



# ASJA WRITERS CONFERENCE

CHANGE | CHALLENGE | OPPORTUNITY

MAY 20-21, 2016 | ROOSEVELT HOTEL

## Client Connections 2016: What You Need to Know

**What is Client Connections?** Client Connections is a lottery-based event during Members' Day at the annual ASJA Conference. Members can register in advance to participate in brief face-to-face meetings with industry representatives who want to meet freelance writers. They include literary agents, media editors, and representatives from marketing, advertising, and PR agencies who seek content for corporate brands.

This speed-dating event, formerly known as Personal Pitch, gives ASJA members an exclusive opportunity to make new connections with people who value the work professional writers do. You may find your next best client—or an agent seeking his next best client may find YOU. Hence, Client Connections.

**When is Client Connections?** On FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2016, Members' Day of the conference, from 2:30-5:30 PM.

**How long will the meetings be?** Meetings last NINE minutes. Time limits are strictly enforced. You **must** conclude your meeting and leave the table when instructed to do so.

**Who can participate in Client Connections?** All ASJA members who are currently in good standing and who have registered to attend Member's Day may participate in the Client Connections lottery.

*Important: no one will be permitted to participate in Client Connections if they have not paid their conference registration fee by the lottery signup deadline.*

**Whom might I be able to meet with?** You'll be able to see the list of attendees as it grows. See the list [here](#). Regardless of your specialty or expertise, it is highly likely someone on the list will interest you.

**What happens during a Client Connections meeting?** This varies depending on the specific participants. Some agents/editors simply want to learn a little bit about you, your background and your areas of expertise. Some are seeking writers with platform and a following. Others want to hear specific pitches and ideas, and of course you might want to present a book idea to a literary agent. To be safe, we suggest you prepare an "elevator speech" about yourself and be prepared to suggest a few ideas relevant to the

person you're meeting. Be prepared to give a very concise pitch or overview of your book or project, your unique qualifications, and your background or platform.

**Should I do anything to prepare?** Yes. Please do not meet with an agent if you have no idea what kind of material they handle, or an editor if you're completely unfamiliar with the publication. These appointments are brief so learn what you can about the agent or outlet in advance.

**What do I need to bring?** Enthusiasm, a friendly smile and a few good ideas. Oh, and lots of business cards. If you're meeting literary agents, you may want to bring a single-page description of your book idea. Don't bring copies of your entire book proposal to hand out.

**How do I sign up?** The sign-up period (to enter the lottery for appointments) is announced in notices on the ASJA forums and member e-mails. Once the lottery opens (it is open for several days), you will sign up via the online system. This is the \*only\* way to sign up; sign-ups cannot be taken by phone, fax, e-mail or on the ASJA forums. The sign-up page will provide menus of the people available to meet with.

There is NO advantage in entering the lottery earlier rather than later in the sign-up period -- as long as you enter your selections before the sign-up period closes.

*Once again, please ONLY sign up for appointments with people you really want to meet, and for publications/projects for which you are qualified.*

**Will I definitely get the appointments I want?** No. Client Connections is a lottery. Participants are available for a limited time during the event, and needless to say, certain people tend to be in high demand thus their slots fill up in the early rounds of the lottery.

**Will I definitely get any appointments?** No. Client Connections is a lottery. There is no guarantee that any of your picks will result in an appointment. There are many variables involved. In general, if you pick less-popular clients who are there for more time, your chances of getting appointments rise.

**Can I swap appointments with other members?** You may swap with another ASJA member, provided you contact the co-chairs **IN WRITING prior to May 16** to confirm that a switch has been made, so that they can update the master Client Connections list.

**Will I be able to get new appointments onsite?** Contrary to previous years, you will **NOT** be able to sign up for additional appointments onsite on Member's Day. We have extended the deadline for clients to sign up this year, in order to get the maximum number of available appointments for our members. We also want to avoid errors such as double bookings that inevitably occur when we start adding and changing appointments onsite.

**What if I miss the signup period?** We strongly encourage all ASJA members – new and veteran – to take note of the sign-up dates, which will be promoted well in advance. This will be the ONLY way to sign up for Client Connections.

**What happens if I select just one or two people in the lottery?** If you make two choices then you get two chances in a random drawing for the people you picked.

**How are appointments made?** Appointments are done through a software program adapted for Client Connections. The software provides everyone an equal chance of getting their selections.

**Is there a code of conduct governing the event?** Yes. By participating in Client Connections, you agree to act in a courteous and professional manner. This is a fast-paced event that must run smoothly in order to allow for successful meetings. Deviating even slightly from the rules (trying to remain at your meeting longer than the allotted time, for example) is very disruptive. Anyone who violates the rules will not be allowed to participate and may even be prohibited from participating in future events.

**How can I help make Client Connections better?** We are always looking for clients to invite to Client Connections! If you'd like to share a contact that might be interested in participating, we warmly welcome that! Simply contact the co-chairs and we'll send you the invitation.