

**THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Amy Perlman's office (hosted by Mark Wheeler & Amy Perlman)**

Members Present: Jim Laukkonen, Bill Pope, Trevor Zandell, Amy Perlman, Mark Wheeler, Heidi Raedel Magaro, Patrick O'Connor, Laura Murphy, Geoff Hulsey.

Members Absent: Jackson Maynard, Michael Young.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:31 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2020 Board Meeting** - Heidi moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
  - 3.1 APEX Award nomination from WSBA (Amy) – Amy is wondering if the board should get together and nominate someone from the community? Amy will complete the application. Laura suggested we nominate Justice Mary Fairhurst, but if there are other nominees feel free to nominate them.
  - 3.2 President appoints nominating committee for Board office positions 2020-2021 (Laura) – Laura said the TCBA Board of Directors executive team will be on the nominating committee, which is Laura, Jim, Heidi, and Mark. If anyone from the board wants to move into an executive position, let Laura know.
  - 3.3 Bigelow Award Nomination form (Heather) – Heather presented the 2020 Bigelow Award nomination form. It was suggested to change the date in a couple of places on the form.
  - 3.4 OVW Justice for Families (Amy) – Amy was invited by Judge Hirsch at Family and Juvenile Court to help with a grant that they are hoping to get. The board said if the TCBA can help, please let the board know.
  - 3.5 TCBA Membership Engagement Committee (Laura) – The board would like to get the membership more involved. Laura said the young lawyers would be a good group to get new members engaged. Ingrid Zerpa is leaving as the Young Lawyer Chair, but Laura asked her if she knew of anyone who would be interested in being the Chair. The board invited young lawyers to the holiday lunch and it went well. Laura is hosting a table at the TCVLS breakfast and will invite a couple of Young Lawyers to join her. Amy suggested inviting young lawyers to the monthly luncheons. Geoff said the CLE topics are geared towards older lawyers and aren't interesting to the young lawyers. If anyone is interested in starting a committee, let Laura know. Keep this on the agenda for next time.
  - 3.6 Judicial Bar Poll (Opening on Thurston County Superior Court) (Laura) – Judge Hirsch is retiring at the end of 2020. A Judicial Elections Bar will need to be conducted by June. Laura and Heather will work on the bar poll. Patrick suggested hosting an event to meet the candidates and invite our members. Add this to the agenda for next month. Amy, Trevor, and Geoff are interested in forming a committee.
  - 3.7 TCBA Board of Director open position (Laura) – Laura spoke to Victoria Byerly who is busy and will be stepping down from the board. Mark and Jackson will not be running for election at the end of May. Laura suggested hosting an informational meeting to advertise the TCBA and the benefits. Patrick suggested posting the openings now. Heather will advertise the openings in the Legal Brief. Amy will advertise the openings at the Family Law section meeting. A suggestion was made to approach someone in the Prosecutors office and AAG's

office to recruit board members from these offices. The board voted to advertise for 2 positions if Jackson would like to step down now. Heather will send an email to the members after Laura has talked to Jackson. We have 1 immediate opening, with 2 positions opening at the end of May.

- 3.8 Report on Book Review from Accountant (Heather) - Trevor moved to approve the report, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
- 3.9 Amend bylaws re comments on judicial evaluations (Trevor) – Trevor reminded the board that if we want to make any changes to the bylaws we need to be starting that process now for approval at the annual meeting in May. After discussion about amending the Judicial Evaluation survey process in the bylaws, Heidi moved to leave the Judicial evaluation survey as is (to send the survey comments to the members upon request), seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.

#### 4. **Old Business**

- 4.1 Rules Committee update (Michael) – Michael was not at the meeting, but Laura reported that the committee has not met yet. Lindsey Trakel and Angela Colauti, the criminal law section co-chairs asked if they need to get approval before they submit their proposed rule changes. Laura responded to them and said they do not need to obtain approval from the board.
- 4.2 Pro Bono event update (Patrick & Amy) – Patrick has a meeting tomorrow to set the date for this event. He will then be reaching out to the bar association.
- 4.3 History Committee update (Mark, Heidi, Bill) – The committee has not met yet, but will be organizing a meeting in February.
- 4.4 Law Day 2020 update (Patrick, Heidi, Laura) – Patrick shared the topic information to the board. The preliminary round will be on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Thurston County Superior Court, and the finals will be on May 5<sup>th</sup> during an Olympia Rotary Club meeting at noon at the Viewpoint (Tugboat Annies). Patrick will reach out to a judicial officer or two to help judge at the preliminary round. Heather will send the law day topic information to the TCBA members, school counselors, English and History teachers, and principals.

