

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 9, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Angela Colaiuta and Marie Docter at Jerry Gray's office

Members Present: Michael Young, Jerry Gray, Wayne Graham, Marie Docter, Matt Huot, Melissa Goldmann, Joe Scuderi, Angela Colaiuta, Geoff Hulsey, and Bill Pope.

Members Absent: John Kesler III and Brandon Koennig

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:34 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2022, Board Meeting** - Joe moved to approve, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 **Holiday Lunch Agenda** (Heather) – Heather shared the Holiday lunch agenda with the board and asked if anyone has any changes to it. After discussion, Heather will remove the presenting of certificates of appreciation item. Michael will contact Judge Wilson and Judge Schaller to see if either of them would like to thank the volunteers who help at the court.
 - 3.2 **2023 Membership Form** (Heather) – Heather shared the membership form with the board. There are no changes to the form. Heather will email the form to the members at the beginning of 2023.
 - 3.3 **Attorney to help with ADA accommodations** (Michael) – Michael said Judge Wilson sent an email asking if the board has any ideas about how the Court can find attorneys to take assignments for various reasons for people who need accommodations. After a discussion, Michael will let Judge Wilson know the following ideas: increase the payment to attorneys, the Court would need to obtain malpractice insurance for the attorneys, and coordinate to have government lawyers take the cases through TCCLS/pro bono.
 - 3.4 **2023 Judicial Evaluation Survey** (Heather) – Heather said we need to start thinking about the 2023 Judicial Evaluation Survey. Heather will send the survey to the board to discuss at the next board meeting. Michael, Jerry, and Wayne volunteered to be on the committee to update the survey if changes are needed.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 **Judge Dixon Send Off Party Update** (Heather) – Heather looked into three venue options to hold the informal gathering, Mercato, Equal Latin, and Octapas. Wayne will find out if Judge Dixon will come to an informal gathering. The board would like to have the gathering the last week of December at Mercato's. Wayne will let Heather know what Judge Dixon says so she reserve the venue.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – October 2022 Financial Report – John will give a report next meeting.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Wayne) – Wayne said the CLEs are planned until May 2023. His speaker fell through for December so he going to present on Innovative Justice vs. Criminal Justice Reform at the December 2nd CLE at Tugboat Annie's. Wayne will organize a CLE in May since we didn't have a CLE in November. Wayne talked to the Criminal Law section co-chairs, Jenna and Olivia, about a coordinated lunchtime CLE. Terry Church will be the speaker in January 2023 on how do you evaluate a case. Judge Glasgow will be presenting a CLE. Wayne will talk to Larry

Jefferson about presenting on the statewide level of criminal defense. Wayne would like to do the Diversity & Inclusion CLE. He reached out to Judge Buckley about a CLE on the District Court Perspective. Wayne also reached out to Ken Blanford from Tacoma who has expressed interest in presenting on Bail Bonds.

