ABA SIL International Human Rights Committee

Minutes of October 11 2017 Meeting

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

**In Attendance:**
Luke Wilson
Lisa De Gray
Dan Appelman
Alan Guterman
Jaclyn Fortini Laing
Liane Aronchick
Corinne Lewis
Cindy Galway Buys
Anastasia Kovalevskaya
Tom O’Keefe
Brittany Benowitz
Jessica Horwitz
Darren Fenwick
Tamil [didn’t get last name]

If you attended and we didn’t note it above, or if we got your name wrong, please let Dan Appelman know.
dappelman@mh-llp.com

**Co-Chair Introductions.**
Lisa and Dan introduced themselves briefly. Luke was unable to attend until later in the meeting.

**Organizational Matters:**
Most of the teleconference was devoted to setting out the agenda for the new committee year. There was general agreement on the following:

- **Meetings.** We plan to hold monthly “all hands” Committee meetings by teleconference; generally at noon eastern time on the second Wednesday of each month. **November meeting will be this Wednesday, November 8 at noon.** We would like to have each meeting be part business and part presentation/current events/updates.
- **Ways to Get Involved.** We noted the following areas for Committee activity:
  - Membership
  - Publications (including Year-In-Review, The Clarion, e-briefs)
  - Communications (including social media, Committee web page, Committee listserv)
  - Diversity
  - Programs
If you haven’t already, please contact any of the Committee’s co-chairs if you would like to help in one or more of these areas.

- The three co-chairs have divided up their responsibilities as follows:
  - Lisa—Programs, Diversity, Membership
  - Dan—Policy, Rule of Law, Special Projects, Coordinating with ABA Civil Rights and Social Justice Section’s International Human Rights Committee

- Steering Committee. Members are encouraged to express interest in joining our Steering Committee. Please contact Lisa at lisade.gray@gmail.com.

- Corporate Social Responsibility. The Committee co-chairs welcomed the members of the former Corporate Social Responsibility Committee to our merged and combined Committee. We look forward to your help in making sure that this Committee year includes plenty of CRS content.

- Committee Priorities:
  - Growing steering committee and making it active
  - Enlarge Committee membership
  - Re-engage previous Committee members who have become less active
  - Engage with ABA’s Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice’s International Human Rights Committee (e.g., co-sponsor programs, policy initiatives)

- Programs.
  - ABA International Law Section’s Spring 2018 Meeting. The Committee has confirmed plans for two sessions at the International Law Section’s Spring 2018 meeting in New York. One will be on “Business and Human Rights: Putting Human Rights in Practice at a Global Company”. The other will be on “Governments’ Cross-Border Requests for Cloud User Data: Protection of Public Safety and Human Rights in the Internet Age.”
  - Human Rights Day. We also have planned a teleconference program for Human Rights Day on December 5th. Topic will cover how to file a petition or complaint with UN human rights bodies. Stay tuned.
  - Other Programs. Our goal is to offer several other programs on various human rights issues throughout the year. We will have short presentations as part of our monthly membership telephone meetings; and we will present at least a few “stand alone” teleconferences or webinars. Proposals are welcome. Please contact Lisa. lisade.gray@gmail.com

- Interests Expressed.
  - Daren is interested in having the Committee cover the issue of universal jurisdiction.
  - Tamil is interested in the Committee’s corporate social responsibility (“CSR”) agenda, particularly how CSR relates to International Labor Organization
Convention 169 concerning indigenous and tribal people in independent countries.

- Alan is interested in working on corporate social responsibility and publications.

- **Working with Other ABA Committees.**
  - Dan Appelman currently serves as a vice chair of the Section on Civil Rights and Social Justice’s International Human Rights Committee. Dan intends to encourage the two committees to work together and to co-host and co-sponsor programs, policy initiatives and other activities.
  - The ABA’s Center on Human Rights has expressed an interest in working with our Committee. Our Committee co-chairs and vice chairs will explore opportunities and will report back to the membership in subsequent meetings.
  - Luke mentioned the possibility of working with the ABA’s United Nations Committee.

**Presentation: Arms Trade Treaty**

Dan gave a summary of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty and the Committee’s work on a proposed ABA resolution urging the United States Senate to ratify it. The ABA’s House of Delegates did adopt the resolution at the ABA’s Spring Meeting earlier this year.

Brittany summarized the Center for Human Rights’ contributions to the Committee’s efforts with regard to developing the resolution and the supporting report. She also mentioned opportunities to continue work on this issue, including activities that would resist any efforts by the US government to weaken existing export control laws.

Luke discussed an important function of the Committee, to use our expertise to counter any misinformation that could weaken or diminish human rights-supportive initiatives, including arms control laws and regulations.

**Next Meeting:** November 8 at noon eastern time by teleconference.

**Co-Chair Contact Information**

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