



CRIMINAL LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION  
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## **Criminal Lawyers' Association Annual General Meeting**

October 28, 2020  
6:02 to 6:24 p.m.  
Zoom

### **1. Call to Order**

President John Struthers called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **2. Appointment of Chair and Recording Secretary**

John Struthers served as chair and John Chagnon served as recording secretary. A quorum was confirmed with 112 proxies and 57 voting members present – total of 169 (quorum being 137).

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

***Motion:** Brendan Neil moved to accept the agenda as presented.  
Don Perry seconded the motion.  
**Motion carried***

### **4. Acceptance of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2019 Annual General meeting held on November 15, 2019 were presented for approval. Copies are available on the Association's website and emailed to all registrants in advance.

***Motion:** Michael Mandelcorn moved that the minutes of the 2019 Annual General meeting held on November 15, 2019 be approved.  
Maija Martin seconded the motion.  
**Motion carried.***

### **5. Finance Report**

Boris Bytensky gave a report on the audited statements ending March 31, 2020.

- These statements have had very little impact from COVID as they are for the period ending March 31, 2020.
- Conference expenses and revenues are for the 2019 Fall Conference – not 2020.



- The CLA board approved a budget loss of \$126,906.50. This was to help reduce the unrestricted reserve amount and to increase investments in member services, including reduced conference registration rates.
- At the end of the fiscal year, the CLA had a surplus of \$50,398. This can be mainly attributed to:
  - Membership growth
  - Solid event program attendance all year
  - Increase in bursaries/donations
  - Reduction of conference expenses, management fees and various budgeted expenses.
- The association continues to be in a very healthy financial position.

**Motion:** John Hale moved that the Financial Statements prepared by Pennylegion Chung LLP for the fiscal year April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 be accepted as presented.

Marsha Kideckel seconded the motion.

**Motion Carried.**

## 6. Appointment of Auditors:

**Motion:** Jessica Belisle moved that Pennylegion Chung LLP, Chartered Accountants, be appointed Auditors of the Criminal Lawyers' Association for the fiscal year April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, and that the Auditors be instructed to perform an independent review, at a fee set by the Board of Directors.

George Joseph seconded the motion.

**Motion carried.**

## 8. President's Report

- Thanks to Boris for his strong financial management of the association.
- Things are going well for the most part.
- 1,611 members as of today.
  - Many past members have rejoined the association this year along with a record number of new members.
  - We reduced membership fees for students and recent calls as well as introduced a payment plan.
  - We have worked to reduce fees in other areas for members whenever possible – increasing value of membership and reducing financial impact on members.
- Continue to work on improving communications with members - we hope members have seen a difference.
  - Have done personal outreach and tried to assist whenever possible.
  - Launched special sections on the members only website to make information more accessible.



- Messages shared in Communiqués, Listserv and Twitter.
- Lori Anne Thomas was recently appointed to bench.
  - Congratulations to Lori Anne. She will be missed.
  - Welcome Christine Mainville to the board.
- Relationship with Legal Aid is excellent.
  - Working closely together and now very close to an agreement.
- Board Members/Volunteers have attended more than 1,000 zoom meetings since the pandemic hit focused on working to get everything back on track.
- Working on expanding government programs to assist members with new grants becoming available.
- We should not be defensive – we should be collaborative. Much more can be accomplished by working together.
- Since the AGM last year, we have held more than 23 events and Town Halls – with more than 5,000 participants.
- Thanks to Funnel for the work and assistance.
- We are all very fortunate to have the CLA board we have.
  - We have been non-stop working this past year, especially with COVID.
  - Everyone has pitched in and helped.
  - Your vice presidents – Adam, Cassandra, Dan and John have all worked hard to assist board members, members and volunteers tirelessly.
  - Dean and Sid have been involved with many meetings and have been assisting wherever possible.
  - John and Sid were instrumental in the volunteer efforts in the courts when the COVID impact was growing and closers were happening.
  - Interventions – major wins including recent judgment with Jill Presser and Cassandra DeMelo taking the lead on, this past year. Thanks to all the CLA interveners.
  - Boris has been invaluable. Leading the development and launch of several new procedures, participating in meetings at all levels – tireless efforts.

## 9. Confirmation of the actions of outgoing board.

***Motion:*** Dan Johnson moved that all actions taken by the Governing Body since the last meeting be, and the same are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed; further-more moved that all Directors be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the organization against any costs and expenses incurred respecting the execution of their office.

Daniel Brodsky seconded the motion.

***Motion carried.***

## 11. Adjournment



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There being no further business or questions/comments, a motion to adjourn was called.

***Motion:*** *Brendan Neil moved that the meeting be adjourned.*

*Marsha Kideckel seconded the motion.*

***Motion carried.***

*Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.*