

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Joe Scuderi & Jeffrey Carr at John Kesler's Office

Members Present: John Kesler III, Marie Docter, Bill Pope, Jerry Gray, Michael Young, Rosemary Fitzgerald, Jeffrey Carr, Joe Scuderi, Wayne Graham, and Jenna Norden.

Members Absent: Brandon Koenig, Melissa Goldmann

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:40 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2024, Board Meeting** – Wayne moved to approve, seconded by Jeffrey. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 2025 Membership Form (Heather) – Heather asked if anyone has any changes to the membership form for 2025. The board did not have any changes.
 - 3.2 Joining with 3-4 other bar associations for CLE credits (Marie) – Marie said Attorney Ken Blanford from the Kittitas County Bar Association proposed that we have joint CLEs between us and smaller bar associations. We could pay one membership fee and then members can attend all of the CLEs from the participating bar associations for free. Wayne said he talked to him in the past about this, but he explained that we charge for our CLEs.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Holiday Lunch Recap & 2025 venue (Heather)- The board said the holiday lunch went well. The food and the location were great. Heather said we should reserve our venue for next year already and would like to reserve December 5, 2025. Heather said she reached out to the Government Lawyers Bar Association to coordinate not having our holiday lunch and their Ethics CLE on the same date as it happened this year. I told them we would like to have our holiday lunch on December 5 next year, so they said they will have their Ethics CLE next year on December 12, 2025. Heather said the Olympia Country & Golf Club is increasing their room rental charge in 2025. We have been paying \$550 for the room rental which includes a membership discount, but in 2025 it is increasing to \$1000. The board said they may write a letter to the board at the Olympia Country & Golf Club regarding the price increase. Heather will contact Indian Summer to see what their prices are. Marie said that member commented to her that it was nice years ago when the Olympia Youth Choir came and sang at the holiday lunch. Marie said she can contact them to see if they are available next year.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – October & November 2024 Financial Reports – This will be discussed next board meeting since Brandon was not present at this meeting.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Marie) – Ken Banford is presenting on Bail Bonds on January 24. February is the ICE CLE, Vonda Sargent will present in March, and Justice Montoya- Lewis in April. Judge Lanese and Judge Schaller will be presenting in September about Motion Practice - Civil and Criminal. Marie contacted Joe Panesko about speaking again about the Columbia River project, but he said he is not involved in that project.
 - 6.1 Meeting with Tugboat Annie's about price increase at and lunch menu options

(Wayne/Brandon) – Wayne shared that he, Brandon, and Heather met with Stanton at Tugboat Annie’s to discuss food options going forward. The food costs have increased by \$2 per person starting on January 1, 2025. Stanton said if we have 35 people or less people we can order off the fixed menu, but if we have over 35 people they will provide a few new menu options for us. Tugboat Annie’s has been a great venue for us and they are more than willing to work with us.

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The meeting in November went well.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – Bill said the Evidence CLE is on January 31. He met with Stacy Hicks from Sound Legal Aid to talk about coordinating a half day CLE with them. Marie said Sound Legal Aid is interested in doing a 45 minute to an hour training CLE on each topic; landlord/tenant, Domestic Violence, Child custody, and the ethics of volunteering that can train the attorneys so they can volunteer at Sound Legal Aid. Heather asked a question for Melissa since Melissa is not at this meeting. Melissa asked if staff at her office can also receive the discounted price for the half day CLE if they have four or more people in their office register. The board said yes, attorneys and staff at an office can receive the discounted price if they have four or more people and they register at the same time.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie said we raised a few issues about some requirements to the Court, but said they aren’t enforcing the appealable requirements. The only way the Court will approve a rule change is if it’s submitted as it will be changed. The discovery rule would be a good rule to propose a change on. We should get a large part of the bar to vote for the rule change and then the Court will consider it.
- 7.4 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne) – No report.
- 7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather said the advertisements and articles for the January 2025 Legal Brief are due on December 20, 2024. Michael volunteered to find a member for the IN RE Spotlight for the January Legal Brief.
- 7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – Michael said they met and decided provisionally they will revise the questions to be consistent with the proposed questions from Judge Glasgow. The one thing they are wondering about omitting is the question that says “would you vote to reelect this judge.” A discussion took place. The general consensus of the board is that it would like to keep the question. Michael said he will reach out to Judge Glasgow to discuss this further.
- 7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – No report.
- 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – Marie said we should move the topic discussion to January instead of February on the monthly calendar. Heather will update the Monthly Calendar with this change.
- 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – No report.
- 7.10 Bigelow House and Community Connections (Marie) – Marie has been talking to the Bigelow House who said we can have a board meeting at the Bigelow House on March 12, 2025, but they said they don’t really have a functioning kitchen, so we will need to bring simple food, paper plates and utensils. The board voted to have the meeting at the Bigelow House on March 12, 2025. The Bigelow House sent Marie an updated form/advertisement for the Legal Brief. The Bigelow House also emailed their quarterly newsletter to Marie, which has a historical piece in the newsletter. Marie said we can use a historical article from their newsletter and then include their website address for more information. Marie said we should do the history of Daniel Bigelow first.
- 7.11 County Charter Effort (Michael) – Michael said he got an email and that they have stepped back their efforts recently, but they will ramp back up soon.

8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - Our November 2024 Family Law Section meeting was a

unique one because it was in the second week of the statewide AOC/Odyssey Portal outage. We discussed the update with the court on the expected restoration date, as well as the procedures the court would like us to follow regarding bench copies and scheduling hearings. We were unable to enter any final parenting plans during the outage because the court could not run the mandatory JIS background check. We also discussed getting copies of orders from the Clerk's Office during the outage. The Clerks were willing to print off any orders we needed provided we were an Odyssey Portal subscriber and gave them a heads up. We then discussed how the court would like us to handle name change petitions filed in Superior Court. The benefit to filing in superior court vs. district court is that the superior court can "seal" the name change action if certain criteria are met. These proceedings will be heard on the 1:15 PM initial CPO docket. Lastly, we canceled the December 2024 meeting because everyone was feeling the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Our next meeting will take place in January 2025!

- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe said he needs someone to take his spot on the Sound Legal Aid Board. Michael said the TCBA has two members on their board, with one of them from the TCBA Board. Jenna said she is open to the idea.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – No report.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Jenna Norden) – No report.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (?) – No report.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (?) – No report.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Community Connections – Marie asked to add "Community Connections" to the agenda with the Bigelow House on 7.10. Marie said Grays Harbor has a hub that runs free legal advice and they would like to get something running in Thurston County.

10. **Announcements**

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** January 8, 2025, hosted by Bill Pope and Melissa Goldmann at John's office
- 12. **Adjourn** 6:32 p.m.