

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Jerry Gray & Matt Huot at John Kesler's office

Members Present: Michael Young, Jerry Gray, Wayne Graham, Marie Doctor, Brandon Koenig, Matt Huot, Melissa Goldmann, and Joe Scuderi.

Members Absent: John Kesler III, Angela Colaiuta, Geoff Hulseley, and Bill Pope

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:33 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of September 14, 2022, Board** - Melissa moved to approve the amended minutes to include her name under the Members Present section, seconded by Wayne. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Local Hero Nomination form (Heather)- Michael suggested adding a footnote about the difference between the Local Hero Award and the Daniel Bigelow award. The Local Hero is focused on recent contributions to the community and the Bigelow Award is focused on career long contributions. Heather will add the footnote and send to Michael for approval before sending it to the members.
 - 3.2 Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family (Heather) – Chair & # of families - Marie moved to do the program again this year and to request 20 families (9 small, 8 medium, and 3 large families) from the Salvation Army, seconded by Jerry. The motion carried without objections. Jerry volunteered to be the co-chair with Geoff.
 - 3.3 Holiday lunch (Heather) – Cost, menu, sub for Heather – After discussion about the cost of the event, Jerry moved to approve a \$42 per person fee for lunch and the TCBA will subsidize the additional \$5 per person, seconded by Brandon. The motion carried without objections. Heather said she will not be able to come to the holiday lunch this year, but she has asked her parents to fill in for her.
 - 3.4 National Adoption Day Celebration Donation Request (Heather) – The Thurston County National Adoption Day event is on November 17 at 4pm at Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court. The Thurston County National Adoption Day Committee has asked for a donation to help pay for food at their event. Wayne moved to approve up to \$150, seconded by Marie. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.5 Judge Dixon send-off (Wayne) – Wayne said Judge Dixon does not want a send-off party at the courthouse. Wayne said Judge Dixon has agreed to an informal gathering at an off-site location where we will unveil Judge Dixon's portrait. Some possible venues are Octapas, Mercato, Equal Latin. Heather will look into venues and report back next month.
 - 3.6 TCBA Budget Meeting for 2023 (Heather) – Heather shared that the budget committee met yesterday and said the 2023 budget will be discussed in depth at the board retreat.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Board Retreat update (Heather) – The Board Retreat will be on October 29, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Bill's old office. Melissa volunteered to bring coffee and Brandon volunteered to bring food. Heather and Michael will start working on the agenda.
 - 4.2 Forum update (Michael) - Michael said the forum went well and it was great to have it on Zoom. Jerry said it was nice to hear some clarifications from the Clerk's. We did record it and we had one person ask for it so far. The link to the recording was sent to the members.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – September 2022 Financial Report – John said he will provide a report at the retreat.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Wayne) – Written materials requirement for CLE – Wayne shared that the WSBA is requiring written materials at every CLE. He said we did submit a waiver to the WSBA regarding the materials for Justice Alexander's CLE, but they misinterpreted our request and still required materials in order to approve the credit request. The WSBA did finally approve the additional materials that were submitted. Wayne said it would be nice to talk to the BOG representative to discuss this requirement. Wayne said we ask CLE speakers to volunteer their time and then we're also requiring the speakers to submit materials. It's becoming more difficult to do this. Michael said to put this item on the board retreat agenda. Wayne shared that Judge Berschauer is the speaker in October and that there is no CLE in November. He is working on finding a topic for December.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The next meeting is on November 9, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. at Thurston County Superior Court. The TCBA will supply lunch for those in attendance. Heather will buy the food. Michael said if anyone has any agenda items, to let him know.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Geoff, Matt, Angela) – Bill sent the following report: I sent out an email this week to the board members who indicated their willingness to participate. I added our president to that list. I asked everyone to list their unavailable dates (as opposed to their preferred dates). I will set the meeting on the date that accommodates the most availability. It will be over the noon hour at Budd Bay Law. I will provide sandwiches, chips and drinks (simple lunch) for those in attendance. Please announce to the board that if there is anyone else that would like to participate, they should simply call or email Miranda (miranda@buddbaylaw.com). I am only requesting advance notice so I can make sure I have a sandwich for every individual.
 - 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie said she contacted the WSBA, judges, and people from each of the different associations to set up a committee and received good responses so far. Joe Jackson and Patrick O'Connor said they will both be on the committee. Matt Huot and Devin Kohr said they will get back to her. Marie said nothing will start rolling until February. Joe is on the local rules committee and Patrick is on the State rules committee so they can both report about those at this committee meeting which will be helpful.
 - 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Patrick, Geoff, Michael, Melissa, Lindsey Trakel, Marie) – Michael said they met two weeks ago, Judge Wilson, Judge Murphy and Judge Lanese were the judges in attendance. They talked about possibly relaxing some of the COVID requirements but are waiting to hear from the Department of Health. They also shared information about the move of the county executive offices to an offsite location and that the Prosecutors office is moving to building 1. The court will then have more space. The annex space is still being negotiated.
 - 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Brandon, John) – Nothing to report. We'll meet in a couple months.
 - 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie & Geoff) – Nothing to report.
 - 7.7 Bylaws Committee (Geoff, Michael, Wayne) – Nothing to report.
 - 7.8 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Geoff, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon has come up with several ideas for an event and is thinking of having an event in February 2023. One idea is to organize a bowling night at the Westside Lanes. Members will pay for their own bowling, food and drinks. Other options he thought of are a softball game, trivia night, and hiking in the summer. Brandon will call and find out available dates at Westside Lanes. We'll talk about it at the retreat and pick a date.
 - 7.9 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Matt shared that he talked to

