

**THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**  
**hosted by Marie Docter & Jerry Gray at Jerry Gray's Office**

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

Members Absent: John Kesler III, Brandon Koenig, and Geoff Hulsey.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order**
2. **Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2023, Board Meeting** – Marie had one minor change regarding the misspelling of her last name. Joe moved to approve the minutes with Marie's change, seconded by Jerry. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
  - 3.1 Judicial Evaluation Survey Results (Michael) – A discussion took place. Jerry moved to revise the former vote of releasing the results of the comments to the members and instead release it upon request on email, seconded by Joe. Two members voted for the revision and six members opposed. The motion did not pass. We will stay with our former vote and release the comments to the membership.
  - 3.2 Spring Swearing-in Ceremony (Heather) – Heather shared the spring swearing-in ceremony is on April 21 at 4:00 p.m. at Thurston County Superior Court, Courtroom 102. Wayne will be there to represent the TCBA.
  - 3.3 Provisional Slate of Officers for 2023-2024 & Board Vacancies (Michael) – Michael announced the provisional slate of officers: Wayne Graham will be President, John Kesler will be President-Elect, Brandon Koenig will move to Treasurer, Melissa Goldmann will be Secretary. Position #3 will then be vacant. We will send out an email to the members about the vacancy. Joe moved to approve the officers, seconded by Angela. The motion carried without objections.
  - 3.4 Bigelow Award Nominations (Michael) – A discussion took place. The board reviewed the nominations that were submitted. Matt moved to nominate Shirley Battan, seconded by Marie. The motion carried without objections. One person abstained.
4. **Old Business**
5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – March 2023 Financial Report – We will table this until next meeting since John is not present today.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Wayne) – Wayne shared that Chief Judge Rebecca Glasgow will be the speaker at the April 28 CLE. Stephen Bean will be the speaker at the June 2 CLE. The topic will be Embezzlement at Private Practices.
7. **Committee Reports**
  - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The next meeting is on May 17 at noon at the courthouse. The TCBA will be providing lunch.
  - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Geoff, Matt, Wayne, Angela) – Bill said he has nothing to report. Wayne said he had intentions of asking Chief Justice Gonzalez to speak at a CLE but has not talked to him yet.
  - 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie shared that staff attorney Matt Morbello sent out a list of

- rules for consideration for September. The changes were minor wording changes. There is a problem with the arbitrary award rule. Marie found and fixed an error on the arbitration form and has sent the form to Matt Morbello to get the judge's approval.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Patrick, Geoff, Michael, Melissa, Marie) – This was discussed last month.
- 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Brandon, John) – Heather shared that the committee has discussed the price of the ticket, but if it were to cover all costs, the ticket would be \$66. Matt said John proposed asking for a sponsor for the meeting to help cover the cost of appetizers. Matt said his opinion is to have the members pay the full price of what it costs. Marie said she doesn't think it's too late to ask for sponsors. Marie proposed to charge members \$60 and absorb the extra cost, but to solicit donations and if money is donated then we can use it to cover the cost of the appetizers, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections. Marie said we can acknowledge the sponsors by announcing them at the Annual meeting. The goal is to get three firms to donate \$250 each. Joe said he would donate.
- 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Geoff & Melissa) – Heather said the preliminary round is on April 20 at 5:00 p.m. and the final round is on May 2 at noon at Tugboat Annie's during a West Olympia Rotary meeting. We received an email from a student asking if he can video his speech since he's not available on April 20. A discussion took place. After discussion, the board said the participants need to be in-person for the preliminary round. Heather will let the student know.
- 7.7 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Geoff, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon sent an update on email and said "I have no update on the social events committee. I found a new weekly trivia place called Headless Mumby which is on the westside of Olympia. A few attorneys already go there for Thursday night trivia (5:30 – 7) so it may be a fun place to consider future events. The biggest problem with this place is that it is a bit on the smaller side as far as available seats and tables go. Please also ask if anyone would like to become the social events committee chair? I will stay in the role if nobody else wants it but I think if someone is passionate about putting on events they should have my spot." No board members volunteered to chair this committee, so Brandon is still the chair.
- 7.8 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – No report.
- 7.9 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather & Geoff) – Heather shared that the May Legal Brief will be emailed to the members in late May or early June. Ads and articles are due by mid-May.
- 7.10 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – Wayne and Joe both shared that Judge Wilson said to table this discussion for now. Wayne has been talking to Ken Blanford at Pierce County who said issuing courthouse badges is a revenue maker for Pierce County. Wayne said that Thurston County Courthouse is reconfiguring the main campus and used to have two security points, but they are talking about having a central security point for the whole campus which will be more of a bottle neck. Brandon shared an update on email and said "I have no update on the court id badges, although I am still very determined to help however I can with that! If I could get some assistance contacting counties about their ID badge programs, that would help me out a lot."
- 7.11 Judicial Evaluation Survey (Michael, Jerry, Wayne) – See 3.1.
- 7.12 Bylaws Committee (Angela, Joe, Michael) – Michael said we need to form a Bylaws Committee to start talking about if any changes should be made to the Bylaws for next year. Angela, Joe, and Michael volunteered to be on this committee.