- 5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi Raedel Magaro) – January 2020 Financial Report – Trevor moved to approve the January financial reports, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.

- 6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Jim Laukkonen) – The February speaker will be Justice Gordon McCloud who will be presenting on “100 years of women voting, but only some women.” The March speaker will be retired Judge McPhee discussing mediation. The April CLE will be a history CLE presented by Fred Gentry, Steve Bean, and Hon. Gerry Alexander. Laura said she will contact TCTV to ask if they can record the April CLE, if the speakers are OK with being recorded.

#### 7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The next bench/bar will be in June. No date is set yet.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Megan, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy) – A committee meeting will be on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Heidi will be doing a half day Guardianship law CLE. A suggested for another CLE would be how to energize the young lawyers.
- 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – Ads and articles are due by Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> for the March Legal Brief.
- 7.4 New Courthouse (Marie Doctor & Trevor Zandell) – Trevor shared that since the November election is over, the trade unions and contractors are active in the committee now. The hard part is there are so many opportunities and not enough people to help out. Contributions are up and they will start with mail blasts and yard signs. Marie reported that The Yes for Safety and Justice has pinned down the signers for the ballot pamphlet and are now looking for stories to share. If anyone has a personal story or has a client with a story about problems associated with the building, please let us know. We are trying to put together a video and testimonials for the

website. As always, contributions are appreciated, but as the election date approaches, we will be looking for volunteers for sign waving, phone calls and door belling.

## 8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our first meeting of 2020 on January 14. Our next section meeting is February 11, 2020. At January's meeting we discussed the following:
- The new Local Court Rules (LSPR 94.03D, E, F, and G). We discussed the new protocol for scheduling settlement conference dates, trial dates, and the requirement to submit a pretrial report in lieu of having a pretrial conference.
  - We discussed the new Case Scheduling Notice which is issued upon filing of a new case. Case Scheduling Orders are brand new to family law practice in Thurston County, so we anticipate some growing pains as we stumble our way through the first few months.
  - Judge Hirsch announced that she is not seeking reelection this year.
  - We discussed an update on the Self-Represented Parties work group, specifically how we can better inform non-lawyers about preparing for trial, and presenting evidence at trial.
  - The Clerk's Office has implemented a new protocol for providing exhibits in advance of trial, and instituted a systematic numbering system (which is nearly identical to civil cases).
  - E-filing is now available "after business hours."
  - There are also new changes at the Court Facilitator at Family Court. They are going to be mostly by appointment only, which will have an impact on self-represented parties needing document review before going to ex parte.
  - We also discussed the soon to be changes to the Title 11 Guardianship statute, and nonparental custody statute (they're merging essentially), and what this could mean for a lot of current nonparental custody orders.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – TCVLS is ramping up for the May breakfast if anyone is interested in attending. They are looking to amend their bylaws to relieve the government bar and TCBA the requirement to be on their board.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Ingrid Zerpa) - January lunch: Cancelled.  
February lunch: The YL section met on February 5th at noon at Vic's Pizzeria. There was low turnout, but two new people show up.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) - At this time we are tentatively planning a regular meeting for March 12(ish) at noon and then another CLE for May 14(ish) at noon. Our presenter for that CLE will hopefully be Staci Coleman, who will educate the group about the county's Veteran's and Mental Health Court. I believe we intend to keep following that general pattern, with another regular meeting in mid-July and a CLE in mid-September. I'd expect most if not all of our meetings and CLEs to be here at the courthouse and I believe we are aiming for Thursdays, since local criminal attorneys are most likely to already be at the courthouse on Thursdays. Angela and I will be working together to come up with an agenda for the March meeting.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – No report.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Mike Martinez and Larry Jefferson) - At its meeting on Feb. 5, 2020, the TCBA Diversity and Inclusion Section adopted a Mission Statement and approved webpage content. The Section is in discussions with Washington Women Lawyers to co-host two different events: 1) a welcome reception for Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis, and 2) a CLE program. The Section looks forward to participating in the Color of Justice program in April. The next Section meeting: **Wednesday, March 18, 12:00 Noon** at Equal Latin Restaurant, 520 4th Ave E, Olympia, WA 98501

## 9. Additions to agenda

- 9.1 Annual meeting planning committee- Laura will send an email to the committee in a month.

9.2 Laura will be writing her article in the March Legal Brief about LGBTQ and is looking for someone to write the View from the Bench regarding that subject as well. Laura asked if the board knows of a judge who would write the article to let her know.

10. **Announcements**

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** Amy Perlman's office on March 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

12. **Adjourn** 7:10 p.m.