

THE LEGAL BRIEF

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2019-2020

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President's Message By: Mark Wheeler

WHAT AN AMAZING YEAR IT HAS BEEN

As I wind up my term as Thurston County Bar Association President, it's time to look back at the past year and consider what our Association has accomplished, and what the future may have in store for us.

The 2018-2019 term has been a busy one, both for your board and for the Association overall. The list of all the events supported, programs undertaken, CLEs conducted, and meetings held is too long to include in this short article, but here are some selected highlights:

- Organizing and conducting Law Day in conjunction with local Rotary clubs
- Supporting efforts to build a new Courthouse
- Participating in the United Way Day of Caring
- Supporting Adoption Day
- Welcoming new lawyers to the community and our Association at two Swearing-in Ceremonies
- Providing volunteer and financial support to the Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Program, the Dispute Resolution Center for Thurston County, the Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services program, Bigelow House, and the South Puget Sound Paralegal program
- Preparing and conducting the 2019 Judicial Evaluation
- Recruiting speakers for and conducting multiple half-day or luncheon CLE programs
- Participating in two WSBA/TCBA Mentorlink events
- Creating a family event at a Tacoma Rainiers game
- Participating in the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Family and Juvenile Court
- Participating in two Bench-Bar meetings in conjunction with the Thurston County judicial officers
- Supporting active TCBA Sections including Family Law, Pro Bono, Young Lawyers, Criminal Law, Real Estate, Land Use and Environmental Law, and laying the groundwork for a future Diversity Section

As you can see, our Association is involved in a wide range of programs and activities, and there is a place in it for anyone who has the desire to serve their profession and their community.

Looking forward, the future is an exciting one.

First, we have the opportunity to help shape the place current and future generation of Thurston County lawyers will practice in by continuing our efforts to support the new courthouse. That complex of buildings is designed to last decades, and will enable us to practice our profession in a safer, more secure setting and with all the technological tools at our disposal.

Next, a large number of Washington's attorneys are age 50 or over. Consequently, there will be a massive transition of lawyers occurring, as one generation passes the torch to the next. If we do not take active steps to preserve the hard-won knowledge and experience of these senior lawyers, it will be lost. Fortunately, our Association is working to preserve that precious resource by continuing its CLE programs, Mentorship program participation, section involvement and networking events. Those efforts will continue.

Finally, the people that have made this Association such a supportive and collegial one have provided us a powerful example to follow. In contrast to our current state association, the TCBA continues to conduct its business in the same professional, friendly and inclusive way that it has for decades. By continuing to honor and practice those important values, we will leave our own powerful example for the next generation of lawyers to come.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve our Association as President. I look forward to seeing you at our next TCBA event.

A View From the Bench

By Judge Brett Buckley
Thurston County District Court



IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT.....Actually, it was a bright and sunny October day. Bright, that is until one of three underground cables bringing power to the current Thurston County courthouse failed. After 40 years it gave up the ghost. The power loss plunged the windowless courtroom into complete darkness until the generator kicked in and powered faint security lights. There was no power to the audio recording system or to lights bright enough to allow any work to proceed. The rather crowded domestic violence calendar came to a complete halt. Judges, staff, counsel and parties from all three courtrooms gathered in the only courtroom with a modicum of natural light. We triaged the cases and decided which were the most important to go forward that day in the one courtroom with sufficient light. We had natural light but no power for the recording system. The generator for the courthouse provided enough power for only one outlet. The problem was, that outlet was in a workspace about 150' away. There were not enough extension cords available so a staff member made a run to Lowe's to purchase additional cords. After an almost two hour delay, we were finally able to get the triage calendar started. In order to entice parties to stay, the judges bought pizza for everyone. It worked. Serving Justice through Serving Pizza.

This story would make more sense if it was the result of one of our winter storms. It was not caused by wind or ice or snow. It was the result of a deteriorating courthouse infrastructure. Remember, there are still two other buried power cables of the same vintage just waiting to fail. The County has determined that replacement is just too expensive. This episode is emblematic of the issues we face every day in a courthouse that basically became dysfunctional after 35 years and we are now well past 40 years. I could tell you about our Probation director's office that has had water pouring through it each of the last two winters. It was determined the leak was through the building air intake system. The County does not have the funds to repair or replace it. We are left with blue tarps and big garbage cans to collect the water.

