

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Mark Wheeler's Office

Members Present: John Skinder, Mark Wheeler, Terry Church, Bill Pope, Patrick O'Connor, Megan Card, Chris Lanese, Lenny Lucenko, Trevor Zandell

Members Absent: Chris Coker, Laura Murphy, Janet McClanahan Moody

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg, Rachael Langen Lundmark

1. **Call to order** 5:33pm
2. **Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2016 Board meeting** Chris L. moves to approve the minutes, seconded by John. Motion carries without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 TCVLS - Rachael Langen Lundmark, Executive Director at TCVLS, attended the meeting to start revitalizing the relationship between TCBA and TCVLS in the coming years. She sent a Resolution of Support to the Board before the meeting. Rachael discussed the funding levels at TCVLS and mentioned the funding has decreased from TCBA to TCVLS this past year.
 - 3.2 Local Hero Nominations – The Board voted and selected Judith Luther-Siflett as the winner of the WSBA Local Hero Award.
 - 3.3 President appoints nominating committee for 2016-2017 Board Officer Positions – Terry appoints John, Megan, and himself to be on the committee.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Donation Request Form update-Chris L. updated the form and plans to have a tab on the website.
 - 4.3 Bigelow Award “New Form” update – The committee updated the form.
 - 4.4 Law Day update- The sub-committee communicated electronically. They are working on a topic. John will work on it and send a draft to the committee.
 - 4.5 Judicial Evaluation Survey update – The survey is down to six questions. There will be a Bylaw amendment in May. We need to find an electronic survey that will work. Trevor will do research on survey options.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Janet McClanahan Moody) – January 2016 Financial Report-will discuss next month when Janet is here.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Megan Card)- Feb. 19, 2016 is the next CLE. The March CLE speaker will be Justice Stephens who will discuss the secrets behind the scenes. The April CLE will possibly be Judge Berschauer presenting mediation. There will be a half day CLE on April 22, 2016 at Indian Summer at 1:00 p.m. The topic is Paperless Practice.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Terry talked to Judge Murphy about having these meetings.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, John & Megan, Chris L.) – A half day Business Valuation CLE in March. A half day Paperless Practice CLE will be on April 22, 2016 at Indian Summer. A half day Trial CLE with Judge Murphy, Judge Price & Judge Wilson is tentative in May at the courthouse.
 - 7.3 Newsletter – Articles for the March Legal Brief are due to Heather on February 23. The Legal Brief will be mailed to members in early March.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Paul Battan) –See below information from Paul Battan, Section Chair.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Chris Lanese) – TCVLS passed the joint resolution. Chris L. will write an article for the Legal Brief.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Megan Rue) – Megan is still on maternity leave. Ryan Bedford organized a monthly YL lunch. Trevor spoke at the lunch meeting as a mentor.
- 8.4 Criminal Defense (Paul Strophy)- no report
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law Committee (Martha Wehling) – The next section meeting will be Wednesday, March 23. Neil Wise will present on the reintroduction of fishers (a weasel-sized mammal) into the Cascades, and management options for wolf populations. Neil is an AAG representing the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. We are applying for one CLE credit for his presentation. We plan to have presentations later in the year regarding the Mazama pocket gopher litigation against Thurston County as well as an update on the implementation of the recreational marijuana laws by the State’s new Cannabis Policy Lead. We hope to have one more presentation on a timely legal issue, but haven’t yet selected the topic.

9. **Additions to Agenda:** The Annual TCBA BBQ will be on Saturday, August 27, 2016 at Burfoot Park.

10. **Announcements:** None

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** March 9, 2016 Patrick & John hosting at Laura Murphy’s office

12. **Adjourn** 7:31pm

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February 4, 2016

Family Law Section
February 2016 Report to the TCBA Board

Dear TCBA Board Members:

I have spent the last month learning what my responsibilities as section chair are. I think I have done this now and have prepared the attached memorandum. This will show you what we hope to do this year and will be helpful to me in passing on the responsibilities to the next chair.

Speaking of which, I would like the Board to approve Mike DeWitt as the next chair, and to serve as this year's vice-chair. Mike is interested in this responsibility, he is well respected, and well liked. He serves the family law community in several different capacities. I am confident that the Section will be well served when the chair's responsibilities pass from my hands to his.

The Section is a part of the TCBA, but the broader perspective is that it is a part of the Thurston County family law community. Currently there are about 120 people on the email distribution list, among them attorneys, judicial officers and staff, clerks, guardians ad litem, mediators, and social service providers. My hope is that the Section will help the whole family law community work together more effectively and collegially.

There are two significant changes occurring that will impact family law practitioners this year: First, the new plain language family law forms that were released February 1, 2016 become mandatory May 1, 2016. The forms were created for use by pro se litigants, and they are not supposed to be customized at all, so family law attorneys are generally responding negatively to this change. Second, the two court commissioners, Commissioner Thomas and Commissioner Lack, will probably switch assignments effective July 1, 2016, so we will be adjusting to a new approach from the bench again. Mike and I will do what we can to help the Section members adjust as well as possible to these changes.

Very Truly Yours,



Paul Battan
Section Chair

cc: Mike DeWitt