

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Members Present: Jim Laukkonen, Trevor Zandell, Amy Perlman, Laura Murphy, Geoff Hulsey, Michael Young, Heidi Raedel Magaro, Matt Huot, Wayne Graham, John Kesler.

Members Absent: Patrick O'Connor, Bill Pope

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:34 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of May 13, 2020 Board Meeting** Trevor moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Heidi. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Posting other organizations CLEs on TCBA website (Laura) – Laura shared that we received a request to post another organizations CLE on our website and asked if we should post other organizations CLEs on our website or just continue to forward them to the members. A discussion took place. Laura and Heather will get more information and report back to the board at the next meeting.
 - 3.2 Phishing issue (Laura) - Laura wanted to let the new board members know about the phishing emails the board members have received in the past and to remind all the other board members to beware of the phishing emails to the board members. Jim said if you receive a phishing email to not respond back to them, but to check through a different path, meaning check on a different email or call a board member instead.
 - 3.3 Amicus Brief (Jim) – Jim shared that the TCBA received a request for an amicus brief on an issue. After several board members reviewed it, it did not seem to be an issue we want to way in on. However, if we receive a request, Jim asked the board members what their thoughts are on filing an amicus brief should the need arise. Trevor shared that we should not hesitate to get involved when and if it's appropriate. Geoff said he feels like our voice should be heard as a bar association, maybe we should look into establishing an ad hoc committee to respond and write the brief in the future and that we need to have a set procedure in the future to handle these requests. John shared that the WSBA has an amicus brief policy which states that the committee reviews it and makes a recommendation. Heidi likes the idea of putting a policy together. Trevor and Michael volunteered to work on developing a policy for the TCBA and will update the board at the next meeting.
 - 3.4 2021 Donation Applications (Heather) - Heather shared that we have received donation applications from four organizations by the September 1, 2020 deadline; South Puget Sound Community College, Safeplace, Dispute Resolution Center, and the Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services.
 - 3.5 Holiday Lunch and Annual Meeting December (Heather) – Heather shared that at the moment she knows this event is up in the air if we can hold the holiday lunch in December, but wanted to start the discussion of a plan c if we can't have an in-person event. Should we do a Zoom meeting instead? Jim asked if any board members had any suggestions. Michael said we need to have a plan c and having a zoom meeting would be making a good faith effort. Geoff said with we may only be able to plan a zoom meeting, but it might be poorly

- attended. Heather will find out what the cancellation policy is at the Olympia Golf & Country club and find out if they are even open. Wayne said he'd like to advertise that that we are trying to have the event, but we do have a plan b and c. Heidi suggested advertising early so people can save the date. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- 3.6 Zoom for TCBA sections (Jim) – Jim shared that one of the sections asked to have a Zoom license per section or potentially share the TCBA license. After a discussion, the TCBA Board of Directors and section chairs will share the existing TCBA account. Trevor will ask his paralegal to help set up a Google shared calendar, so Heather and the section chairs can check the calendar and see when someone else is using the TCBA Zoom account.
- 3.7 Set Annual Meeting Date & Location for May (Heather) – Heather shared it's the time of year to set the date for the annual meeting in May 2021. After discussion, the board was in agreement to book the event at the Olympia Golf & Country Club for May 2021.
- 3.8 Local Hero Nominations (Heather)- Heather asked the board if they would like her to send the Local Hero Nomination form to the members now as opposed to sending it later in the year. She reminded the board that we sent it at this time last year so it didn't conflict with the Bigelow Award Nominations. The board was in agreement to send the Local Hero Nomination form out to the members as soon as possible. Heather will reach out to the WSBA and check on a few items that need to be updated on the form each year.
- 3.9 TCBA Board Retreat in November (Heather) – Heather asked if the board would like to have their annual board retreat in November again. After discussion, the board would like to meet, preferable in person if possible, but if not on Zoom, on a Saturday in November from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Jim and Trevor both offered to have the meeting at their offices if Bill is not able to host. Heidi asked about having a moderator. Heather will reach out to the Dispute Resolution Center to and ask if they can facilitate the meeting again either in-person or on Zoom. Heather will send a Google calendar to the board members to find a date that works for the majority.

