

**MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES**

**May 4, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. EST**

**New York, New York**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The May 4, 2023, meeting was called to order by President Barbara L. Holland at 9:00 a.m. EST. The following Officers were present:

Barbara L. Holland, President  
Grady S. Hurley, First Vice President  
James F. Moseley, Jr., Second Vice President  
Edward J. Powers, Secretary  
William Robert Connor III, Treasurer  
Alexander M. Giles, Membership Secretary  
Lynn L. Krieger, Website & Technology Secretary  
David J. Farrell, Jr., Immediate Past President

The following Directors were present:

**Term expiring 2023**

Charles G. De Leo  
Brian P.R. Eisenhower  
Anthony R. Filiato  
Michael F. Sturley

**Term Expiring 2025**

Samuel P. Blatchley  
Ivan M. Rodriguez  
Imran O. Shaukat  
Thomas M. Wynne

**Term expiring 2024**

Carolyn Elizabeth Bundy  
Mark E. Newcomb  
William J. Riviere  
Jennifer M. Porter

At President Holland's invitation, Past Presidents Liz Burrell, Bob Clyne, Ray Hayden, Chester Hooper, Warren Marwedel, Frank Nolan, and Tom Rue were present in person or via audio/video link.

At President Holland's invitation, Andrea Casillas of Group Concepts was present.

## **II. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

### ***A. Minutes of March 4, 2023, Board Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina***

Secretary Powers presented the Minutes of the March 4, 2023, Board Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 4, 2023, meeting of the Board of Directors.

Secretary Powers presented a proposed amendment to Bylaw 209 by concluding the current wording of the bylaw with the following sentence, "*Upon completion of such post or position, an Ex-Officio member who is admitted to the practice of law before any of the several courts in the United States shall be invited to become a Proctor member of the Association.*"

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the proposed amendment to Bylaw 209

## **III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

### ***A. Quarterly Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer Connor reported that the finances of the Association for the three-month quarter ended March 31, 2023, were in fine shape, consistent with their status on January 1, 2023.

### ***B. Dues Status***

Treasurer Connor reported that just over 50% of the Members have paid their annual dues, totaling \$208,380, which is less than the usual average of approximately 75% of the Members having paid their annual dues by the Spring meeting. Treasurer Connor explained that the discrepancy is likely the result of the dues statements being sent a month later than normal because of a computer glitch. Treasurer Connor anticipates that most Members will bring their dues current by the end of the year.

### ***C. Changes to Banking System***

Treasurer Connor reported that all but \$1,000 has been transferred from the Association's Dinner Account to a HSBC Money Market Account to take advantage of recent higher interest rates.

Treasurer Connor made a motion for the Board to grant signature authority to The President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Andrea Casillas of Group Concepts on the Association's Money Market Accounts with HSBC and Citibank.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously authorized The President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Andrea Casillas of Group Concepts to have signature authority for the Association's Money Market Accounts with HSBC and Citibank.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report.

#### **IV. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Membership Secretary Giles presented the Membership Secretary's Report.

The Proctor Admission Committee received the following four (4) Proctor membership applications for consideration, all of which have been recommended for approval:

Richard M. Martin Jr.  
Lamothe Law Firm LLC  
400 Poydras Street, Suite 1760  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Patrick F. McTernan  
Cronin, Fried, Sekiya, Kekina & Fairbanks  
841 Bishop Street, Suite 600  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Kevin J.B. O'Malley  
Nicoletti Hornig & Sweeney  
Wall Street Plaza  
88 Pine Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10005

Joni Alexis Poitier  
Moseley, Pritchard, Parrish, Knight & Jones  
501 West Bay Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Mr. Giles reported that the following twenty-two (22) applicants have applied for Associate membership since the March 2023 meeting, and are recommended for approval:

Alexander Joseph Brewster  
Pugh Accardo, LLC  
1100 Poydras Street, Suite 3600  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70163

Thomas Briggs  
Mase Seitz Briggs  
2601 S. Bayshore Drive, Suite 800  
Miami, Florida 33133

Paul Heath Brockwell  
The Brockwell Firm  
2029 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Jacksonville, Florida 32250

Lance Christian Bullock  
Liskow & Lewis  
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70139

John Martin Bunt  
U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General Corps  
1796 Duffield Lane  
Alexandria, Virginia 22307

Thomas Louis Colletta Jr.  
Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard  
601 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Kendall Mackenzie Dicke  
Liskow & Lewis  
1001 Fannin Street, Suite 1800  
Houston, Texas 77002

Aaron Michael Dmiszewicki  
Davant Law, P.A.  
12 SE 7<sup>th</sup> Steet, Suite 601  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

Jason Wilson Drouyor  
Hapag-Lloyd (America) LLC  
3 Ravinia Drive  
Atlanta, Georgia 30324

Lindsey Clayton Magee Gordley  
The Waters Law Firm  
150 Boush Street, Suite 600  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Jessica Ibert  
Lewis, Kullman, Sterbcow & Abramson  
601 Poydras Street, Suite 2615  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Margaret MacNair  
Marwedel, Minichello & Reeb, PC  
303 W. Madison, Suite 1100  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Elizabeth Belle McIntosh  
Liskow & Lewis  
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70139

Neil Patrick McMillan  
Blank Rome LLP  
1271 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10020

Jineane McMinn  
Miller Hahn PLLC  
320 1<sup>st</sup> Street North, Suite 609  
Jacksonville Beach, Florida 32250

Alli Mentch  
Woods Rodgers Vandeventer Black  
101 West Main Street  
500 World Trade Center  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Steven M. Miller  
Guiliano, McDonnell & Perrone, LLP  
170 Old Country Road, Suite 608  
Mineola, New York 11501

