron Scalise
15. University of Zagreb Faculty of Law: Hano Ernst

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2024 Meeting of the Board of Directors

Upon motion, duly seconded, the Minutes of the 2024 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 the Executive Committee and circulated to the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer's Report indicates that the Society's financial condition is strong. The Treasurer presented the statement of income and expenses for 2024 and as of October 8, 2025, along with the proposed budget for 2026, all as previously approved by the Finance Committee and circulated to the Board of Directors.

Dues collection in 2024 was slightly below expectations, reflecting payments from around 70 members. However, this deficit was offset by higher than projected revenue from Oxford University Press. Expenses were also lower than projected, in part due to fewer attendees at the 2024 Annual Meeting, resulting in lower reimbursements. The other primary expenses of the Society are for the support of the Executive Assistant, travel stipends for YCC members, dues for membership in learned societies, and prizes awarded. Dues collection increased since the 2024 Annual Meeting and as of October 1, 2025, stands at approximately \$55,000. However, OUP revenue is far lower than has historically been received, falling from around \$32,000 in 2024 to around \$13,000 in 2025. The reasons for this have not been clarified by OUP, but given this experience, projected OUP revenue will be adjusted downward going forward. Certain expenses for wire transfers are also expected to rise, but expenses are generally on track in 2025 and should be below revenues.

The Treasurer then presented the proposed 2026 budget. The budget reduces expected OUP revenue to \$15,000, with total dues income adjusted downward from 90 to 80 sponsor members, which will result in dues income of \$72,000. Together with OUP income and other income sources, budgeted income is approximately \$91,000, which will match projected expenses. As approved by the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee, the 2026 budget includes increased support for the Executive Assistant from \$10,000 per year to \$15,000, as no prior adjustments for inflation or in recognition of the increased responsibilities of this role have previously been made. The Executive Committee also approved an adjustment to the budget circulated to the Board of Directors to increase support for the YCC from \$7,000 to \$8,000 and the allocation for the Works-in-Progress workshop from \$3,000 to \$4,000. The Treasurer noted that the 2026 Annual Meeting will be held during the Quadrennial General Congress of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL). Based on participation at past Quadrennial meetings, 25 schools are expected to attend, with reimbursements of \$1500 each, resulting in expected expenses of \$37,500. The annual banquet costs are also expected to be proportionately reduced.

The Treasurer also presented information on actual and projected investment income, including investment performance for 2023–2024 and through October 18, 2025. The Treasurer noted that the Society’s investments have out-performed standard market indices. The Finance Committee will continue to regularly review all Society investments. The Treasurer thanked the Finance Committee for its service to the Society.

The Treasurer invited discussion from the floor. Questions were raised regarding how the Society’s reserves may be deployed. The President responded that funds are generally kept in reserve, but that opportunities to support in-person and online mid-year programs are being considered to increase the value proposition for individual and Sponsor members. Reserve funds could be used for these and other purposes. The President also emphasized support for the Executive Assistant’s role. The budget was approved by voice vote.

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

The Treasurer recommends that the proposed 2026 ASCL budget be approved, as amended by the Executive Committee, and accordingly that:

1. Dues for Sponsor Members for 2026 remain at \$900.
2. \$15000 to be paid for the services of the Executive Assistant;
3. \$5000 to be paid for the services of an Editorial Assistant;
4. \$2500 to be paid to defray costs of the 2026 annual banquet;
5. Up to \$4000 to 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 to be paid to the IACL/AIDC in the amount of €295;
9. Up to \$1000 to 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 2026 Annual Meeting in Berlin, Germany, be set at \$1500;
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 Comparativists' Committee;
15. Up to \$500 be paid for website maintenance;
16. Up to \$2000 for technology support and enhancement;
17. Up to \$2000 be paid for accounting services, and
18. Up to \$3000 to be paid for miscellaneous office and transaction fees.

The Treasurer's recommendations were adopted by voice vote.

President Hannah Buxbaum expressed the Society's thanks to the Finance Committee and to the Treasurer and the Society's Executive Assistant, 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 upon motion, duly seconded. The President reported that the Executive Committee has determined to extend the current contract with OUP for one year. 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 Jacques deLisle reported that the Journal published five issues in 2025, with a sixth forthcoming, bringing the publication schedule back on track. The December 2025 issue is expected to be released soon. The six issues include 32 articles and 12 book reviews, covering a broad range of topics including constitutional law, criminal law, and private law. Geographically, the content spans multiple jurisdictions, with notable contributions from China/Asia, the EU, and the US. The Journal remains highly selective with a 10% acceptance rate and a desk rejection rate of 83%. Desk rejections are typically issued within 10 days, facilitated by weekly editorial meetings. The time from submission to publication has improved significantly, now averaging around one year, although delays persist due to split decisions and lengthy author resubmissions after revise-and-resubmit decisions.

