

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

Members Present: Michael Young, Bill Pope, John Kesler III, Patrick O'Connor, Jim Laukkonen, Amy Perlman, Geoff Hulsey, Joe Scuderi, and Wayne Graham.

Members Absent: Brandon Koenig, Matt Huot, Trevor Zandell

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:33 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2022, Board Meeting** - Michael moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Newsletter & Electronic version (Heather & Heidi) – Renew FlippingBook for another year? Heather asked if we want to renew our Flippingbook subscription for another year? It's \$1070/year. Patrick moved to approve renewing Flipping book, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.2 Bigelow Award Nomination (Heather) – is it a secret who the winner is? A discussion took place. The consensus was if people know the person who wins we might get a better turnout at the event. If the winner wants to remain anonymous, they can.
 - 3.3 Renew Zoom for another year? (Heather) – Heather said the cost to renew is \$149.90/year. Joe moved to renew, seconded by Amy. The motion carried with one objection.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Update on broadening Market of advertising in Legal Brief (Jim) – Geoff and Jim had a discussion this week but did not talk about this. They will discuss this soon.
 - 4.2 Update on date & venue for Summer Barbecue (Heather) – Heather and Patrick shared that the summer barbecue will be on Thursday, August 4, 2022, at Burfoot Park from 3:30pm-8:30pm.
 - 4.3 Update on President Appoints Nominating Committee for 2022-2023 Officers (Geoff) – Geoff and Michael will be discussing this offline tomorrow.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – February 2022 Financial Report – John shared the February financial report. Amy moved to approve, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Michael) – Michael shared a report and said thanks to Matt Huot for his help in finding a topic and speakers for the March CLE, “Social Media as Evidence.” Two Attorney Generals will be the speakers. How are we going to approach Covid vaccination, testing, etc. A discussion took place. There will be no requirement one way or the other and we should follow the Dept. of Health guidelines at the time of the event. The March 25 CLE will be in-person at Tugboat Annie's. Michael is thinking of asking Judge Price to do the next CLE about his opinion on what it's like to be on the Court of Appeals. Michael said a topic for a future CLE is mental health.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Geoff reached out to Tonya Moore at Superior Court who is filling in for the Administrator right now, but has not heard back yet. Misty Robison is no longer working at Thurston County Superior Court.

- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Patrick, Amy, Brandon, Geoff, Matt) – Bill shared that the committee has not met yet. Amy and Patrick said they can meet in the next month.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Michael) – No meeting.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Trevor, Patrick, Amy, Geoff, Michael, Bill, Lindsey Trakel, Marie Docter) – John shared the next meeting is on April 20th. We felt like we don't need to meet every month. The meetings are good, but the consensus is we don't need to meet monthly as not much progress is being made. Patrick asked Judge Wilson at the last meeting if she would give an overview of what they are working on in the next View from the Bench for the May Legal Brief. Judge Wilson said yes.
- 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Jim, Brandon, John, Amy) – Should we have two price points – one for those only attending the social hour and one for social hour & dinner? A discussion took place. We will have one price point and the event will be a dinner. Joe moved to approve, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections.
- 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Patrick) – Patrick provided an update on Law Day. The preliminary round is scheduled for April with a final round in May. Preliminary round will be on Zoom. Budget is \$1800.00 to award the finalists.
- 7.7 Bylaws Committee (Trevor, Geoff, Michael, Wayne) – No update.
- 7.8 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Geoff, Joe, Wayne) – No update.
- 7.9 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – No update.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our March monthly meeting yesterday over the noon hour. There were virtually no agenda items, and I had anticipated it would be a relatively short meeting because both Judge Schaller and Judge Lanese were in another meeting. However, we had one of our longest meetings in over a year. We had a very riveting and engaging conversation about Guardians ad Litem in Thurston County. We have a very small Title 26 GAL registry to start, but currently only 5 to 6 GALs are actively taking cases. With a rise in the number of cases necessitating the appointment of a GAL and the reduction in the supply of available GALs, investigations and reports are taking much longer than 60 days to complete with the average completion time being close to 6 months. We had a lively discussion about how to problem solve this, including ways to have more productive hearings, requiring explanations on continuance requests, enforcing the supplemental GAL order more stringently, and possibly modifying the local court rules with respect to the types of cases where a GAL could be appointed. Instead of appointing a GAL to every case where the parents disagree on their parenting plan, perhaps a better use of the county's resources would be to only appoint GALs to cases where there is an articulable concern (with supporting evidence) that there is potential or actual detriment to a child.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – Need TCBA Board member on TCVLS Board.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr) - I am planning a young lawyers section meeting for the last Thursday of the month, Thursday, March 31. I am trying to contact someone at the Thurston County Superior Court to schedule the swearing-in ceremony as well. Misty Robison is no longer with the Superior Court. I have not heard much from Brook Frickleton. I have reached out a few times, but have not gotten much of a response. I have also reached out to Ingrid Zerpa to ask about getting a list of the people who have recently passed the bar for the ceremony and/or who I need to coordinate with to make sure people know how to sign up for the Thurston County ceremony.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) – We just put on our Self Care presentation on 3/1 and it went very well. We had some excellent feedback. We're currently coming up with ideas for a CLE to be held possibly the end of April or beginning of May.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – No report.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Zelena Jones & Jessica Shen) - For the meeting in February, we had a presentation for Black History Month that highlighted relatively unknown heroes in Black

History, going from global to national to local, and the presentation included a segment on how to teach Black History in a trauma-informed way. As you are fully aware, March is Women's History Month, and we will have a presentation and a discussion paying homage to past and present women U.S. Supreme Court justices and the controversy surrounding the newest women U.S. Supreme Court pick.

9. **Additions to agenda**
10. **Announcements**
11. **Date/location of next meeting:** April 13, 2022, – In-person hosted by Geoff and Patrick at Trevor's office.
12. **Adjourn** 6:20 p.m.