

Asian Australian Lawyers Association Minutes of Meeting of the Committee

Monday, 11 November 2013

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Conference Room, Level 2, 470 Bourke Street, Melbourne

1 Attendance & Apologies		
1.1	Attendance: Reynah Tang (Chair), Karin Clark, Zubair Mian, Cam Truong, Victor Tse, Jody Culey.	NOTED
1.2	Apologies: Daniel Nguyen, James Lion, Karen Cheng.	NOTED
2 Declaration of interests		
2.1	Declaration of directors' conflicts of interests	NOTED
	Directors are required to declare any conflict of interest with matters/activities of the Foundation in accordance with the relevant Sections of the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> .	
	Nil declared.	
3 Minutes		
3.1	Approval of Minutes Nil.	APPROVED
3.2	Action Items Nil.	NOTED
4 Management Reports		
4.1	Chairperson's Report The Chair, Reynah Tang, reported on the success of the AALA launch on 22 October 2013 in the Supreme Court Library and the <i>LJJ</i> Special edition on practising in Asia. There were approximately 100 people in attendance with Supreme Court Judge, Emiliios Kyrou sharing his experiences with bullying and to explain to lawyers with migrant backgrounds how to overcome racism and succeed. His Honour also delivered a short address on behalf of the Chief Justice of Victoria who was unable to attend in person but supports the objects of the association. The event also attracted media outlets including the Age and 2SER (Atticus legal affairs), reporting on the launch of the AALA and its objects. "Racism, bullying drove me to succeed, judge tells new Asian law association" The Chair further reported on the December <i>LJJ</i> which will be a special edition focused on practising in Asia and strengthening business ties. The edition will feature coverage of the AALA launch and Beijing Law Association pilot exchange program.	NOTED
	4.2	

	<p>Committee members discussed the immediate need for indemnity insurance for Committee members.</p> <p>Resolved: It was agreed to enter into indemnity insurance.</p>	RATIFIED
4.3	<p>Membership Report Committee members discussed the current membership status of AALA which is at 32 members. Of these members a large contingent are students.</p> <p>Committee members discussed the requirements to circulate membership application information prior to confirming his or her membership of AALA.</p> <p>Committee members considered the <i>Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations 2012</i> with reference to the process upon which to accept requests for membership.</p> <p>It was agreed that in order for a person to apply to become a member of the Association he or she must submit a written application to a the committee confirming that he or she:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wishes to become a member of the Association; • supports the purposes of the Association; and • agrees to comply with these Rules <p>Committee members also considered whether the AALA should subscribe to privacy principles and agreed that a simple statement about privacy should be included on the membership form. The purpose is to reassure applicants as sensitive information is requested that their personal information will be handled appropriately and for a proper purpose.</p> <p>Resolved: It was resolved to amend the membership form, as follows:</p> <p>a) to include a “tick box” for potential members to agree to the statement “In support of my application for membership I agree to support the purpose and objectives of the AALA which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocacy and support to its members; • improve the capability and reputation of the members in the legal profession through raising public awareness; • to promote and facilitate Asian cultural diversity in the senior ranks of the legal profession; and • promote a mutual understanding of Australian and Asian legal systems. <p>b) to include a statement about the purposes of AALA collection of private information as follows “<i>the AALA collects your personal information in order to help us to provide services to members and to support the activities and objects of the Association</i>”.</p> <p>c) to remove the request for a date of birth of an applicant and replace with year of birth.</p>	APPROVED
5 Starred items [options for resolution]		
5.1	<p>Objectives of AALA –Priortising</p> <p>Committee members discussed the overarching objectives of AALA and priortising objectives in order of importance.</p> <p>1. Promoting diversity and to facilitate opportunities for ascending to the Judiciary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define “Asian” • obstacles Asian lawyers face in promotion • advocacy <p>2. Awareness raising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mentoring and developing networks on a formal and informal manner • development of information sessions about ‘life in the law’ 	DISCUSSED
5.2	<p>Website The current “word press” AALA site was circulated to Committee members for consideration.</p>	

	<p>Committee members agreed that in order to have an appropriate digital presence that investment must be made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrade the word press blog into a .org.au website to provide greater functionality; • develop content and empower committee members to become content managers to drive traffic to the website; • seek a volunteer young lawyer or student to be responsible for the day to day management of the website. • Develop twitter handle and LinkedIn Group <p>Resolved: This matter will be brought back before the Committee at its next meeting on 2 December 2013.</p>	TO BE RETURNED
5.3	<p>Volunteer Committee members</p> <p>Committee members discussed co-opting volunteer members such as an Accountant and membership secretary.</p> <p>Resolved: This matter will be brought back before the Committee at its next meeting on 2 December 2013.</p>	TO BE RETURNED
6 Unstarred items [matters for information]		
6.1	Letter from Ray Steinwall to Attorney-General	TO BE RETURNED
6.2	Law Forum – 18/19 November 2013	NOTED
6.3	Visit from the Malaysian Bar Chair – February 2014	NOTED
6.4	Involvement in Melbourne Chinese New Year 2014	NOTED
7 Next Meeting		
7.1	The next meeting of the Asian Australian Lawyers Association (AALA) will be held on 2 December 2013 at 5:00pm – 6:00pm.	
8 Closure		