

**THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

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

Members Absent: Geoff Hulsey

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:37 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2021 Board Meeting** – Trevor moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Heidi. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
  - 3.1 Appoint Nominating Committee for 2021-2022 Board Officer Positions (Jim) – Jim will appoint, Geoff, Laura and himself to the committee. Michael said he is willing to be an officer. Jim will ask Geoff to schedule a committee meeting.
  - 3.2 Bigelow Award Nomination Form (Heather) – Heather sent the nomination form to the board for their review. There are no changes to the form.
  - 3.3 Annual Audit with Accountant (Heather) – Heather said she talked to our account, Christine Garst, about the annual audit, but Christine said she is in Arizona until the end of February. Heather said both she and Christine are not comfortable meeting in person due to the pandemic. Trevor suggested doing a Zoom call and sharing the screen for the review if that is possible. Heather will reach out to Christine in early March to see if doing the audit over Zoom will work.
  - 3.4 Amendment to By-laws re Bigelow Award (Trevor) – Trevor shared that the TCBA By-laws state that the Bigelow Award decision should be made no earlier than April 30<sup>th</sup>, but in past years the TCBA Board of Directors has decided the winner at the April Board of Directors meeting. Trevor moved to amend our By-laws Section XI, subsection 3, to provide the Bigelow Award winner shall be determined no earlier than April 6<sup>th</sup> of each year, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections. Heather will add the By-law amendment to the agenda for the annual meeting.
  - 3.5 Communicating with the Court about member concerns (John) – Jim said John has expressed some concerns that are shared with the TCBA members and likely on the board itself regarding the communication between the bench and bar with daily administrative tasks and communication when something needs to happen. John said he has become increasingly frustrated with the customer service at the superior court level and why court administration won't answer questions. A discussion took place. John moved to form a committee to draft a letter that comes from the board and the committee will figure out how to address these issues with the bench, seconded by Trevor. The motion carried without objections. John will Chair the committee and Bill, Trevor, Michael, and Patrick volunteered to be on the committee.
4. **Old Business**
  - 4.1 Local Hero Award Nominations update (Trevor) – Trevor shared that he contacted Mike Dewitt who made a nomination in 2019 and wondered if he would be interested in re-

nominating the person and he said yes. Heather will send the nomination to the WSBA by the February 19<sup>th</sup> deadline.

- 4.2 Broaden Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) – Jim has not had a chance to work on this yet.
  - 4.3 TCBA Video – Vimeo Account update (Heidi) - Heidi said she signed up for an account if we have a need for any videos to be made in the future.
  - 4.4 Back up TCBA Laptop and new TCBA laptop update (Geoff) – Geoff reported on an email that there is a dangling issue about getting Heather a new laptop. The issue has been complicated by Quickbooks and MS office. Quickbooks and office are now based on monthly cloud services, so I wasn't sure if this needed to be addressed. Heather informed me that she found old CDs of the programs, but none of the Costco computers that I was looking at had an optical drive to run those CDs. If someone has a detachable CD drive, that could "solve" the problem. Heidi said MS Office packages range from \$70/year to have access to Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and 1 terabyte of storage on the cloud. Bill moved to approve Geoff and Heather to do what is necessary to purchase a laptop and software and have it be the most cost effective option, seconded by Trevor. The motion carried without objections.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi) – December 2020 & January 2021 Financial Reports – Heidi shared a summary of the December 2020 and January 2021 financial reports. She also highlighted some line items for December 2020 and January 2021. Laura moved to approve the December 2020 and January 2021 financial reports, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.
  6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Geoff) – No report.
  7. **Committee Reports**
    - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Jim hasn't reached out to the bench yet for the spring meeting.
    - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy, Matt) – Heidi reported that the committee will have a Zoom meeting on Friday. They have a few CLE topics that are in the works. Laura is working on a Diversity & Inclusion CLE. Laura said she is still working on finding a speaker for the racial inequity in the courtroom part of the CLE. Laura is speaking with Larry Jefferson, Jessican Shen and Judge Murphy about the CLE. The CLE won't happen in February. Amy is working on two CLEs. Laura shared a possible topic for a CLE is online research and how to access that information. Trevor said Cynthia Worth is willing to do a CLE on tax law. Heidi will follow up with Cynthia Worth.
    - 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – Jim said Judge Dixon will be writing the "View from the Bench" article. Heather said advertisements and articles are due on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to send the Legal Brief to the members in early March.
    - 7.4 New Courthouse (Matt) – Matt said that the new courthouse committee met a few weeks ago. Some folks volunteered to reach out to their contacts at the Court and County commissioners. House bill 167 will add a 9<sup>th</sup> judge to the bench. They will meet again in a few weeks. If you have questions contact Matt.
    - 7.5 Rules Committee (Michael) – The committee has not met yet.
    - 7.6 Annual Meeting (Heidi, Patrick, Bill, Amy, Geoff, Jim) – Heidi shared that the committee had a brief meeting on Zoom. We determined that due to the COVID-19 pandemic we won't be able to have an in-person meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee is proposing a lunch time meeting on Zoom on May 14<sup>th</sup> and would like to ask *Jean Pierre316* to provide the lunch again. We plan to deliver meals to the members like we did for the holiday lunch, so if board members can block out the morning to help deliver the meals would be appreciated.
    - 7.7 Judicial Evaluation Survey (Trevor, Michael, Amy) – Log in vs. open survey? Trevor said if the survey is limited to one response per person it then requires you to log in to Google in order to complete the survey. Trevor would like to not have the feature turned on that limits the responses so members don't have to log in to Google. A discussion took place. Trevor

