

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

Members Present: Jim Laukkonen, Trevor Zandell, Amy Perlman, Geoff Hulsey, Michael Young, Heidi Raedel Magaro, Patrick O'Connor, John Kesler III, Wayne Graham, Bill Pope, Laura Murphy.

Members Absent: Matt Huot

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:33 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of November 11, 2020 Board Meeting** - Michael moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 2021 Membership Form (Heather) – Heather shared the proposed 2021 membership renewal form to the board via email. Laura moved to approve to offer a free TCBA membership (for the rest of the year and the next year) to new attorneys who are sworn in in the spring and fall, seconded by Trevor. The motion carried without objections. There are no changes to the form.
 - 3.2 Attorney ID cards for courthouse access (Matt) – Matt was not at the meeting, but he sent an email to Jim and said he is happy to support having attorney ID cards for courthouse access. A discussion took place. Court security is an issue with this and judicial support. This has been discussed in the past, but hit a brick wall. This needs to be addressed again. Laura suggested that the TCBA could help with this. This will be discussed at another time.
 - 3.3 Membership fee for retirees (Jim) – This will be discussed at the next meeting as Jim was not at the meeting yet.
 - 3.4 Local Hero Award Nominations (Geoff) – The deadline was December 7th and we had zero nominations. A discussion took place. Trevor said he will be on the committee to nominate someone. A suggestion is to maybe support who the Government Lawyers Bar Association (GLBA) nomination is. Trevor will contact the GLBA board to find out if they have selected a nominee yet. This will be discussed at the meeting next month.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Amicus Brief update (Trevor and Michael) – Trevor and Michael incorporated the changes that Amy suggested. Trevor moved to adopt the policy as written seconded by Geoff. The motion carried without objections. Heather will add this policy to the “policy” folder.
 - 4.2 Broaden Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) – Heather sent an email to the board members regarding the new advertising prices for 2021 with a request to send it to as businesses in the community that you know. Heather will keep a running list of businesses who have been contacted. Laura suggested emailing it to all the court reporting businesses in Lewis, Mason and Thurston. Laura will make a list of the court reporting businesses.
 - 4.3 TCBA Video – Vimeo Account update (Heidi) - Heidi mentioned to everyone at the last board meeting about the cost and the 30 day trial of a Vimeo account. Heidi asked if we want to use this as a marketing tool in the future and asked if anyone had any feedback? The cost is \$600/year. A discussion took place. Trevor likes the tool and thinks video marketing is a great idea. Trevor asked if there is a way to sign up as we need it or do we have to have an

account? Can we have a group account and share with other organizations like WWL and GBLA? Heidi doesn't know what Vimeo's policy is sharing an account. Heidi is willing to create the videos if we want to use this as a marketing approach. If we share the subscription, what amount would we pay for it? John said it is a fun way to attract younger people. Laura said she likes the idea of per video, if that is an option. Wayne agreed with Laura, but said with the financial situation we are in it's not a good idea right now. Geoff said after COVID it might be used a lot more to highlight all of the events. Heidi is happy to create more videos in the meantime. This will be discussed at the meeting next month.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi) – November 2020 Financial Report - Heidi provided a report. Laura moved to adopt the November Financial report, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Geoff) – Jim shared that he has heard from a couple members who are upset that there aren't more CLEs. One member suggested to quit charging for the lunch. Another suggestion was to have monthly CLEs. The other suggestion is to allow people to log in early so they can chat with people who are in the meeting as well. Trevor asked about the day of the CLE, and why the last CLE was on a Wednesday because historically monthly lunch CLEs have been on Fridays. Heidi said they picked a date that worked for the speaker and other activities going on. Traditionally the CLEs have been on Fridays. Jim and Trevor both said they like them on Fridays. Wayne said Friday's are best for the government side. Bill shared that typically the half day CLEs have been on Thursdays and lunch CLEs on Fridays. Jim said to continue to shoot for Friday CLEs. Geoff said to keep this item on the agenda as we will eventually go back to having monthly lunch CLEs when it is safe to do so.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Jim shared that we just had a bench bar meeting in November. The meeting went well and was fairly well attended. Jim's biggest takeaway from the meeting was that the Superior court has asked for a 9th judge position, which will in turn reinforce the need for a new courthouse. Trevor thanked Jim and said he did a great job at the meeting. Patrick said the county funded a 9th judge, but it's now up to the Legislature. The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy, Matt) – Heidi shared that the committee is meeting next week. They will be reviewing previous CLE topics and will reach out to attorneys who practice in that area. Jim said to send CLE ideas to anyone on the CLE committee.
 - 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – “In Re” article – who will write? John said he will write the “In Re” article. Heather will send the “In Re” questions to John. Heidi and Heather will be working on the electronic version of the Legal Brief for January. Jim shared that the new judge elect, Sharonda Amamilo will be writing the “View from the Bench” article for the January Legal Brief.
 - 7.4 New Courthouse (Matt) – Matt shared on email that word from Comm. Menser is Prop 1 probably won't be on the ballot in short-term, but there might be an opportunity to link it to the county's climate mitigation plan. I'm hoping to set a “status update” call for the committee after the holidays.
 - 7.5 Rules Committee (Michael) – Michael said they have not met yet, but is always willing to meet.
 - 7.6 Annual Meeting & Holiday Lunch (Heidi, Patrick, Bill, Laura, Amy, Geoff, Jim) - Jim said the committee has been doing a great job on planning this event. Laura thanked Heidi for all of her work on this. Heidi shared that the big part will be the food and delivery and that we're all squared away with the price. The restaurant will be placing the food in a bag for each person. The restaurant is excited to work with us. Laura said that part of the agenda is the

