***Message from the Chair***

We hope to see everyone at this week’s MLA Spring Meeting in New York! It will be so good to catch up with everyone and get back to business after unfortunately being unable to do so last fall. We had a great meeting planned and are happy to hear that Napa is recovering and the MLA Board is considering a future Fall Meeting in wine country. As a west coaster, I look forward to having you all back!

This year’s Spring Meeting will be held in conjunction with BIMCO’s executive committee meeting in New York. We look forward to welcoming our BIMCO colleagues to the MLA’s various committee meetings and events.

Our YLC committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday. We look forward to seeing old and new faces there and hope that you all will make time for the other substantive MLA committee meetings, the annual meeting, and the Friday night dinner. And, of course, don’t forget our always-anticipated social event Thursday night!

We want to extend a special thanks to all YLC members and our YLC friends who have volunteered for committee work since our last meeting and who have volunteered to assist with the meeting in New York. The contributions of our members are vital to the work of the Association and are greatly appreciated by us, the MLA President, Board, and Committee Chairs. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to give my personal thanks to my co-chairs **Imran Shaukat** (Vice Chair), and **Kasee Sparks Heisterhagen** (Secretary) for all their time and effort in helping to keep the wheels on this bus.

See you all in New York!

- Jennifer Porter

***YLC in NYC***

The Young Lawyers Committee meeting is:

**Thursday, May 3, 2018**

**1:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Holland & Knight LLP**

**31 W. 52nd St., 12th Floor**

At the meeting, we will hear reports from our committee liaisons, address our usual business, and engage in a discussion about effectively working with surveyors and experts to further your case. The discussion will be led by **Ryan Gilsenan**, partner at Womble Bond Dickinson and **Bryan Edmond**, marine and mechanical engineering expert at S-E-A, Ltd. Bring your questions!

Becky Hamra, Claims Director of Charles Taylor P&I Management will also educate us on the International Group’s new P&I Qualification Program.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please email jennifer.porter@thomasmiller.com and arrive early to check in with building security.

\* \* \*

After the business portion of our meeting, the Young Lawyers Committee will reconvene for our annual Social Event on Thursday evening.

**Thursday, May 3, 2018**

**Cocktails 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Dinner 8:30 p.m.**

**Spring Natural - NOLITA**

(98 Kenmare @ Mulberry)

Cocktails are open to all and a portion of the cocktail hour will be sponsored by S-E-A, Ltd. (Thank you S-E-A!!) If you plan to stay for dinner, please RSVP to Lindsay Sakal at LindsaySakal@hotmail.com. The price for the 3-course dinner is $66 and should be paid in advance by check, Venmo, or PayPal to Lindsay. Details are located on the YLC webpage.

A special thanks to **Lindsay Sakal** for her superb coordination of this event even while living in California!

\* \* \*

***Spring Meeting YLC Highlights***

While the YLC committee meeting will be a “don’t miss” event, the following YLC members will be speaking at, or assisting with, standing committee meeting presentations:

* Former YLC Chair, **Blythe Daly**, will present at the Arbitration and ADR meeting.
* **Peter Black** and **Daniel Maland** will present at the Carriage of Goods meeting.
* **Scott Gunst** will present at the Fisheries meeting.
* **Ben Segarra**, **William Yost** and **Greg Singer** will present at Marine Torts & Casualties meeting.
* **E. Barrett Hails** will present at Offshore Industries.
* **Samuel Blatchley** will present at the Practice & Procedure meeting.
* **Jason Harris** and **Ben Segarra** will present at the Salvage meeting.
* **Alberto Castañer** and **Imran Shaukat** will present at the Stevedores, Marine Terminals & Vessel Services meeting.

***Committee Liaison Program***

The Committee Liaison Program assigns one YLC member to each of the MLA’s standing committees to serve as a liaison. The goal of the program is to increase communication between the committees and the YLC. The program has been vital at increasing young lawyer involvement in the MLA’s important substantive work and promoting young lawyers to leadership roles in the organization. Liaisons provide brief status reports at each YLC meeting pertaining to the work and projects of each standing committee. The hard work of our liaisons lead to more opportunities for our members in those committees and increase utilization of the YLC for committee projects.

Let this serve as a reminder to our liaisons that the YLC is ready to work! If you are currently a YLC liaison and have a project that needs help or if you are interested in volunteering to serve as a YLC liaison, please e-mail Kasee Sparks Heisterhagen, at ksparks@burr.com.

We also have several liaison terms expiring after this meeting. If you are interested in becoming a liaison, please reach out to Kasee.

***Past and Ongoing YLC Projects***

In addition to the above meeting speakers, YLC volunteers, **Jason Pedigo,** **Jeanne Noonan, Kyle Brennan** and **Kevin Albertson**, assisted the new MLA Membership Committee with a survey project earlier this year.

**Daniela Oliveira**, **Lindsay Sakal** and **Imran Shaukat** assisted the Arbitration and ADR Committee with its newsletter.

**George Corton** and **Taylor Altman** conducted research on autonomous ships for the CMA and Uniformity of US Law Committee.

**Kevin Albertson, Andrew Anastor, Guillermo Cancio, Asher Chancey, Samuel Higginbottom** and **Joseph Kulsa** contributed summaries to the Recreational Boating Committee’s "Boating Briefs." (If you are aware of any recent cases or regulatory developments involving recreational boats, please contact the chair of the Recreational Boating Committee, Mark Buhler, at mark.buhler@earthlink.net, or the YLC liaison, Bo Williams, at bo.williams@phelps.com to get it included in the Committee’s next Boating Brief.

***Call for Projects***

To the Standing Committees: Please let the YLC know how we can help with your projects. If you have projects in need of research or have writing opportunities that are well-suited for younger lawyers, please keep our committee in mind. We can also assist in finding a YLC member to assist with staffing your meeting (handling CLE paperwork, sign-in sheets, handouts, and assisting with presentation set up, etc.), if and when the need arises.

***Proctor Status***

Any Associate member of the MLA who has been a member of the MLA for four years or more is eligible to apply for Proctor status with the MLA. The advantages of Proctor status are numerous, not the least of which is that a member cannot serve as a committee chair, vice-chair, or director unless s/he is a Proctor or Non-Lawyer member. Proctor applications may be obtained and submitted on the MLA website.

***YLC Membership List on Website***

If you are not already signed up as a member of the YLC, please make sure you do so. In addition, please review your email and notification settings on the website. We use the membership list on the website as a vehicle for communicating with our members. It appears that some of our young lawyers are not registered as YLC members or may have restrictive notification settings and thus do not receive our communications. If you know anyone that might fall into either category, please pass this message along and encourage them to formally join the committee and to check their settings. Conversely, if you are no longer a YLC member and are tired of our shenanigans, feel free to unsubscribe.

***YLC Contacts***

Jennifer Porter, YLC Chair

Thomas Miller Insurance Services,

San Francisco, CA

jennifer.porter@thomasmiller.com

Imran O. Shaukat, YLC Vice Chair

Semmes, Bowen & Semmes, Baltimore, MD

ishaukat@semmes.com

Kasee Sparks Heisterhagen, YLC Secretary

Burr Forman, Mobile, AL

ksparks@burr.com