I haven't even mentioned the security risks that are created by the design of courthouse. We have courtroom doors that don't lock, PA systems that don't work, security alarm buttons that aren't monitored. Just last week a defendant was being escorted through the back halls of Superior Court and crossed paths with a Superior Court jury (violating every principle of courthouse design) and yelled to the jury that the defendant was not guilty. Mistrial anyone? How about the fact that District Court has four judicial officers and only three courtrooms. We have to take advantage of the kindness of our Superior Court colleagues to allow us to use one of their courtrooms when available. We, of course, can't give our parties any advance notice of where their case will be heard. Ever tried parking at the courthouse? At best an aggravation, at worst an exercise in futility. Accessibility? We are a mile from downtown and only served by infrequent transit service. There are two routes of ingress and egress unless we have an earthquake. In that case Deschutes Parkway gets torn up and we are left with a single route (see Nisqually quake). The current courthouse opened in 1978 and was built to accommodate the needs of that era. In 1978 there was no Americans with Disabilities Act. It is expensive and difficult to retrofit these buildings to make them accessible to people with disabilities. County population has more than doubled since 1978 and so have court calendars. The 1978 building didn't even contemplate desk top computers, let alone laptops, pads, phones, etc.

Let's talk about services we can't provide because of the inadequacies of the current building. We would love to have a drop in day care for court users (one of the biggest reasons for failure to appear is lack of someone to watch a child) but there is no vacant room to support this service. I would love to start livestreaming our District Court calendars to make the judicial system more transparent to our citizens but the lack of adequate cabling has stymied our efforts to do so.

We NEED a new courthouse. The County recognized this need as far back as 2004. An \$88 million general obligation bond to fund a new courthouse was turned down by the voters that year. The County is now proposing a \$250 million property tax levy lid lift to fund movement of the entire courthouse complex to the site of the old Olympia City Hall. Failure to act now will only serve to drive up the cost when we finally recognize the inevitability of the need.

Some members of the Bar have stepped up to form a campaign committee to support this project. Anyone interested in helping can contact Trevor Zandell (tzandell@phillipsburgesslaw.com). This is a once in a generation project that addresses a significant need and will benefit our whole community. In communities across the country, the courthouse is the most tangible representation of the rule of law and the role of our profession as the protector of that treasured principle. Our current courthouse does not adequately represent either of those lofty ideals. This is our opportunity to change that for future generations of Thurston County citizens.

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YOUNG LAWYER SPOTLIGHT

BY INGRID ZERPA, YL CHAIR

Harlan Thomas Mechling, WSBA#53193

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- **Areas you practice:** Civil Litigation – Workers’ Compensation Volunteer in Family Law
- **I became a lawyer because:** I believe that lawyers play an important role in our society because lawyers have a unique ability to help people and shape the laws that govern us.
- **The future of the practice of law is:** The practice of law is ripe for a change. There are thousands of law students graduating without a job each year. At the same time, there are countless low-income individuals that desperately need basic legal services. The supply of lawyers is high, and the demand for basic legal services is high. But skyrocketing law school tuition makes it difficult for lawyers to provide legal services at a low cost. The rest of the country needs to follow Washington’s lead and Implement a Limited License Legal Technician (LLLT) program to allow non-lawyers to provide basic legal services. This will help students avoid the high cost of a law degree but still allow them to provide low-cost legal services to the communities that need it the most. This is what the future of the practice of law looks like.

