



Board of Directors Candidates

Jason Dirkx

DIRECTOR, PRACTICE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
SOLUTIONS

PAUL HASTINGS



Candidate Country

United States

ILTA Profile Link

[Jason Dirkx ILTA Profile](#)

LinkedIn Profile Link

[Jason Dirkx LinkedIn Profile](#)

Legal Sector
Experience

In my current role, I lead a team responsible for managing and developing the portfolio of practice technologies at the firm, including custom-developed practice and client solutions. However, I have been working in the legal sector in varying capacities for about 15 years. Starting in law school, I worked for the Center for Access to Justice and Technology, helping to automate court forms for self-represented litigants. I went straight from law school into legal technology and innovation. I started working for an early contract analytics company part-time and then went to work for Seyfarth Shaw where I was involved in a variety of knowledge and technology projects. After Seyfarth Shaw, I worked at Mayer Brown as a business analyst and project manager, rolling out a variety of technologies globally, including several large financial technologies. At Littler Mendelson, I worked in knowledge, technology, and innovation where, among other things, I helped to launch and grow a joint-venture company, ComplianceHR, which focuses on delivering products that help HR professionals navigate employment laws.

ILTA Volunteer
Experience

I am currently serving as the co-chair of a newly formed Education Council to help establish and transition the organization to the newly proposed volunteer structure.

Previously I served as co-chair of the Program Planning Council (PPC) for 2 years, that, among other responsibilities, involved establishing and driving a new format of project teams on the PPC that investigate and tackle a variety of strategic issues related to content production, including increasing collaboration with other teams in the organization and affiliated organizations, systematizing innovation in content production, delivering content to under-served member segments, and improving the way content is served up and findable by membership.

Prior to serving as PPC co-chair, I was on the PPC for 3 years and was also on the ILTACON Conference Committee for 2 years.

I have also contributed to ILTA in a variety of capacities, including speaking roles, blog posts, white-papers, and other short-term volunteer opportunities.

Board of Directors
Experience
(ILTA and other
organizations)

I have not previously served on the ILTA Board of Directors or any other professional boards. I am currently serving as the secretary on my HOA board and have been on that board for 2 years.

Background

I am a legal technologist with a passion for innovation and transforming legal service delivery. In my current role, I collaborate to identify, design, architect, and develop opportunities to transform the practice of law, particularly utilizing technologies such as expert systems, workflow and document automation, AI, machine learning, language and contract analytics, data analytics and visualization, among others.

Before joining Paul Hastings, I served as the Knowledge Management Counsel at Littler, where I oversaw the Littler relationship for ComplianceHR, an award-winning joint venture with Neota Logic. I was responsible for navigating novel, complex, multi-jurisdictional legal issues to develop first-of-their-kind products. This included navigating a wide variety of novel issues while working across wildly different domains and stakeholders.

I am also an active volunteer with the International Legal Technology Association (ILTA), where I have served as Co-chair of the Education and Networking Council and Program Planning Council. In these roles, I have helped lead the efforts to evaluate and shape the educational framework of the organization. I have also led the implementation and systemization of a new concept within the council of self-selected small project teams that advance strategic organizational initiatives.

I present as well as publish blogs, articles, and book chapters on legal innovation and design thinking, including "Lawyering in Your Sleep - An Approach to Legal Product Development" and "Using Emotional Empathy and Design Thinking to Define User-Centered Service Needs." I have received several awards and honors, including the Outside the Box Award (ILTA Volunteer Awards). I also frequently speak at law schools about legal innovation and alternative career paths in legal.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Michigan State University and a J.D. from the Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Vision

Each candidate was asked questions related to Board service and their vision for ILTA's future. The questions and response are shown below.

Question: Considering the areas of global experience, financial expertise, and consensus building, please share some unique business experience, personal qualities, and/or perspectives that you will bring to your ILTA Board service if elected.

Response: *"Global Experience - I have regularly worked in various capacities beyond the United States, including studying abroad in China in law school, travelling to South America, Europe, and Asia for a global deployment and working regularly with colleagues outside the U.S. in global offices. Additionally, I have had the pleasure of working with a variety of my fellow ILTA volunteers from outside the U.S.*

Financial Expertise - While finance and accounting has never been my focus, it has been a regular part of my professional life. I supported payroll, bookkeeping and tax software in my first job out of college, I developed a custom budgeting tool while I was software developer, I worked closely and regularly with our finance team to roll out a global accounts receivable system and an expense reimbursement system at one of my law firm jobs, and today my team is regularly involved in building reporting around practice group performance. Additionally, in many of my positions, I'm regularly called upon to detail out business cases that often involve detailed financial models.

Consensus building - Consensus building is a standard part of my day-to-day job as we are constantly working on building consensus on all levels, from the direction of a project to collaboration across departments or practices. Additionally, in my various ILTA volunteer roles, I am often working with a group of peers to determine decisions and direction, which is almost always an exercise in consensus building. Lastly, in my role on my HOA board, the board is often grappling with difficult issues that impact people personally and in different ways, however we have to come to consensus as to how to move forward."

Question: Please describe your vision of ILTA's future. What does ILTA need to help ensure a successful future?

Response: *"The challenges of the last few years have revealed some fragility with the way ILTA has historically developed revenue. Moving forward, I agree with some of the strategies that the organization has outlined that look to diversify the value it provides to members and business partners (and thereby diversifying revenue). However, I think this is going to involve the organization taking a deeper, introspective look at the role it plays in the industry and the ways in which it truly brings value as an organization and a membership body. Identifying and clarifying those value propositions will allow the organization to focus while simultaneously being more creative about the ways it can diversify presenting those valued services to the constituencies it serves (and thus creating a more robust revenue platform)."*

Question Which ideas from the current strategic plan should be pulled forward into the 2023 – 2026 strategic plan and what additional outcomes should be included in the 2023 – 2026 strategic plan?

Response *"There remains value in many of the ideas included in the strategic plan and progress on much of the plan was stymied by the new challenges the pandemic brought to the organization. I think many of these elements of the strategic plan should be pulled forward, however, as discussed above, the pandemic revealed*

some other areas in which the organization could be more robust. The 2023 strategic plan should acknowledge the learnings from the pandemic and, in particular, embrace where there is alignment between the ideas of the 2020 plan and addressing the vulnerabilities the pandemic highlighted. For example, the organization excels at content production and produces a lot of high-quality content. However, a perpetual issue has been continuing to provide value from that content over time (for example, finding past content is often difficult, the organization could do more to target content, certain content could be kept evergreen or pulled into broader packages of curated content, etc.) Addressing this challenge would serve both many of the ideas not fully realized in the 2020 plan while also developing a more robust foundation for the organization."