

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Marie Docter and Jerry Gray at John Kesler's Office

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:40 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2023, Board Meeting** – Michael moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Matt. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Wayne said Heather drafted letters to the Dispute Resolution Center and Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services to let them know that the TCBA can't donate money this year, but we did offer to publish a free full page advertisement in the Legal Brief. Wayne also talked to Steve Henderson to let him know the TBCA won't be able to provide the Law Day scholarship money this year. Steve said they may be able to help with the scholarship money this year, but they would still like help from the TCBA to help coordinate the logistics, including sending emails to the schools. Marie and Melissa said they will work together on the topic. Marie will send an email to Steve Henderson to start coordinating this event.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Venues for March 8, 2024, CLE (Heather) – Heather shared that she researched many different venue options in Thurston County and gave a breakdown about each venue's cost and availability. The least expensive venue was Rivers Edge. John moved to reserve Rivers Edge for the March 8, 2024, CLE, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – December 2023 Financial Report – Brandon shared the financial report. Matt moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (John) – John reported that he will be the speaker for the January CLE. We have a tax CLE for either February or April and John Tunheim will give his HOPE presentation in March. Wayne said we need to make sure we are coordinating with the section CLEs and the lunchtime CLEs. Marie said she recently went to a presentation from someone who talked about mental health burnout. John said we had a mental health speaker a few months ago.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Wayne said the last meeting went well. Everyone loved the sandwiches. Judge Wilson was very appreciative.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Matt, Wayne, Angela) – Wayne shared some details about the March 8 Half Day CLE. Chief Justice Gonzalez will present for an hour. Then Judge Glasgow and another judge will speak for 1/5 hours. Judge Zipp and a panel of a District Court Judge, and two attorneys will speak about voir dire for 1/5 hours. The price is \$100 for TCBA members

- and \$150 for non-members. Angela asked if there could be a group rate. Marie made a motion that we can offer a discounted group rate of four or more TCBA members for \$85 each, but all four or more members need to sign up at the same time and be from the same firm/organization, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections. The board said to send the CLE Flyer to other neighboring counties too. Wayne will ask Judge Glasgow for a title of the March 8 CLE.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) - LCR 56(c)(1) – Marie said in February they will be putting the rules out they are reviewing. The Court is not going to do anything with the 56 (c)(1). Marie said to remove the LCR 56 off the agenda for next month.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Michael, Melissa, Marie) – John said there is nothing to report. John felt like this meeting ended up being more of a civil meeting, and there isn't consistency of how things are handled. John will reach out Judge Skinder for another meeting.
- 7.5 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon did not host a Trivia Night in December because of the holidays. He can't host the January 16 Trivia Night at 7:00 p.m. at Well 80 and wondered if any other board members could host it in his place. John and Jerry said they will attend. Brandon will host the February 6 or 13 Trivia Night.
- 7.6 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Michael said Matt sent him an email and said he will propose as part of the Attorney Generals collective bargaining agreement to have local government attorneys receive money so they can join their local bar associations. Matt also suggested we do more to recognize new members and to recognize firms/organizations that donate towards an event. We can recognize new members at the annual meeting and holiday lunch.
- 7.7 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Who will organize the “In RE” for March Legal Brief? Heather sent out the newsletter this afternoon. Wayne said we offered a free advertisement to Dispute Resolution Center and Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services. Melissa said she would like to spotlight new attorney Chelsea Raines in the next Young Lawyer Spotlight. Heather will let the Young Lawyer section co-chairs know. Jerry said he will organize the “In Re” Spotlight for the March Legal Brief. Michael reminded us that when he was TCBA President he had reached out to a Tribal Judge about writing the View from the Bench article. Wayne said he reached out as well, but was told it wasn't a good time for the judge. He will reach out again. Wayne said Judge Skinder has offered to write the View from the Bench in March.
- 7.8 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – Wayne said if you've been up at main campus lately you will see tape everywhere that guides people to one entry into the building. He doesn't see how any development will be happening soon as there is no money for the renovations. The ability to appear remotely has changed the need for a courthouse badge issue a bit.
- 7.9 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Angela, Joe, Chris Meserve, John) – Michael said that Angela, Joe, and Michael had an initial meeting on Zoom yesterday. Time is tight since we need to have any bylaw amendments approved at the TCBA Annual Meeting in May, which need to be emailed to the members 10 days before that so the amendments need to be voted on at the board meeting in April, so we need to get going. It was discussed at the meeting that Michael would reach out to the bench to see how best they could engage with them about the Judicial Evaluation Survey. Judge Glasgow told Michael that she has a column for the newsletter and has done some research about the bias of how the questions are written on judicial evaluations. Michael asked how we should engage with the members and how the members would like to see the survey. Marie suggested asking the members for their opinion. Marie said she finds the surveys helpful because when she goes to court she can review the comments so she knows what to expect beforehand. The board said they would like to see the research that Judge Glasgow has about implicit bias. The board also said there is no harm in listening to the points and then we can decide how can we