- **This is the best advice I have been given:** “Don’t ever take advice.”
- **Trait I admire in other attorneys:** You see a lot of attorneys who are stuck in a job they never wanted. I’ve always admired the attorneys that took risks and followed their dream.
- **I would give this advice to a first-year law student:** Trust yourself. Don’t do what everyone else is doing. Take chances and don’t be discouraged by failures.
- **Someone whose opinion matters to me:** My mentor, Mary Fairhurst. Her opinion matters to me.
- **People living or from the past I would like to invite to a dinner party and why:** Barack Obama. He was the first president that I was old enough to vote for and his presidency had a major impact on my life. I think history will remember Barack Obama as one of the greatest American Presidents of all time.
- **I am most happy when:** I’m working hard for something I believe in.
- **I am most proud of this:** I’m proud to say that I believe anything is possible. I’ve seen people beat the odds and reach levels they thought they could never achieve. I think that the problems facing our country are solvable and that with the right policies we can lift people out of poverty and secure a bright future for everybody.
- **My favorite vacation place:** The small farm in southern Oregon that I grew up on.
- **Best stress reliever:** Brazilian Jiu Jitsu was a great stress reliever for me but I had to walk away from the sport after having spinal surgery in the middle of law school. Now, my best stress relievers are exercise and mindfulness meditation. Meditation helped me get through college and law school, and keeps everything in perspective.
- **A book I would recommend reading:** “The Power of Habit.” It’s a short book that takes a scientific approach to explaining what habits are and how they can be changed.
- **What keeps me awake at night:** Nothing keeps me awake at night. I sleep like a baby.
- **Technology is:** Technology will help us solve climate change and end world hunger.
- **Currently playing on my iPod/CD player/record player:** I’m listening to a few Podcasts, mainly on U.S. History. Specifically, “Dan Carlin’s Hardcore History,” “More Perfect,” and “American History Tellers.” I’m just finishing the series on Andrew Jackson’s presidency.
- **If I could live anywhere:** Definitely on the West Coast. Probably right here in Washington, to be honest. The economy is strong, the landscapes are beautiful, and our leaders are fighting for progressive values and civil rights.
- **I can’t live without:** I can’t live without the freedom to pursue my own goals and dreams.
- **This is the hardest part of my job:** The hardest part of my job is developing a familiarity with complex medical terminology and juggling a huge caseload. I came to the AGO after clerking for Chief Justice Fairhurst, where I was drafting opinions and doing legal research. On my first day at the AGO, I was given 20 active cases involving numerous expert and lay witnesses.

(Continued on page 7)



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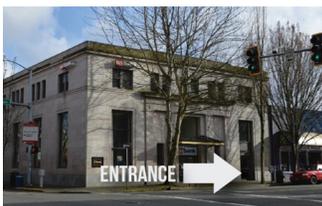
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CONGRATULATIONS
to the
2019 Daniel Bigelow Award Winner
Richard G. “Mick” Phillips, Jr.

The TCBA Board of Directors received a number of outstanding nominations this year. After a lively discussion at the April Board Meeting, Richard G. “Mick” Phillips, Jr. was selected as the 2019 Daniel Bigelow Award Recipient. Mick has been dedicated to the legal profession and our community for the last 46 years. He received the Bigelow Award at the 2019 TCBA Annual Meeting on May 4, 2019 which was held at the Indian Summer Golf & Country Club.

Mick’s roots run deep. As a fifth generation Olympian, Thurston County is Mick’s forever home. For the last 46 years, Mick has unassumingly and successfully been serving clients in Thurston County and beyond. In addition to tackling complex business, tax, real estate, and land use issues, Mick has been an active member of our community.

For decades now, Mick has quietly, faithfully, and unassumingly invested his time, talent, and energy in professional and personal philanthropy and community service. In addition to his participation in various service organizations over many years, including the Olympia Rotary Club, Mick has taken on leadership roles for several community groups and organizations. What we find most inspiring about Mick is that he does not seek out the spotlight or accolades, but instead finds great joy in helping people as an attorney, a philanthropist, and a dedicated community volunteer.

On January 1, 2019, after a long and distinguished career, Mick announced his permanent retirement from the active practice of law and now carries the coveted title of “senior counsel” with his law firm, Phillips Burgess PLLC. A professional life well spent now allows Mick to spend more time doing what he loves most - spending time with family, skiing, mountain biking, hiking and traveling.



Half Day TCBA Diversity CLE on September 10, 2019

The Thurston County Bar Association is making a commitment to diversity. In doing so, we are offering a half-day CLE on the topics of diversity, white fragility, implicit bias, etc. Increase your awareness and familiarity with these topics and practice the skills needed to improve your work styles, behavior, communications and relationships.

