

American Society for Legal History
Board of Directors
Minutes of the October 25, 2007 Meeting
Tempe, Arizona

Officers and Board Members Present (in alphabetical order): Lauren Benton, Richard Bemstein, Lyndsay Campbell, Christine Desan, Charles Donahue (President), William Forbath, Thomas Gallanis (Secretary), Michael Grossberg, Sally Hadden, William LaPiana (Treasurer), Kenneth Ledford, Maeva Marcus (President-Elect), James Oldham, Linda Przybyszewski, Reva Siegel, Robin Stacey, and Emily Tabuteau.

Also Present (in alphabetical order): Laura Edwards, Daniel Ernst, Tony Freyer, Thomas Green, Charles Grench, Hendrik Hartog, Craig Joyce, Laura Kalman, Jonathan Rose, David Tanenhaus, Christopher Tomlins, and Christopher Waldrep.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

1. Report of the 2007 Program Committee. Jonathan Rose presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. Professor Rose observed that the Committee increased the number of concurrent panels to five, due to the rising number of high-quality submissions. He also suggested that, in future years, the draft program should include the dates and times of luncheons and receptions, so that members can have this information before arriving at the conference.

2. Report of the Advisory Committee on the Cromwell Prizes. Tony Freyer presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. The Committee recommended that the announcement of, and deadline for, the competition should be earlier in the year, to facilitate coordination with the Program Committee. The President responded that this is within the discretion of the committee, which should use the schedule it deems will work best. The Committee also requested guidance on how best to formulate the criteria for the Prizes, to help reduce the problem of comparing books with articles. The President asked the Committee to submit a recommendation to the Board's Executive Committee.

3. Report of the Committee on Documentary Preservation. The Board accepted the report, which is attached.

4. Report of the Finance Committee. Charles Donahue presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached.

5. Report of the Committee on the Future of the Society. Charles Donahue presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. The Board discussed possible uses for the income (and in some cases, the principal) of the endowment funds that have been raised. Among the uses that gathered strong support were the continuation of the Hurst Institutes and the provision of additional funding for graduate students and international scholars to participate in the annual conference. The Board suggested that

the call for papers for the annual conference should contain a sentence or two informing graduate students that some funding may be available.

6. Report of the 2008 Program Committee. Laura Edwards presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached.

7. Report of the Committee on the Annual Meeting. Craig Joyce presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. The President conveyed the discussion of the Executive Committee on possible sites for the annual meeting in 2010; that discussion had focused on Philadelphia, Providence, and Nashville. Richard Bernstein also encouraged the Committee to consider Fort Lauderdale.

8. Report of H-Law. Christopher Waldrep presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached.

9. Report of the Committee on Honors. The Board accepted the report, which is attached.

10. Report of the Committee on the Hurst Memorial Fund. The Board accepted the report, which is attached. The Board expressed its thanks to Barbara Welke for running the successful 2007 Hurst Institute. The Committee also asked the Board to authorize the President-Elect to send letters of appreciation to Professor Howard Erlanger, who is the Director of the Institute for Legal Studies ("ILS") at the University of Wisconsin Law School, and Ms. Pam Hollenhorst, who is the Associate Director of ILS. These motions **passed**.

11. Reports of Law and History Review and of the University of Illinois Press. David Tanenhaus presented, and the Board accepted, the Law and History Review ("LHR") report, which is attached. For the strong support received from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Professor Tanenhaus asked the Board to authorize the President-Elect to send letters of appreciation to Dean John V. White of the School of Law; Interim Dean Christopher Hudgins of the College of Liberal Arts; and Professor Eugene Moehring, Chair of the History Department. These motions **passed**. He also sought feedback from the Board about testing the publishing market before the expiration of the journal's current contract with the University of Illinois Press. The Board indicated an interest in testing the market at the appropriate time, keeping in mind that the Press also maintains the Society's membership list.

The Board accepted the University of Illinois Press's report, which is attached.

12. Report of the Membership Committee. Sally Hadden presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. A question was raised about discrepancies between the membership numbers in the Committee's report and those in the report of the Press (item 11 above). The response highlighted some difficulties at the Press (for example, in getting copies of LHR to the Society's honorary fellows), indicating that the numbers kept by the Membership Committee are likely the more accurate ones.

13. Report of the Nominating Committee. Christopher Tomlins presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. The Secretary reported the results of the annual election:

a. For regular seats on the Board of Directors, Alfred Brophy, Mary Dudziak, Annette Gordon-Reed, and Adam Kosto **stand elected**.

b. For the graduate student seat on the Board of Directors, Karen Tani **stands elected**.

c. For seats on the Nominating Committee, Amalia Kessler and Barbara Welke **stand elected**.

The Committee recommended that the Board investigate and adopt a secure and anonymous system of voting. The President indicated that this would be a high priority for the incoming administration.

The Committee also recommended, though without a specific proposal, that slates of candidates be structured in future elections so as to enhance the racial and ethnic diversity of the Board and Nominating Committee. Absent a proposal, the Board could only discuss the issue of racial and ethnic diversity in somewhat general terms. The Board indicated the topic was very important and encouraged the Nominating Committee to consider making a specific proposal for consideration at next year's Board meeting. More immediately, the Board encouraged the President-Elect to be mindful of diversity in making committee appointments and the Membership, Nominating, and Program Committees to be mindful of diversity in their respective roles.

14. Report of the Preyer Memorial Committee. Laura Kalman presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. The Board encouraged the Committee to experiment with an earlier deadline, to enable better co-ordination with the Program Committee.

15. Report of the Publications Committee. The Board accepted the report, which is attached.

16. Report of the Committee on the Reid Book Award. The Board accepted the report, which is attached.

17. Report on the Committee on Research Fellowships and Awards. Hendrik Hartog presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. The Committee asked that the Society reimburse in whole or in part the expenses of Cromwell and Murphy fellows who need support to attend the annual meeting, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the Executive Committee. The motion passed.

18. Report of Studies in Legal History. Daniel Ernst and Thomas Green presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. The Board expressed its appreciation to the University of North Carolina Press, represented at the meeting by Charles Grench.

19. Report of the Surrency Prize Committee. Lauren Benton presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached.

20. Report of the Sutherland Prize Committee. The Board accepted the report, which is attached.

21. New Business: Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the ASLH Motto. Charles Donahue presented, and the Board accepted, the report, which is attached. The Committee asked that the Society's motto be changed from *historia omnium legum* (the history of all statutes) to *historia omnium iurium* (the history of all legal systems); that the change be made gradually and as convenient; and that a volunteer be sought to redesign the Society's logo to reflect this change. The motion **passed**.

22. New Business: Change of Registered Address. The Board considered a motion to change the Society's registered address in New York to the address of the Treasurer (57 Worth Street, New York, New York 10013). The motion **passed**.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas P. Gallanis
ASLH Secretary