

**THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.**  
**hosted by Bill Pope and Melissa Goldmann at Jerry Gray's Office**

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

Members Absent: John Kesler III and Matt Huot

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:37 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2024, Board Meeting** - Joe moved to approve, seconded by Michael. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
  - 3.1 Annual Book Review by Accountant (Heather) – Heather shared that she met with the accountant last month and she shared the report from the accountant, Christine Garst, on email to the board members.
  - 3.2 CLE Venue for Fall (Heather) – We will table this until the next meeting.
  - 3.3 Annual Meeting Menu & Agenda (Heather) – Heather shared that the charge for coffee/tea/lemonade is \$5 per person. After discussion the board decided not to offer coffee/tea/lemonade. The cost of the event will be \$65 per person. The agenda will be discussed at the next meeting. Michael said we will need to add Bylaw amendment to the agenda.
  - 3.4 Storing “old lawyer-related papers and stuff” (Heather) – Heather shared that a member reached out and asked if anyone has anywhere to store “old lawyer-related papers and stuff.” Heather said she reached out to the member for clarification about what “old papers and stuff” meant but did not hear back yet.
4. **Old Business**
  - 4.1 Board Officer Positions for 2024-2025 (Wayne) – This will be discussed via email.
  - 4.2 Annual Summer BBQ – Heather shared that the annual TCBA BBQ will be at Tumwater Historical Park on August 1, 2024, from 5-8 p.m.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – February 2024 Financial Report – Brandon shared the financial report. Bill moved to approve, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (John) – John was not at the meeting, but he shared this report with Heather: Jon Tunheim is scheduled for March. Carrie Graf for April. I'll follow-up with Carrie soon to make sure she is getting materials prepared that we can submit to WSBA.
7. **Committee Reports**
  - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Wayne said the date is to be determined.
  - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Matt, Wayne, Angela) – Wayne said he thought the half day CLE on March 8 went well. Wayne said none of the surrounding County Bar Associations attended and wondered how we do a better job to advertise the half day CLEs to them in the future. We sent multiple emails to them to distribute to their members. Melissa said Jennifer Johnson

- and Pat Rawnsley are still willing to do a half day Evidence CLE. Melissa will ask them for dates. We can have the CLE at Tugboat Annie's for a fall half day CLE. Friday mornings are preferable in September.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie said that there will be fewer interrogatories going forward, which was an issue raised by Bill at the last meeting. This would be a change to CR 33 – or local rule TCLR 33. In addition to the comments made by Bill, I had received some communication from other members on this rule and sent some of the comments I had received along with samples from Pierce County and King County to the court. I was advised that they would be reviewing the rule. Marie also said that the judges would not be taking up the issues related to CR 56 – local rule TCLR 56. She also said there was another rule under review but could not recall which one.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Melissa, Marie) – John was not at the meeting but reported to Heather that we are scheduled to meet on March 19th at 7:15 a.m. at the main campus courthouse room 102. Please ask the Board members who plans to attend so I can let the Court have an idea of who is coming. Also, please ask if anyone has any specific agenda items. The items I thought about are: local court rules; trial scheduling logistics (e.g. whether the Court is now giving priority to jury trials over bench trials); courthouse remodeling updates, if any; courthouse staffing updates, if any; and ongoing discussion about security and ID badges. Melissa and Rosemary said they plan to attend the meeting.
- 7.5 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon said he is hosting Trivia Night on March 19 at Well 80. Heather will send the email to the members tomorrow and asked everyone to spread the word. Brandon talked to Michael about organizing a bike ride that will take place at the end of April.
- 7.6 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Rosemary said a new swearing in is coming up in April and September so there will be more new young lawyers. Wayne said we will continue to offer opportunities to the overall bar and offer new attorneys discounted rates.
- 7.7 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather said the next Legal Brief will be at the end of May so we can include information from the Annual Meeting in May. Jerry said he will ask an attorney to complete the “In Re” Spotlight for the May Legal Brief.
- 7.8 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – We will table this for another date.
- 7.9 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Angela, Joe, John, Chris Meserve) – A discussion took place. Wayne shared that he heard that the bench appreciated how many board members attended the meeting today with the bench to discuss the Judicial Evaluation process. Michael said they talked about the survey results and what they want to see changed on the Judicial Evaluation. Chief Judge Glasgow gave a presentation based on some research about bias in judicial evaluations. She also had some concrete suggestions about how the bias can be addressed like changing the way the questions are asked or getting rid of the survey. Michael said he thought we should focus on the changes that need to be made in the bylaws first and then focus on the questions and possibly changing the questions. Judge Lanese provided his perception of the history of the comment section of the evaluation which he said back when it was created it was not meant to be disseminated to the public. He doesn't believe the comments should be released publicly because they are attacking, personal and vindictive and they have a hard time seeing the constructive part of the comments because of the negative comments. Judge Meyer and Commissioner Wohl shared the same sentiments about the survey. The board decided this will be voted on at the next board meeting on April 10.
- 7.10 Law Library (Michael & Marie) – Marie said they met with TCVLS and TCVLS said they have some things they would like to talk to the TCBA about. They would like simple steps for different kinds of cases, like a check list, and they are trying to put together a video on different types of cases, like parenting plans, evictions notices, collections, landlord tenant,

traffic citations and are wondering if anyone on the board is interested in helping with the video and check lists? Marie will write an email about this and will send to Heather to email to the members.

- 7.11 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie and Melissa) – recognize the people who donated in the next newsletter. Melissa said the topic is Initiative 2113 Vehicle Pursuit Law, then the legislature passed the law, so we revamped the question do you agree with the change? Do you think it should be something different. Melissa talked to Sheriff Sanders to get some statistics and he would like to attend if his schedule allows. Wayne hopes that TCBA will continue to support this event monetarily and maybe we can ask for donations again.

## 8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – No report. Melissa shared that Edith Vanderwal was in an accident and will be out for a couple of months. There is a meal train going around for her.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) –Marie said that TCVLS is looking for more members to volunteer to be on the Pro Bono list. They specifically need ADA attorneys for disabled clients and need ASL interpreters. Joe said TCVLS is still working on a new name for their organization.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – No report.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Angela Coliauta) – No report.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – Trevor shared there is nothing new to report at this time. He said he still needs to work on planning the next meeting/CLE but has not had any spare time lately. Wayne said he talked to Trevor about communicating with the TCBA Board of Directors in the future about the CLEs that he is planning so his CLEs don't conflict with the TCBA CLEs.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Kelsey Gasseling) – No report.

## 9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 A question was asked by a TCBA member since it is “Women’s History” month if the TCBA has any information on our early women pioneers in the law such as Julia Waldrip Kerr, June Fowles, Evelyn Foster, Trena Belsito Worthington, or Carol Fuller? The board members said no we don't have any information.
- 9.2 Bill thanked Melissa for providing the pizza tonight.

## 10. **Announcements**

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** April 10, 2024, hosted by Rosemary Fitzgerald and Michael Young at John Kesler’s office

- 12. **Adjourn** 7:46 p.m.