

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14, 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, Patrick O'Connor, and Bill Pope.

Members Absent: John Kesler III, Wayne Graham

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:33 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of September 9, 2020 Board Meeting** - Michael moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Laura. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family program & Chair (Heather) – The board would like to support this program again this year. Geoff has agreed to be the Chair again this year and will re-write the letter that will be sent to the members. Heather will return the application form to the Salvation Army and ask for 20 families to start.
 - 3.2 Return checks/credit/refund for March 27, 2020 Lunch CLE (Heather) – Heather has three checks and five online payments for the March 27, 2020 CLE that didn't take place due to COVID-19. Heather asked if we should return these payments to the members or issue a credit to the members. The Board said to return the checks to the members and ask the members that paid by credit card if they would like a refund or a credit to use at a later date.
 - 3.3 TCBA Budget for 2021 (Heather) – Heather shared that Heidi, Jim, Geoff and myself will be meeting on October 20, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. to prepare the 2021 budget.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Rules Committee update (Michael) – The committee has not met yet.
 - 4.2 Judicial Candidate Forum update (Patrick) – Patrick shared that the TCBA hosted a Judicial Candidate Forum on September 30, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. A big thank you to the committee members; Geoff, Michael, Matt, Amy, Jim, Heather, and Patrick. Patrick said he was proud we did a forum for our members and felt that Geoff did a great job at starting the forum and introducing the moderator, Doug Mah. Patrick felt that the forum went well. We had solid, complex and engaging questions that we can use for future forums. Michael said Doug Mah had great experience and it's important to use someone that is experienced in future forums. Geoff asked if we can tell how many people viewed the video on the website. Heather will ask Jill Carter, our website person. Geoff shared that a member asked if we can do a judicial evaluation. After discussion the board decided that it is too much work. Washington Women Lawyers Capitol Chapter has done judicial evaluations in the past but has stopped doing them because it is a lot of work. Patrick shared that we reached out to the members for questions beforehand but didn't receive many questions from the members. We had a low turnout at the forum. Trevor and Laura said they both watched the forum afterwards and thought it was done well and said kudos to the committee. Jim thanked everyone on the committee. Jim said one thing for future forums is to reach out to the Olympian or an online media and ask for public input. Amy said there were numerous forums by other organizations and doesn't think with questions from the public that we would have enough time and the questions from the

TCBA members were law related.

- 4.3 Posting other organizations CLEs on TCBA website update (Laura) – Laura shared that she and Heather talked about this and our concern is how much time would take to post other organizations events on the website, we would continue to send the emails to the members.
- 4.4 Amicus Brief update (Trevor and Michael) – Trevor said he looked on the King County Bar Association website and did substantial tweaking to their Amicus Brief policy. One change he made to their policy was that the President can form a committee at any time since we have only received 1 request since 2013. Michael had some suggestions to make a few of the items more flexible. After other board member reviews, if you have any changes you'd like to make, let Trevor and Michael know. Trevor said we can probably vote on this at the next meeting. Geoff asked if this needs to go into the Bylaws. Trevor said he doesn't think so. Great job to Trevor and Michael for working on a policy for the TCBA.
- 4.5 Annual Board Retreat update (Heather) – The annual board retreat is on Saturday, November 7, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Joel Greene is only available if the meeting is done virtually. Jim will contact Joel Greene and see if we can meet in-person or outside.
- 4.6 Holiday Lunch update (Heather) – Heather asked what we should do about the in-person Holiday lunch on December 11, 2020. Jim said the Thurston County numbers are rising and that we almost have to do it virtually. There are too many variables that would need to fall in to place to do it in person. Amy said we'll likely get a better turnout virtually. Patrick and Trevor both said they don't see how we can have the event in-person. Laura agreed that a virtual event is better. Laura shared that we can present the Bigelow Award at a virtual event and possibly some other awards. Laura, Heidi, Amy, Geoff, Jim, Patrick, and Bill volunteered to be on the holiday lunch planning committee. If you have ideas, please send them to the committee. Heather will send an email to the committee to find a date to meet.
- 4.7 2021 Annual Meeting Venue/Date update (Heather) – Heather shared that the 2021 Annual Meeting date has been set. It will be on May 21, 2021 at the Olympia Golf & Country Club.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi Raedel Magaro) – September 2020 Financial Report – Heidi shared the September monthly financial report. Bill moved to approve the September financial report, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Geoff Hulsey) – Geoff said the September CLE was presented by Judge McPhee. We will not have an October CLE because the speakers he reached out to did not want to present on Zoom. The November CLE is on November 13, 2020. The topic is the history of RCW and prelaw 1950 and how to research in that area. TCBA member Leo Fuller reached out to Geoff and connected him with retired Justice Faith Ireland about presenting a CLE on appellate issues and topics related to that. Laura suggested contacting the Washington State Law Library for CLEs. Laura suggested recording the presentation and having it available for members to watch during a CLE.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Jim reached out to Pam Hartman-Beyer. November 12th or 19th are possible dates. The board decided on November 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. Jim will contact Pam Hartman Beyer to let her know the board chose November 12th at 12:00 p.m. for the next meeting. Jim asked the board for agenda items. The board provided the following agenda items: There are a lot of things falling by the way side, Superior Court updating their website, how will they be dealing with trial backlog, and how will they handle using the new building. Heather will send an email out to the members asking for agenda items.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy) – Bill reported that Heidi was kind enough to step in and organize the CLE meeting. Heidi said they are meeting on Monday, October 19, 2020 at noon.
- 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – Heather said she is working on the November Legal Brief. Ads and

