

# THE LEGAL BRIEF

A Publication of the Thurston County Bar Association

Volume 33 Issue 3  
May 2015

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Board Member

## President's Message    By: Lenny Lucenko

On May 15, 2015 the Thurston County Bar Association gathered for our annual dinner at the Indian Summer Golf & Country Club. The Oly Mountain Boys, with TCBA member Tye Menser singing lead vocal on a number of songs, entertained the membership with jam after bluegrass jam.

During the business portion of the meeting, Terry Church was confirmed as your President for 2015-2016. The remaining Officers consisted of Megan Card as President Elect, Trevor Zandell as Secretary, Janet McClanahan-Moody as Treasurer and I assumed the position of Immediate Past President. We also approved the following members for your Board of Directors: John Skinder, Bill Pope, Mark Wheeler, Chris Coker, Laura Murphy and Chris Lanese. We are also pleased to welcome Patrick O'Connor to your Board of Directors. Patrick replaces the esteemed Larry Jefferson who stepped down from the Board of Directors after a number of years of distinguished service.

Historically, the Bigelow Award is presented at the Annual Dinner. Pursuant to the Thurston County Bar Association Bylaws, the TCBA Board of Directors is tasked with the responsibility of selecting the recipient of the Bigelow Award at the April Board of Directors meeting. After a spirited and thoughtful discussion and careful consideration of the information that was provided to us, the Board of Directors determined not to award the Bigelow Award for 2015.

The Board of Directors' decision to not award the Bigelow Award for 2015 was not made lightly and should not be a reflection of the nominees for the award. In reaching this decision the TCBA Board of Directors continued with our long standing tradition and did not consider current members of the Board of Directors who were nominated for the Bigelow Award. In an effort to avoid this issue in the future and to formalize our long standing tradition, we adopted, at the annual dinner, an amendment to the Thurston County Bar Association By-Laws that provides that "a nominee for the Bigelow Award shall not be a current member of the Thurston County Bar Association Board of Directors." The Board of Directors is also forming a committee to revamp the nomination form for the Bigelow Award to make it easier to fill out and return and to include requests for specific information that will be essential to the Board of Directors in their consideration of nominees for the Bigelow Award.

After a delicious buffet dinner that included salmon and prime rib we acknowledged eight of our members who have been practicing law for at least fifty years: Francis Walker (sixty five years), Don W. Taylor (sixty one years), Honorable Robert Doran (Retired, fifty seven years), Charles B. Roe (fifty five years), Frank Owens (fifty four years), Argal Oberquell (fifty two years), Justice Gerry Alexander (Retired, fifty one years) and Stephen Bean (fifty years).

Following this acknowledgment, I introduced our new president Terry Church who eloquently expressed his gratitude at the privilege of serving as president of the TCBA and detailed his vision on how the TCBA will continue to serve our members. Terry challenged all of us to continue to serve as mentors in the community and continue to practice with the civility that makes Thurston County the best place to practice law in the state of Washington.

The Thurston County Bar Association is our organization and together we can continue make it outstanding. It was an honor serving as your president this past year and I look forward to seeing most of you at future TCBA functions throughout the next year.

## **A View From the Bench**

By Judge Erik Price



“When you go to court, you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren’t smart enough to get out of jury duty.”

When comedian Norm Crosby penned this observation about our jury system many years ago, he was likely referring to the stereotypical disdain that citizens all supposedly feel about jury duty.

Having now been the judge over many dozens of jury trials and having had the privilege to talk with every one of these juries following the verdict, I can report that our citizens are extremely satisfied (usually) with their experiences as a juror. In my experience, nearly all of our jurors end their service, perhaps exhausted, but energized about their civic responsibilities.

To be honest, it doesn’t seem to start that way. By the time the jury pool is marched into court to begin jury selection, each person has been told to “hurry up and wait” for several hours. At that early hour, each is likely keenly aware of the interruption in their daily life, their family obligations and jobs. Then the voir dire questions start. Nervous fidgeting develops in the gallery, with avoidance of eye contact a common tactic to prevent an inquisitive lawyer from calling their juror number. Anything to avoid having to explain out loud their personal view of the reliability of memories, or “reasonable doubt,” or, perhaps, the bumper stickers on their car. Through no fault of their own, our citizens are ordered into this foreign, scary place and forced to speak publicly. As juror numbers 1-13 are called into the jury box, there are few smiles.