## 8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - Yesterday, we had our April meeting, and the entire meeting was a presentation from Dr. Joyce Gilbert on "Sentinel Injuries." April is National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month, so the presentation was very much on topic. I got a lot of positive feedback from our membership on the presentation. It was truly riveting!
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe shared that the TCMLS fundraiser breakfast is on May 2 at

- Hotel RL at 7:00 a.m. Donations are encouraged. The new TCVLS Director is great. On April 19 there is a retirement party for Rachael Langen Lundmark at Fishtale at 5:00 p.m.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr) - I have been getting a little more participation at our lunch events. We have had a few additional people show up for March and February. I plan to hold out next lunch meeting the fourth week in April, since I am out of town next week. The spring swearing-in ceremony for new attorneys will be Friday, April 21, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Thurston County Superior Court. I should be getting the pass list for the bar exam next week. I reached out to TCVLS to see if they would like to speak at the ceremony, but I have not heard back from them. I also just reached out to Michael Young to see if he would like to speak as well.
  - 8.4 Criminal Law (Olivia Zhou & Jenna Storm Norden) – Wayne shared that he’s been working with Patrick and Kevin to have the Department of Corrections (DOC) come and do a series of presentations on Wednesdays. DOC is lined up, he just needs to get a courtroom now.
  - 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – We had to push the meeting with Tye Menser out from late April to May 24 because Tye had a conflict come up. My intention for that meeting is not just to have the program with Tye, but also brainstorm with section members about activities we could engage in and future events we could hold. I hope to draw on the diverse experience and connections of the section members to help me set the agenda for the rest of this year and going forward. I also want to find out how active members want the section to be and whether they would attend quarterly, or even monthly meetings. So there’s not much new to report at this time, and there’s not likely to be next month either, but after the meeting on May 24, I will have more to share.
  - 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Ivy Rose-Kramer & Kelsey Gasseling) – We had a great turnout in March for our discussion of gender identity in the courtroom and legal field in general. This month, Commissioner Zinn is presenting to us on Autism Acceptance. That presentation will be held by Zoom on April 12th from 12-1pm. Bill asked Michael to send a thank you email to the chairs to thank them for their continued effort with this section.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Request by Teacher at Avanti High School – Marie shared that a teacher at Avanti High School has reached out and is looking for an attorney to come and speak to his class about the changes in law, specifically renter’s law, criminal law, employment law, and tax law, once kids turn 18. Marie said she gives presentations at middle schools, but this email is asking for information about how the law changes once the kids turn 18. Marie suggested maybe we can put something in the Legal Brief to ask the membership what they would tell their 18-year-old about the law. And then compile the answers and share the submissions with the members and the teacher. Marie will write something for the May Legal Brief.

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Bill thanked Marie and Jerry for providing the food and Jerry for hosting the meeting.
- 10.2 Bill thanked everyone for coming up with some brilliant ideas for making the annual meeting more affordable.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** May 10, 2023, hosted by Angela Colaiuta & Joe Scuderi at John Kesler’s office

12. **Adjourn** 7:29 p.m.