Please mark your calendars now and join us in this commitment on Tuesday, September 10th 2019 from 11:30am – 4:30pm at the Hotel RL.

Registration information will be emailed to members and posted on the TCBA website in August. The price will be \$65 for members and \$115 for non-members. 4 credits will be requested with the WSBA.

(Continued from page 4)
Young Lawyer Spotlight

It took me a couple of months to get comfortable with the medical terminology and the fast-paced nature of the litigation. I now have over 40 active cases that I'm litigating, including several jury trials.

- **Brief synopsis of you, your personal life, your work life, and any special awards or activities:** As a child, my sister and I were plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit against Unocal Oil in California. Unocal Oil polluted the air and soil in my neighborhood to such an extent that many children in the area developed serious health problems—including my younger sister, who continues to suffer from chronic illnesses as a result. Ed Masry and Erin Brockovich helped our community seek justice in the courts. This experience left a lasting impression on me as a young boy and gave me a unique perspective on the importance of lawyers in our society.

After the lawsuit, my family moved to a rural community in southern Oregon. Many years later, I attended the University of Oregon, where I received the Centurion Award for outstanding Leadership and was elected President of the Student Senate. I went to the University of Washington School of Law, where I graduated with Honors in and received three CALI Awards for academic achievement. After graduating in 2017, I clerked for Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst on the Washington State Supreme Court. After my clerkship, I was hired by the Washington State Attorney General through the Honors Program. I have been practicing law for about six months in the Labor & Industries Division.

I view working for the Attorney General's Office as a way to contribute to an institution that, among other things, protects Washingtonians against the greed of harmful corporate actors—just like Ed Masry and Erin Brockovich did for my community when I was a kid. It's an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Washington as an Assistant Attorney General and I hope to have a long career in this office.

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 Ingrid at ingrid@dewittlawpllc.com.

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News from the Washington State Law Library

We're Moving...Books!

Back in December we reported the Washington State Law Library would be shifting materials in the Main Reading Room to make space for some of our most popular titles to move upstairs. This means that many of our frequently used treatises will now be located in the Main Reading Room. Our staff is still working hard to make these changes, but visitors to the law library will notice many books have already moved. You can now find the following sets in the Mezzanine:

- Federal Supplement
- All regional reporters, including: Atlantic, New England, North Eastern, North Western, Pacific, Washington & Pacific Digests, South Eastern, South Western, and Western
- 9th Circuit State Reporters, including: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands, and Oregon

Please excuse our mess as we continue to shift books under the Mezzanine.

New to the Collection

New to the State Law Library's collection is the *Construction Law Deskbook* (2019) - a single volume treatise that covers many different aspects of construction law. Published by the Washington State Bar Association, the book includes practice tips, drafting tips, sample forms, and checklists.

The *Construction Law Deskbook* had more than 60 contributors, who wrote chapters ranging from "Architect/Engineer Contracts and Liability" and "Federal Procurement," to "Environmental Considerations in Construction Projects" and "Construction Liens." The book debuted in a 2018 CLE, which is also available for check out from the law library.

New HeinOnline Database

The legal database, HeinOnline, has a new collection, "Gun Regulation and Legislation in America." According to HeinOnline, the new collection includes over 500 titles including periodicals, federal legislative histories, CRS Reports, Supreme Court briefs and more. The law library provides public on-site access and can also email you documents from the database.

Chandeliers and the Temple of Justice

State Law Librarian, Rob Mead, is halfway through a six-part blog series on the Temple of Justice chandeliers. There are four Tiffany chandeliers in the Temple – two each in the courtroom and Main Reading Room – with six symbols each. See Rob's posts on the flaming sword, fascies, and Olympic torch and laurel symbols on the law library's blog.

Upcoming Holiday Closures

WSLL will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day, and Thursday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Contributed by Washington State Law Library reference staff.



**Congratulations to
Amy Perlman and Jeffery Lippert
for being elected as new
TCBA Board Members starting June 1, 2019!**

Are you receiving emails from the TCBA?