But then something happens -- the change is noticeable. A growing realization of their role in the serious business of a trial appears to take root. The jurors move from scowls and crossed arms, to deep concentration and note taking. And make no mistake, they see everything. Whatever their individual levels of education or professional accomplishments, I am routinely impressed at their collective sophistication, like seeing through disingenuous trial tactics for example. The “practice tip” to trial lawyers that one should “never underestimate the intelligence of a jury” is a cliché because it is so true.

When the trial is submitted to the jury for deliberation, they seem almost eager to get started in making very difficult and serious decisions. By the time the verdict is in, the transition is complete. At that point, we judges and lawyers have our first opportunity to talk informally with the jurors. Most convey a strong sense of purpose and pride in having gone through the process – whether or not the trial involved a serious criminal charge or a lengthy civil contract dispute. This is notable given that the pay is negligible and our juror accommodations are embarrassingly inadequate (e.g., tiny deliberation rooms that are too hot or too cold, unsecure hallways, hard chairs, etc).

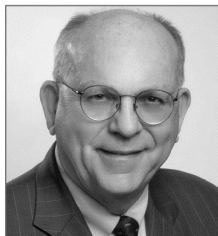
We are truly fortunate in our county to have such committed jurors. A wise practitioner remembers not only the demands asked of juries, but also jurors’ own self-perception of their important role in our justice system. As I mentioned, jurors notice everything, especially when you begin to take them for granted.

# LOCAL RESOLUTION

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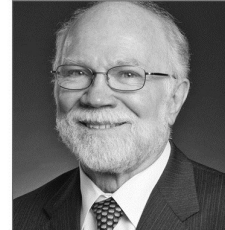
Judge Deborah  
D. Fleck (Ret.)



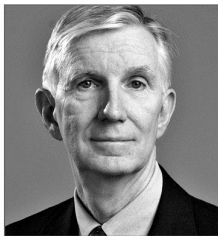
Judge J. Kathleen  
Learned (Ret.)



Judge Terry  
Lukens (Ret.)



Judge Thomas  
McPhee (Ret.)



James F.  
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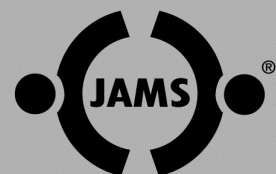
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the location most convenient for you, call  
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# YOUNG LAWYER SPOTLIGHT

## BY: MEGAN RUE, YL CHAIR

### **Rosemary (“Rosie”) Boelens, WSBA No. 46487**

[rboelens@phillipsburgesslaw.com](mailto:rboelens@phillipsburgesslaw.com) (360) 742-3500



Rosie practices in real estate transactions, environmental law, and land use. Coming from the escrow industry, Rosie has a great deal of experience reviewing purchase and sale agreements and title reports and working to clear any issues that arise during the life of a transaction. She also has experience preparing closing documents, including HUD-1 Settlement Statements and any recorded documents such as deeds and powers of attorney.

During law school, she completed externships with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Earthjustice, and the Land Use Division of the Snohomish County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. Additionally, she served as Staff Editor and then as Editor-in-Chief of the Seattle Journal of Environmental law.

After working in escrow for a year, Rosie decided to transition out of a “J.D. Preferred” career and into the practice of law. She is very happy with her choice and the career move. She is working on learning as much as possible about practicing law and balancing that with being a new mom.

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I became a lawyer because: After earning a degree in Aerospace Engineering, I realized I wanted to join a profession that had more client contact and the ability to impact the community. I chose the law because it combines the problem solving part of engineering that I enjoyed with the client service piece I was missing.

The hardest part of being a young lawyer is: Feeling confident that you have the right answer when a more experienced attorney disagrees.

If I were not practicing law I would be a personal trainer. I love helping people accomplish their goals.

The best advice I have been given is: At least one thing will always go wrong. When it does, solve the problem and keep going.

I would give this advice to a first-year law student: If you do not go to law school with a specific discipline in mind, try a few different ones out with internships or volunteer opportunities. You may not know you love (or hate) something until you try it.

My favorite vacation place: Hawaii.

If you would like to be featured in the Young Lawyer Spotlight or know someone you would like your fellow lawyers to get to know, email [megan@morganhill-law.com](mailto:megan@morganhill-law.com).

## Washington State Law Library

**Westlaw Classic is being retired August 31st.**

Sign up now for an introduction to  
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This free hands-on class will cover basics such as searching, navigation, download/printing and the new Keycite layout.

