



Annual General Meeting 2016 Meeting Minutes

6pm Tuesday 10 January 2017

Hogan Lovells International LLP, Atlantic House, 50 Holborn Viaduct, London EC1A 2FG

Recorded by: Willow Oddie (Administrator)

Present

Angela Patrick
Anna Tkaczynska
Brendan McGurk
Dervla Simm
Eeva Heikkila
Emma Fenelon
Imogen Proud
Michael Polak
Paul Dillane
Ranette Prime
Chetna Varia
Matthew Allan
Ailsa McKeon
Anushka Kangesu
Christian Weaver
Georgia Palmer
Ian Browne
Jemima Lovatt
Jeremy Frost
Jessenia Estupinan
Markus Findlay
Michael Etienne
Alex May
Felicity Auer
Peter Tibbits
Sharon Gibson
Toby Manhire

Apologies

Ayla Prentice
Daniel Denman
Tom Tabori
Shoaib Khan
Leanne Targett-Parker
William Horwood
Asma Nizami
Cris McCurley

1. Apologies and Minutes of the last AGM

Apologies were noted and the minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved.

2. Report from the Chair

Eeva Heikkila, the HRLA Chair, opened the meeting, welcoming participants to the 2016 HRLA AGM. It has been her first year as chair, during which time she has implemented some reforms – namely, the practice of the HRLA scheduling fewer, but bigger events. This has been a partial success, however there remains work to do. 2016 saw the arrival of the new HRLA website and branding, which we have been pleased with and hope to build on, eventually extend the HRLA's reach.

Eeva also noted that it has been a difficult year for human rights, the themes of which are reflected in the events we have scheduled:

Date	Topic	Chair	Speakers
February			
18 th February	ECHR Seminar Series - Article 9 of the ECHR: The Right to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion	William Horwood (YLC)	Robin Allen QC (Cloisters), Clive Sheldon QC (11KBW).
March			
9 th March	Perspectives from the UK and USA: Are we striking the right balance between security and individual freedoms?	Rosa Curling (Leigh Day)	Eric Metcalfe (Monckton Chambers), Jo Cavan (Head of the Interception of Communications Commissioner's Office), Chip Pitts (Electronic Privacy Information Center, Washington).
15 th March	Debate: Replacing the Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights	His Honour Judge Seys Llewellyn QC (Designated Civil Judge for Wales and Judge of the Administrative Court)	Rachel Logan (Amnesty International, Matrix Chambers), Anthony Speaight QC (4 Pump Court).
May			
3 rd May	Countering Violent Extremism and Freedom of Expression in the UK and Beyond	David Anderson QC (Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation)	David Young (Red Lion Court Chambers), Dr Kate Ferguson (Conflict, Crime and Security Research), Dr

			Laura Zahra McDonald (Director, Connect Justice), Gabrielle Guillemin (Article 19).
17 th May Student Career Day — London			
September			
13 th September	In Conversation with Martha Spurrier, Director of Liberty	Baroness Helena Kennedy QC	Martha Spurrier
October			
19 th October Student Career Day — Leeds			
December			
8 th December	ECHR Seminar Series - Articles 10 and 11 of the ECHR: Freedom of Expression; Freedom of Assembly and Association	Asma Nizami (HRLA Young Lawyers' Committee, 1 Gray's Inn Square)	Stephanie Harrison QC (Garden Court Chambers), William McCormick QC (Ely Place Chambers), Jacob Bindman (Garden Court Chambers).
12 th December	2016: A Review of the Year	Angela Patrick (Doughty Street Chambers, Executive Member HRLA)	Joanna Cherry QC (MP), Caoilfhionn Gallagher (Doughty Street Chambers), Francesca Klug (Visiting Professor, LSE Centre for the Study of Human Rights), Joshua Rozenberg QC, Matthew Ryder QC (Matrix Chambers).

Eeva announced that 2017 will be her final year as chair. She hopes that the year ahead will see an increase in membership, her main priority for 2017, before handing over to someone with a 'fresh' mind. She thanked everyone for their hard work and in particular her colleague, Emma Fenelon, who has done a brilliant job as HRLA's Vice Chair for 2016.

3. Treasurer's Report

Leanne Targett-Parker, the HRLA Treasurer for 2016 and incoming 2017, was unable to make the meeting and sent her apologies. However, a written report was provided beforehand for the purposes of the meeting:

For the Period of 01/12/2015 to 30/11/2016

Bank Accounts

Main Current Account

The account as at 30.11.2016, stands at **£17,269.56**. It has been fully balanced with the accounts up to this date and fully reconciled.