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The meeting was today. We had a good turnout (39 people in person and 37 on Zoom) and a good meeting. Michael said we need to include the Municipal and District Court judges for the next meeting. Marie said that Judge Wilson thanked her for being the new courthouse liaison, but Marie wondered if this position still exists. Bill motioned to appoint Marie back on as the new courthouse liaison, seconded by Wayne. The motion carried without objections. Michael said there will be another meeting in six months.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Geoff, Matt, Angela) – Nothing to report.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie shared that thanks to Matt someone from the Government bar has joined the committee. They will start meeting at the beginning of next year.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Patrick, Geoff, Michael, Melissa, Lindsey Trakel, Marie) – Nothing to report.
- 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Brandon, John) – Nothing to report.
- 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie & Geoff) – Nothing to report.
- 7.7 Bylaws Committee (Geoff, Michael, Wayne) – Michael said to take this off the agenda for now, but to put it back on in the fall of 2023.
- 7.8 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Geoff, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon shared a report via email: he is working with the bowling alley to set up a time in February still. They passed me on to a guy named Michael who is the bowling league coordinator at the bowling alley, so I am hoping we have a date soon.
- 7.9 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Nothing to report.
- 7.10 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather & Geoff) – Heather shared that the November Legal Brief was emailed to the members in early November. Ads and articles are due December 20, 2022, for the January 2023 Legal Brief.
- 7.11 Judicial Appointment Bar Poll (Heather, Jerry, Brandon) – The Judicial Appointment Bar Poll and results were sent to members in October.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our November Family Law Section meeting yesterday over the lunch hour. It was probably the shortest section meeting I have ever attended. No one had anything to add, which is a rare occurrence for the family law bar. Judge Lanese talked about National Adoption Day coming up next week, then he told us that more changes to the calendars might be coming in the near future. We did have an informal get together on Thursday, 11/3, and it was really nice to get out and socialize. We will not be having a section meeting next month (December 2022). I put out a call to the section to see if anyone else is interested in taking over as Chair and, so far, no one has indicated any desire to serve as Chair. I let everyone know that I am more than happy (and willing) to continue to serve as Chair for as long as the section (and TCBA) will have me.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe reported that TCVLS has asked for contributions. Michael reported that he has been serving on the search committee for the Executive Directors position, so hopefully they will have someone soon.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr) – No report.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Olivia Zhou & Jenna Storm Norden) – Wayne reported that they are working on coordinating some CLE opportunities and have asked for topics and are hoping to have something by the first of the year.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – Trevor Zandell has accepted the new chair position.

8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Zelena Jones & Jessica Shen) – New Chair(s) of Diversity & Inclusion Section (Michael) – Michael said that Jessica and Zelena are both stepping down as co-chairs at the end of December. He said we have received interest from three people who would like to co-chair this section. After discussion, Michael would like to appoint Ivy-Rose Kramer and Kelsey Gasseling as the next section co-chairs. Bill moved to appoint Ivy-Rose Kramer and Kelsey Gasseling as the next section co-chairs, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections. Michael will notify Ivy-Rose and Kelsey. Jessica and Zelena reported that they didn't have an October meeting due to our schedules but our next meeting is on 11/16 @ 12pm and is intended to be about American Indian issues (November is also National American Indian Heritage month). We will nail down exactly what we're doing but the tentative plan is to discuss the book Decolonizing Wealth and potentially the Nooksack Tribe eviction litigation.

9. **Additions to agenda**

9.1 Thomas Burke desk (Michael) – John shared on email that he was informed by a local attorney handling the estate that an old desk formerly owned by Thomas Burke is available was asked if a local attorney would want it. John wondered if the board would like to obtain the desk and then include something in the next Legal Brief about the desk. A discussion took place. Michael said we will continue discussing this on email, but to first find out if we can obtain a document (maybe a letter from the estate or the family) that discusses the history of the desk and its connection Burke, and who Judge Burke was (and, ideally, a photo with him and the desk). The board will decide on email what to do about this whether to do something online about this or offer it at the holiday party.

9.2 Matt shared that the Lacey Veterans Hub has a need among its clientele for pro bono or low-cost basic estate planning documents (wills, POAs, living wills, etc.). It would be great to put together a network of local estate planning attorneys who would be willing to accept referrals for qualifying Veterans to prepare basic wills/POAs on a pro bono basis or a reduced rate. Matt is going to coordinate with the Veterans Assistance Fund to see if we can get all/some of the costs reimbursed if the Veteran qualifies for assistance, so it wouldn't necessarily be on a strictly pro bono basis. Matt is interested in any/all ideas/suggestions on the way forward. Joe suggested getting a reliable group of attorneys that do Estate Planning to prepare a basic estate planning document that people can use. Michael suggested sending an email to the Estate Planning attorneys and see if anyone is interested. Jerry said Erin Kuns and Jonathan Sprouffske at his office both do Estate Planning and he will talk to them to see if they know of any options. Marie said it would be great to have a list of attorneys by specialties available. Heather said that we have the capability to search by are of interest on our website under the Find an Attorney tab.

10. **Announcements**

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** December 14, 2022, hosted by Melissa Goldmann & Bill Pope at John Kesler's office

12. **Adjourn** 6:52 p.m.