

**THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting on Zoom**

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

Members Absent: Michael Young and Matt Huot  
Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:36 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2021 Board Meeting** Trevor moved to approve, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
  - 3.1 TCBA Board of Director vacancies (Jim) – A discussion took place. Trevor moved to approve the two candidates for the two vacant seats, seconded by Wayne. The motion carried without objections. Brandon Koenig will be going into the position that is open for election and is a two-year term and Joe Scuderi will be appointed into the vacant seat for a one-year position. Heather will email Jim their contact information.
  - 3.2 In-person or virtual Swearing-in Ceremony (Heather) A discussion took place. We can start thinking about an in-person swearing-in event. Patrick will reach out to Pam Hartman-Beyer to see what the Courts think about an in-person event.
  - 3.3 9<sup>th</sup> Judge position (Heather) – Patrick will ask Pam Hartmen-Beyer about the appointment process and Heather will email the information to the members.
4. **Old Business**
  - 4.1 Broaden Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) – Jim is still working on the letter, so he has not sent the letter yet.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi) – April 2021 Financial Report – Heidi shared a financial update for April and year to date. Bill moved to approve the report, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Geoff) – No update. We are hoping we can get up and going for the luncheons soon. Laura suggested offering in-person and Zoom. Heather will contact the Red Lion to see if we can work with them on having less than 50 people at the lunch. Heather will also contact Tugboat Annies to see if they have space available and what the cost is.
7. **Committee Reports**
  - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Jim said the meeting went well and about 60 people attended. It was very one sided with the bench presenting a lot of information to the bar. There weren't many questions from the members. The information was necessary and good information.
  - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy, Matt) – Heidi shared that she hosted a committee meeting last week and a lot of people said they would help, but didn't show up for the meeting. Heidi has an estate planning CLE on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Joe Scuderi & Paige at WSBA Construction Law Section are working on a CLE on August 27<sup>th</sup> which will be a full day

- CLE. Heather will ask Red Lion for availability. Joe is reaching out to some local attorneys to see if they can help with this CLE. Commissioner Zinn and Attorney Drew Mazzeo reached out about presenting an Unlawful Detainer series. Commissioner Zinn's perspective is we need to start getting some attorneys to attract them to this area. It is tentatively scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> and then on June 10<sup>th</sup> the DRC will be presenting on Resolving Conflicts with Landlord Tenants. Heidi is working with Northwest Justice Project who may be interested in providing additional information. Heidi said Matt is still interested in a Veteran CLE. Laura is working on an Implicit Bias CLE with Commissioner Lack and Jessica Shen speaking on representation of LGBGQ clients. She had reached out to the WSBA to see if someone can speak on Race but could not find a speaker. She also suggested a CLE on WAC from 1991 forward and how to research WACs. Laura said she attended a CLE recently with Judge Williams who discussed holding/hosting virtual trials. It's a three-part series, 1<sup>st</sup> CLE is how to interact, 2<sup>nd</sup> CLE is voir dire, and 3<sup>rd</sup> CLE is evidence. Wayne shared that we had the first district virtual trial today and shared there were jurors who were excused because they were doing other things. Amy said she will help Laura plan the CLE. Heather suggested contacting Michael so he can possibly use some of these for the lunch time CLEs starting in the fall.
- 7.3 Newsletter & Electronic version (Heather & Heidi) – In Re for September LB - Heidi has set aside the day tomorrow to work on the May Legal Brief. She needs the bios/videos from some of the board members still. Please send them to Heidi tonight or tomorrow. She is hoping to send it to the board and section committee chairs soon. Heidi is working on a blurb to let the advertisers know we are sending the Legal Brief out virtually. Amy will do the “In Re” for the September Legal Brief.
- 7.4 New Courthouse (Matt) – Jim said that Matt is not here tonight and that there is no action right now, but there are some changes coming up. They are remodeling the current complex and turning it into a law & justice center. They are moving administration to a separate county facility and rearranging the current buildings.
- 7.5 Rules Committee (Michael) - The Court has called for ideas for changes to the Local rules. An email was forwarded to the membership on May 6<sup>th</sup> regarding a request for proposals. Patrick said an email was sent to the members, but the court didn't give very much time to send proposals in.
- 7.6 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heidi, Patrick, Bill, Amy, Geoff, Jim) – Jim shared that the annual meeting is this Friday. Laura shared that Justice Fairhurst received an award and Laura asked her if it was OK to play the video and have Justice Fairhurst say a few words. Laura also wondered about showing the Bigelow video. Wayne said a meeting came up so he can't attend on Friday and can't help deliver meals. Heidi said her staff members can help. Geoff will deliver the lunch to Judge Wilson. Heidi said she would like to add the Justice Fairhurst video to the May Legal Brief.
- 7.7 Judicial Evaluation Survey (Trevor, Michael, Amy) – This has been completed. Trevor shared that he hasn't heard much about it. He heard that the Diversity & Inclusion section discussed it and commented that the female candidates didn't score as well as male candidates. Patrick said he spoke to one judicial officer who said they were not happy with the survey and that the comments were sent out to all members.
- 7.8 Law Day (Patrick, Laura) – Patrick said the preliminary round was a couple weeks ago. We had two outstanding young women who participated. Thank you to Amy and John for judging at the final round. We then did an n-person picture with Judge Price, Judge Buckley, two members from the Rotary and Patrick and John. This is a great opportunity to support our community high schoolers. It will be great to do it again next year and hopefully in-person and/or hybrid.
- 7.9 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Bill, Amy) – John said he spoke to Judge Price and is waiting to here a response from the courts' availability to meet for coffee possibly the end of May. Trevor thanked John for organizing the meeting and