If not, please check your spam folder to see if the TCBA emails are going directly there and then ask your IT Staff to unblock the two TCBA emails addresses:

tcba.info@gmail.com and
info@thurstoncountybar.com

If you are interested in contributing a column to one of our Legal Brief Newsletters, we want to hear from you!!

Funny, interesting, educational or even controversial articles written by our TCBA members are always welcome.

Please submit to
tcba.info@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 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.



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TCBA is on Facebook!!

Join the **private** TCBA group at the link below where you will see information about the TCBA events and CLEs:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/810480342493440/>

You can also "like" the TCBA **public** page at the link below, but we will only be posting limited events open to non-members on the public page:
<https://www.facebook.com/thurstoncountybar/>

2019 Judicial Evaluation Survey Results

Thank you to members who took the time to complete the 2019 Judicial Evaluation Survey.

You can view the results of the numeric portion of the survey on the TCBA website at
<https://thurstoncountybar.com/2019-judicial-evaluation-survey-results/>

The comments are available to TCBA members upon request.
Please email Heather at tcba.info@gmail.com.

TCBA Annual Meeting & Trivia

Saturday, May 4, 2019 was an eventful evening for the TCBA at Indian Summer Golf & Country Club. The evening started with appetizers and socializing while listening to a variety of music by DJ Nicole.

During the business meeting, the membership voted in a new executive team for 2019-2020 and two new board members. A financial report was provided by our current Treasurer, Jim Laukkonen, and approved by the membership.

After the meeting it was time to start the presentations. TCBA President, Mark Wheeler, first recognized the active TCBA and Honorary Members with the WSBA for 50+ in attendance; with 55 years Retired Washington Supreme Court Justice, the Honorable Gerry Alexander, with 54 years Stephen Bean, and with 53 years Fred Gentry. Mark then recognized the Judicial Officers in attendance; Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst, Retired Washington Supreme Court Justice, the Honorable Gerry Alexander, Retired Thurston County Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Daniel Berschauer, Court of Appeals Division II Judge, the Honorable Rebecca Glasgow, Thurston County Superior Court Judge, the Honorable Christine Schaller, Thurston County District Court Judge, the Honorable Brett Buckley, and last but not least, Thurston County Superior Court Commissioner, Nathan Kortokrax. Mark then recognized the past TCBA Board Members by having all past Board members stand.

Next, it was time to reveal who won the 2019 Daniel Bigelow Award (drum roll please)...Mark announced that Richard G. Phillips, Jr. was the winner of the award this year! Congratulations to Mr. Phillips! See page 6 for more information about Mr. Phillips and why he was selected for the award this year.



After the Bigelow Award presentation, Mark Wheeler provided an update regarding the goals TCBA achieved over the last year. Marks' term as President will expire on June 1, 2019 and his hard work and dedication were appreciated by all. He was awarded a plaque for his service and welcomed incoming TCBA President, Laura Murphy. Laura has served as President-Elect over the last year and did an outstanding job organizing lunch time CLEs.

After the presentations were over, DJ Nicole started the Trivia event. Members gathered into teams, challenging one another while answering trivia questions. It was a lively event that lasted three rounds. The winner of the first and second rounds each won a delicious cake from Sift & Gather. The third round winner won beautiful flowers from Ozeda Farms.



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Annual Meeting and for joining in on the fun Trivia games!

TCBA & Other Upcoming Events

Bench/Bar Meeting: The next Bench/Bar meeting will be on June 12, 2019. More information will be emailed soon.

Book Your Tickets Now!: The 2nd Annual TCBA Night at the Tacoma Rainiers game is on Saturday, August 3, 2019. Game time is 7:00 p.m. See more information on page 16.

September 2019 Issue of the Legal Brief: The deadline to submit articles and advertisements for the September 2019 Legal Brief is August 20, 2019. Please email them to Heather Ligtenberg at tcba.info@gmail.com.

Half Day Diversity CLE: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Hotel RL. See more information on page 6.

TCBA Member Luncheon and CLE in September: The next TCBA Member Luncheon and CLE will be on Friday, September 20, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. at Hotel RL. Topic: TBA.

