

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 10, 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, Jim Laukkonen, and Amy Perlman.

Members Absent: Joe Scuderi

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:31 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2021, Board Meeting** John moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Michael. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Newsletter & Electronic version (Heather & Heidi) – Heather shared that the digital November Legal Brief was emailed to the members last week. Patrick volunteered to find a volunteer who will complete the “In Re” questions for the January 2022 Legal Brief.
 - 3.2 Venmo (or a competitor) (Michael/Heather) – Michael and Heather will discuss this further. Michael said there are a couple of other options that might work. Heather will set up a meeting with Michael.
 - 3.3 2022 TCBA Membership Form (Heather) – Heather asked if anyone had any changes to the membership form for 2022. Amy pointed out one date that needed to be updated. No other changes were discussed.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Update on broadening Market of advertising in Legal Brief update (Jim) – Geoff said he hasn't had time to look at it again. Jim and Geoff will talk about this offline. Heather will look at the data of how many people look at each page of the Legal Brief and send it to Geoff and Jim.
 - 4.2 Update on Judicial Portrait for Judge Erik Price (Heather) – Heather said that an email has been sent to the members requesting donations for the judicial portrait for Judge Price. Heather contacted Cortney Kelley who took the photograph of Judge Hirsch. Cortney said she is available and will contact Judge Price to set up the appointment to take his picture. Heather will contact Terrisa Burke, Judge Price's Judicial Assistant at the Thurston County Superior Court, to find out when the unveiling ceremony will be held.
 - 4.3 Update on Holiday Lunch (Geoff/Heather) – A discussion took place regarding if this event will be a vaccination only requirement. After discussion, we are requiring people to be vaccinated in order to attend the holiday luncheon. Your attendance is your certification that you are vaccinated. Unvaccinated people are welcome to attend the holiday lunch on Zoom. If someone paid already and is not vaccinated, they can request a full refund. We need to let people know a week before the event about the Zoom option. John moved to approve that in order to attend the holiday lunch in-person, you must be vaccinated, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections. Heather will draft an email and send it to Geoff, Michael and Patrick to approve and edit it as needed.
 - 4.4 Update on Board Retreat (Heather) – who will be going in-person? - We won't have the facilitator and the consensus exercise this time. Amy and Brandon will organize bringing the food. The Board Retreat will be held at Trevor's office. If anyone wants to attend by Zoom

that is an option.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – October 2021 Financial Reports - Heather gave a report since she forgot to send the financial report to the board members ahead of time. Brandon moved to approve, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Michael) – The next CLE in on December 3, 2021, on Zoom. Rachael Langen Lundmark at TCVLS organized the CLE about “Ethics of Pro Bono Representation.” Wayne said that the Strophy Foundation fundraiser went very well and it was in-person. Encourages us to continue discussing having an in-person events so we can all be together again and said it's worthwhile. Michael would like to discuss having in-person CLEs for the new year.

Trevor asked about having the board meetings in person. Wayne said he values personal interaction. Geoff said we are antsy to get together again and we will when it is appropriate to gather again.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Geoff has been deferring to John on this since he has been heading the bench bar meetings up. Geoff will contact Misty to set up a meeting for a bench bar meeting for the members.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Patrick, Amy, Brandon, Geoff, Matt) – Bill said he, Patrick and Amy met to discuss upcoming CLEs. He expressed his sincere appreciation for their help and substance they brought to the meeting. We have 3 - 5 CLEs planned. One is to finish off the Trial Series and that Patrick is working on a closing CLE and then possibly starting over with the Trial CLE series again. Another CLE is a bankruptcy CLE again. Megan Rue has said she will be a presenter. A third CLE is a collections CLE. Pat Rawnsley might be the speaker. A fourth CLE is a civility CLE. Bill has written to Judge Schaller and asked for 1-2 judicial officers as to speak, but he hasn't heard back yet. A fifth CLE is an Employment Law CLE. A sixth CLE is a Guardianship CLE with the new laws. We are hoping for January or February and plan to start with the Trial CLE. Matt organized a CLE on November 18 with Judge Buckley talking about Veterans Court. Bill said when the CLE committee meets they are focusing on organizing the half day CLEs.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Michael) – No report. Patrick said the next committee meeting is on the 17th and one of the points is asking the bench when the next rules committee meeting is.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Trevor, Patrick, Amy, Geoff, Michael, Bill, Lindsey Trakel) – The next meeting will be on Nov. 17th (3rd Wednesday of the month), the topic is criminal law. Patrick and Lindsey sent an agenda out. The last meeting we did have an agenda prepared and got some of the way through the agenda, but we thought we should focus on one thing per meeting. The judges don't seem to want to meet more often and for longer each time so it's hard to get a lot done in a short time. Patrick said the court laid out their vision of their plan with onboarding the new judicial officer and the other new judicial officer and their assignments and schedule. The judges say they are open to changes. Geoff asked if there will be a committee meeting before the next larger meeting.
- 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Jim, Brandon, John, Amy) – No report.
- 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Patrick) – No update, but Patrick said he is thinking about topics.
- 7.7 Bylaws Committee – We will discuss this at the board retreat on November 20.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had a rather short and efficient meeting yesterday. We covered the following topics:
 - National Adoption Day is coming up next week and the court hopes attorneys will show