- articles are due by October 20th. Jim said Judge Hirsch will be writing the *View from the Bench* article. Trevor volunteered to organize the *In Re* article for the November Legal Brief. Heather will send him the *In Re* questions.
- 7.4 New Courthouse (Matt Huot) – Matt said everything is in a holding pattern until after the election in November. Jim said to keep this on the agenda to discuss next month.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our September monthly Family Law Section Meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. It was very well-attended. I think there were over 40 attendees at one point. The October monthly meeting was on October 13th. We were updated on the processes and steps the Court is implementing to help get through the “backlog” of cases that had hearings, trials, and/or settlement conferences canceled during the spring and early summer. We are getting trial setting notices for “higher priority” cases at this time. Most cases that involve children (and that need a trial date/settlement conference) have been re-calendared and notices sent out to counsel and the parties. Judge Wilson took a straw poll at the meeting to gauge attorney interest in having more family law calendars conducted via Zoom (as opposed to the conference bridge). The straw poll was overwhelmingly in favor of Zoom hearings. We were updated on the new(ish) bench copies protocol, and to ensure that bench copies are able to be delivered to their respective judicial officer. Other topics we covered were time limitations on oral argument, the need for additional judges’ motion and revision calendars due to overwhelming need for calendar spaces, and what Thurston County is planning to do in January 2021 with respect to the Uniform Guardianship Act (more information to come on this at a later date).
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – Geoff shared that TCVLS is working through the extra funds they received. Christa Lensen is leaving TCVLS.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) - I'd like to share the success of the ceremony. No upcoming events at this time. I will also be sharing with the YL Section membership that there is an upcoming WSBA Young Lawyers Division mentoring mixer on event October 22, 2020 at 4:00 - 5:30 PM for those interested in participating or wishing to pass on the event to young lawyers they may know.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) - We just did our CLE on bail bonds on 9/9. For early November, we are planning a panel discussion with the prosecutors and defense attorneys in our county who have been to trial during COVID times. The hope is that those attorneys can share their experiences so that others in the local bar may be able to better prepare for the challenges that the virus presents in the context of holding a trial.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – The RELU section was forced to cancel its in-person meeting scheduled for April 2020 due to the pandemic, and has not resumed regular meetings. I plan to solicit input from section members over the next two weeks regarding collective interest in re-starting 1-hour meetings every other month beginning in January 2021, with a view towards providing those as 1-hour free CLEs from January to May. Meetings would be virtual until COVID restrictions and interest in attending in person dictates otherwise. I did not have strong participation in the section before the pandemic even with regular events, and with kids in remote learning and other scheduling demands on attorneys’ time, was frankly challenged to put together quality programming this fall.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Mike Martinez and Larry Jefferson) – On Sept. 30, 2020, the TCBA Diversity and Inclusion Section hosted its first CLE, an ethics CLE co-sponsored by the Capitol Chapter of Washington Women Lawyers. The CLE program, entitled *The Ethical Election: Judicial Races, Bias, and Women Candidates of Color*, featured Washington Supreme Court Justices Raquel Montoya-Lewis and Helen Whitener along with TCBA members Commissioner Indu Thomas and Sharonda Amamilo. Attended by some 50 legal professional, we have received positive feedback regarding this program. Regrettably, Mike

Martinez submitted his resignation as Section Co-Chair, in order to attend to increasing work and family obligations. Jim shared that Mike sent a list of possible members who can replace him as co-chair. Heather will send this list to the board members. Jim will ask Larry if he has any recommendations. Patrick will talk to Larry and see if he wants to chair the section himself.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Bill said he is happy to see everyone and that everyone is healthy. He thanked everyone for everything they have done. Jim thanked Bill as well.
- 9.2 Judicial Evaluations – Jim said we are coming up on the odd calendar year so that means judicial evaluation time. Michael, Trevor, and Amy volunteered to work on the 2021 Judicial Evaluations.

10. **Announcements**

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** November 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. Geoff said he would like to host at his office when we are back to having in-person meetings.

- 12. **Adjourn** 7:16 p.m.