Bursary Savings Account

The account as at 30.11.2016, stands at **£3,756.43**. It has been fully balanced with the accounts up to this date and fully reconciled.

Accounts

All of the accounts are input and up to date (up to 31.12.2016).

Please see the accounts provided. A few copies of the full Profit and Loss account have been provided. However, there is an AGM Profit & Loss (summarised edition) with full notes attached. If you have any questions about the accounts, please do not hesitate to contact me (details below).

There are a number of issues with the accounts as follows:

- i) We receive an unknown credit of £25.00 on 1st February each year. From the details in the bank account there is no way of knowing where this is received from. It is obviously an old membership as the amount is £25.00 and not £30.00 as it is now. I am not sure if Willow is aware of who makes this payment or not.
- ii) L Robleto-Gonzales pays an annual, full, membership fee of £25.00, which again is an old membership amount. Willow needs to chase this up to get it updated.
- iii) MA Sukhwinder pays £16.00 for an under 5-year membership. Willow to address.

Bursary

Bursaries were made this year, each for £1,000, to seven recipients.

An award of £3,000 was made to Fatima Jama last year. However, due to her own circumstances and that her internship was in Israel, she did not go. She wished to apply the bursary award to a new internship however, this is against the rules of the Bursary Scheme. Therefore, she had to repay the bursary awarded. For reasons, not fully explained but partially due to her financial situation, Ms Jama had dissipated her bursary award. The Chair and I agreed that she could repay this amount in instalments of £400 per month. Ms Jama did this and paid a lump sum of £1,000 during this period to significantly shorten the instalment period. This has now been fully repaid and appears in the Bursary Savings Account.

As there is a balance of £3,756.43 in the Bursary Savings Account, unless funds are raised for or granted to the HRLA Bursary Award Scheme, the number and/or

amount of the bursaries awarded in 2017 will be significantly reduced. No fund raising has been undertaken or grants received in the period of 2015-2016. I would advise that the SRT is approached again as well as such organisations as The City Bridge Trust etc.

More detailed accounts are available on request and will also be made available on the HRLA website www.hrla.org.uk.

4. Bursary Report

Paul Dillane, the HRLA Bursary Officer for 2016 and incoming 2017, thanked those who applied for the 2016 Bursary Scheme and in particular, funders such as the Sigrid Rausing Trust, who have been great supporters of the scheme for several years now. Recipients of the 2016 Bursary awards were:

Anogika Souresh	Office of Co-Investigating Judges (Khmer Rouge Trials), Phnom Penh
Zahra Wynne	UN Women, New Delhi
Alice Gambell	Prisoner's Advice Service, UK
Zehrah Hasan	Women's Legal Centre, Cape Town, South Africa
Mark Hylands	Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission
Tetevi Davi	ICC, Office of the Prosecutor (Legal Advisory Section), the Hague
Rosalind Comyn	Reprieve, London

Paul encouraged all those present to spread the word about the scheme, ensuring that 2017 sees a solid range of applications and that information is getting to those who need it most.

5. Report from the Young Lawyers' Committee

Michael Polak, the outgoing Chair of the Young Lawyers' Committee (YLC), provided the following report on the Committee's activities for 2016:

Introduction:

It has been a busy year for the YLC. This report sets out what has been achieved in 2016, what the YLC aims to achieve in 2017, and the support that the YLC will require from the EC in order to achieve those aims.

2016

(i) Journal

The second edition of the Young Human Rights Lawyer ((2016) 2 YHRL) was launched on 8 December 2016 at a seminar at Leigh Day. The seminar was very well attended, and was a fine end to the seminar series. Hard copies of the journal have been given to the contributors and to various organisations, and the

standard of contributions has been repeatedly complimented as being very high. The YLC wishes to place on record its gratitude to Anthony Gold Solicitors, Church Court Chambers and Shoaib Khan for sponsoring the journal, to the members of the EC who acted as the reviewing board, and to all members of YLC for taking part in the first sift. Particular thanks are due to Asma Nizami for her work liaising with the printers to ensure that sufficient hard copies could be produced.