Three sessions to choose from:  
9:30-10:30 a.m., 11 a.m.-noon or 1-2 p.m.

When: Tuesday, June 23rd  
Where: Library Computer Center

Seating is limited, so sign up early!  
Please RSVP by June 12th

Temple of Justice, State Capitol Campus,  
415 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98501

[www.courts.wa.gov/library](http://www.courts.wa.gov/library)  
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## **NEW CLERK'S PERSPECTIVE... What a Difference Four Months Make. As submitted by Thurston County Clerk, Linda Myhre Enlow -**

I have now been in office as the Thurston County Clerk for four months. It has been a learning experience – just like I knew it would be. I am enjoying the many challenges and rewards learning to be a successful Elected Official. Input from employees and colleagues has been most beneficial, and I welcome more of these conversations. It is my honor to serve our citizens.

First of all, I want to recognize the people that form the internal framework of the Thurston County Clerk's Office – the dedicated, knowledgeable staff. Simply and truthfully put, I wouldn't want to do it without them. My staff's optimistic attitudes create a positive experience for the customers they help. Staff in the Clerk's Office are proud of their excellent customer service delivery and should be. I am honored and humbled to be a member of the excellent team in the Clerk's Office. We all look forward to serving the citizens of Thurston County.

I would like to recognize the extraordinary achievement of Jon Powell, who has managed our guardianship files for over 19 years. Staff from the Clerk's Office and Superior Court honored Jon with a nicely attended celebration in February. I am grateful for Jon's outstanding contributions and what he brings to the Clerk's Office each week.

As I get more settled into the Clerk's role, I am asking lots of questions. I am listening, observing and talking with fellow Clerks about their workflow processes, expectations and goals. My peers may be from different counties throughout Washington State but we all face similar challenges as Clerk. I am inspired to know that our core values and common goals are the same as is our dedication to public service. I look forward to collaborating (and conspiring) with my Clerk colleagues.

Houston... this is Odyssey! I have been working closely with Superior Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts to ensure a successful implementation of the new state-wide case management system (Odyssey). We recently took a field trip to Marion County, OR to experience first-hand the Odyssey system already in place down there. I am pleased to report that in Thurston County, the project development and ultimate late fall implementation of the Odyssey case management system is on target and on track. What an educational process this continues to be for all members of the project team. My primary "big picture" focus since taking office is Odyssey. I have been involved in all components of this endeavor starting with regular meetings with Superior Court judges, initial technical reviews, monthly stakeholder meetings, scheduling training labs and site readiness, etc. There will be much more information to highlight as we navigate into the Odyssey case management system world. This new system will showcase many advantages for members of the public, the Court, the Clerk's Office staff and attorneys. I will keep you up-to-date on our progress. Feel free to call or email me with any questions.

There will be many future experiences to share with you. Thank you to the Thurston County Bar Association for inviting me to share in your newsletter. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding partnership with the TCBA.

## Judge Lisa Sutton Day & Evidence CLE Recap

### By: Christopher Lanese

On March 27, 70 local attorneys spent a sunny Friday afternoon at the Indian Summer Golf & Country Club to attend the Thurston County Bar Association's Evidence CLE. Bar President Lenny Lucenko began the program by presenting Judge Lisa Sutton with a Proclamation from the Thurston County Bar Association thanking her for her service as an Assistant Attorney General and Thurston County Superior Court Judge, congratulating her on her ascension to the Court of Appeals, and declaring March 27, 2015 as "Judge Lisa Sutton Day" in the Thurston County Bar Association.

The CLE then began with Christopher Lanese moderating a judicial panel that included Judge Sutton and Thurston County Superior Court Judges Gary Tabor and Christopher Wickham. The Judges discussed a wide variety of evidentiary issues, ranging from common pitfalls faced by trial attorneys in the courtroom to the proper handling of evidentiary issues on appeal. The panel drew high praise from attendees. Comments regarding the panel included: "The judges' panel was excellent in all respects—each judge was excellent." "The judges clearly spent a lot of time preparing for the presentation and it showed through an excellent presentation."

Next was a presentation by University of Washington Law School Professor Bill Bailey regarding the use of illustrative exhibits in the courtroom and in briefing. Professor Bailey provided concrete examples of how he, as an accomplished trial attorney, had successfully used such illustratives to great effect on behalf of his clients. His presentation also received high marks from attendees, whose comments included: "Imaginative, ingenious, and informative." "Outstanding. One of the best speakers I've ever heard."

