

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Geoff Hulsey & Michael Young at John Kesler's Office

Members Present: Michael Young, Wayne Graham, Marie Doctor, Bill Pope, John Kesler III, Brandon Koenig, Jerry Gray, Geoff Hulsey, and Joe Scuderi.

Members Absent: Angela Colaiuta, Melissa Goldmann, and Matt Huot.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:35 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of December 14, 2022, Board Meeting** - Joe moved to approve, seconded by Wayne. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Venue for December 2023 Holiday Lunch (Heather) – Heather asked if we would like to reserve a December date at the Olympia Country & Golf Club for the holiday lunch again or if we want to go to a different venue. Wayne said he the Olympia Country & Golf Club does a great job decorating for the holidays and it's a great location with parking. The other board members agreed. Heather will contact the Olympia Country & Golf Club and reserve a date.
 - 3.2 Summer BBQ – Venue, Date & Chair (Heather) – Heather asked if we want to have the summer BBQ at Burfoot Park again or if we want to go to a different venue. Joe suggested the Pavillion at the Priest Point Park Rose Garden. Another idea is the Harbor House on the waterfront. Burfoot Park is fine. Jerry said it would be nice to have a closer to downtown venue, if possible. Heather will research out venues and report back next month. Wayne will be the chair of this event. We would like to have the BBQ on a Thursday at 5pm in early August.
 - 3.3 Reimbursement for pizza at D&I section meeting (Michael) – Michael explained that the chair of the Diversity & Inclusion section, Jessica Shen, requested reimbursement for pizza she bought for the end of the year Diversity & Inclusion section meeting and said she did not ask for prior approval to purchase the pizza. A discussion took place. Geoff moved to approve reimbursing Jessica Shen for the pizza and to send out a letter to the section chairs to let them know the sections don't have a budget. If the section chairs need to ask for expenditure to do so before the event in the future, seconded by Jerry. The motion carried without objections.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Desk of Judge Thomas Burke – Marie asked what happened with the desk of Judge Thomas Burke. John said there didn't seem to be much interest in this and assumes the desk is sold by now.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – October 2022, November 2022 & December 2022 Financial Reports – John said the year on the October report was wrong, but Heather has corrected it. John gave a financial report for December 2022. Bill moved to approve the financial reports for October, November & December 2022, with the clarification of the prior year, seconded by Jerry. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Wayne) – Wayne shared that Terry Church and Bryan Johnson are

presenting at the January CLE. Some other possible speakers and presentations are Judge Buckley presenting on District Court and post-COVID, Nicole Miller can present on Diversity & Inclusion. Judge Glasgow and Larry Jefferson have also agreed to present. Wayne will find out who can present in February & March. Wayne said board members should be at all the events. Geoff suggested having a legislative updates CLE. Wayne will talk to the Russell Brown at WAPA.

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Michael sent an email to Kristen Jensen & Judge Wilson for dates for the May Bench Bar meeting, but he has not heard back yet. He will follow up with them.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Geoff, Matt, Angela) – Bill said there is nothing to report.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie said she sent an email to the Court to see if there are any rules they are evaluating this year, but has not heard back yet. She will follow up on her email. She said there is a new staff attorney at Thurston County Superior Court who might be the contact for the Court. Marie will send an email to Kristen Jensen to find out.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Patrick, Geoff, Michael, Melissa, Lindsey Trakel, Marie) – John shared that he emailed Judge Wilson to say we'd like to continue meeting and she said we can meet in February, but she hasn't gotten back with the exact date yet. John suggested February 15 in the morning.
- 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Brandon, John) – Heather will be send an email to the committee to start discussing the plans for the annual meeting.
- 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Geoff & Melissa) – Marie and Melissa met yesterday and wrote a summary and then they emailed Geoff. Marie contacted Patrick O'Connor to ask him questions. Marie said the rotary provides the award and the TCBA provides the prize money. Patrick said to contact the Kristen at the Court to get two judges to judge for the preliminary round. Marie has been researching possible topics and board members shared their topic ideas; the immigration crisis, local Olympia School Board issue, cryptocurrency, mail in elections, restrictions on firearms, US Supreme Court on freedom of expression for clothing for students, US Supreme Court police liability of local municipal police when they are cross deputized. A generational topic is important that it's not too political. Heather will reach out to Stephen Henderson at the Rotary for a date/location. Geoff will look for the freedom of expression with clothing case.
- 7.7 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Geoff, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon shared that he sent a message to Devin from the Young Lawyer section to host a joint event with them, but he hasn't heard back yet. He suggested hosting something at Well80 in the next couple months. Another idea is a bike ride in the March/April and bike from bar to bar, like a poker run.
- 7.8 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Michael said there is nothing to report.
- 7.9 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather & Geoff) – who will organize "IN RE" for March? Jerry volunteered to find someone to spotlight in the In Re Spotlight. Wayne asked that Ivy-Rose Kramer be the Young Lawyer spotlight in the next issue. Heather will let Devin Kohr, the Young Lawyer Chair, know.
- 7.10 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – Wayne shared that he brought up the topic, but it wasn't well received. Brandon suggested having information about other courthouses that have badges, like the cost, criteria, and how did other courthouses get judges to agree to do this. It's about respect and convenience to the local attorneys. Megan Card did a lot of work on this previously and shared the information with Wayne and Brandon. Geoff said Judge Schaller talked about this in the Family Law section three years ago and for her it was about security. Brandon said it's a potential revenue source for TCBA. Geoff asked about NCSC. Brandon said Matt will be helping him with researching what other courthouses do.
- 7.11 Judicial Evaluation Survey (Michael, Jerry, Wayne) – Michael said the survey is to be sent out on/around March 1st. Members are polled for the performance of the judges. There are

