

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Michael Young and Rosemary Fitzgerald at John Kesler's Office

Members Present: Wayne Graham, Marie Docter, Bill Pope, Jerry Gray, Michael Young, Melissa Goldmann, John Kesler III, Rosemary Fitzgerald, and Joe Scuderi.

Members Absent: Angela Colaiuta, Brandon Koenig, and Matt Huot.

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:33 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2023, Board Meeting** Marie said 7.3 Rules Committee needs to be changed to “Marie shared that Gary Preble went in front of the Court of Appeals on MSJ and the court commented on the LCR 56(c)(1) rule.” Wayne moved to approve the minutes with the change to 7.3 from Marie and the removal of Geoff Hulseby from the Members Present list, seconded by Jerry. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Holiday lunch menu and cost (Heather) – Heather shared the menu and cost of the holiday lunch. Wayne asked about a reduced rate for newer attorneys to attend. A discussion took place. Michael moved to approve \$50 per person and 10 slots for young lawyers, defined as practicing five years or less, at \$25 each, seconded by Melissa. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.2 Adoption Day Celebration Donation Request (Heather) – Heather shared that Melanie Hantze requested a donation of up to \$300 for the Thurston County Adoption Day celebration on November 16. A discussion took place. Melissa moved that we donate \$250 to Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court for their National Adoption Day celebration. The board approved unanimously.
 - 3.3 Law Library Needs (Michael) – Michael shared that the Thurston County Law Library Committee had the kick-off meeting of the trustees of the law library board. By statute the county has to have a board of trustees. Michael Young and Marie Docter are the TCBA representatives. Judge Skinder, Judge Zipp, and Commissioner Mejia are on the board too. The current balance of the law library fund is estimated to be approximately \$386,000. Michael said the goal of this committee is to decide what to do with the funds. The next step is to have another meeting in a couple of weeks.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Update on Annual Meeting & Dinner Venue for 2024 (Heather) – Heather shared the costs of having our event at Indian Summer Golf & Country Club and the Olympia Country & Golf Club. A discussion took place. Michael moved we hold the event at the Olympia Country & Golf Club on May 10, 2024, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
 - 4.2 Update on United Way Day of Caring (Marie) – Marie shared that we had seven volunteers from the TCBA. We packed 750 backpacks for kids to have food on the weekends. The All Kids Win representative was impressed by how much our group got done in that time frame. Include the links to the United Way Day of Caring website and All Kids Win in the November newsletter. Heather said she will also be including some pictures from the United Way Day of Caring event.