- APEX award. There are two people, Nancy Koptur and TCVLS who have won the award. Laura has been editing the video down so we can show both awards.
- 7.7 Judicial Evaluation Survey (Trevor, Michael, Amy) – The committee has not met yet. Trevor said the deadline to send the survey to the members is March 1st. Trevor reviewed all the materials what was done last time. Trevor will contact Michael and Laura to set up a meeting. The committee will report next month again.
- 7.8 Law Day (Patrick, Laura) – Patrick said no update yet. He is shooting for an April Law Day Speech Contest.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – Meredith said we had our last meeting of the year on November 10, 2020. It was a very packed agenda, and we had several judicial officers in attendance. We discussed the upcoming judicial rotation in 2021, and we are collectively excited to have Judge Lanese join us at FJC, as well as anticipating the return of our beloved Judge Schaller. We also discussed the upcoming transition from conference bridge line to Zoom court for regular family law motions. Generally, the section members were very supportive of having the opportunity to appear via Zoom as opposed to the frequent interruptions that happen on the bridge line. Another big topic we discussed was the massive overhaul to Non-parental Custody law. The new uniform minor guardianship act is going to have a huge learning curve for everyone—judges and attorneys alike. We also discussed Judge Hirsch’s retirement celebration coming up in January, the changes to the bench copy protocol, as well as the requirement to dress professionally while “in court.” Patrick said that it’s \$60/hour to compensate the family law attorneys. Laura said that is what FJC has been paying to compensate the attorneys. Amy said \$60 is a standard rate. The issue she has is they limit your hours to 15 hours which is not realistic for cases that go all the way to trial. Patrick wondered if the board wants to have a position on this. Laura suggested Patrick Amy and Laura have a discussion about this and talk about the contract. Add this to the next bench bar agenda.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – Geoff said the last meeting was cancelled and the next meeting is next week. He will report next month.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) – No report.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – No report.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – Our office sent out the attached “Save the Date” flyer for our next three RELU section virtual meetings (in 2021) back on November 12, 2020. At this point I expect that the January and March meetings will be presentations that could qualify for CLE credit: January 26 - speakers will be Kent van Alostyne and Trevor Zandell from Phillips Burgess, addressing the requirements and implementation of new Thurston County Eviction Resolution Program and related issues coming out of the expected lifting of the pandemic eviction moratorium. March 25 – speaker Jeff Myers of Law Lyman will present “Legal Issues for Addressing Homelessness”, a reprise of a program he recently presented to the Association of Washington Cities. If TCBA is still allowing lunch programming to be certified for CLE credits please send me the appropriate forms and I’ll get that going for these events.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson) – For our update to the Board we have another meeting scheduled for December 16th, 2020. Denise Diskin the Executive Director of QLAW will be doing a presentation for D&I. Jessica and I are also meeting at the end of the year decide our programming for the 2021.

9. Additions to agenda

10. Announcements

- 10.1 Jim expects everyone to be at the annual meeting and holiday luncheon. Laura is happy that

we have so many RSVPs to the Holiday Lunch event and it's not just the board attending the event.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** January 13, 2021 on Zoom
12. **Adjourn** 7:05 p.m.