4. **Old Business**

- 4.1 Rules Committee update (Michael) – Michael said he has nothing to report since they have not met.
- 4.2 Judicial Candidate Forum update (Patrick) – In Patrick's absence, Michael shared that the Forum is on September 30, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. The candidates are set up for that date/time. Amy said she contacted Doug Mah to see if he would be the moderator. He is available, but there are some outstanding questions before we can confirm with him. The committee is meeting on September 17, 2020 to discuss the format for the forum and questions for the candidates that we received from the members. Geoff said that he feels the committee has been doing an excellent job setting this up.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi Raedel Magaro) – May, June, July, August 2020 Financial Reports – Heidi shared a financial report for the past few months. Trevor asked what the CLE Committee has been doing to put on CLEs to help bring in some income. Heidi said the committee has not met since right before the pandemic started in March 2020. Heidi said she is happy to rally the committee together to try to get a CLE on the calendar. Trevor moved to approve the financial reports as read, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Geoff) – Geoff shared that the September CLE has gotten a great response so far. We received 35 RSVPs within a few days. Geoff shared information about a possible speaker for October, but she charges a fee so he asked if we want to pay this speaker. After discussion, Geoff said he will try to find other topics for upcoming CLEs and possibly use the paid speaker for another time. Geoff shared that other topics could be a History CLE with Fred Gentry as the speaker, and a Construction Law CLE, but the Construction Law CLE would be longer than an hour CLE.

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Jim said he hasn't heard anything back from the Bench. He will contact them again.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Megan, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy) – Heidi said she will reach out to the committee to see about getting a meeting set up.
- 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – Heather shared that the September Legal Brief was mailed already and the deadline to submit ads and article for the November Legal Brief is October 20, 2020. Jim said he had a few people reach out to him and said the newsletter has been very helpful.
- 7.4 New Courthouse (Marie Doctor & Trevor Zandell) – Trevor shared that since the cancellation of the election back in April, the committee had a couple of meetings thinking there will be some delays so the committee decided to actively continue with the committee. After a couple of months, Trevor didn't think it was accurate to think that the exact same new courthouse proposal would be used in the future. Trevor believed they could temporarily cancel the campaign and pick it back up at a later date. The Committee decided differently. The Committee would like to continue and Matt Huot stepped in as the Chair, but they have not had a meeting yet. Marie reported that due to the pandemic, the issue was removed from the ballot and there is no clear plan on when it will come up again. The PAC – Yes for Safety and Justice still exists to educate the public, with Matt Huot as the chair and he, at this point in time, is likely more up to date on what is going on than I am. I guess, I would ask that I officially step down as the liaison for the time being. I still support the new courthouse and will keep my ear to the ground, but am not sure I am currently the best person to keep the bar informed as there have been no meeting and little interaction on this issue since the pandemic.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – No report.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – Geoff shared that TCVLS has been working hard on how they are going to allocate their budget. They have received some significant grants. They were considering staff and hour cuts, but since they received these grants it's gone the other way and are looking to hire a part-time attorney. Michael shared that TCVLS has been doing legal clinics via Zoom. Jim shared that Holly has been doing some of these clinics and has been enjoying helping with these from the comfort of her own home.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) - Virtual swearing in ceremony: I am currently coordinating a "virtual swearing-in ceremony" to welcome the new local attorneys to the bar. Judge Dixon has agreed to perform the oath of attorney. I am looking for additional leaders in the community to add some remarks to the program welcoming the attorneys to the local bar. The event is currently scheduled for October 13th, 2020 at 4:00pm. The July 2020 bar exam results will be released to applicants on September 11, 2020. The Pass List will be posted to the Bar website the following Saturday, September 12, 2020. There were 71 applicants who sat for the July exam. The September 2020 bar exam results will be released to applicants on October 9, 2020. The Pass List will be posted to the Bar website the following Saturday, October 10, 2020 and there are currently 42 applicants registered to take the September exam. I recognize that these participation numbers are considerably lower than usual, nonetheless I would like to be prepared in case there is interest. I have had one person reach out so far and so feel free to spread the word to others. Jim encouraged the board members to attend the swearing-in ceremony to support our new attorneys.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) - On the 9th during the lunch hour we are hosting a CLE with Ken Blanford educating members on bail bond companies. Aside from that, we do not yet have another event planned at this time.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – My update is that I had cancelled all of our events in the spring and am currently working on a fall schedule for

- Zoom lunchtime gatherings for October/November, but I've been working around everything else getting rescheduled to fit that in. I'll get more details to you by next week.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Mike Martinez and Larry Jefferson) - The Diversity & Inclusion Section began meeting this summer over Zoom, courtesy of Larry's Zoom account. The Section's activity is focused on delivering a Sept. 30 CLE (12:00 - 1:30 PM). Zelena Jones is the Section's CLE Committee Chair. The topic of the CLE is Ethical Elections: Judicial Races, Bias, and Women Candidates of Color (1.5 ethics credits). Speakers include Justices Whitener and Montoya-Lewis, Thurston Co. Court Commissioner Indu Thomas, and Sharonda Amamilo.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

10.1 Trevor thanked Jim and Heather for hosting the Zoom meeting tonight.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** On Zoom or Patrick O'Connor and Geoff Hulseby to host at Geoff's office on October 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. depending on COVID-19.

12. **Adjourn** 7:29 p.m.