

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Members Present: Jim Laukkonen, Trevor Zandell, Amy Perlman, Geoff Hulseley, Michael Young, Patrick O'Connor, John Kesler III, Bill Pope, and Matt Huot.

Members Absent: Laura Murphy, Wayne Graham, and Heidi Raedel Magaro.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:34 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of December 9, 2020 Board Meeting** - Trevor had a change to the minutes on the Judicial Committee section; add Amy as a committee member and remove Laura. With the change, Bill moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Membership fee for retirees (Jim) - Jim said heard from a couple of folks last month that said they wanted to donate to the Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family program, but didn't want to join the TCBA as a retiree in order to donate. We have discussed having a retiree fee in the past. Should we have a special fee for retirees? Trevor said the bylaws say that someone can be an associate member, but they must pay the dues to be a member. Jim said we should promote being an associate member to retirees and if they complain about the dues, we can revisit it in the future.
 - 3.2 Back up TCBA Laptop (Heidi) – In Heidi's absence, Heather shared that the TCBA laptop is at least 10 years old and has never been backed up. Heather is afraid the laptop is going to die sometime soon as it is acting up from time to time so it needs to be backed up soon. Heidi's IT person said he can back it up to the cloud for us. He charges \$100 per hour and said it would take about 30 minutes to do. Geoff said he has equipment to back-up the laptop to a thumb drive. A discussion took place about buying a new laptop for the TCBA. Geoff said he will look into the cost of buying a new laptop. Trevor moved to approve a new laptop up to and not to exceed \$750, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections. Heather will follow up with Heidi and have her send an email to the board to give more details about backing up the laptop to the cloud.
 - 3.3 Periodic Social Events (Geoff) - Geoff shared that based on the successful holiday luncheon and the positive feedback he received, wondered if we should plan another virtual social event. Jim said he has received similar positive feedback about the holiday luncheon. Patrick said the August BBQ is still an option if we can gather in-person by then. Geoff said he spoke to Commissioner Thomas who said she went to an event on Zoom where they played a game and it was a lot of fun. Geoff will contact Commissioner Thomas and ask for more details about the game and he'll look into some social event ideas on Zoom. Amy said she will do some research online too. Heather will work with Patrick to pick a date for the August BBQ and will then contact the City of Olympia to reserve a date in August.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Local Hero Award Nominations update (Trevor) – Trevor reached out to Matt, who is the President of the Government Lawyers Association, and he said they haven't nominated

anyone yet either. Trevor suggested contacting the person who nominated someone in 2019 and see if they want to nominate that person again. If not, he will reach out to the person who nominated someone in 2020 and see if they want to nominate that person again. The board agreed that was a good idea.

4.2 Broaden Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) – Jim said he didn't have time to reach out to anyone yet, but will work on this in the coming month.

4.3 TCBA Video – Vimeo Account update (Heidi) - Due to Heidi's absence at the meeting, this was not discussed. This will be discussed next month.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi) – December 2020 Financial Report – Due to Heidi's absence at the meeting, this was not discussed. This will be discussed next month.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Geoff) – No update. The CLE committee is planning monthly lunchtime CLEs. See 7.2.

7. **Committee Reports**

7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – There is no meeting planned at the moment. Jim received good feedback about the last meeting. The next meeting will be in a few months. Please send agenda items to Jim.

7.2 CLE (Bill, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy, Matt) – Bill shared that Laura is working on a Diversity and Inclusion CLE for February and March and later dates as well. Heather gave an update for Laura since she couldn't attend the meeting. Laura said Commissioner Lack has agreed to present at the CLE in February and thinks we can organize a 3 hour CLE to also include other speakers on the topic of Diversity and Inclusion in the workplace. Geoff, Amy, Bill and Patrick volunteered to help Laura with this CLE. Heather will let Laura know of the committee and ask her to contact the committee. The Campaign Finance virtual CLE tomorrow has about 20 RSVPs. Amy said she talked to Sam Dart who said he'd do a bankruptcy and Family law CLE.

7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – Who will write "In Re" for March? Michael volunteered to write the "in Re" for March. Heather said the January CLE was mailed last Friday. The advertisements and articles for the March CLE are due on February 18th.

7.4 New Courthouse (Matt) – Matt said the committee has not met again. He will get in touch with the campaign manager and see if there is anyone interested in meeting again. Patrick suggested contacting Commissioner Menser to discuss next steps.

7.5 Rules Committee (Michael) – No report. Michael said the committee has not met.

7.6 Annual Meeting & Holiday Lunch (Heidi, Patrick, Bill, Laura, Amy, Geoff, Jim) – The Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 21st at the Olympia Golf & Country Club. Jim suspects that we'll still be meeting virtually then. Heather will send an email to the committee to plan a meeting.

