

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

**June 29, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. EDT**

**Mackinac Island, Michigan**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The June 29, 2023, meeting was called to order by President Barbara L. Holland at 9:30 a.m. EDT. 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 2024**

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

**Term Expiring 2026**

William M. Fennell  
Sean D. Houseal  
Jessica L. McClellan  
David F. Sump

**Term expiring 2025**

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

At President Holland's invitation, Past Presidents Liz Burrell, Bob Clyne, Chester Hooper, Warren Marwedel, Frank Nolan, and Tom Rue were present.

**II. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

*A. Minutes of May 4, 2023, Board Meeting at New York, New York*

Secretary Powers presented the Minutes of the May 4, 2023, Board Meeting at New York, New York.

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

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

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

Treasurer Connor reported that the finances of the Association for the three-month quarter ended June 30, 2023, were in fine shape, consistent with their status on March 31, 2023.

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

Treasurer Connor reported that 380 Members, representing 17% of the Association, are delinquent in payment of annual dues, totaling \$122,525. Treasurer Connor anticipates that most of these delinquent Members will bring their dues current by the end of the year.

Treasurer Connor reported that the Association has paid its membership dues to the Comité Maritime International ("CMI") in the approximate amount of \$18,000 after conversion from Euros at the applicable exchange rate.

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

Treasurer Connor reported that the attempt to transfer the Association's Dinner Account to an interest bearing HSBC Money Market Account, as reported at the Spring Board meeting, was delayed due to a clerical error with the bank. As such, the money remains in the Association's non-interest bearing Operating Account, and Treasurer Connor is still working to transfer it to an interest bearing account.

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.

#### **Proctors**

The Proctor Admission Committee has received two (2) Proctor membership applications for consideration, both of which have been approved by the Committee:

**Leanne O'Loughlin**  
Thomas Miller  
Harborside 5  
185 Hudson Street, Suite 2701  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07311

**Kurt C. Odell**  
Moran Towing Corporation  
50 Locust Avenue  
New Canaan, Connecticut 06840

**Associates**

The following four (4) applicants have applied for Associate membership since the May 2023 meeting, and all are recommended for approval:

**Thomas Mason Furlow**  
Furlow Law Firm, PLLC  
901 NE Loop 410, Suite 530  
San Antonio, Texas 78209-1306

**Gordon W. Prince**  
Gawthrop Greenwood, PC  
17 E. Gay Street, Suite 100  
West Chester, Pennsylvania 19381

**Mark Ruge**  
K&L Gates  
1601 K Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

**Ian Taylor**  
Lewis, Kullman, Sterbcow & Abramson, LLC  
601 Poydras Street, Suite 2615  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

**Adjunct**

The Adjunct Member Committee received one (1) Adjunct membership application for consideration, which has been approved by the Committee:

**Tomer Chen**  
Martin Ottaway, van Hemmen & Dolan, Inc.  
620 Shrewsbury Avenue  
Tinton Falls, New Jersey 07701

## **Reinstatement**

The Membership Committee has received one (1) request for consideration of reinstatement since the May 2023 meeting:

**John Poulson (Adjunct, 2005)**  
Poulson Marine Consultants  
Long Island City, New York 11101

## **Law Students**

The following six (6) applicants have applied for Law Student membership since the May 2023 meeting, and all of them have been approved:

**Joshua Timothy DuBois**  
329 N. Harding Hwy  
Buena, New Jersey 08310

**Brittany Brienne Guempel**  
1211 Spanish Court  
Marco Island, Florida 34145

**Cassandra A. Hemmer**  
1801 Hillary Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

**John Martin Hood**  
701 Market Street, Suite 1500  
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

**George Phillip Shalloway**  
414 Light Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

**David Eric Vollmer**  
1708 Norris Drive  
Austin, Texas 78704

## **DECEASED MEMBERS**

The following deaths of MLA Members were reported since the May 2023 meeting:

Michael R. Gomez  
Norfolk, Virginia  
Adjunct, Elected 2006

Frank Lawrence Wiswall, Jr.  
Castine, Maine  
Proctor, Life Member, Elected 1966

**MEMBERSHIP TOTALS**

As of July 25, 2023, the MLA reported its total membership as follows:

**MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY AS OF JULY 25, 2023**

**VOTING (ACTIVE) MEMBERS**

PROCTORS	1108	
ASSOCIATES	857	
NON-LAWYERS	112	
ACADEMIC	<u>14</u>	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2091</b>	(677 of the active members are Life Members)

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

EX-OFFICIO	26
HONORARY	3
JUDICIAL	76
LAW STUDENTS	<u>46</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>151</b>

**TOTAL MEMBERS 2242**

The total number of new members proposed for the July 29, 2023, Board Meeting is twelve (12), comprised of four (4) Associates, one (1) Adjunct, one (1) reinstatement, and six (6) Law Students. In addition, two Associate Members were approved for Proctor status.

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 the website migration, with the interface and membership management functions largely proceeding according to plan. Unfortunately, the MLA document library and on-line CLE programs have slowed the migration process, and a more robust platform will be necessary to host these features on the website. Although the library and CLE platform is currently functioning, Secretary Krieger is exploring proposals from vendors for a new platform.

Secretary Krieger also reported that to mitigate ongoing issues with unwanted email spam, the Members’ email addresses will no longer be included on the public access portion of website. Email addresses will only be accessible to Members after logging into their private

accounts, while Members' names and office addresses will still be available on the public access portion of the website.

Secretary Krieger reported that President Holland, in consultation with the Officers of the Association, has appointed Kevin O'Donovan to act as Special Liaison to the Website and Technology Secretary.

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 and Social Media***

First Vice President Hurley presented the final version of the Association's Guidelines and Policies on Social Media Postings for consideration by the Board.

ON MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED, the Board unanimously approved the Association's Guidelines and Policies on Social Media Postings.

## **VII. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Past President Nolan, who was recently appointed to the Executive Council of the CMI, reported on his attendance at the CMI Colloquium on June 14-16, 2023, in Montreal, Canada, where it was announced that the signing ceremony for the Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships ("Beijing Convention") will be held on September 4, 2023, in Beijing, China. Past President Nolan also explained his involvement in a working group established for the purpose of promoting the ratification of the Beijing Convention to the U.S. Department of State and the Open Registries of Liberia and the Marshall Islands. Finally, Past President Nolan discussed the newly established CMI working group on Mobile Offshore Renewable Units designed to harvest energy from ocean currents and winds, focusing on issues relevant to financing and flagging requirements, and the offshore platforms' status under collision and environmental law.

President Holland led an extensive discussion on the ongoing plans for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations during the 2024 Spring meeting in New York and thanked Past President Clyne for his hard work in securing the evening events' venues at the Yale Club and Tavern on the Green. The Board discussed leveraging the events surrounding the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to include membership recruitment, advertising/publicity, commemoration gifts for attendees, as well as mentoring and involvement of young lawyers. Past President Hooper proposed development of a written history of the Association for which the Board expressed interest. First Vice President Hurley circulated a proposed logo for the Association's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Board's consideration.

Finally, President Holland discussed the possibility of the Association funding Young Lawyer Regional CLE Seminars two or three times per year throughout the country for the purpose of providing opportunities for the Young Lawyer Committee members to present CLE topics to lawyers in their respective locales. The Board members indicated their agreement with this program.

### **VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

President Holland reported on the itinerary for the Fall meeting in San Francisco during October 18-21, 2023, including CLE programs and credit.

President Holland confirmed the date of February 24, 2024, for the Winter meeting of the Board of Directors at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

First Vice President Hurley reported on the plans for the 2024 Fall meeting in New Orleans, including event venues and the CLE program at Tulane University.

### **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 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Powers". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Edward J. Powers, Secretary