thanked Jim for organizing the Bench Bar meeting. Trevor said the Bench Bar meeting is actually a Bench update and also said in the past we have had a Bench Bar committee that met the judges for coffee which would be a deeper conversation with the judges. Jim said we need to reinstate that committee and get them in contact with the judges on a regular basis. John said he had a conversation with Judge Price and Judge Murphy and they both seemed interested in sitting down and talking together but they don't speak for the other judges. He is willing to try even if there is a little bit of good out of it. We can't come up with ideas to help if we don't know what the courts issues are. Patrick said it's an effective first step to meet with the judges over coffee to discuss things more meaningful. Amy asked if there needs to be a separate committee to meet with the FJC? John said the meeting covers all areas of practice.

## 8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our May meeting yesterday, and it was very well-attended. We discussed the following topics:  
The importance of mental health awareness for not only ourselves, but our clients.  
Judge Schaller talked about some changes coming to the participation of attorneys at FJC. Starting next week, some attorneys will be in the courtroom for the dependency calendars. There will be ongoing discussions, including an informal workgroup of family law attorneys, about the best way to transition into more normalized operations. The discussions will look at each calendar (ex parte, family law motions, trials, protection orders, etc.) individually. We talked about several ways to make the court process more efficient, and a big solution to this is to have more attorneys coming to court in-person.  
We also discussed a few other miscellaneous issues with respect to bench copies, upcoming legislation, and changes to staffing positions at the courthouse.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – No report. Geoff said they had their annual fundraiser the beginning of May, but he's been out of the loop lately.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) - The group will now be meeting in-person for happy hour every third Thursday of the month beginning on May 20th at 5:30 pm (location TBD). Always open to any feedback/suggestions the Board may have! Question for the board: I was just wondering about using funds to provide appetizers at our monthly meet ups. A discussion took place. Heidi suggested having the YL's plan a Cle and some of the funds can go towards the YL section to help pay for appetizers at their monthly meet ups. Geoff will call Brooke to talk about it.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – The possible ethics CLE we had planned for May will now be taking place on June 22, 2021 at noon over Zoom. We have an email out to the membership seeking questions/hypotheticals for the professor so that he can tailor the presentation to our membership. Professor Strait has taught several ethics CLEs and taught ethics at Seattle U Law, so we are excited to have him join us. The board approved the June 22, 2021, CLE.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – I do not have much to report this month; unfortunately, I was not able to line up the speaker I wanted for May 18th on the eviction moratorium so I've cancelled that virtual meeting, Stacey sent that out to the section today (attached). I'm hoping that will also encourage the section membership to participate in the TCBA Annual Meeting as well as other important programming this month. We do not normally meet June-August, so I'll plan to reconvene the section in the month of September, hopefully in person, with a schedule of in person social and CLE events. If something of RELU significant interest pops up between now and then that warrants a meeting, I can certainly put one together. As I reported last month, 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. I understand that the Auditor has had some inquiries

- on this since the announcement and we've had at least one call for volunteer assistance, which is great. Please continue to spread the word about this program among your networks.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson & Jessica Shen) - We had our meeting on 05/05 discussing the book "Minor Feelings" by Cathy Park Hong. I think we had about 12-15 people there and we had a great discussion about related issues that we've seen (accent bias, stereotypes, representation, code switching, etc). We also talked about what to do when witnessing bias or how to address the lack of diverse experiences being published / spoken about. Commission Thomas also alerted us to a free seminar called Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation in Washington Courts that's on May 18, which I pushed out to the D&I section members. Larry and I are planning to meet at the end of the month to discuss future meeting topics / how to proceed going forward. I found some slides on Bystander Intervention tips and will compile those into a PDF to send out to everyone in an email once we have the next meeting date set.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Annual Meeting is this Friday. Jim hopes everyone is able to attend.
- 10.2 Laura thanked everyone for working together and said it's been an honor to serve on the board together. Jim said we enjoyed working with Laura and Heidi and both of you have contributed immensely to the board. Heidi said thank you to everyone and said she will continue working on the virtual Legal Brief.
- 10.3 Bill thanked Heidi and Laura for all their work. He shared that his medical issues have been difficult lately. He appreciates everyone for all of their hard work. Trevor thanked Jim for his leadership this past year and especially during a pandemic.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** June 2021 meeting? September 8, 2021 on Zoom?  
Geoff said it would be good to have a quick meeting in June to check in, discuss the pandemic and whether to have in-person meetings or not. The next meeting will be on June 9, 2021 on Zoom.

12. **Adjourn** 7:31 p.m.