Jessie Elizabeth Shifalo  
Liskow & Lewis  
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70139

Hannah Elizabeth Taylor  
Hill Rivkins LLP  
1000 N. Post Oak, Suite 200  
Houston, Texas 77055

Jordan Nichole Teich  
Copeland, Stair, Valz & Lovell, LLP  
40 Calhoun Street, Suite 400  
Charleston, South Carolina 29401

Mark R. Vlaun  
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC  
816 A1A, Suite 101  
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

Cecilia Vazquez Wilson  
Liskow & Lewis  
701 Poydras Street, Suite 5000  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70139

Mr. Giles reported that the Adjunct Membership Committee received two (2) Adjunct membership applications for consideration, which have been approved by the Committee:

William Leschaeve  
Brookes Bell  
625 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York

Thomas R. Worthington  
SEA Limited  
5410 NW 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309

Mr. Giles reported that the following four (4) requests for consideration of reinstatement have been received since the March 2023 meeting and are recommended for approval:

Krista Fowler Acuna (Associate, 2015)  
Hamilton, Miller & Birthisel, LLP  
150 Southeast 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite 1200  
Miami, Florida 33131

Evanthia Coffee (Associate, 1994)  
Gard (North America) Inc.  
40 Fulton Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10004

John Cox (Associate, 2007)  
Law Offices of John Cox, P.C.  
15 Altarinda Road, Suite 202  
Orinda, California 94563

Alan Davis (Associate, 2014)  
Lugenbuhl, Wheaton, Peck, Rankin & Hubbard  
601 Poydras Street, Suite 2775  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Mr. Giles reported that the following three (3) applicants have applied for Law Student membership since the March 2023 meeting, and have been approved:

Ryan Neil Donovan  
3079 SW Flower Ter  
Portland, Oregon 97239

Holly Furlow  
166 Elizabeth  
Alamo Heights, Texas 78209

Joanne Grillo  
1822 Broadway Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the new Members recommended by Mr. Giles.

Mr. Giles reported on recruiting efforts and proposed having the MLA sponsor “meet and greet” functions in various port cities hosted by local members of the Association.

Mr. Giles reported that as of May 1, 2023, the MLA reported its total membership as follows:

**VOTING (ACTIVE) MEMBERS**

PROCTORS	1114
ASSOCIATES	862
NON-LAWYERS	112
ACADEMIC	<u>14</u>

**Subtotal** 2102 (680 of the active members are Life Members)

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

EX-OFFICIO 26  
HONORARY 3  
JUDICIAL 76  
LAW STUDENTS 40  
SUBSCRIPTION 1

**Subtotal** 146

**TOTAL MEMBERS** 2248

The total number of new and reinstated members proposed for the May 4, 2023 Board Meeting is thirty-two (32), comprised of four (4) Proctors, twenty-two (22) Associates, two (2) Adjuncts, and four (4) reinstatements. Three (3) Law Students were also approved since the March 2023 Board Meeting.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the Membership Secretary’s Report.

**V. WEBSITE AND TECHNOLOGY SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Website and Technology Secretary Krieger reported that the Association continues the process of migrating its database to a more robust platform and expects the final stages of the migration to be ready for testing within a month. Ms. Krieger estimated that after successful testing, the migration would be completed soon thereafter.

Ms. Krieger also reported on the need for better coordination between the Committee chairs offering remote attendance and the law firms hosting the meetings, especially in the context of involvement by the law firms’ IT departments.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the Website and Technology Secretary’s Report.

**VI. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS, UPDATES**

***A. Policy for Posting Notices on Association’s Website***

First Vice President Hurley reported on the progress of the working group tasked with formulating guidelines and policies regarding posting by Members on the MLA website and *LinkedIn* page, as well as use of the MLA logo by members on social media postings. First Vice



President Hurley advised the Board that a draft proposal would be circulated in the coming weeks for comment and discussion at the Summer Board meeting.

***B. Committee Chairs and Board Liaisons***

Second Vice President Moseley reported on the meeting of the Committee Chairs, during which the Chairs gave brief reports on their respective agendas for the Spring Committee meetings. Second Vice President Moseley thanked Director Shaukat for addressing the Committee Chairs regarding CLE programs and reporting requirements for credits. Second Vice President Moseley also reported on a survey that will be sent to the Committee Chairs requesting their input for CLE planning and venue needs, especially in relation to the Fall meeting of the Association in San Francisco. Finally, Second Vice President Moseley reported that eight Committee Chairs will have completed their terms following the Spring meeting and that he and President Holland would be working to appoint new Chairs for those Committees.

**VII. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Immediate Past President Farrell reported on the Nominating Committee's slate of proposed nominees for election of officers and directors to be presented to the membership at the General Meeting of the Association.

President Holland led a discussion on a draft Resolution urging the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships. Based upon comments from the Board, President Holland stated that the Resolution would undergo further editing and be presented to the Board for a vote in advance of the Comité Maritime International's Montreal Colloquium on June 14-16, 2023.

President Holland congratulated Past President Frank Nolan for his election to the Executive Council of the Comité Maritime International.

**VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

President Holland led a discussion regarding planning for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, including the venues and attendance criteria for the evening events during the 2024 Spring meeting in New York.

Director Tom Wynne reported on the itinerary for the Summer 2023 Board of Directors meeting at Mackinac Island, Michigan.

At the invitation of President Holland, Norman Stockman, Chair of the Planning Committee, appeared before the Board to discuss the itinerary for the Fall meeting in San Francisco during October 18-21, 2023.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business proposed.

**X. ADJOURN**

After thanking the Board of Directors for their service, and there being no further business of the Board of Directors of The Maritime Law Association of the United States, President Holland adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Powers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Edward J. Powers, Secretary