

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Wayne Graham and Brandon Koenig at John Kesler's Office

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

Members Absent: Rosemary Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Carr, and Joe Scuderi

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:36 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2024, Board Meeting** - Michael moved to approve, seconded by Wayne. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Welcome Jeffrey Carr to the TCBA Board of Directors (John) – This was tabled to next meeting since Jeffrey is not at the meeting today.
 - 3.2 Venue for 2025 TCBA Annual Meeting & Dinner (Heather) – Heather asked what venue the board would like to go to for the 2025 TCBA Annual Meeting & Dinner. The board said they would like to stay at the Olympia Golf & Country Club. Heather will reach out to the Olympia Golf & Country Club for available dates in May 2025.
 - 3.3 Board Retreat (Heather) – Heather asked if the board would like to have a board retreat again this year. The board said yes. Heather will send out a Doodle Poll with possible dates in late October/early November.
 - 3.4 New Courthouse (John) – John said there is another push for a new courthouse. Marie said she went to a Thurston County Commissioner's meeting recently and learned there is a sub-committee looking into funding for a remodel on the courthouse. The question is should we remodel or build a new courthouse. Another question that came up is why are we spending all this money to put a band aid on the old courthouse. Marie has been asked to be added to the email list. Wayne said he would like to be on the new courthouse email list too. Marie said we should monitor this and provide feedback.
 - 3.5 Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family Program (Heather) – John said we will table this and discuss it at the next meeting.
 - 3.6 Bigelow House Connections (Marie) – Marie shared that she reached out to Bigelow House in response to Judge Doran's donations and went to a board meeting. She said they have a lot of historical stuff and no place to put it. They are trying to come up with a solution and are working with the Historical Society for some space at a state archive building. They would like the Thurston County Bar Association (TCBA) to support it and be able to add historical things and documents to the space too. They are interested in making a better connection between the TCBA and the Bigelow House. They would like to organize an activity at the Bigelow House and invite the TCBA members. They would like to add a historical article once a quarter in the Legal Brief. Marie talked to them about doing a historical CLE and they were interested. Marie asked for this item to be include in the Committee Reports at future meetings.
 - 3.7 County Charter Effort (Michael) – Michael shared that there is a group starting to create a county charter. A County Charter is when you can pick and choose how you want to be governed as a county. The county clerk could then be part of the Superior Court. Michael suggests we monitor this. Michael volunteered to be the liaison.

4. **Old Business**

4.1 Summer BBQ recap (Heather) – Heather said the Annual BBQ went well at Tumwater Historical Park. We had about 30 people attend which was about the same number as past years. Jerry said he thought it was a great venue. John said thank you to Joe and Jerry for grilling the burgers/hotdogs for everyone.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – May, June, July, and August 2024 Financial Reports – Brandon gave a financial report for May, June, July, and August 2024. Melissa moved to approve the financial reports, seconded by Wayne. The motion carried without objections.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Marie) – Marie said we do not have a September lunch CLE since there was supposed to be a half day CLE on September 27. Marie said she tried to find someone on short notice to do a lunchtime CLE on September 27 since the half day CLE was postponed, but she was not able to. Julie Fulks will be the presenter in October and will discuss Estate Planning. Joe Panesko from the Attorney General's will come in November and talk about City of Sammamish vs. Titko. Wayne was going to do a historical CLE in January and she's still working on finding a presenter for February. Vonda Sargent will be the presenter for the March CLE.

7. **Committee Reports**

7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Wayne said the last meeting went well in June. John will contact Judge Wilson to set up a new meeting date for November.

7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Angela, Melissa) – Sound Legal Aid Update (Heather) – Bill said he has nothing to report. Melissa said the Half Day CLE on Evidence was postponed and will be in January 2025 or later. Judge Schaller is going to give us some new dates that work for her. Heather met with Stacy Hicks at Sound Legal Aid. Stacy said Sound Legal Aid would like to partner with the TCBA and possibly help organize CLEs. She would like to offer an incentive for their volunteer attorneys to attend one of our CLEs for free after they volunteer a certain amount of hours, but Sound Legal Aid would pay for the volunteer to attend the CLE. Marie will contact Stacy to discuss the partnership further. We will discuss this again next month.

7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie talked to Matt Marbello at Thurston County and he sent Marie the list of everyone on the rules committee. Marie suggests an additional person from the board join the committee. The judges want an actual rule that the TCBA board proposes. We could get our own feedback from our members and then submit it to the judges.

7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Melissa, Marie) – No report.

7.5 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Wayne) - Brandon shared that the TCBA bike ride in the summer was great. We also hosted trivia nights throughout the summer which was great. Brandon is not available to host the trivia night on September 17 anymore. Jerry said he can host it. Some other ideas for social events are: cornhole tournament and pickleball. Brandon suggested we do more outdoor activities in the summer, and host trivia in the winter months. Brandon said he is happy to remain the Chair, but cannot host the trivia night every month.

7.6 How to Increase Membership Committee (Michael) – John said to put this item in old business with no chair for future meetings.

7.7 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather shared that the newsletter went out today.

7.8 Courthouse Badges (Wayne and Brandon) – No report.

7.9 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Angela, Joe, John, Chris Meserve) – No report.

7.10 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – Marie said the committee met and decided on having three kiosks; one at family court, one at the main campus, and one at the Thurston County Hub. All of the kiosks will have access to Westlaw. Individual pro se people can access

Westlaw and other links including documents and will have limited printing ability. New desks will be ordered for the three kiosks.

7.11 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie and Melissa) – No report.

7.12 Community Connections – Marie said Sound Legal Aid is really short on volunteers right now. Michael said when he was a young lawyer TCVLS did a 2-day boot camp to train new attorneys. Brandon said a new orientation now is two hours. Bill asked if we can train some attorneys during a CLE. Marie said that Sound Legal Aid is working with the Timberland Library to have a desk where a part time attorney can give free legal advice. Sound Legal Aid is looking for assistance from the TCBA. They would like a list of law firms that would be willing to do summer internship programs. They would also like to connect with law schools about helping with internships. Community Connections is being spearheaded by the Resource Hub – looking for connections with Sound Legal Aid, TCBA, Timberline Library and other community organizations for the benefit of pro se parties (not just criminal). The goal is to get these groups to work together for the benefit of the community as a whole.

8. **Section Reports**

8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – No report.

8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – No report.

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 has resigned from being the chair of this section. Heather will send an email to the section members to see if anyone is interested in being the chair of the section. Heather also added an announcement in the September Legal Brief about the section chair position.

8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Kelsey Gasseling) – No report. Angela said Kelsey does not work at the Thurston County Public Defense office anymore and is now at the Supreme Court Commissioner Office. She said Kelsey will reach out to Heather.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** October 9, hosted by Marie Docter & Jerry Gray at John's office

12. **Adjourn** 6:55 p.m.