

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.
Meeting on Zoom

Members Present: Trevor Zandell, John Kesler III, Wayne Graham, Geoff Hulse, Michael Young, Matt Huot, Brandon Koenig, Jim Laukkonen, Patrick O'Connor, and Amy Perlman.

Members Absent: Bill Pope, Joe Scuderi.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg and Heidi Raedel Magaro

1. **Call to order** 5:30 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of June 9, 2021, Board Meeting** - Michael moved to approve, seconded by Jim. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 United Way Day of Caring (Heather) – Heather reached out to the United Way to see if they would be having the United Way Day of Caring this year, but due to COVID they will not be. United Way suggested that if our members would like to volunteer, they need volunteers to help with the COVID vaccination clinics. Heather will send an email to the members with a link to the United Way website where members can sign up to help with the vaccination clinics if they would like to.
 - 3.2 In-person or Zoom Swearing-in Ceremony in October (Heather) – After a discussion, the conclusion was to allow Brooke Frickleton, Young Lawyer section chair, to organize a hybrid swearing-in ceremony in October 2021, following all CDC guidelines. We are not to offer food and drinks at the ceremony, but Brooke can organize an event at a restaurant afterwards if the participants would like to attend as long as the CDC and state/local guidelines at the time of the event allows for indoor gatherings of that size. All CDC and state/local guidelines must be followed during this entire event. If the CDC and state/local guidelines change before this event and we can no longer hold a hybrid event, the event will be strictly on Zoom. Jim said Thurston County Superior Court does have the option to have it on Zoom. Jim offered to contribute \$50 towards the appetizers afterwards. The total budget for two swearing-in ceremonies this year is \$150.
 - 3.3 In-person or Zoom Holiday Lunch on December 10 (Heather) – Table this for another month and we'll see where we are with the pandemic in October.
 - 3.4 Board Retreat on a Saturday in November? (in-person or on Zoom?) (Heather) – After a discussion, we will have a hybrid meeting. Trevor offered to have the meeting at his office since he has a conference room big enough for everyone to social distance. Heather will send out a Doodle calendar to the board members to find a date for the meeting. We will skip having a facilitator this year.
 - 3.5 Donation Requests (Heather) – Heather shared that we have received donation requests for 2022 from five organizations; South Puget Sound Community College, Safeplace, Dispute Resolution Center, Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services, and Olympia Historical Society/Bigelow House Museum.
 - 3.6 Consider Decreasing Size of Board (Trevor) – A discussion took place. Trevor said that given the difficulties filling the vacancies on the board recently, we should think about decreasing the size of the board. In the past we have had many people interested in being on the board until about 2016. The obvious reason to have 12 board members on the board to distribute the labor. Trevor looked at other bar associations to see how many board members

each of them have: King County has 18 board members, Pierce County has 10, Snohomish County has 10, Spokane County has 10, Clark County has 7, Kitsap County has 10, Whatcom County has 4. Changing the size of the board would require an amendment to the bylaws if we decide to change it. Jim said he is not opposed to decreasing although the division of labor is good and said that our bar does do more than some other bars do. Michael suggested changing to bylaws to say not fewer than x many board members or more than x number of board members. This will be discussed further at the board retreat in November.

4. **Old Business**

- 4.1 Update on broadening Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) – No update.
- 4.2 Update on Field trip to Bigelow House (Geoff) –Geoff will organize this for a future date.

