

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

Members Present: Trevor Zandell, John Kesler III, Wayne Graham, Geoff Hulsey, Michael Young, Matt Huot, Brandon Koenig, Patrick O'Connor, Bill Pope, and Joe Scuderi.

Members Absent: Jim Laukkonen and Amy Perlman.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

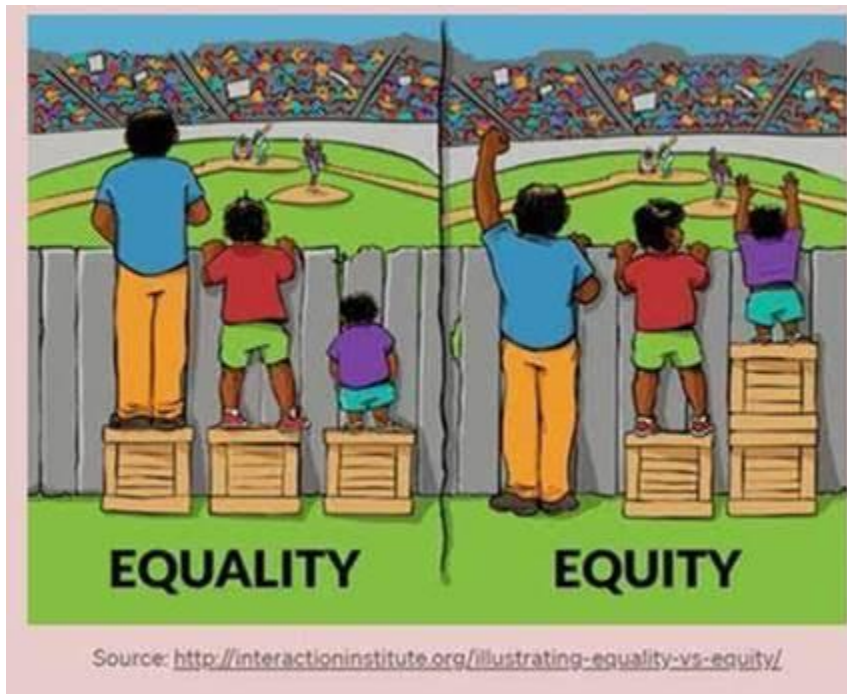
1. **Call to order** 5:36 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2021, Board Meeting** Trevor moved to approve, seconded by Michael. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Newsletter & Electronic version (Heather & Heidi) – Who will help with the “In Re” article? Heather said she is working on the November Legal Brief. Ads/articles are due on October 20. Trevor said he will volunteer to find an attorney for the “In Re” article. Heather will send Trevor the ‘In Re’ questions.
 - 3.2 Judicial Portrait for Judge Erik Price (Michael) – Michael said Judge Lanese asked if the TCBA will be organizing a portrait for Judge Price. Michael reviewed the TCBA Bylaws. Judge Price served on the Thurston County Superior Court for nine years and is not retiring, but is going to the Court of Appeals. After discussion, the TCBA board are in support of raising money for a portrait and requesting donations from the members. John moved to approve that Heather organize the portrait, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.3 Salvation Army’s Adopt-A-Family Program & Chair (Heather) – Heather asked if we want to participate in the Salvation Army’s Adopt-A-Family program again this year. The board said yes. Geoff said he will be the chair again. Heather will let the Salvation Army know and get the information ready to send to the members.
 - 3.4 Local Hero Nominations (Heather) – Heather said it’s that time of year to send out the Local Hero Award Nomination form again. Heather will make updates to last year’s nomination form and send it to the members.
 - 3.5 TCBA Budget for 2022 (Heather) – Heather shared that Geoff, John, Michael and herself met and discussed the 2022 budget. They will review it with the board at the board retreat.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Update on broadening Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) – Jim sent a draft of a letter. Geoff wants to review the letter more.
 - 4.2 Update on Field trip to Bigelow House (Geoff) – Geoff would like to postpone this for now due to COVID. He said we’ll look at this again in the spring.
 - 4.3 In-person or Zoom Holiday Lunch on December 10 (Heather) – After a discussion, Trevor moved to approve holding the holiday luncheon as an in-person event, seconded by John. Three board members opposed, one abstained. Geoff wants to have a hybrid option. We will not charge members who would like to attend by Zoom. There will be a price if members attend in-person. Heather will work on the menu with the Olympia Golf & Country Club and send the flyer to the members.
 - 4.4 Update on Board Retreat in November (Heather) – The board retreat will be on November 20

