

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
Hosted by Rosemary Fitzgerald and Michael Young at Jerry Gray's Office

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

Members Absent: Melissa Goldmann and Angela Colaiuta

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:38 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of March 13, 2024, Board Meeting** - Joe moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Brandon. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Renew Zoom account? (Heather) – Heather asked if we want to renew the Zoom account. It's \$170.29 to renew. The board said yes to renewing the Zoom account as we use the Zoom account for CLEs and meetings.
 - 3.2 Automatic Renewal for Flipping Book for Legal Brief on March 14, 2024 (Heather) – Heather asked if we want to renew the Flipping Book account. It's \$1171.65 to renew. The board said yes to renewing the Flipping Book account as we use it for the digital Legal Brief and it's less expensive than printing the Legal Brief.
 - 3.3 Swearing-in Ceremony (Heather) – Heather shared that the next swearing-in ceremony is on May 6, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. at Thurston County Superior Court (courtroom 102)
 - 3.4 Bigelow Award Nominations (Wayne) – A discussion took place. The board selected Skip Houser as the 2024 Daniel Bigelow Award recipient.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Board Officer and Non-Officer Positions for 2024-2025 (Wayne & John) – A discussion took place. Heather will send an email to the members about the one vacancy and the proposed officers and non-officers.
 - 4.2 CLE Venue for Fall (Heather) – Heather said she reserved Tugboat Annie's on September 27, October 25, November 22 for the lunchtime CLEs. Melissa said she organized a half Day CLE on September 27 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The board said they would prefer to have the half day CLE instead of the lunchtime CLE on September 27. Heather will contact Tugboat Annie's and ask if September 27 is available from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. instead of 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Marie said Julie Fulks at Worth Law Group is going to be the speaker at the October 25 CLE. Marie also said she has a possible topic for November - When to get the Attorney General's Office Involved in Cases. Michael asked to be involved in this CLE too.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – March 2024 Financial Report – Brandon gave a financial report. Wayne said it's great we have more money now due to the recent half day CLE. Bill moved to approve, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (John) – John said that Carrie Graf is on board to do the April 26 lunch CLE. The topic is Landlord Tenant Update.

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Wayne said Judge Skinder agreed to have the next meeting the first week of June.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Matt, Wayne, Angela, Melissa) – Melissa provided an update on email – Jennifer Johnson and Pat Rawnsley agreed to present at a half day CLE on September 27.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie shared that eliminating interrogatories probably won't get much traction. Kristen Mitchell gave her the name of someone at the Attorney General's office to get feedback from, but she still needs feedback from the criminal side too. Wayne said Joe Jackson would be a good contact. The court would like the rules changes to be well-rounded and to hear from different groups in the bar. Marie said once we have all of the contacts, the group will create a pattern set or a rule of 2 sets of 25 to propose to the court. Marie said the next steps will be to get the groups together to get feedback from their areas of practice.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Melissa, Marie) – John shared they had a meeting and heard updates about the courthouse. Wayne said the plans to update the county courthouse is unlikely since there is no money.
- 7.5 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon shared that there are two upcoming events. One is Trivia Night on April 16 at Well 80 and the other is a six-mile bike ride on May 11 at 10:30 a.m. starting at Dancing Goats near the market. Heather will work on a flyer to send to the members about the bike ride.
- 7.6 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) –Marie said offering the half day CLEs is one way to attract members.
- 7.7 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather said the next Legal Brief will be emailed to members at the end of May. Advertisements and articles are due by May 15. Michael said we will include Judge Glasgow's article on Judicial Evaluation Bias in the May Legal Brief.
- 7.8 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – No report.
- 7.9 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Angela, Joe, John, Chris Meserve) –A discussion took place. The board voted to not make any changes to the Bylaws. Wayne and everyone thanked Michael for all his time and energy into this process.
- 7.10 Law Library (Michael & Marie) – Marie said the next meeting is on April 22. Melissa has a few items from Judge Doran's daughter, Tessa, that we can display in the Law Library. Marie shared an idea to honor Judge Doran at a CLE in the fall. We can invite his family to attend. Bill said he will speak and that there are Attorney General's who practiced before Judge Doran. Wayne said he can reach out to Judge Berschauer and Justice Gerry Alexander to see if they want to speak too. We could then organize with the bench to place the donated items in the Law Library.
- 7.11 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie and Melissa) – Marie said we currently have four participants signed up. Wayne said he has contacts at some of the schools and suggested we contact them next year. Heather shared that the email she sends out has 350 contacts from all of the schools in Thurston County. She said she goes through all of the school websites every year and updates the email list. Marie said she thinks we should start advertising in November in the schools each year. Bill said to remind the students you can put this on your application to colleges. Wayne said we need to recognize the people who donated towards the scholarship this year at the Annual Meeting and Dinner in May. Brandon said he thinks there are kids out there who are interested that just don't know about it.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had our April 2024 Family Law Section Meeting yesterday over the noon hour. It was widely attended, but there was little to zero participation from the members. We had two topics on our agenda, which were asking the judicial officers how they preferred us to file proposed orders (no judicial officer had any stated preference),

and then one of the law offices in town introduced their new associate.

- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – The TCVLS breakfast is on May 2. There is no name change yet. Marie said they desperately need more volunteer attorneys.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – There is not a lot to report at the moment. We had a lunch on March 27th where we had one attendee, and the plan is to do another one at the end of April. Michael asked Heather to send the Young Lawyer Lunch date to the board so the board can attend too. Wayne said we should continue to offer reduced rates for young lawyers. Rosemary said we should schedule a Young Lawyer lunch the week after the swearing-in ceremony and then have older attorneys at the lunch to welcome the new young lawyers too. Michael said at the Attorney General’s Office they used to meet for lunch when he was a young attorney. Rosemary suggested hosting an event for young lawyers.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Angela Coliauta) – Rosemary said she and Angela are working on setting up a CLE. Wayne said we are entering into phase 2 for mental health resources providers so maybe that could be a CLE topic.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell): I don’t have a new update, but your e-mail spurred me to work on scheduling another CLE. I hope to have an event scheduled by the time you ask me for an update next month.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Kelsey Gasseling) – No report.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Annual Meeting & Dinner – Heather said the Annual Meeting & Dinner is on May 10 at 5:00 p.m. at Olympia Country & Golf Club. Please sign up and bring all of your colleagues. Heather asked if we want to have appetizers during the happy hour. Bill and Joe said they will each donate \$250 towards the appetizers. Heather will order appetizers.

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Bill thanked Rosemary and Michael for providing the food/drinks, Jerry for providing the facility, Brandon for the abundance of great ideas tonight, and Michael for being a jury member.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** May 8, 2024, hosted by John Kesler and Matt Huot at John Kesler’s office

12. **Adjourn** 7:30 p.m.