The Journal's impact factor has declined slightly to 1.0, down from previous highs of 1.2 to 1.3. Approximately one-third of published articles are Open Access, which may be influencing the Journal's financial model. Financial transparency from OUP remains a concern, particularly regarding the shift to Open Access and its implications for revenue. The Journal continues to be published in hard copy, although the annual bibliography of private international law and longer appendices to articles are published online only. It appears inevitable that the Journal will need to cease publishing in hard copy under the new publication contract to be entered into in 2027.

Editor-in-Chief Vivian Curran reported that significant concerns remain regarding the Journal's production process. Early in the year, production issues were severe, with errors introduced during typesetting and a lack of responsiveness from the publisher. Although a new editing tool now allows inline changes to first proofs, problems persist. Editors are often required to proofread every article due to the frequency of introduced errors. The stipend for the Articles Editor remains at \$10,000, calculated at USD 30/hour for 330 hours annually, which is insufficient given the workload. The Executive Committee has approved a one-year extension of the current publication contract through December 2026.

A task force led by Treasurer Ron Scalise has been convened to identify alternative publishers and meetings are being scheduled with those that offer a potential fit for the

Journal. Important considerations include the publisher's ability to manage distribution effectively.

The Editors-in-Chief presented the key conditions included in the OUP contract renewal. First is OUP's intent to make a full shift to online publication starting in 2027. OUP also plans to transition the Journal to ScholarOne for manuscript management, replacing Scholastica, although possible alternatives to resolve OUP's concerns with Scholastica may be pursued. The Editors-in-Chief expressed concern about the rigidity of the production workflow and the potential loss of flexibility, as well as concern that the Journal's core audience may not be fully reached under the current distribution model. Cambridge University Press, for example, provides broader access through ASIL membership, which OUP does not. Questions remain about archival rights and the long-term sustainability of the current publishing arrangement.

The Editors-in-Chief expressed their gratitude to Book Review Editors Joshua Karton and Richard Albert, as well as to Articles Editor Leo Huang (UPenn) and to the Executive Editorial Board. The Journal continues to encourage submissions from North American scholars and supports the involvement of Editors in the peer review process. The President extended special thanks to the Editors-in-Chief for their efforts in restoring timely publication.

Jacques deLisle announced that the 2026 Works-in-Progress (WIP) conference of the Society will be hosted at Princeton University, with submissions due in February 2026 and the conference scheduled for May 2026.

Discussion from the floor was opened. Questions were raised about whether self-publication is a possible option, but President Hannah Buxbaum, task force chair Ron Scalise, and other Editors noted that self-publishing is not viable due to the need for established distribution channels. Other comments were raised about the importance of prestige publishers in attracting citations to published articles. Suggestions were made that a dedicated copy editor be hired to alleviate the burden on the Editors-in-Chief due to the proof-reading work that is needed at present.

The President observed that the Executive Committee had approved the one-year extension of the existing contract to December 2026 and therefore no motion or second was required prior to a vote of the Editors. The decision of the Executive Committee was approved by voice vote.

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 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. Section editors and contributors are needed for a proposed second edition of the *Encyclopedia of Comparative Law* (Gary Bell & Tim Sellers, eds.).

Stephen Sheppard of St. Mary's School of Law announced the publication of his book on *American Law in a Global Context: The Basics* (OUP 2025) co-authored with George Hoi Kang (UBC Allard) and awarded free copies to random draw participants.

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

On behalf of Máximo Langer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, President Hannah Buxbaum 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:

Treasurer: Ronald Scalise (2025-2027)

Parliamentarian: Sally Richardson (2025-2027)

Executive Committee: Helge Dedek (2025-2027); Yvonne Tew (2025-2027)

The President noted the need for succession planning in view of the fact that the Treasurer is now commencing his final term in that role and that the appointment of the Treasurer typically requires institutional support for the Executive Assistant role. The President invited nominations of those who may be willing to serve.

9. Report of the Prizes Committee

Chair Margaret Woo presented the report of the Prizes Committee and thanked the other Prizes Committee members: Deepa Das Acevedo, William Ewald, Chimène Keitner. The Prizes Committee unanimously awarded the following three Prizes:

1. The Hessel Yntema Prize.

Awarded jointly to Yvonne Tew (Georgetown) for "Strategic Judicial Empowerment" and Weilin Xiao (University of Hong Kong) for "Expansion and Restriction: Divergent Paths Towards Modernizing Family Law in China and Japan: 1868-1930."

2. The ASCL Lifetime Achievement Award.

Awarded to Vernon Palmer, the Thomas Pickles Professor of Law at Tulane University Law School. Professor Palmer is an expert in comparative international law and in civil law and mixed jurisdiction legal studies. He has previously been honored by the International Academy of Comparative Law and by the French government for his contributions and achievements.

Yvonne Tew accepted her award in person. All of the other Prize recipients accepted their awards in absentia.