communicate with the membership. Michael suggested sending a survey to the members to ask them if they value the survey or not. Michael said he will give this some more thought about what questions we should ask the members.

- 8.1 Law Library (Michael & Marie) – Michael said their next meeting is in February. John gave them an old file folder from Fred Gentry that had old Law Library meeting minutes in it.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – Melissa said they had a meeting yesterday and that there is a big RCW being rewritten that will have huge changes to domestic violence and parenting plans. It will need to go through the legislative process. Judge Lanese is moving to main campus. Judge Thomas is going to Family & Juvenile Court. Judge Amamilo will be going to Family & Juvenile Court in May. Commissioner Rue is doing a great job. Judge Schaller will be going to main campus in May.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe said other than the name change, there isn't anything to report. TCVLS is working on getting more funding to expand their mission.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – I held three meetings on December 27th, 28th, and 29th. I had some turnout for the last one. Wayne would like to attend the next Young Lawyer section lunch. Heather will let Wayne and the entire board know when the next meeting is.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Olivia Zhou & Diana Anderson) – Wayne talked to Olivia Zhou about the section chair responsibilities. Wayne asked Rosemary Fitzgerald to be a section co-chair with Diana Anderson. Wayne appointed Rosemary as the next section co-chair.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – There will be a CLE on January 25, 2024, on Municipal Code Enforcement presented by Dalton Maurer, City of Olympia Code Enforcement Lead and Kevin Zwink, City of Lacey Code Enforcement. It is open to the section members first and if there is space we will open it up to all of the TCBA members.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Ivy Rose-Kramer & Kelsey Gasseling) – We are starting the New year with a lunch time meeting on January 17, 2023, and we will be providing relevant readings/videos to review prior to the meeting. Our last meeting was the ethics CLE where we had approximately 100 attendees. We were very grateful for everyone's attendance and for the two Supreme Court Justices who talked. We will be having a social hour meeting at some point in February or March.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Melissa said that a constituent has brought up that there is a lack of vegetarian options at some of the TCBA events. The board asked Heather to include a note on the event flyers in the future to let her know if anyone needs a vegetarian option.
- 9.2 Michael said we can talk about this at a later date, but has received questions about the Mission of the Salvation Army and if it's an organization that we want to support. Are there alternatives? The board said we will talk about this in the fall.

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Bill thanked John for hosting the meeting and Marie and Jerry for providing the food/drinks for the meeting.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** February 14, 2024, hosted by Angela Colaiuta & Joe Scuderi at John's office. Marie moved to approve moving the next meeting to February 7, 2024, at John's office due to Valentines Day being on February 14, seconded by Michael. Angels Colaiuta and Joe Scuderi will provide the food/drinks.

12. **Adjourn** 7:20 p.m.