7.7 Judicial Evaluation Survey (Trevor, Michael, Amy) – Trevor shared that the committee met last month and talked about the past process and if we should keep the survey as is or change it. Michael wondered if we should add a question about diversity. A discussion took place. Matt suggested adding "without bias or prejudice" to the end of the original question, "rate this judicial officer on whether he/she treats all participants, attorneys, and non-attorneys, fairly, equally, courteously, and respectfully." Matt moved to approve the question on the judicial evaluation survey as amended "rate this judicial officer on whether he/she treats all participants, attorneys, and non-attorneys, fairly, equally, courteously, and respectfully without bias or prejudice, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.

7.8 Law Day (Patrick, Laura) – Patrick shared that Law Day will be in April via Zoom. He has been thinking of topics and shared an idea, "Should the First Amendment be banned from certain social media outlets?" He will draft it and share it at the next meeting.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We just had our first Family Law Section Meeting of the year, and I think it was really well-attended. We talked about the “changing of the judges,” and Judge Hirsch’s retirement, and Judge Amamilo’s swearing in. Other things we discussed were: 1. The extension of the application of the new Minor Guardianship Law for at least another month, and the hopeful extension to June 2021 so that we can conclude cases that were filed under the “old law.” 2. Anticipated calendar changes in March 2021 with the expected additional of greater capacity for calendars on family law motions, and the scheduling of settlement conferences which is currently taking months to set. 3. We talked about the work load for the current court commissioners and the future additional of a part-time court commissioner to assist with the demands of the ITA calendar, which currently has the greatest need. 4. We talked a little bit about the incoming judges preferences for bench copies and objections being provided in advance (in writing). That was pretty much it, mostly just the daily mechanics of practicing during COVID.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – The big topics at the last meeting were Crystal Lensson’s replacement and tweaks to the budget for staffing matters.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) – No report.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – Patrick said that Superior Court suspended jury trials until March and District court will probably be the last week of February and maybe March also.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – The RELU section has not met since February 2020 due to the pandemic and associated scheduling demands. I have three virtual meetings planned for 2021 so far (1/26, 3/25, and 5/18). The first two of these will be free lunchtime CLEs, one on the current issues in Washington Residential Landlord Tenant law, and the second on legal issues associated with addressing homelessness. Requests for these CLEs have been submitted to the office for further processing. If pandemic conditions permit, the 5/18 meeting will be held in person as a lunchtime social. March 25, 2021 CLE approval: The TCBA Board of Directors approved the March 25th CLE as submitted by Heather Burgess.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson & Jessica Shen) - Jessica and I are hard at work. I am happy to report that our section meeting in December went well. We had Denise Diskin come from the QLaw Foundation and give a great presentation on how to incorporate best practices for LGBTQ+ inclusion into your legal practice or courtroom. She covered helpful terminology, common LGBTQ+ experiences in the legal system, and how LGBTQ+ inclusion aligns with racial justice principles. It was great a presentation and 21 one people attended. It should have been a CLE. This year our first meeting will be on February 17th, 2021 from Noon to 1:15. We will be doing a book discussion on White Fragility by Robin Diangelo. This is based on the sections desire to learn more information on how to be allies with people of color. All are welcome to attend. The TCVLS board has also reached out to us “ As I think you know, Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services’ Board of Directors has a similar committee which we call our Equity Committee. Our committee had a wonderful series of discussions around race equity a couple of months ago and I hope this is used as a foundation to continue to learn and talk with each other as we move toward inclusion. I also hope that our committee explores what things TCVLS does, either through policy or in the way we operate, that are biased and/or racist. AND how we as an organization can, in general, better serve communities of color in our geographic service area.” “As we do this, I’m hopeful that we can with the TCBA section. It would be great to co-sponsor discussions, CLEs and/or presentations. What would be wonderful right now is to identify one of your section members to join our Equity Committee so that we closely coordinate with each other. Our by-laws allow non-board members to be on our committees.” Our plan is to see if one our section members will become a liaison with TCVLS Equity Committee. As I write this I am thinking of having a regional meeting of all of the Equity committees that are forming to

have a huge super zoom conference. Anyways, we continue to the work and I hope your year has gotten off to a good start. Please contact me if you have any concerns.

9. **Additions to agenda** – No additions.
10. **Announcements** – No announcements.
11. **Date/location of next meeting:** February 10, 2021 on Zoom
12. **Adjourn** 7:13 p.m.