Save the Date: A Half Day Trial Part IV CLE is on Thursday, September 26, 2019 at the Thurston County Courthouse. More information will be emailed in August.

Save the Date: The Annual TCBA Holiday Lunch will be on Friday, December 13, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. at the Olympia Golf & Country Club. More information to come.

Please refer to the “News & Events” section of our website for a full list of upcoming events:
www.thurstoncountybar.com

ADVERTISING IN THE LEGAL BRIEF

If you would like to advertise in the LEGAL BRIEF, please contact Heather Ligtenberg at tcba.info@gmail.com

- The cost for advertising is \$240 for a full page, \$120 for 1/2 page, \$55 for 1/4 page and \$27.50 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 for more information on specs and to view past editions of the Legal Brief

Section/Committee Announcements...

Family Law Section

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

Meredith Gerhart is the Chair of this section.

If you have any questions please contact Meredith at (360) 350-6505 or Meredith@gerhartlegal.com

Young Lawyer Section

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

Ingrid Zerpa is the Chair of this section. Her email address is ingrid@dewittlawpllc.com

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

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST!

Thanks to all of you who contributed to TCVLS at our fundraising breakfast on May 7th. We heard from Attorney General Bob Ferguson who shared how pro bono advocacy transforms us on a personal and professional level. We looked to the future about how TCVLS will be reaching out to improve services, especially for some underserved communities. And we celebrated the volunteers of the Grays Harbor Legal Advice clinic.

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THE ALLIANCE
for Equal Justice

MEMBER

“In Re: Jennifer Johnson”

By Christopher Coker

1. **Name and year admitted to Bar:** Jennifer B. Johnson, a/k/a JJ, JBJ, and Bayer (my middle name). 1998.
2. **Areas you practice in:** I practice family law. I dream of taxation and being the CEO of a large corporation.
3. **I became a lawyer because . . .** My grandfather told me throughout my entire childhood I was going to be a lawyer.
4. **The hardest part of being a lawyer is . . .** Finding balance between work and play. It’s taken me 20 years, but I think I am finally there.
5. **I would give this advice to a first-year law student:** Relax! You can still be an excellent attorney even if you don’t make law review or moot court board. Law school does not have to be the worst time of your life. Make friends with the smart kids so you can be in their study group. Consider looking for work in a smaller community where you can have a life.
6. **Traits I admire in other attorneys:** Candor and competence, and a little humor never hurts!
7. **If I were not practicing law, I would be . . .** Teaching calculus to high schoolers, running a brewery with my husband or baking goodies. It’s a toss-up. The overachiever in me says I’d be doing all three!
8. **What animal best represents you and why?** A lion because I’m a Leo, of course!
9. **What is the first thing you will do when you retire?** Find sun and bathe in it!
10. **If you could time travel, would you go to the past or the future? Why?** My daughter often reminds me to live in the present because she thinks all I do is “future trip.” So, I suppose I would travel to the past, because I already spend so much time in the future! The Roaring 20s sound like a place to start!
11. **What words of wisdom would you pass on to your childhood self?** While still attainable, being the first female president actually sounds like a horrible aspiration! And, when you get to high school, introduce yourself to Erik Johnson (you know the cute senior with blue eyes and blond hair) and tell him you and he are getting married, so you should just do it right then and there and save yourselves the heartache of dating other people! I’m not sure these are words of wisdom, per se, but that’s what I’d tell my childhood self! I’d also tell myself that Morgan Ziegler and I are going to be lifelong friends, so introduce yourself to him in high school instead of waiting to meet him at Hannah’s the summer before law school!
12. **What words of wisdom would you give to a young lawyer new to the profession?** Find employment in an area that offers the activities you (and your loved ones) enjoy engaging in outside of work. Then, devote several hours each week to doing those activities. Also, don’t neglect your loved ones. They need your time and attention, too.

