

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 14, 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, Heidi Raedel Magaro, Patrick O'Connor, and Wayne Graham.

Members Absent: Geoff Hulsey, Matt Huot, and Laura Murphy

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:37 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2021 Board Meeting** Amy moved to approve, seconded by Wayne. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 TCBA Golf Tournament (Heather) – Heather asked if the TCBA is open to having a golf tournament this year. The board said yes. Heather will contact Joe Lynch.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Broaden Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) – Jim drafted a letter about advertising in the Legal Brief, but has not sent the letters for two reasons. 1. He is waiting for a list of private investigators from Patrick and 2. He is wondering if he should wait until after summer. Heather suggested sending it now because it would be great to have more advertisements and revenue from the May Legal Brief. Heidi agreed. Jim will send the letter out now.
 - 4.2 Appoint Nominating Committee for 2021-2022 Board Officer Positions update (Jim) – Jim shared that he discussed the slate of officers with the nominating committee. He is hoping that Geoff Hulsey will back to work in May. Jim is proposing for 2021-2022 Officer positions that John Kesler III will be the Treasurer, Michael Young will be the President-Elect, and Geoff Hulsey will be the President. Jim said he will help where he can if Geoff can't return to work due to his health concerns. Patrick is staying on as Secretary for one more year. Heidi said she is committed to helping with the digital Legal Brief for the next year, but will not be a board member anymore. There will be two vacancies on the board so if anyone knows anyone who you think would be a great candidate to be a board member, ask them to apply. Heather will work on an email to the members announcing the proposed board members for 2021-2022 and announcing the two board member vacancies.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi) – March 2021 Financial Report – Heidi shared a financial report for March. She said CLE lunches and membership dues are low. Advertising is doing well, but we can continue to push advertising to bring in more income. There were some extra expenses this year, like a new laptop, software for the new laptop, and the Flippingbook. Trevor moved to approve, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Geoff) – Jim said that the monthly lunches have been combined with the CLEs. We hope to pick this up again soon since everyone is eligible to be vaccinated now.
7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The Bench Bar meeting is on May 6. Jim has a couple of agenda items and has reached out to the TCBA members who indicated they wanted to be involved in Bench Bar meeting. If you have any agenda items, please send them to Jim. Wayne said the Judges can comment on the new temporary courthouse space at the meeting. There will then be a Law & Justice group staying in the current courthouse buildings during the renovation at the courthouse. Michael said to add the Rules Committee to the agenda.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy, Matt) – Heidi said the committee is planning to meet on May 4th. There is an Estate Planning CLE planned for the beginning of June. Laura is working on a Diversity & Inclusion CLE in May. Matt suggested a Veteran CLE. Heidi has been talking to Joe Scuderi about a Construction Law CLE. Heather sent a list to Heidi and Bill of other members who would like to help with CLEs so Heidi has included them in the May meeting.
- 7.3 Newsletter & Electronic version (Heather & Heidi) – “In Re” – Heidi sent a draft of the digital newsletter to the board earlier this week and made some significant changes to it. Heidi is looking for feedback from the board members. Trevor said it looks good. He did have to Zoom in a bit, but thinks the font size is fine. Heather and Heidi will reach out to the sections to get videos of the section chairs. Trevor volunteered to work on the “In Re” article for the May Legal Brief. Heather will send Trevor the questions.
- 7.4 New Courthouse (Matt) – Patrick shared that the County Commissioners voted 2-1 to go forward with the plan of renovating the courthouse. Wayne said that the judges will be moving to a temporary building on Pacific Ave.
- 7.5 Rules Committee (Michael) – The committee has not met yet, but Michael is willing to meet.
- 7.6 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heidi, Patrick, Bill, Amy, Geoff, Jim) – The committee will be meeting on April 19th on Zoom and intend to discuss the details of the annual meeting like the agenda, awards, delivery list for the meals. The restaurant that will be providing the food is jean-pierre’s three16.
- 7.7 Judicial Evaluation Survey (Trevor, Michael, Amy) – Jim said the entire board was sent the numerical survey results and comments. Trevor said these have not been sent to the members and judges yet because he wanted to have a discussion first about what the Bylaws say about distributing them; “The results of the Survey shall be presented by the Secretary to the Board of Directors. The President shall disclose and release the results to the members of the Thurston County Bar Association, and may disclose and release the results to the news media and any other interested parties. A discussion took place. Trevor moved to release the numerical survey results and the comments to the members, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.
- 7.8 Law Day (Patrick, Laura) - The preliminary round is on Thursday, April 22. The finals are on May 4 during a West Olympia Rotary meeting. We are hoping to have an in-person photo op after the finals. We are hoping we get more participants. Amy will be a judge at the finals. Lenny Lucenko will be a judge at the preliminary round. The members will be invited to attend the finals on Zoom.
