

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
Virtual meeting on Zoom

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

Members Absent: Bill Pope, Jackson Maynard.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:31 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of April 15, 2020 Board Meeting** - Trevor proposed to change the word pack to PAC in 7.4 the New Courthouse update. Amy proposed to add Patrick and Geoff to the Candidate Forum Committee on 4.5 Judicial Bar Poll update. With the two amendments Geoff moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Bigelow Award Nominations (Laura) – A discussion took place regarding the nomination received. Jim moved to approve the nomination for Larry Jefferson, seconded by Geoff. Patrick abstained. Another discussion took place regarding how, when and where to present the Bigelow Award since it's normally presented at the Annual Meeting in May. Laura will send an email to the members to announce the 2020 Bigelow Award recipient and will call Larry Jefferson and let him know he will receive the award later in the year at the Christmas lunch.
 - 3.2 Annual Meeting Date (Heather) – Heather asked she should reserve a date for the meeting in the September or October or should we present the Bigelow Award at the Christmas dinner? A discussion took place. Trevor moved to present the Bigelow Award to Larry Jefferson and to the membership this month by email and we will hold a formal presentation at the Christmas lunch and other handoff formalities, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections. Heidi suggested including the Bigelow award recipient announcement in the May Legal Brief.
 - 3.3 Summer Barbecue (Patrick) – The summer barbecue is scheduled for August 8, 2020 at Burfoot Park. Patrick proposed to still have the barbecue as planned unless the COVID-19 pandemic changes any of the plans. Heather and Laura will work on the language for the announcement in the May Legal Brief.
 - 3.4 TCBA Board of Director Meeting in June (Laura) – There will be no official meeting in June, but if something comes up we can meet to discuss or discuss through email.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Rules Committee update (Michael) – No report. The group has not met yet.
 - 4.2 Judicial Bar Poll update (Laura & Amy) – Laura said filing week is this week and will wait until this week closes before doing the bar poll. Heather and Laura have started working on the bar poll which will be sent to the members in June or July. Patrick said they talked about having a public forum with the candidates, but now thinking of doing a Zoom forum with a moderator and the candidates answer the questions and then send the recording out to the membership. Patrick, Amy, Michael, Geoff, and Matt would like to work on the forum that will take place before the primary elections. Heather will send an email to the committee to let them know the timeline for when the forum will be and when the bar poll will be sent out.

Patrick said the committee will meet next week to discuss the forum and would like to have this done in the next 2-3 weeks.

- 4.3 TCBA Executive Board and officer positions 2020-2021 update (Laura) – There is nothing more to report.
- 4.4 Website upgrade (Heather) – Heather and Laura shared that there is an option to have the membership renewals automatically renewed each year, but Jill Carter, our website person, would need to do some special programming to have the auto renewals only done during January 1 – March 31 each year and that anyone else that joins or renews their membership outside of this time frame will not have the option to auto renew the same time the following year. Heather asked if we can add the option for people to pay for advertising with a credit card on the website. After discussion, the board said yes to add the option to pay for advertising on the website. Heather will communicate both of these items to Jill Carter.

5. **Treasurer’s Report** (Heidi Raedel Magaro) – April 2020 Financial Report - Heidi shared a report. Amy moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Jim. The motion carried without objections.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Jim Laukkonen) – Nothing to report.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The June meeting is cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Megan, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy) – Patrick shared that they haven’t met since the last meeting. They are trying to find what the best path forward is during the COVID-19 times. Heidi said this is on hold right now. Trevor said we need to figure out a way to have CLEs through a webinar or something. Matt shared the Government Bar is experimenting with a webinar on Zoom and are having it in June. He will let the board know how it goes and what worked and didn’t work. Heidi, Mark and Bill met to discuss a history CLE on March 11th. Heidi said she will have more time after school gets out to start thinking of doing this CLE again.
- 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – Heather shared she is working on the Legal Brief. It will be mailed to the members at the end of May, beginning of June.
- 7.4 New Courthouse (Marie Doctor & Trevor Zandell) – Trevor shared that they’ve had a couple meetings since the last board meeting. They constituted a new PAC and are pressing forward on a more limited capacity. They will be interviewing the County Commissioners to get their position on the new courthouse. We will all hopefully be voting on this early next year.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had a Zoom meeting on Monday, May 4th with the judicial officers and pretty much the entire Family Law Section. It was well-attended. We got an update from the Court on the “reduced operations” and some guidelines going forward as the Court “phases in” more and more hearings. At the end of March, the Court started taking agreed family law matters. Agreed matters can be provided to the Court electronically every Friday (must be filed 4 days in advance). The Court also suggested that even once the shelter-in-place order is lifted (or when there are less restrictions in place), that there will still be a focus on social distancing and conducting most hearings either via Zoom or conference line. There was a strong emphasis on not coming to the courthouse. Section members’ primary concern and focus is on “what do we do with all of these hearings, trials, settlement conferences, etc. that have been cancelled or stricken in March and April?” The Court is working on a protocol to help sort, organize, and prioritize family law matters that need to be rescheduled. The Court invited our input on this issue, encouraging us to self-prioritize and focus on the more urgent matters first. Suffice it to say, it is going to be a long process. That is pretty much all we discussed. We’ll be having another Zoom meeting in the next few weeks as well to get an update on the next “phase” as we try to transition to

- normalcy. (Or some semblance thereof.)
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – TCVLS had a virtual fundraising event. The housing Justice Project is going to be having a significant amount of eviction filings. They have submitted a grant request to hire a couple part-time contract attorneys to deal with evictions. Operations have been reduced and they haven't been holding any clinics.
 - 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) - No major updates at this time as COVID-19 remains an obstacle for social events. I am looking into possibly coordinating a zoom virtual hangout but need to do some more research.
 - 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) - Despite the restrictions on gatherings, we are working on hosting two separate Zoom or Skype meetings with a Superior Court judge as well as a judge from District Court during the week of May 18. The purpose would be for members to ask questions about what court will look like moving forward as things start to open up. We are waiting for the court administrators from the two courts to get back to us with whether they have a judge who is willing to do this and, if so, what date and time during that week.
 - 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – No report.
 - 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Mike Martinez and Larry Jefferson) - Mike said: We are contemplating our emergence from lockdown through videoconferencing, and will try to schedule a Section meeting in early June. That's the update for now. Meanwhile, please feel free to contact us with any additional comments or questions. Larry said: I have a zoom account and I could schedule a meeting for June 3 or June 10th. I would have a password for anyone that one that wanted to participate. I could also send it to you in case people who are not on are email list would have an opportunity to join up until the last minute.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Mark said thank you to everyone on the board. He has enjoyed serving with everyone. He is looking forward to seeing everyone at the next bar meeting.
- 9.2 Laura welcomed Matt to the board. Matt said he is excited to be on the board and looking forward to working with everyone.
- 9.3 Geoff asked if the bar wants to take a position on how the courts should re-open? Laura shared that Judge Schaller's Article from the bench provides instructions and information regarding the courthouse moving to Phase 2.
- 9.4 Trevor said for future meetings on Zoom we should use a password to enter the meeting.
- 9.5 Laura congratulated Jim for becoming the next TCBA President. Jim said that it is a weird transition, but we'll make it work. Trevor said thanks to Laura for her good work this past year as President.

10. **Announcements**

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** Laura Murphy and Jim Laukkonen to host at Jim Laukkonen's office on September 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
- 12. **Adjourn** 6:50 p.m.