moved to send out the survey without the log in requirement, seconded by Michael. The motion carried without objections.

- 7.8 Law Day (Patrick, Laura) – Patrick is working on the draft for the Law Day topic which is piggy backing on the First Amendment issues of Twitter and Amazon. The Law Day speech contest will be in April on Zoom.

## 8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, and it was very well-attended. We discussed the new staff changes at FJC, and the newest member of Court Administration was introduced to the Section. We were reminded to act as if we are in court, specifically to ensure that we are wearing court appropriate attire. We discussed how the court is planning to get through the “backlog” of cases that need to be set for trial. Judge Schaller estimated that approximately 60 cases are awaiting trial dates. She also indicated the efforts the court is pursuing to maximize available trial time for the judges, as well as offer more settlement conference dates. We also discussed various section member questions regarding the expected protocol for page limits and bench copies. We discussed the possibility of a 9th judge position becoming available.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – No report.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) – No major updates - currently looking at planning some outdoor events in the spring when it gets warmer. I am open to suggestions and advice on how to best serve the young lawyers going forward. Jim suggested to Brooke that she can use the TCBA Zoom account and do a happy hour. If any board members have any ideas, let Brooke know.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – No report.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – The RELU section held its first free virtual lunchtime CLE on January 26, 2021 on current issues in Washington Residential Landlord Tenant Law. We had 14 attendees, and the WSBA approved the program for 1.0 general legal credit. We have a second free virtual lunchtime CLE planned for March 25, 2021 on legal issues associated with addressing homelessness, which will be presented by Jeff Myers of the Law Lyman firm. The WSBA has also approved the March CLE program for 1.0 general legal credit. The section has a third meeting planned for 5/18; if pandemic conditions permit, the section will hold that meeting as a lunch time social.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson & Jessica Shen) - We have a meeting scheduled on February 17th. We will be discussing the book “White Fragility. In March, we are going to the Mary Hall and Emmett O’Connell from the auditor’s office to give a 15 minute presentation on March 24th, 2021, on Racial Covenants in Thurston County.

## 9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Summer BBQ – Patrick shared that the TCBA annual BBQ will be on August 7, 2021 at Burfoot Park, so mark your calendars. We have the picnic shelter reserved from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## 10. **Announcements**

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** March 10, 2021 on Zoom

12. **Adjourn** 7:17 p.m.