- 4.3 Update on WSBA Local Hero Award (Heather) – Wayne said we’ve had some frustrations with the WSBA not honoring our Local Hero this year. Wayne suggested we honor our Local Hero at the holiday luncheon. Heather will reach out to the WSBA representative again to see if they want to participate.
- 4.4 Update on TCBA Annual Board of Directors Board Retreat (Heather) – Heather said the board retreat is on October 28 at John’s office. Melissa volunteered to bring coffee. Michael volunteered to bring the food.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** (Brandon) – September 2023 Financial Report – Since Brandon is absent this month from the meeting, the report will be done next month.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (John) – John shared that the dates for 2024 CLEs are set and he is working on getting presenters now. October 27 CLE topic is Retail theft. The December 1 CLE presenter is an attorney from UW athletics. Wayne said his office is sponsoring up to 8 spots at the October 27 CLE.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Wayne said the next Bench/Bar meeting is on November 15 at 12:00 p.m. Heather asked if someone will buy/pick up the food for lunch since she will be on vacation. Wayne and Jerry said they will buy/pick up the food.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Matt, Wayne, Angela) – Melissa shared that two Pat Rawnsley and Jennifer Johnson are willing to do an Evidence CLE. Wayne shared that Chief Justice Steven Gonzalez, Chief Judge Rebecca Glasgow at Court of Appeals, Division II have agreed to present at a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Ethics CLE. Chief Judge Glasgow said she will ask Judge Erik Price to present too. Chief Justice Gonzalez said he can present for an hour, and Chief Judge Glasgow and Judge Price can present for 1/2 hour on GR37. Thurston County Superior Court Judge Zipp has also agreed to present. Heather will contact Hotel RL and see if they are available for a Friday in February and March 2024. We will have pastries/coffee/water available. The rate to attend via Zoom will be the same as the in-person rate. Wayne will reach out to Chief Justice Gonzales and the judges to see if they are available in February and March 2024. Bill moved to approve the star of appreciation for his efforts, seconded by Jerry. Wayne will bring the owl speaker/camera to show the speakers.
 - 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) - LCR 56(c)(1) – Marie shared that the judges are aware of the issue with this rule. The court did say it is unconstitutional because it doesn’t give people the time as the state rules does. There was a discussion on whether or not the board should take an official position on the issue. A discussion took place. The rules committee doesn’t start until February. Marie suggested we include Gary Preble’s letter in the next Legal Brief and ask members to send any comments to Matt Morbello. Marie will send Heather an introduction sentence and will send the letter to Heather to include in the next Legal Brief.
 - 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Michael, Melissa, Marie) – John has no update.
 - 7.5 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Wayne) – No report.
 - 7.6 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Wayne said he would like to discuss how to offer reduced rates at the board retreat.
 - 7.7 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather shared that the November Legal Brief advertisements and articles are due on October 20th. She needs to send the Legal Brief to the members by November 3 since she is going on vacation on November 7.
 - 7.8 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – Wayne said Judge Wilson is open to some conversations about this. Chief Judge Glasgow has offered to do a CLE on the Bias of Bar Polls.
 - 7.9 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Melissa Wayne, Angela, Joe, Chris Meserve) –Michael said he will schedule a meeting with the committee.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had a really well-attended meeting yesterday with several agenda topics. It was probably the most “action-packed” meeting we’ve had in a long time. We discussed:
- The court’s approach to DV evaluations from STOP (Social Treatment Opportunities Program) because some evaluations did not appear to comply with the WAC, and how we should handle this going forward.
 - A few scheduling/calendar questions related to Protection Order Renewals and De Facto Parentage cases.
 - We also asked the Clerk’s Office a few questions about filing Exhibit Lists. Short Answer: We don’t file them, we just email them, and the court is going to change the Case Schedule Order to comply with this.
 - We talked about the recent local court rule change Mason County because several of us practice in other counties.
 - We congratulated Megan Rue on being appointed as the newest CC at FJC. She was not in attendance, but we all said great things and expressed our excitement about her taking the bench.
- I reminded everyone to attend, if they are able, Judge Pam Nogueira’s swearing in ceremony on November 3.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe said there is nothing to report other than TCVLS is changing their name since in addition to providing legal services in Thurston County they also provide legal services in Grays Harbor, Mason, Lewis, and Pacific Counties.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr) – Wayne, Melissa, and John attended the Swearing in ceremony on September 29. There were four new attorneys being sworn in. Judge Zipp was the judge who performed the swearing-in. Melissa suggested having information at the CLE about the TCBA and give our contact information. A suggestion from the board was to offer the new attorneys a free lunch at the next CLE and next time have the new attorneys share a little about themselves to the audience.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Olivia Zhou & Diana Anderson) – No report.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – We have just scheduled a CLE for this section that will be entitled “Title Insurance Commitments: Red Flags and Guarantees”. It’s been approved for 1.0 CLE credits. This will take place on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 12:00 to 1:00 at Mercato. I am getting ready to send out notice about this CLE to the section members. I’m also thinking about opening this up to TCBA lawyers who are not in this section, and maybe even GLBA lawyers, if section members don’t take all the available seats. Meanwhile, I am working with code enforcement officers in Olympia and Lacey to hopefully put on a CLE about enforcement of municipal codes in January. More to come on that later. Heather will check with Trevor about sending the CLE info to all members.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Ivy Rose-Kramer & Kelsey Gasseling) – We will be having a panel discussion on “Othering in the Workplace” on October 19 during the lunch our via zoom. We are setting up our CLE for this November and plan to potentially have a panel from our Supreme Court Justices come talk about ethics on the bench, specifically asking about the interplay between DEI in their personal and professional lives. We also hosted a meeting last month via Zoom about the Chinese Expulsion from Tacoma. We had between 8-12 participants via Zoom.

9. Additions to agenda

10. Announcements

- 10.1 Wayne welcomed Rosemary Fitzgerald to the board.
- 10.2 Thank you, Michael and Rosemary, for providing the food/drinks tonight and John for

hosting.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** November 8, 2023, hosted by Wayne & Brandon at John's office. Melissa will take the minutes since Heather will not be at the meeting.
12. **Adjourn** 7:20 p.m.