Brief synopsis of you, your personal life, your work life, and any special awards or activities: I am a proud McLane, Jefferson and Capital graduate. Yes. I’m actually a local! (Shameless plug: Please donate to the CHS Booster Club, CHS Cheer Association or the OHS Booster, if you must. Kids these days really need our support J) I had the great fortune of attending Vanderbilt University where I obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Mathematics and Secondary Education and learned a little something about life. (Scary thought: I could have ended up teaching your kids math! Reality check: People in other parts of the country view things differently than people in the PNW. Who knew?) I returned to Washington for law school at Seattle U. (Remember when it was still in the old department store in Tacoma with the escalator in the middle of the library?!) I took the first job I was offered (literally 30 minutes before an Oly firm offered me a job) and bloomed where I was planted – Centralia. While I dabbled in various areas of the law (because my boss made me), I found my niche in family law, which I have been practicing ever since. I obtained my LL.M. in Taxation for the fun of it in 2009 and find it comes in quite handy in family law, especially when dealing with higher asset and complex estates. This year I started presenting on the topic of taxation and family law for county and statewide associations, which I am loving!

I am married to my soul mate and best friend, Erik Johnson. At our wedding, people took bets on how long our marriage would last. We will celebrate 20 years this July, so I think it’s safe to say we won and it’s time to pay up! We have two amazing, respectful, intelligent, compassionate and driven children, Aidan and Annaliese. They are the lights of my life, and I could not be more proud of them! We also have two gorgeous Australian Labradoodles, The Reverend Tucker Johnson and Sadie Hawkins. They are my therapy! Our family enjoys domestic and international travel and all outdoor activities. Our collective favorite is scuba diving, but we will try anything as long as it’s outside!

Contact information (work phone and email). 360-748-2111; jennifer@jbjlaw.org

2019 Law Day Speech Contest

The TCBA held the preliminary round of the TCBA Law Day Speech Contest for high school students on April 11, 2019 at the main campus of the Thurston County Superior Courthouse. The topic was “Homelessness in Thurston County”, addressing competing community concerns including human compassion, public safety, business interests and use of public resources.

This year we had 10 students from four different high schools. The top two finishers from each of the two courtrooms were selected to move on to the finals at the Law Day Luncheon at the West Olympia Rotary Club on April 30, 2019. Congratulations to the following finalists: Sabrina Mossor, Elijah Negrone, Lindsay Lucenko, and Caroline Huntsinger-Perry.

The TCBA was honored to have Thurston County District Court Judge Sam Meyer participate on our panel of judges at the preliminary round as well as TCBA Board members Terry Church and Patrick O’Connor and Attorneys Bryan Johnson and Tom McDonald.

At the Law Day Luncheon on April 30th the judges included three members of the West Olympia Rotary Club who selected the placement of the top four finishers. The four finishers did an amazing job presenting their speeches. After deliberation by the judges, Fourth Place was awarded to Caroline Huntsinger-Perry, a sophomore at Olympia High School. Third Place was awarded to Sabrina Mossor, a Junior at Timberline High School. Second Place was awarded to Elijah Negrone, a sophomore at Tumwater High School. The winner (drum roll please!) of the 2019 Law Day Speech Contest was Lindsay Lucenko, a Junior at Olympia High School. The TCBA presented scholarship money to each finalist (\$800 for first place, \$500 for second place, \$300 for third place, and \$200 for fourth place) and the Rotary provided each of the finalists with a nice plaque.

The West Olympia Rotary Club and the TCBA have teamed up on this great Law Day event for many years.



Pictured from left to right: TCBA Board Member Terry Church, Lindsay Lucenko, Elijah Negrone, Sabrina Mossor, Caroline Huntsinger-Perry, and TCBA Member and West Olympia Rotary Member Stephen Henderson.

Swearing-In Ceremony

**On April 18, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.
at the Thurston County Courthouse,
the Honorable Judge Anne Hirsch
presided over swearing in of new
attorneys in Thurston County who
passed the bar exam.**

Pictured from left to right:
Jaime J. Hurtado Cola, Tera M. Heintz,
Thurston County Superior Court
Judge, the Honorable Anne Hirsch,
Evan Gaffey, Andrew K. Friese



Launching a TCBA Diversity Section By Mike Martinez

Why is diversity and inclusion important for TCBA?