- 7.9 Committee to Communicate with the Court about court administration (John, Bill, Trevor, Patrick, Michael, Amy, Lindsey Trakel) – John shared that he sent a letter in March to Judge Price on behalf of the TCBA Board of Directors. The letter specifically pointed out the relationship between the Court and bar is strained. Judge Price responded and said they do not want to form a formal committee from the court, but they would be willing to have coffee to discuss the concerns. John said the good news is that some of the judges are willing to meet over coffee and the bad news is he is getting less optimistic. Trevor added that the letter from Judge Price said that we should re-establish a bench bar committee. Jim said that semi officially there is still a bench bar committee. Jim said to keep an open mind with the discussions with the Court. Jim suggested setting up a meeting with board members to discuss this further before meeting the judges for coffee. John said the committee will meet to get an agenda ready.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our monthly meeting over the noon hour today. We had a very robust meeting with a very large turnout of section members. We discussed the following: We (the County) has been approved for a 9th Judge Position. The current judges are thrilled at the prospect of having another member to help with the seemingly overwhelming backlog of cases. We discussed how Family and Juvenile Court is currently addressing trials and how the court is prioritizing trial time with NonParental Custody cases and Dependency Fact-Finding Trials. The Court clarified some civil procedure on how to request trial continuances and how to reset the same. The Clerk's Office assisted with clarification on how to file, pay, and prepare bench copy requests through Odyssey. We spent a lot of time discussing new proposed legislation and the upcoming Family Law Mid Year CLE. We also discussed the new Uniform Guardianship Act and how to find updated CLE and presentation materials.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – No report.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) - With better weather and increased opportunities for vaccinations, I have some activities/gatherings for the section in the works! I'll be sending out a survey out to the section to see about preferred dates/times for meetings as I am sure folks' schedules may look different than they did a year ago.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – Patrick said they just put on a CLE recently. They are still an active section. No report from Lindsey and Angela.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – The Section held a well-attended virtual CLE via Zoom on March 25, 2021, where Jeffrey Myers of Law, Lyman, Daniel, Kamerrer & Bogdanovich presented on “Legal Issues for Addressing Homelessness.” The presentation covered legal issues and risks associated with responding to homelessness, current case law, impacts of public health orders on options for response, and the current status of Thurston County jurisdictions' responses. The presentation was originally prepared for an Association of Washington Cities seminar on the subject. At the request of Larry Jefferson of the D&I Section, I also sent out an invitation to Section members on March 24, 2021 seeking volunteer attorneys interested in assisting property owners remove racial covenants from their property records. As a result of an amendment to RCW 49.60.227, the Auditor's office has created a simple form for landowners seeking to delete such covenants, but this form requires full legal descriptions. No one in Thurston County has taken advantage of the free service so far according to Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall. The Auditor's office hopes to create a list of attorneys willing to help property owners, many of whom may have trouble providing the required legal description, with this form. Interested attorneys should contact Emmett O'Connell (emmett.oconnell@co.thurston.wa.us) to be placed on the list and receive further information. Please feel free to share this far and wide. The Section's next virtual meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2021, agenda/topic are currently TBD, but I expect we will end up focusing on what's finally decided about the eviction moratorium based on the bills pending in the legislature at the moment and implementation of the required L/T dispute resolution process.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson & Jessica Shen) - We had an excellent D&I meeting on March 24th, 2021. Mary Hall and Emmett O'Connell from the Thurston County Auditor's office. They gave a great presentation on race based restrictive covenants. They are able to get Jay Goldstein to volunteer to assist them with an upcoming free project to remove these covenants for free from 300 parcels in Thurston County. I would say we had about twenty participants. I would request that membership in the D&I Section to be increased to non-members. We have interests for court staff and other community members that would like to participate on a ongoing basis. Essentially there are not a lot of people in color in the Thurston County Area and we are creating a positive networking environment. If you would like to hear more, please invite Jessica and I to the next meeting. The next D&I

meeting is on May 5th at Noon. We will be discussing the book “Minor Feelings” An Asian American Reckoning by Cathy Park Hong. I would urge you to read the book and participate at the meetings.

9. **Additions to agenda**

9.1 Bigelow Award - A discussion took place. The winner of the 2021 Bigelow Award is Chuck Szurszewski. Jim will contact Chuck and let him know he is the winner. Heidi would like a video presentation of Chuck’s acceptance speech for the annual meeting and to include in the May Legal Brief.

10. **Announcements**

Bill said great job to Jim for being the President during a pandemic.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** May 12, 2021, on Zoom

12. **Adjourn** 7:13 p.m.