- Kristen Mitchell from the Attorney General's (AG's) Office about organizing a mini-CLE for the AG's to encourage them to join the TCBA and participate in the local bar events. They agreed that local TCAB membership is low for AG's. Matt said he will keep working on it.
- 7.10 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather & Geoff) – Heather shared that the November Legal Brief will be emailed to members in early November. Advertisement and articles are due to her by October 18. Michael shared that Judge Dixon will be writing the *View from the Bench* article.
- 7.11 Judicial Appointment Bar Poll (Heather, Jerry, Brandon) – Heather said we sent an email to the members and asked members to submit their names if they are interested in applying for the appointment and want to be included in the TCBA Judicial Appointment Bar Poll. The deadline to submit their name is October 17. Heather will send the TCBA Judicial Bar Poll to the members on October 18 with a deadline of October 28. Heather and Brandon will meet on October 29 at the Board Retreat to tabulate the votes.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our October section meeting yesterday, and it was really well attended. There were not many topics on the agenda, but we discussed the following:
- Judge Lanese gave us a little bit more information about the upcoming calendar changes at Family Court. The judge's motion calendars are moving to Wednesday, and they are in the process of getting rid of their Monday afternoon dependency calendars so that there's more trial time at Family Court. He also let us know about the approval funds from COVID that the judges are going to use towards recruiting pro tem judges and commissioners to assist with the backlog of cases, specifically cases that need a settlement conference.
 - Commissioner Kortokrax reminded the attorneys that you need to appear for settlement conference even if you are under the impression that the case will result by agreement. The only way to be excused from settlement conference is if you have the agreement in writing either by way of final orders, or CR2A agreement.
 - We discussed that the upcoming legislative season is going to be fairly rigorous and there is going to be many things going on at the Legislature as it pertains to family law.
 - The law firm of Morris Sockle introduced a new family law attorney who had just passed the Washington State Bar exam.
 - Lastly, we discussed arranging for an after-hours informal meet and greet at a local establishment so that we can all see each other in person for probably the first time since the pandemic started. Melissa said October 27 at Well 80.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Michael said the job description for the new Executive Director has been sent out. They hope to have someone hired by the end of the year. They have received a couple applications so far. They have some other staffing changes going on. Joe said the Beer & Justice event is on October 14 at Heritage Distillery.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr) - We had the swearing-in ceremony and happy hour. We had a few people attend the happy hour. Our next young lawyer section meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of October which is next Thursday the 20th.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Olivia Zhou & Jenna Storm Norden) – Wayne shared that the Criminal law section is looking at some CLE luncheons to schedule towards the first of the year. District Court has a criminal procedure meeting in the next two weeks to discuss the backlog and reinstating speedy trial guidelines.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (_____) – Michael said we need a new section chair. Heather sent an email to the section to see if anyone would chair but did not hear from anyone. Michael said he reached out to Trevor Zandell who said he would do it if no one else volunteered. Michael sent Trevor an email but hasn't heard back yet.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Zelena Jones & Jessica Shen) – For the month of September, we had a section meeting that involved the discussion of two U.S. Supreme Court cases: *Dobbs v.*

Jackson (the decision that overturned Roe and Casey) and Garland v. Gonzales, a case involving immigration law, particularly relating to removal proceedings. We recruited two new co-chairs and, this month, we will move forward with a meeting discussing expectations, plans, and processes with the two new recruits. Michael shared that Zelena and Jessica are stepping down from their co-chair positions at the end of the year. They have two people who they want to take over, but they aren't members yet. Michael said to be fair to all of the members, we should send out an email to the members to see if anyone wants to chair this section.

9. **Additions to agenda**
10. **Announcements**
11. **Date/location of next meeting:** Board Retreat on October 29, 2022. November 9, 2022, hosted by Angela Colaiuta and Marie Docter at John Kesler's office
12. **Adjourn** 6:58 p.m.