- To help ensure that the TCBA reflects the legal talent and client base in Thurston Co.
- Because diversity is good for business.¹
- Because unconscious bias in the legal system can affect access to justice and outcomes for those who engage in legal processes.²
- Because diversity is lacking at many firms, and retention of talent suffers from a lack inclusion.³

What could a TCBA Diversity Section look like?

- Besides a section, it could also take the form of a Committee or Division.
- Some models apply a co-chair paradigm with representation from different genders.
- It might be helpful to develop a mission statement, a charter, or bylaws to help establish vision, norms, and a framework for setting and attaining goals.
- Launching such an effort would likely benefit from a core leadership group.

What programming could a TCBA Diversity Section offer?

- A resource for firms and lawyers on diversity and inclusion issues and opportunities.
- A pipeline of talent for hiring employers.
- A pipeline for the advancement of diverse professionals.
- A resource to the bar on diversity and inclusion issues and opportunities.
- Trial resources referrals.⁴
- Delivery of CLE's on diversity, bias, and inclusion.
- Networking opportunities.
- Competencies development opportunities for diverse professionals.
- Recognition and awards program for diversity and inclusion leaders.

What deliverables could be expected from a TCBA Diversity Section?

- An annual work plan.
- An annual CLE.
- An annual recognition award.
- Regular articles in *The Legal Brief*.
- Periodic receptions or socials.
- Recruitment and retention of TCBA members.

¹See http://www.theiilp.com/Resources/Documents/BusCaseDivReport_11_Final.pdf ;
https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/litigation/materials/2014/2014_sac/2014_sac_diversity_makes_cents.pdf .

See also <https://www.lawpracticetoday.org/article/from-the-chair-july-2016/>
 (“Different kinds of people will come up with different kinds of ideas, and the more variety, the better”).

²See https://lawreview.law.ucdavis.edu/issues/46/5/Bias/46-5_Bassett.pdf

³See <https://www.mcca.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Book-2Blue.pdf>

⁴See <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/sc/Pages/interpreter-requests.aspx> ;
<https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/sc/Pages/ada-accommodation.aspx>

More Diversity and Inclusion resources are available at:

- Minority Bar Associations in Washington State: <https://www.wsba.org/connect-serve/other-bars/minority-bar-associations>
- WSBA: <https://www.wsba.org/about-wsba/equity-and-inclusion/achieving-inclusion>
- ABA: <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/diversity/resources/>
- Definitions, Mission Statement, and Programs: <https://www.osbar.org/diversity/programs.html>
- Washington Administrative Office of the Courts: <https://www.courts.wa.gov/?fa=home.sub&org=mjc&layout=2>
- City of Olympia: <http://olympiawa.gov/community/diversity-equity.aspx>
- Thurston County: <https://www.trpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/1009/Diversity-Resources-for-Thurston-County-PDF>



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www.tcvls.org

TCVLS couldn't operate our legal clinics without the support and guidance of experienced mentor attorneys. Mentors at the clinics provide consultation and guidance to volunteer attorneys who are less familiar with the practice of family law, so we can help a greater number of low income families with their legal needs. Mentors are onsite at our twice monthly legal clinic for domestic violence survivors at SafePlace, and at our clinics 3-4 times every month at the Family Support Center.

TCVLS staff and board would like to extend special thanks to our mentors!

The following mentors have volunteered their time at clinics in Thurston County in 2019:

Retired Judge Christine Pomeroy
 Chuck Szurszewski
 Forrest Wagner
 Joe Lynch
 Kevin Meserve
 Larry Hoffman
 Mark Baum
 Melissa Goldmann
 Melissa Denton
 Mike DeWitt
 Russell Mikow

TCVLS is always in need of additional mentor attorneys, particularly in the area of family law.

If you are interested in mentoring at the clinics, contact Christa Lenssen, TCVLS Program Coordinator, at coordinator@tcvls.org.

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



TCBA Night at the Tacoma Rainiers

The 2nd Annual
 TCBA Night
 at the Tacoma Rainiers
 game is on
 Saturday, August 3, 2019!

Game time is 7:05 p.m.

Register and pay online on the TCBA website,
www.thurstoncountybar.com

Buy your tickets soon.
 Limited to the first 50 people.