Finally, Senior Public Defender Patrick O'Connor and Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney John Skinder drew from their extensive trial experience to present on common evidentiary pitfalls—and how to avoid them. Their presentation covered expert testimony, character evidence, impeachment, and hearsay. This ended the CLE on a high note, as comments from attendees included: "Excellent." "Very entertaining." "Good balance between the two." "Great material and interesting topics." "Very good examples from the cases they tried."

The Thurston County Bar Association prides itself in presenting high-quality, low-cost CLEs to its membership. If you have suggestions regarding topics for future CLEs or would like to get involved in planning CLEs, please contact us at [tcbainfo@gmail.com](mailto:tcbainfo@gmail.com).

*Christopher Lanese is a member of the WSBA Committee on Professional Ethics and the Attorney General's Office's Ethics Committee. The opinions expressed in this article are his own. You may contact him at [christopherl@atg.wa.gov](mailto:christopherl@atg.wa.gov) with suggestions for future topics.*





**Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services**  
**(360) 705-8194 – Main phone**  
**(360) 688-1376 – Director's phone**

### TCVLS Fundraising Breakfast

On Tuesday, May 5 TCVLS hosted its annual Fundraising Breakfast. The Board of Directors and Staff are grateful to live in a community that is so committed to legal justice for low income families and individuals.

#### We want to thank our Breakfast sponsors:

##### Platinum

**\$1,500** Thurston County Bar Association  
**\$1,000** Government Lawyers Bar Association  
 Cascadia Law Firm  
 Pope, Houser & Barnes  
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##### Gold

**\$750** Meyer Law Group  
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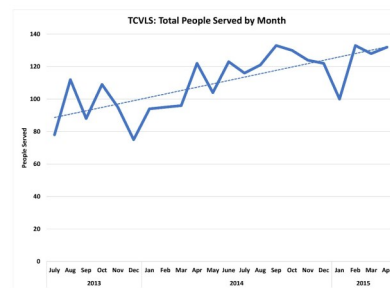
##### Silver

**\$500** Bean, Gentry, Wheeler and Peternell  
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 Law Office of Allen Miller  
 Law Office of Harriet Strasberg  
 Law Office of Eitan Kassel Yanich

At the breakfast, we shared the number of clients served during 2014. While the details in the graph below are difficult to read, the trend line is clear --- more and more people are using TCVLS services!



Making this possible are 101 attorneys who donated over 2,200 hours serving their communities. THANK YOU!

We can always use more volunteers. Here are pressing needs for our clinics:

**Housing Justice Project:** Each Friday morning between 8:45 and noon, volunteer attorneys represent those on the Unlawful Detainer calendar. Training is available for new attorneys. Depending on their availability, attorneys volunteer monthly or every two weeks or weekly. All scheduling options are welcome!

**Mentoring:** Our evening clinics use attorneys who specialize in family law as mentors for volunteers who practice in other areas. We need mentors for clinics at the Family Support Center and SafePlace.

**Board of Directors:** TCVLS has a volunteer Board. Being a board member takes three to six hours each month, depending on sub-committee involvement. Most meetings are over the lunch hour, so there is little evening work.

**If you are interested in any of these opportunities, call or e-mail Rachael Lundmark, Executive Director, at (360) 688-1376 or [director@tcvls.org](mailto:director@tcvls.org).**





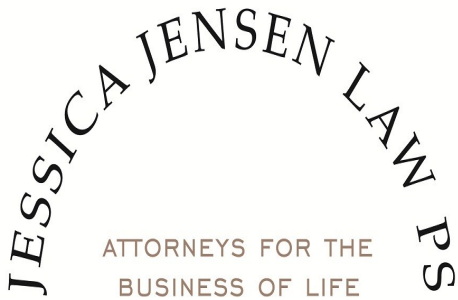
**Welcome Jacquie Brown Miller**  
 Environmental-Natural Resources-Land Use  
 Business-Estate Planning

We are pleased to announce a new addition, Jacquie Brown Miller as Senior Attorney.

Jacquie comes to the firm with fifteen years of experience as a government lawyer, public policy advisor, and hearing examiner pro tem. She focused on permitting and compliance matters involving land use, shorelines, water resources, drinking water, waste water, natural resources, endangered species, and contaminated soils. Jacquie also managed a successful green construction business for five years.