5. **Treasurer’s Report** (John) – July and August 2021 Financial Reports – John gave a financial report. Jim moved to approve, seconded by Matt. The motion carried without objections.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Michael) – Due to COVID, we made the decision to move the monthly lunches to Zoom for the fall. They are scheduled for October 15 and December 3. The agenda for October is “Changes to the Landlord Tenant Law” presented Carrie Graf and Tyler Graber from the NW Justice Project. We do not have a speaker or topic for December CLE yet.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – John has taken the lead on this since the board has been meetings with the judges.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy, Matt) – No report.
- 7.3 Newsletter & Electronic version (Heather & Heidi) – Heidi reported that the digital September newsletter was sent to the board to review. There was a little bit of information still missing, but we are almost ready to send it to the members. Heidi asked if we want to include the YouTube videos again and the answer was no. Heather said that Larry Jefferson may be submitting a flyer to include in the September Legal Brief.
- 7.4 Rules Committee (Michael) – There has been no meeting yet.
- 7.5 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Trevor, Patrick, Amy, Geoff, Michael, Bill, Lindsey Trakel) – The meetings are good, but they are only 45 minutes one morning per month. We talked about needing more data about the types of cases that are backlogged and whether the cases are resolving. There will be an additional new judge which will change things. The board will meet after the next meeting. Amy suggested having a meeting in advance of this meeting so we go to the meeting organized and have an agenda. Patrick said we need to define our roles first since he was not aware of the issues that other areas of practice have, like civil.
- 7.6 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Amy, Jim, Matt, John, Brandon) – Heather will send an email to the committee to find dates for the first meeting.
- 7.7 Summer BBQ Update (Patrick) – The summer BBQ went well and about 40 people attended.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We did not have a June meeting. For July, we had a guest speaker, Dr. Jennifer Campbell, who presented on the topic of reintegration/reunification counseling from the perspective of a mental health professional. This meeting was widely attended and there was a very robust interest (from my perspective) from members of the bar for the information Dr. Campbell provided. For August, we had a very efficient meeting. A few members asked clarifying procedural questions on where to note certain matters as the court has moved towards “more normalized” operations. The bench and attorneys alike are thankful to be able to appear in person for most calendars. We also discussed calendaring constraints. For revision hearings

and relocation hearings, there are deadlines and filing timelines that simply cannot be met based on the overfull judges' motion calendars. For example, when filing an Objection to Relocation, a temporary order hearing needs to be scheduled/occur within 15 days of filing the objection. With only 2 relocation matters being heard per Friday judge's calendar, it is nearly impossible to have the hearing heard within the timeline prescribed by the statute. The bench is going to look into this and see what can be done to address this issue. The court is trying hard to recruit attorneys to be available for a contract to represent parents and youth in Minor Guardianship Act cases. So far, not one attorney has applied. For September, our meeting will be occur on Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – TCVLS has a bylaw that requires the TCBA to have someone on their board. Geoff has told them he is not going to seek another term. Rachael said they may be changing that policy in the future.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) - I am planning to continue with the monthly social meet ups with the next one scheduled for September 23rd, location TBD. I am also monitoring the bar exam results to see if we are back to normal bar passage numbers. If so, I am seeking input from the board about whether they would prefer a virtual or in-person event. Since it's been over a year since an in-person event was held, I'd love any guidance and information you or the board can provide regarding the budget for the reception and any other details.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – No report.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – No report.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson & Jessica Shen) - D&I did a joint Diversity in the Law zoom event with the Criminal Law section on 08/24. We had three panelists, each representing a member of a minority bar association (Loren Miller, Korean American, and Washington Women Lawyers) speak for about an hour and a half about various issues relating to diversity in the law. This included back and forth between the panelists about why diversity is important in the law, how to encourage more engagement with minority populations and to get them into the profession, what other attorneys who are not members of a minority can do to support diversity, as well as provided advice for minority attorneys who may have faced some of the issues that were brought up during the session. The event appeared to be well received by both the panelists and the attendees (which included Chief Justice Gonzalez providing helpful case cites in the chat!). We had people popping in and out because of work but I would estimate we had about 30-35 attendees total. Since we just had that event I'm thinking that our next meeting will be sometime in October, maybe October 13. Larry and I will have to confer on that. Larry is also planning on stepping down as co-chair at the end of the year. I asked around and ended up suggesting Zelena Jones (who is a defense attorney at Thurston County Public Defense) as Larry's replacement. I ran it by Geoff Hulsey, who already approved! Zelena has also accepted the invite.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Move the Newsletter agenda item to the top of the agenda for future meetings so Heidi can go first.

10. **Announcements**

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** October 13, 2021, on Zoom

- 12. **Adjourn** 6:58 p.m.