up by Zoom to join in the celebration.

- The court is temporarily short-staffed while we await our 3rd commissioner being sworn in, going through some training, and then taking the bench and covering full calendars. The judges asked that we please be patient and understand that this backlog is anticipated to be temporary. Because of the shortness of judicial officers, the amount of available trial time is very limited, so many cases are expected to be bumped over the next few weeks.
 - Judge Lanese provided a brief introduction to the section of Judge Appointee Zipp. Most of us are unfamiliar with her professionally, but are looking forward to becoming acquainted.
 - We discussed updates to local court forms.
 - We weighed in on the Family Law MidYear and whether participation should be hybrid or in-person, or both.
 - We are creating a list of referrals for attorneys who are actively accepting Minor UGA cases.
 - I encouraged EVERYONE to attend the TCBA Holiday Luncheon.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulse) – Geoff said he doesn't have much to report. This month is his last month as a board member at TCVLS. If anyone would like to serve on that board to let him know.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) - No new updates. Brooke said she is willing to help transition the next Young Lawyer Chair.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) - The Criminal Law Section is planning to host a CLE presented by the Department of Corrections to help educate members about the new Mental Health Sentencing Alternative, pursuant to RCW 9.94A.695, which became available for sentences imposed after July 25, 2021. Dates and details are still being coordinated and will be distributed when they are confirmed. The next section meeting via zoom on Tuesday, November 16 at noon.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – The section did not meet in November. The RELU section has two virtual events planned for winter, as follows:

December 6, 2021 from 12-1pm on Zoom/Virtual Section Lunch Meeting

Speaker: David Troutt, Natural Resources Director, Nisqually Indian Tribe

Topic: I-5 Over the Nisqually Delta: Treaty Rights, the Endangered Species Act, Orcas, the Economy, and National Security

January 14, 2022 from 12-1pm on Zoom Virtual Section Lunch Meeting

Speaker: Chief Justice Steven Gonzalez

Title: Perspective from the Bench: A Lunchtime Discussion with Chief Justice Steven Gonzalez

Description: Chief Justice Gonzalez will join the Section for a virtual lunch meeting to share his perspective on emerging real estate, land use, and environmental issues. I just confirmed Chief Justice Gonzalez for the January event; save the dates will go out to the Section this week.

The section will not meet in February; I am working to plan two more section meetings for the spring, format and speaker TBD, one in March, and the other in May.

- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson & Jessica Shen) - our last meeting was on 10/13. We spoke about a letter to the editor in a recent Bar News issue that raised the issue of equity vs. equality, as well as the barriers to marginalized communities in joining the legal profession. The group also touched a little bit on the question of what one should do if they observe discrimination in the courtroom itself. However, we ran out of time before we could really delve into it.

Our next meeting is 11/17 @ 12pm. Zelena Jones will take on co-chair duties for the first time and we will extend the conversation from last meeting about what to do if you witness discrimination in the courtroom.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

10.1 Geoff shared that he is going to be having a medical procedure and does not know how long it will take to recover, but the procedure should be sometime in the first half of December. Patrick asked what Geoff would like from us? Geoff said Michael may need to step up and take over as President while he is away. Jim said he is happy to help too if needed.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** November 20, 2021, Board Retreat from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at Trevor's Office and on Zoom. Next Board Meeting is on December 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

12. **Adjourn** 6:47 p.m.