

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom

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

Members Absent: Joe Scuderi

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:30 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2022, Board Meeting** - Michael moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Newsletter & Electronic version (Heather & Heidi) – Heather will be working on the March Legal Brief soon. Ads and articles are due on February 18th.
 - 3.2 President Appoints Nominating Committee for 2022-2023 Officers (Geoff) – Trevor shared that the nominating committee discusses this offline who they want in the officer positions. Geoff and Michael will meet and discuss. Bill shared that in the past the Vice-President has a big say since this group of officers will be working closely with the Vice-President.
 - 3.3 Bigelow Award Nomination Form (Heather) – Geoff approved the form with no changes.
 - 3.4 Date & Venue for Summer Barbecue (Heather) – Burfoot Park is a great location. Michael threw out the idea of having a BBQ on a Thursday late afternoon/early evening in August between 3-5. Patrick said he will help again this year. Heather and Patrick will talk on email about dates/location.
 - 3.5 Annual TCBA Golf Tournament on May 7, 2022 (Heather) – Joe Lynch is organizing the golf tournament again this year. The date is May 7, 2022, at the Olympia Golf & Country Club. Heather will talk to Joe about the price and if there is an increase.
 - 3.6 Mini MBA for Attorneys (Jim) – An email was sent to the board members regarding this potential CLE. A discussion took place. The board members would like to refer this to the CLE committee.
 - 3.7 Report on Book Review with Accountant, Christine Garst (Heather) – Heather sent the report to the Board of Directors before the meeting. Heather shared that she met with the accountant last week.
 - 3.8 Vaccine requirement for in-person events (Geoff) – A discussion took place. We don't have a set policy. We are monitoring the situation as the details emerge and will follow CDC guideline and we'll make a case-by-case determination for each event.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Update on broadening Market of advertising in Legal Brief (Jim) – Geoff has not gotten in contact with Jim yet.
 - 4.2 Update on Judicial Portrait Policy & Judicial Election and Appointment Policy (Trevor) – Judicial Portrait Policy – Trevor discussed a joint policy with Commissioner Rebekah Zinn with Washington Women Lawyers and Matt Huot with Government Lawyers Bar Association, but they are not interested in having a joint policy with the TCBA. Trevor seeks the motion to approve the policy as amended. Wayne moved to approve, seconded by Brandon. The motion carried without objections. Trevor will send the policy to Heather.
Judicial Election and Appointment Bar Poll – see 7.7.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – January 2022 Financial Report – John shared a report. Bill moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Wayne. The motion carried without objections.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Michael) – The February CLE is on the 25th on Zoom. The topic is “Colloquies with the Class of 2021: Lawyering Tips from the Thurston County Superior Court’s Three Newest Judges” featuring Thurston County Superior Court Judges Sharonda Amamilo, Judge Indu Thomas and Judge Allyson Zipp. Jessica Chen is going to be the moderator. Michael is working on a draft with some questions so if anyone has any questions to please send them to Michael. The next CLE is on March 25th. Topic is TBD. Any ideas send to Michael. Geoff shared that March is Women’s History month.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Geoff will contact Mistry Robsion at Thurston County Superior Court about a Bench/bar meeting.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Patrick, Amy, Brandon, Geoff, Matt) – Bill shared that he will contact the members who have indicated they want to help with CLEs. Megan Card reached out to Diana Swanson from DCS who has offered to present a CLE to talk about what the office of support enforcement does, how to work with them, etc. Patrick shared that he is working on the Trial CLE. He met with the bench last month, but they said we can’t have an in-person event, but he's hoping this CLE can be later this year so we can be in-person for it. Wayne has been working with the Attorney General’s office regarding the mental health system and how they react and how they don’t. He is working with someone at Western State Hospital. Amy wonders if the speakers for the Trial CLE can be in-person, but the attendees be on Zoom. Patrick will think about this some more. Trevor asked if we can plan for the CLE in May and see what the situation with COVID is during when the time comes.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Michael) – Michael said they haven’t met yet. At the last bench bar information meeting, Judge Murphy said we will get right on it and he’ll hear from her assistant, but he didn’t hear anything yet.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Trevor, Patrick, Amy, Geoff, Michael, Bill, Lindsey Trakel, Marie Docter) – The next meeting is a week from today in the morning. John will follow up with Judge Wilson to discuss the agenda. Patrick shared that the last two meetings have been addressing criminal issues. Patrick appreciated Marie Docter joining the meeting. John would like to discuss pre-trial at the next meeting.
- 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Jim, Brandon, John, Amy) – The committee is meeting on February 11, 2022, at noon on Zoom.
- 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Patrick) – Patrick shared that the topic is “Should the Government have ability to mandate Vaccine and the Pros and Cons.” The preliminary round is on April 20th on Zoom. The final round is on May 3rd at noon at a Rotary meeting at Tugboat Annie’s.
- 7.7 Bylaws Committee (Trevor, Geoff, Michael, Wayne) – Trevor shared that the Bylaws committee had a meeting and discussed the proposed changes. A discussion took place. Bill moved to present the proposed changes of the Bylaws to the membership, seconded by Jim. The motion carried with one objection.
- 7.8 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Geoff, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon will reach out to everyone on the committee to set up a meeting.
- 7.9 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Matt and Michael have not met again, but will meet and report back next month.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had another really well-attended meeting today. I’m really proud of our section member turnout, which was quite robust. We did not have too many topics today, and the meeting went very efficiently. The general roundup is:
 - The court invited feedback on a few local court rule issues, specifically getting settlement conference statements in on time and making sure attorneys are following the mandatory discovery guidelines.

- The court is pleased that there is not much a trial backlog currently at FJC. This is due to the stay on jury trials, which frees up a few judges at Main Campus to hear family law matters, and starting this week Judge Amamilo is going to start covering some dependency trials and/or short family law trials.
- We discussed some nuances with electronic signatures on legal documents/pleadings. For example, why we should discard the use of GR 17 affidavits and how using the “audit trail” from some electronic signature platforms is better.
- The family law midyear conference is going to be completely virtual this year (there was some discussion about at least a hybrid in-person option, but that has been discarded).

And, that was pretty much it! I did remind/encourage members to renew their membership asap.

- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – Need TCBA Board member on TCVLS Board. Michael said the TCVLS Bylaws state that a member of the TCBA Board of Directors be on the TCVLS board also. Geoff said they meet once a month during the lunch hour. There was no interest being on the TCVLS board right now. Michael asked if maybe someone on the TCVLS board wants to be on the TCBA board.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr) - I sent out a survey asking people what events they felt comfortable attending. I haven't received much feedback, and the responses I did receive seemed mixed about meeting in person or not. I am trying to plan an event for the end of the month. Possibly an informal happy hour or trying to figure out something fun to do over Zoom.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – month, possibly that first week in March. We're reaching out to speakers now. If we get a date and time before 2/9 we'll let you know.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – No report.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Zelena Jones & Jessica Shen) - We plan on having a presentation for Black History Month utilizing video clips in order to educate the community about little known black history facts relating to the wider world and going closer to home. For example, we plan on highlighting one of WA state's pioneers, George Washington Bush, since that is still not widely known even though his story is pivotal to this state's history. Also, we plan on providing practical tools and guidance on how to teach topics related to Black History Month.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Brandon shared that Paul Posadas is a new partner at his firm.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** March 9, 2022, on Zoom

12. **Adjourn** 7:11 p.m.