two parts to the survey – written comments and questions. Judge Lanese met with Jerry and Michael regarding the release of the comments. Judge Lanese and Judge Skinder were involved in the initial survey and the idea was that the comments would not be released to the members. The last time we did the survey in 2021 we released the comments to the members. A discussion took place. We will discuss this again in March.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - I had Patrick Rawnsley guest-chair or substitute-chair today's family law section meeting because I had a doctor's appointment that I had to schedule on shortened notice. Pat informed me that it was a fast meeting today. There was not much on the agenda that I circulated so that makes sense. Things that were discussed:
- Welcome to 2023.
 - Introductions to new lawyers who joined the community since November 2022.
 - Clerk's Office issues: A number of attorneys (myself included) have noticed a few issues with things not being filed, bench copies not being delivered, hearings not being calendared, sealed documents not being filed under seal, etc. Neither Linda nor Tawni were present at the meeting today to address these issues, but we are hoping that we opened up the dialogue to see what we (as the local family law bar) can do to help.
 - Case Law Update: A recent WA Supreme Court case was published addressing the business records exception to the hearsay rule. Pat presented on that topic, which didn't seem to pique much interest from the section members.
 - Renewal: I reminded everyone to renew their TCBA membership!
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe forwarded an email from Rachael Langen Lundmark, Executive Director at TCVLS to Michael regarding the reduced donation this year. Michael said our revenue was down this year and we had to make some tough choices. Michael shared there has been a recruitment for to replace Rachael who is retiring, but they have had to readvertise for her position.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr) - I had a few people attend the December meeting! There were four of us that met up for lunch. I am going to send out an email asking the members what they want to get out of the section and see if I can tailor events to their suggestions. Cody Branstetter, at Jack Hanemann's office, is on the Washington Young Lawyers Committee for the WSBA. He reached out to me, and we are going to try to coordinate an event or something this year to try to get more participation. I plan to move our meetings to the third Wednesday instead of the third Thursday this year. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, January 18, 2023.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Olivia Zhou & Jenna Storm Norden) – They are working on setting up a lunch time CLE about sentencing alternative mental health for criminal offenders. Wayne has been tasked to find a suitable speaker from the Department of Corrections.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – Bill asked that the section meeting information be sent to all members. Trevor shared that scheduled the next section meeting for April 26, 2023, at noon at Mercato's. Thurston County Commissioner, Tye Menser, will be our guest speaker, and he will touch on various issues facing county government, likely including housing and the critical areas ordinance. My plan is to hold this as an ordinary section meeting and not as a CLE, so as to avoid competing with TCBA's lunchtime and other CLE's. However, it will be interesting to see how well the meeting is attended without CLE credit being offered. This will be my first section meeting as chair, and I will use this experience to inform how section meetings should be handled going forward.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Ivy Rose-Kramer & Kelsey Gasseling) The first section meeting for 2023 is on 2/1. Join us on February 1st, 2023, at 5:45 PM for a meet and greet! We will be gathering at Three Magnets Brewing Company in downtown Olympia: 600 Franklin St SE,

Olympia, WA 98501. We are the new co-chairs and are very excited to meet all of you. We have lots of ideas about potential meeting topics, but we also want to hear from you about what you are interested in! For this meeting, we will be sending out short videos and other materials centering on Black identity in honor of Black History Month. We look forward to seeing you there!

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

10.1 Bill thanked those who provided the food/drinks.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** February 8, 2023, hosted by Wayne Graham and Brandon Koenig at John Kesler's office

12. **Adjourn** 7:06 p.m.