at Trevor's office. We will have a hybrid option if there are board members who would like to attend the meeting by Zoom. Heather and Geoff will coordinate the food.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – September 2021 Financial Reports – John shared a report. Bill moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Michael) – Michael shared that the monthly lunch on Friday, October 15 at noon on Zoom. Carrie Graf and Tyler Graber from the Northwest Justice Project are presenting on "Recent Legislative Changes to Landlord-Tenant Law." The next CLE will be on December 3rd on Zoom. Michael is still looking for a topic. If anyone has any ideas, let Michael know. Geoff said Justice Ireland was given to him when he was the TCBA President Elect as an idea for a CLE. Geoff will contact Michael.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Geoff will talk to Heather about this more.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Patrick, Amy, Brandon, Geoff, Matt) – Bill said he needs help leading this committee as he is going through some challenges. Patrick volunteered to help lead the CLE Committee and will work on organizing some CLEs.
 - 7.3 Rules Committee (Michael) – Still no meeting.
 - 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Trevor, Patrick, Amy, Geoff, Michael, Bill, Lindsey Trakel) – John shared that part of the group met and they roughed out an agenda. He will send that out in a couple of days. The judges still want to meet and are prepared to give an update on the new judge position, and another new judge. The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 20.
 - 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Jim, Brandon, John, Amy) – Brandon shared that the committee met and are wondering if the Bigelow award winner has to be a secret. The annual meeting is on May 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the Olympia Golf & Country Club. We talked about the structure of the meeting; first we'll have a reception/social hour from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m., then the business meeting from 6:00 - 6:15 p.m., then those that want to leave before dinner can leave, or members can stay for the dinner and will purchase a ticket that includes dinner. A buffed dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. Towards the end of dinner we will present the Bigelow Award. There will be two prices: one option is free if you don't stay for dinner, and the other price would include dinner. Music will be on an ipod/speakers during the social hour and dinner. We will have a cash bar during the event. Trevor said in the past we tell the Bigelow Award recipient that they won the award and we tell their firm.
 - 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Patrick) – Geoff shared that the 2022 budget includes the original amount of \$1800 for prize money. Patrick said he's looking forward to next year and having to have a better turnout. He is kicking around some different topic ideas right now.
 - 7.7 Judicial Appointments Bar Poll (Amy, Matt, Bill, Heather) – This was not discussed.
8. **Section Reports**
 - 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our October section meeting just now. It was a very well-attended meeting. We did not have much on the agenda by way of topics to discuss. We mostly talked about the pending changes with the judges (bringing on the 9th Judge and filling Judge Price's position). We also discussed possible temporary changes to the family law calendars while the new court commissioner is selected and begins the job. There might be a slight drop-in available trial time if the Judges are needed to cover a few calendars. We also said our "see you later's" to Commissioner-Soon-to-Be-Judge Thomas.
 - 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – Geoff said TCVLS cancelled their most recent meeting. He did not have any updates. Geoff told them he can't be on the TCVLS board anymore. If anyone wants to be on their board to let Geoff know. Geoff isn't sure if the TCVLS bylaws still say that a TCBA Board member needs to be on the board or not.

- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) – My main report is that it may be best for the board to reach out to see if someone else is interested in taking over the section from me. I took over this role with a lot of hope and vision, one month before the pandemic and while I have attempted to grow it and keep it going during this time, I have received little input and participation in my events. I feel as though I am unable to provide the section the effort deserves as I focus most of my efforts on the new 2 month old addition to my family. My family is also trying to limit contact with others since there are no COVID vaccines available for those under 5, and as outdoor events become more difficult, it is not a good time for me to serve as host. I appreciate everyone's help and input over the last year and a half and would gladly help train anyone interested in taking over the role. Thank you! John said he knows someone at his office who might be interested in chairing this section. Geoff said he will contact Brooke and express our thanks to Brooke for her efforts. Wayne said he knows of a couple new lawyers in his office. Brandon said the meetings were awesome pre-pandemic and even through the pandemic the section has tried to organize virtual events. Hopefully it will be better after the pandemic.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – No report.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – The Section has not had any events since my last report. I have been working to plan a fall section Zoom luncheon event but have not been able to confirm the date with my guest speaker as of this report. I hope to do so within the next week and will let the office know and invite the Section once it is confirmed. I also anticipate holding two Section events in the winter of 2022, one in January, and another in March, dates and locations TBD. Prior to COVID, our lunch meetings were reasonably well attended, particularly when they offered CLE credit, so if the public health situation permits, I'm hoping to do one in person and another virtually depending on the situation at that time and offer CLE if possible.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson & Jessica Shen) - Today we had a D&I section meeting. It was attended by 8-10 individuals. We had 4 judicial officers: Judges Glasglow and Murphy, Commissioners Thomas and Zinn. We discussed the information provided below and were able to speak to a new member of the Thurston County Bar – Hilda! She is practicing family law. The discussion was lively and I'm sorry that you missed it. I think these meeting should always be publicized for whole bar. I also ways found it valuable to learn about the Judicial Officers in my community and it was valuable learning experience. Hope everyone is doing well as we hit the rainy season! I will be sending outlook appointments for the next two Diversity & Inclusion section meetings: Wednesday, October 13 from 12pm – 1pm & Wednesday November 17 from 12pm – 1pm.
- Spinning off from the discussion during the Diversity in the Law panel last month, we want to talk more about the practical aspects of dealing with uncomfortable situations in practice. For example, what do you do if opposing counsel, the court, or someone involved in the hearing says something racist/sexist/transphobic? The idea is to workshop and bounce ideas off each other about the best ways to deal with such an issue and/or how to support someone else if they end up being the ones to bring it up.
- If anyone has a particular scenario / hypothetical that they'd like to pitch to the group for discussion and workshopping, please email me and I can add it to the list! We will not relay which were scenarios that Larry and I came up with versus those suggested by section members.
- We would also like to discuss the inbox letter "Tests Don't Lie" on page 6 of the latest Bar News (https://issuu.com/wabarnews/docs/barnews_sept_2021_issuu), which argues that the job of the bar "is absolutely not to consider the color of the applicant to practice. If the Washington State Bar Association is going to do its job, it cannot look to the ethnicity of the applicant. That in turn, requires that it exclude any application of concept of equity." The letter was in response to the article "Examining the Bar Exam: Exploring Alternative Models for Licensing" that was published on page 10 in the June 2021 Bar News

(https://issuu.com/wabarnews/docs/barnews_06.21). This seems to bring up the age old issue of equity versus equality and this would be a worthwhile discussion to have within our section. See the below graphic as a counterpoint to the definition espoused in the “Tests Don’t Lie” letter:



9. **Additions to agenda**
10. **Announcements**
 - 10.1 John said to return you ballots. They are due on November 2.
11. **Date/location of next meeting:** November 10, 2021, on Zoom
12. **Adjourn** 7:05 p.m.