(ii) Seminar series

Two seminars have been held in 2016. The seminar on Article 9 was held at Temple Church in February 2016. The seminar on Articles 10 and 11 was hosted by Leigh Day in December 2016 and combined with the launch of the journal. Both seminars were very successful. High profile speakers, including Robin Allen QC and Clive Sheldon QC, spoke at the events and it was excellent for our delegates to be able to hear them speak, ask them questions and interact with them at the receptions afterwards. The YLC is particularly grateful for the financial support provided by the EC towards the reception after the Article 9 seminar.

(iii) JR Competition

The fourth annual JR competition took place in 2016, with the final being held at Middle Temple Hall in April. The final was judged by a distinguished panel presided over by Longmore LJ, sitting with Professor Sara Chandler QC. The standard of advocacy was, as ever, very high. The YLC is very grateful for the assistance of Kate Beattie in drafting the problem, and to those members of the EC who reviewed the written submissions and judged the semi-finals.

(iv) Career days

Both the London and Leeds days were a great success, and the YLC is very grateful to those members of the EC who gave their time to speak at one or both of the events.

2017

(i) Journal

The call for papers is in the process of being drafted and will be sent out in the coming weeks. The newly constituted YLC will discuss a timetable at its first meeting in January 2017 and will send this to Willow and the EC once it has been agreed upon. In order to assist both committees and Willow with planning, the call for papers will not be sent out until a full timetable has been agreed.

(ii) Seminar series

The seminar series has now concluded. One of the first tasks of the newly constituted YLC will be to discuss potential events for 2017. In this regard, it would be helpful to be able to draw on the ideas submitted by YLC candidates as part of the selection process.

(iii) JR Competition

The problem has been drafted and was sent to Willow on 9 November 2016. The YLC requests the urgent assistance of a member/members of the EC who are able to look at the draft, as there is a pressing need to publish the problem.

The timetable is envisaged as follows:

- Deadline for claim forms and grounds – 3 February 2017
- Oral round – w/c 20 February 2017
- Final – 30 March 2017

We would therefore ask for assistance from members of the EC in February 2017 to review skeleton arguments and to judge the oral round. We also require a venue for the oral round – if any members of the EC think that their chambers/firm/organisation would be willing to assist, please let the YLC know. Experience over the last four years suggests that between 35 and 40 skeleton arguments will be received.

(iv) Career days

The YLC is attempting to set dates for the career days at an earlier stage this year, as (particularly with Leeds) inviting speakers can become a somewhat fraught and last-minute enterprise. We will be able to report further at the AGM as to any progress that has been made.

It is envisaged that the days will be held, as in previous years, in late May/early June (London) and late October/early November (Leeds). Once the dates are fixed, we would be very grateful to hear from any EC members who are either available to speak or can suggest someone at their firm/chambers/organisation who could speak. If every member of the EC can send one person from their firm/chambers/organisation, that would go a long way towards filling the number of speakers required.

Chetna Varia has agreed to be contactable for advice and guidance in the organisation of the careers days. However, she is not standing for the YLC this year and does not wish to have a front-line role in organising the days.

Participation

The YLC has experienced a welcome lack of participation problems in 2016 compared to previous years. However, all candidates who are elected onto the YLC are reminded of the nature of the commitment they are making and of the provisions of the YLC for removing members in the event of non-participation.

Conclusion

The YLC is very grateful for all the support that it has received from the EC in 2016, and hopes that this report will enable the EC to support the YLC further in 2017 by setting out what is needed and when it will be needed in advance, so that EC members and Willow can plan accordingly.

6. Ratification of amendments to the YLC Constitution

Asma Nizami	1 Gray's Inn Square
Michael Polak	Church Court Chambers
Shoaib M Khan	S&S Immigration
Tom Tabori	39 Essex Street Chambers
Daniel Denman	Ministry of Justice (Co-opted)

8. Election of the Young Lawyers' Committee members

The following candidates were elected onto the 2017 Young Lawyer's Committee:

Anushka Kangesu
Daniel Holt
Ian Browne
Jeremy Frost
Markus Findlay
Michael Etienne
Michael Harwood
William Horwood
Ayla Prentice (Co-opted)
Chloe Ashley (Co-opted)

Eeva Heikkilla, the HRLA Chair, handed over to the newly elected Vice Chair, Angela Patrick to close the meeting. Angela thanked everyone for taking the time to participate and expressed a special thanks to Willow Oddie, the HRLA Administrator, for her hard work.

The 2016 AGM was called to a close at 19.05.