Chair Margaret Woo announced two forthcoming additional prizes:

1. The Senior Scholar Prize.

This Prize will be awarded in honor of Prof. Jerome Cohen to a scholar of Chinese law who has recently published an article in the Journal that reflects the scholarship of Prof. Cohen. The awardee will be announced by the Prizes Committee following the Annual Meeting.

2. Book Prize Proposal.

This new prize will be awarded in the amount of USD 1,000 to recognize recently published monographs on comparative law in English or in translation. The call will be finalized and circulated with initiation of the prize expected in 2026.

Suggestions were raised from the floor in support of a separate book prize for edited volumes. The President noted that the criteria for prize awards will be reviewed and clarified by the Prizes Committee in the coming year and thanked the Prizes Committee for their work.

10. Report of the Program Committee and Approval of Host for the 2027 Annual Meeting

President Hannah Buxbaum expressed the Society's thanks to the Program Committee, including Chair Jason Yackee (Wisconsin), Jorge Esquirol (FIU), Nuno Garoupa (George Mason), David Landau (FSU), Fernanda Nicola (American), and Marketa Trimble (UNLV).

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 2025 Annual Meeting. He noted that in light of the high volume of submissions, the committee adopted a more selective approach, though still with expanded participation on concurrent panels. He also noted that there were a high number of withdrawals from confirmed attendees but for a range of personal reasons.

President Hannah Buxbaum noted the need for interim programs in addition to the Annual Meeting. She noted that the Executive Committee has approved the Annual Program

Committee's proposal to consider a midterm thematic conference with \$3,000 in funding support and that a call is expected to go out in late 2025 for a comparative law event to take place in summer or fall 2026. The Committee will also consider proposals for future online or hybrid comparative law midyear events. Potential topics could include: law pedagogy, AI in comparative law research, and the use of AI-translated legal texts.

President Buxbaum thanked Helge Dedek and Jason Yackee for their work toward a successful Annual Meeting. The President also encouraged submissions in response to the annual call for session proposals and asked delegates to encourage participation by individual members as well.

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with the IACL Quadrennial General Congress in Berlin from September 28, 2026-October 2, 2026.

The Program Committee reported that it received a proposal from Tulane University to host the 2028 Annual Meeting. This proposal was presented on behalf of Tulane by Sally Richardson. The proposed theme is "The Future of Comparative Law in a Global (and Sometimes Not Global) World." Key highlights of the proposal are the financial support committed by Tulane and the support of 10 Tulane Law School faculty.

The President invited discussion of the Proposal from the floor. The proposal was then submitted on motion duly seconded to a voice vote. The proposal was unanimously approved.

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 leadership of the YCC are Clare Ryan (Co-Chair), Yeuh-Ping (Alex) Yang (Co-Chair), Zehra Kavame Eroglou, Alan Koh, and Akshat Agarwal.

The YCC program was held in conjunction with the 2025 ASCL Annual Meeting with six panels. During the 2024-25 year, the YCC convened a mid-year Comparative Business and Financial law conference hosted by National Taiwan University in May 2025, which was quite successful. The YCC will be working to expand YCC membership through the Society's website in the coming year.

The YCC announced the award of the following prizes, in cooperation with the Prizes Committee of the Society:

1. The Buxbaum Teaching Prize for untenured law faculty in comparative law.

Awarded to Dr. Soterios Loizou, Assistant Professor of Commercial Law, University of Cambridge, Faculty of Law, for his excellence in teaching comparative law courses at universities in Asia, Europe, and most recently in the UK.

2. The Phanor Eder Prize for the best paper written by a student in their first law degree.

Awarded to Yuyan Zhang, J.D. Candidate, Duke Law School, for the paper, "Colonial Law and Contemporary Authoritarianism: Section 144 and Myanmar Military Junta."

Honorable Mention: Annalisa Kingsbury Lee, J.D. Candidate, Stanford Law School, for "Legal Constraints in the Making and Un-Making of Regional Energy Systems in the US and China, 1963-1989"

3. The Colin B. Picker Prize for the best paper by a graduate student.

Awarded to Leo You Li, JSD Candidate Stanford Law School for "The Faces of Judicial Data Governance."

Honorable Mention: Awarded to Yinn-ching Lu, SJD Candidate Emory University for "Justices Matter: A Comparative Theory of Judicial Self-protection."

President Hannah Buxbaum thanked the leadership of the YCC and encouraged Society members to support younger scholars and to help them connect to the YCC.

12. Report on the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL)

President Hannah Buxbaum noted that the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with the IACL Congress in Berlin from September 28 to October 2, 2026, with early registration before April 15, 2026. She observed that the Society will be making a strong showing at the Congress, with national reports scheduled to be prepared on 23 of the 27 Congress themes.

She also encouraged Society members' participation and engagement with the IACL and encouraged those interested in being nominated by the Society as an associate member candidate to approach current IACL members or to contact her..

Questions were raised from the floor regarding reimbursement to Society delegates who attend the IACL Congress and about the responsibilities of IACL associate members.

13. Continuing and New Business

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

There were no further announcements.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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