She is now using her experience to help individuals and businesses through client advice, assistance with regulatory compliance, and by providing constructive solutions-based litigation and government relations services. Jacquie is focusing her practice on environmental, land use, natural resources, business law, intellectual property, wills, trusts, and estates.

Please join us in welcoming Jacquie to Jessica Jensen Law PS. We welcome and appreciate every referral.



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**ADVERTISING IN THE LEGAL BRIEF**

If you would like to advertise in the LEGAL BRIEF, please contact Heather Ligtenberg at [tcba.info@gmail.com](mailto:tcba.info@gmail.com)

- The cost for advertising is \$200 for a full page, \$100 for 1/2 page, \$50 for 1/4 page and \$25 for 1/8 page.
- All advertisements are subject to approval of the Legal Brief’s Editorial Board.
- The LEGAL BRIEF is published bi-monthly. (January, March, May, September and November)
- Visit [thurstoncountybar.com](http://thurstoncountybar.com) for more information on specs and to view past editions of the Legal Brief

## 2015 TCBA Law Day Speech Contest

On May 5, we had the Finals for the 2015 Law Day speech contest at the Viewpoint Room at the West Bay Marina. We were hosted by the West Olympia Rotary who, as always, provided a warm crowd for our student presenters. This year's topic focused on the issue of immigration. We asked the students to first identify and discuss any problems that they perceived with our current national immigration policy. Then, we asked that they design a solution to the problems that they identified. We had a preliminary round on April 20 and had local high school students participate from Olympia High School, Capital High School, Tumwater High School, and Timberline High School. The preliminary round was attended and scored by TCBA Board Members Lenny Lucenko, Terry Church, Larry Jefferson, and John Skinder. Judge Hirsch, Judge Dixon, Judge Price, Judge Schaller and Judge Wilson also attended and scored the preliminary round. Selecting the top three finalists was a challenge because the presenters had many innovative ideas which were presented with poise and conviction. Bella Hood, Gracie Anderson, and Nate Wertjes advanced to the Finals.



All three students were impressive in their presentations at the Finals. The audience cheered and applauded after each student finished. After the speeches concluded, three speech judges were selected representing the Rotary and the TCBA.

After deliberation, Third Place was awarded to Gracie Anderson who is a Sophomore at Olympia High School. Second Place was awarded to Bella Hood, a Sophomore at Olympia High School. And, the winner of the 2015 Law Day Speech Contest was awarded to Nate Wertjes, a Junior at Tumwater High School. The TCBA presented scholarship money to each Finalist (\$800 for first place, \$600 for second place and \$400 for third place) and the Rotary provided each of the Finalists with a commemorative plaque. It was a great event!

If any members would like to participate in this awesome event next year, please let John Skinder know of your interest. He can be reached at the Thurston County Prosecutor's Office or feel free to e-mail Heather at [TCBA@gmail.com](mailto:TCBA@gmail.com)

### **ATTENTION Members:**

If you have **not** provided the TCBA with an email address you may be missing out on important notifications for CLE's and social events. The Legal Brief is the only thing to be printed and mailed in an effort for the TCBA to work towards going green.

Please contact [tcba.info@gmail.com](mailto:tcba.info@gmail.com) if you have any questions. Also, please remember to notify us when you change your email address or change addresses. We want to make sure you do not miss anything.

## TCBA & Other Upcoming Events

### 4th Annual TCBA Family BBQ/Picnic

Save the date for Saturday, August 29, 2015 at Burfoot Park, starting at 12:00 p.m. Look for details soon on email.

### Red Lion

The next lunchtime CLE is on Friday, September 18 at 12:00 p.m. at the Red Lion. More details to come.

### September 2015 Issue of the Legal Brief

There is a deadline of August 28, 2015 for submission of articles and advertisements to Heather Ligtenberg at [tcba.info@gmail.com](mailto:tcba.info@gmail.com).

### United Way Day of Caring:

Look for more information over the Summer on this tradition of helping out in our community. The date for the Day of Caring will be Friday, September 25, 2015. You will be able to volunteer all day or just part. Every year is a new adventure...think about volunteering this year!

### 2015 Holiday Lunch:

Save the date for the 2015 TCBA Holiday Lunch...*Friday, December 11, 2015 at 12:00 p.m.* at the Red Lion in Olympia.

