ABA SIL International Human Rights Committee

Minutes of May 9, 2018 Meeting

The meeting convened by telephone at 12:00 pm eastern time. Dan chaired the meeting.

Attendees (at least the ones who sent me an email confirming):
Dan Appelman
Jeff Bartlett
Jeffrey Epstein
Ed Felter
Darren Fenwick
Susan Harmon
Corinne Lewis
David Taylor
Adam Weber
Luke Wilson
Neville (sorry didn’t get your last name)

1. Policy

Resolution and Report: Persecution of the Legal Profession
Dan updated the Committee on the status of the proposed resolution and report on persecution and protection of judges and lawyers. The draft R&R was approved by the Council of the Section of International and forwarded to the ABA’s Rules and Calendar to get on the agenda for the ABA’s House of Delegates (“HOD”) at the ABA’s Annual Meeting in Chicago this August. Other ABA groups have joined the effort as supporters and as co-sponsors. If the R&R is approved by the HOD as anticipated, it becomes ABA policy. We anticipate that such adoption will allow our Committee and other ABA groups to work more freely with the UN, NGOs and States to advance the rule of law and improve the protection of judges and lawyers in those countries where abuses are occurring. This will definitely be on our Committee’s agenda for the next ABA year.

Resolution and Report: Human Rights as Element of National Security Agenda
Dan gave an update about the working group that is drafting a resolution and report underlining the importance of human rights as an element of the United States’ national security policy. Members of our Committee have joined that working group. Several articles on this topic have recently been published. Initially the working group is focused on an R&R describing US national security interests related to the Rohingya. The plan is to expand beyond that to human rights and US national security generally. All Committee members who would like to participate are welcome to join the drafting group by letting Dan know.

2. Report on Joint SIL/IHRC Breakfast Meeting
Jeffrey Epstein reported on the breakfast meeting attended by our Committee and the ABA’s Senior Interest Law Network at the Section of International Law’s Annual Meeting last month in
New York. As many as thirteen people attended and discussed possible joint projects. Our Committee’s Jessica Horowitz proposed a future program on intergenerational strengths in law practices co-sponsored with the SIL.

3. **Survey of IHRC Membership**
The co-chairs of our Committee have developed a questionnaire soliciting information from our membership on interests, background, skills and the activities in which they would like our Committee to participate in the coming ABA committee year. We anticipate sending that questionnaire out to the membership via our listserv in the near future.

4. **Communications and Publications**
Luke gave an update on the Committee’s journal, The Clarion. We need more articles. Submit them to Luke or contact him to get more information. The Clarion provides a great opportunity for those who want to write and be published on human rights issues. Several past issues have been posted on our Committee’s webpage.

http://apps.americanbar.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=IC950000

We need volunteers to resurrect our e-Brief/newsletter, to update our Committee’s ABA webpage and to coordinate our presence on social media.

5. **Programs**
We have no confirmed programs in the near future. However, Lisa and Jeff Bartlett are working on organizing several. Stay tuned. Proposals for webinars, teleconferences, “brown-bag” lunch presentations and panels at the ABA’s meetings are always welcome. Send to Lisa (lisade.gray@gmail.com) and Jeff ([jeffrey.a.bartlett@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.a.bartlett@gmail.com)). Thanks to Darren and Jeff for proposing some.

6. **Upcoming Conferences**
The ABA’s Annual Meeting will be held in Chicago from August 2nd to 7th. Lots of CLE and interesting meetings. Also the House of Delegates’ consideration of our R&R on protection of the legal profession—open to all ABA members. Our Committee will try to schedule a breakfast or lunch meeting. Stay tuned.

**Next Meeting:** June 13 at noon eastern time by teleconference.

Co-Chair Contact Information
Lisa De Gray    lisade.gray@gmail.com
Dan Appelman   dappelman@mh-llp.com
Luke Wilson    lphw44@gmail.com