Please refer to the "News & Events" section of our website for a full list of upcoming events:  
[www.thurstoncountybar.com](http://www.thurstoncountybar.com)

## Thurston County Family and Juvenile Court and Thurston County Bar Association proudly present:

Lunchtime Education on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 12:15 p.m. at Family and Juvenile Court

Topic: 2015 Family and Juvenile Law Legislative Update  
Presented by: Rick Bartholomew, Attorney at Law

No registration required. Just show up! For more information, email [morganb@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:morganb@co.thurston.wa.us)

## Section/Committee Announcements...

### Family Law Section

The Family Law Section meets at 12:10 on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Family and Juvenile Justice Center.

Patrick Rawnsley is the Chair of this section.

If you have any questions please contact Patrick at (360) 754-1222 or [pat@pwr-law.com](mailto:pat@pwr-law.com)

### Young Lawyer Section

The Young Lawyer Section holds regular Monthly Meetings the first Tuesday of every month.

Please contact Megan Rue at [megan@morganhill-law.com](mailto:megan@morganhill-law.com)

Please visit the YL webpage at <http://thurstoncountybar.com/sections/young-lawyer-section/>

## **Ethics Corner: The Internet Is Not Special**

### **By: Christopher Lanese**

The Internet is notorious for being a venue where people do and say things they would never do or say in the “real world.” As recent disciplinary cases across the country have confirmed, attorneys are no exception to this:

- A New York attorney received a public censure after sending an expletive-laden e-mail to a jury foreperson after the jury returned a verdict against his client. Less colorful portions of the e-mail included: “I will never forget you: the bloated Jury [Foreman] that I couldn’t get rid of and that misled and hijacked my jury. You lied, said you had no involvement in defense—no biases. It was all [not true].” The Supreme Court held that this conduct constituted harassment of a juror and conduct that adversely reflected on the attorney’s fitness as a lawyer. *In re Panetta*, 3 N.Y.S.3d 420 (2015).
- A Kansas attorney was suspended for six months for sending an inappropriate Facebook message to an unwed, unrepresented mother while representing the biological father in an adoption proceeding. The biological father did not consent to the adoption, and his attorney sent the mother a Facebook message that attached a revocation of consent and said, *inter alia*, “[t]his is your time to get rid of the guilt and standup and do what is right and what [the baby] deserves” and “you will live with this decision for the rest of your life and [the baby] will someday know what happened.” The Kansas Supreme Court held that this was conduct that was “prejudicial to the administration of justice.” *In re Gamble*, 301 Kan. 13 (2014).

While the Internet presents countless new opportunities for ethical pitfalls, none of these ethical issues are actually “new”: There is no “Internet exception” to the Rules of Professional Conduct. The Rules still apply and ethical quandaries are usually solvable by considering what the proper response would be in the “real world.” In addition, there are great resources for attorneys seeking assistance in navigating these issues. The most recent and comprehensive resource is the New York State Bar Association’s Social Media Ethics Guidelines, available at <http://www.nysba.org/workarea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=47547>. These Guidelines collect the best guidance from across the country regarding common ethical issues related to social media and the Internet. The WSBA Ethics Line at 206-727-8284 or 800-945-WSBA, ext. 8284 is also a great resource for attorneys dealing with cutting edge ethical issues. Although we might be facing complex issues today, we also have resources to help deal with them.

*Christopher Lanese is a member of the WSBA Committee on Professional Ethics and the Attorney General’s Office’s Ethics Committee. The opinions expressed in this article are his own. You may contact him at [christopherl@atg.wa.gov](mailto:christopherl@atg.wa.gov) with suggestions for future topics.*

## **COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

Exciting news! The Thurston County Clerk's Office has entered into a partnership with Capital Business Machines (CBM) for a SHARP digital document printing service expressly for attorneys and staff doing business at our Family Justice Center Courthouse. The printer is located just outside the law library. This black & white digital printer accepts/prints from thumb drives and features the .tiff, pdf and jpeg file formats.

The minimum cost if you wish to use this optional service is a pin fee of \$25 (up to 250 prints) and CBM can help you set up service.

Here's what you can do:

- Call Capital Business Machines at 491-6000 and ask for Lisa or Andrea. They can issue you a five-digit pin. You can also email Casey Lowe at [clowe@cbm-wa.com](mailto:clowe@cbm-wa.com) if you want to get your pin via email.
- The pin fee is \$25 up to 250 prints.
- Once you are issued your five-digit pin, CBM will email a link to the uTube short training video outlining how to use the SHARP printing service.

And if you prefer, we still have our coin-op copiers at the Family Justice Center, too. If you need a new card or want to refill one, just visit the Clerk's Office front counter and they will get you set up.

We would like your feedback about this new express service at [enlowl@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:enlowl@co.thurston.wa.us); and [sharpt@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:sharpt@co.thurston.wa.us). We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Benefits to Establishing a Link from the TCBA Website to your own Website:**

- The TCBA website is accessible through the major search engines, so potential clients looking for an attorney in Thurston County can easily find you.
- You can provide potential clients with information about you and your practice in an inexpensive, efficient and professional manner.
- The website is linked from the WSBA website so attorneys from outside of Thurston County can easily find attorneys here for various cases.
- It's FREE, courtesy of TCBA as a benefit for being a TCBA member.

If you would like to include your weblink on the TCBA website, please let Heather Ligtenberg know at [tcba.info@gmail.com](mailto:tcba.info@gmail.com)

## 2014 Annual Review

The Thurston County Bar Association continues to operate in very good financial shape. The resignation of our Administrative Assistant, Angela Skinder, brought us our new Administrative Assistant, Heather Ligtenberg. Heather has been doing a great job and we hope all of our members have the opportunity to meet her. The Administrative Assistant position has assumed more of the bookkeeping duties during the last couple of years, which is both financially and administratively more efficient. During this year, the Board made the decision to offer free first year membership. We also changed the venue of our monthly CLE Luncheons to better accommodate our ever growing membership. An annual review of our finances was again performed by Christine Garst of Sound Nonprofit Accounting with good results and recommendations to further improve our accounting systems that are already in place.

The Budget Committee approached the new budget conservatively this year due to expected increased expenses in light of the influx of new members (as a result of the free first year of membership offer) and the change of the monthly luncheon venue. As predicted, our membership has increased from 375 on January 1 to 495 as of May 1, 2015 – 110 took advantage of the free first year period, and 10 new members have joined after February 1 and paid dues. At the Board's annual retreat we again made the decision to keep \$10,000 in reserve for a rainy day fund, and also decided how to spend additional monies that we had on top of that reserve. The main focus of our reserve is to augment our budgeted yearly donations to Bigelow House, Thurston County Dispute Resolution Center, South Puget Sound Community College, Paralegal Program Scholarship, Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services, Safeplace, Family Support Center, Monarch Justice Advocacy Center, UW Law School (to fund creation of Tacoma campus) and other miscellaneous donations. Our criteria for donations continues to be that we support local nonprofit groups that provide law related services. The donations help further the work these groups are performing in our community. We know that the support of our Bar Association is greatly appreciated by the recipients.

A continued goal of the Board is to enhance the experience of our members. Our upgraded website was launched during the Summer. The website has been improved on many levels, one of which is that members can now pay for dues and events via credit card on the website. Web links from the TCBA website to our members' web sites became available at no charge. We provided CLEs and sponsored a Clerk's forum for the County Clerk candidates in an effort to provide our members with an in-person evaluation of the candidates for this elected position that affects us all. We sponsored the annual Law Day Speech Contest, and held our annual summer picnic for members and their families.

The Board is working hard to provide our members with learning opportunities, keep the Thurston County Bar Association financially sound, and remain a fun, supportive organization to its members. A summary of income and expenses for 2014 is shown below.

If you have any questions or comments about the TCBA financial review feel free to email [tcba.info@gmail.com](mailto:tcba.info@gmail.com).

### 2014 Thurston County Bar Association Annual Report

**Beginning of the Year:** **\$23, 103.00**

Income:

Membership	\$16,938.98
CLEs	\$ 8,756.00
Events	\$ 8,049.00
Donations	\$ 2, 531.00
Advertising	<u>\$ 4,150.00</u>

**Total Income:** **\$40,434.98**

Expenses:

Events	\$16,227.29
Operations	\$ 5,229.03
Payroll	\$10,869.72
Refunds	\$ 259.00
Awards/Donations	<u>\$13,341.32</u>

**Total Expenses:** **\$45,926.36**

**Year End Balance:** **\$17,601.67**

## 2015 Annual Meeting & Dinner

Friday, May 15, 2015 was an eventful evening for the TCBA at the Indian Summer Golf & Country Club. During the Business meeting there were by-law changes adopted, a new Executive team was accepted for the Board of Directors, and a Financial Review was provided.

If you missed the meeting/dinner here are a few pictures (for better quality see the online version):

The evening started with music by The Oly Mountain Boys who play bluegrass with high-energy drive and a Pacific Northwest bent, mixing traditional tunes with revolutionary original bluegrass compositions. TCBA Member, Tye Menser, (pictured in the middle of the band) is the lead vocals and plays the Banjo. Thank You Oly Mountain Boys for entertaining us!



After a delicious dinner, it was time to say THANK YOU to Lenny Lucenko, Jr. for his term as TCBA President. Lenny led the TCBA over the last year and will now step into the role as Immediate Past President. He received a plaque for his service and gave a speech about the past year as President. He recognized the Honored Members who are TCBA Members and with the WSBA for 50+ years and recognized the Judiciary in attendance.

After that it was time to say WELCOME to the new TCBA President, Terry Church. Terry gave a great speech on his background and what he hopes to accomplish during his presidency. Terry has been President-Elect over the last year and was in charge of the lunch time CLE's. As President this year he will lead the membership well.

-by Heather Ligtenberg



## 2015 JUDICIAL EVALUATION SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 465 surveys were emailed out to TCBA members and a total of 47 questionnaires were returned, representing 10.1 percent of the TCBA membership.

Responses were tabulated and an average rating for all respondents was calculated.

Only ratings between 1 and 5 were included; "Don't Know" and items not rated were excluded when calculating the averages. The averaged results in each category are listed below.

\*N=The number of Surveys returned for each Judicial Officer that had numeric ratings.  
OVERALL PERFORMANCE is an average of how the judge was rated overall by each attorney,  
not an average of their ratings in the other categories.

### **SUPERIOR COURT ROOM 204 – JUDGE GARY R. TABOR (N =41 )**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.39
DECISION MAKING	4.13
EFFICIENCY	4.27
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.93

### **SUPERIOR COURT –F&JC- JUDGE H. CHRISTOPHER WICKHAM (N =40)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.58
DECISION MAKING	3.61
EFFICIENCY	3.72
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.40

### **SUPERIOR COURT ROOM 102- JUDGE ANNE HIRSCH (N =42)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.23
DECISION MAKING	3.32
EFFICIENCY	3.41
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.46

### **SUPERIOR COURT ROOM 201- JUDGE CAROL MURPHY (N =37)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.01
DECISION MAKING	3.44
EFFICIENCY	3.34
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.19

### **SUPERIOR COURT ROOM 202- JUDGE MARY SUE WILSON (N=14)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.67
DECISION MAKING	2.98
EFFICIENCY	2.96
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.79

### **SUPERIOR COURT ROOM 101- JUDGE JAMES DIXON (N =36)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	4.11
DECISION MAKING	4.34
EFFICIENCY	4.31
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	4.38

### **SUPERIOR COURT –F&JC- JUDGE CHRISTINE SCHALLER (N =41)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	4.22
DECISION MAKING	4.63
EFFICIENCY	4.52
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	4.56

### **SUPERIOR COURT ROOM 203- JUDGE ERIK D. PRICE (N=30)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.35
DECISION MAKING	3.53
EFFICIENCY	3.61
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.47

### **COMMISSIONER INDU THOMAS (N=31)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.18
DECISION MAKING	3.06
EFFICIENCY	3.39
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.19

### **DISTRICT COURT JUDGE BRETT BUCKLEY (N=25)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	4.38
DECISION MAKING	4.19
EFFICIENCY	4.15
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	4.20

### **DISTRICT COURT JUDGE SAMUEL G. MEYER (N=25)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	4.14
DECISION MAKING	4.17
EFFICIENCY	3.99
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	4.00

### **DISTRICT COURT JUDGE KALO WILCOX (N=20)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	4.02
DECISION MAKING	3.61
EFFICIENCY	3.69
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.50

### **COMMISSIONER JONATHON LACK (N=26)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.27
DECISION MAKING	3.11
EFFICIENCY	2.99
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	2.88

### **COMMISSIONER PAUL WOHL (N=16)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	4.18
DECISION MAKING	4.03
EFFICIENCY	4.18
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.88

### **COMMISSIONER REBEKAH ZINN (N=14)**

JUDICIAL TEMPERAMENT	3.14
DECISION MAKING	3.09
EFFICIENCY	2.96
OVERALL PERFORMANCE	3.14