

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by John Kesler and Jenna Norden at John Kesler's Office

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:40 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2025, Board Meeting** - Brandon moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 **Renew Zoom Account (Heather)** - Heather asked if we would like to renew the Zoom subscription for another year. The cost is \$1590.90/year. Melissa moved to approve the renewal of the Zoom subscription, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.2 **Renew FlippingBook Account (Heather)** - Heather asked if we want to renew the FlippingBook subscription for another year. The cost is \$1070/year. Joe moved to approve the renewal of the FlippingBook subscription, seconded by Jerry. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.3 **President Appoints Nominating Committee for 2025-2026 Officers (John)** – John asked if any of the board members in the non-officer positions are leaving the board at the end of May. No board members said they are leaving the board. John said the odd numbered positions (1, 3, 5, and 7) are up for election this year at the TCBA Annual Meeting in May. After discussion, John said Marie will move into the President position, Jerry will move into the President-Elect position, Wayne will move to Jerry's position #1, and John will move to the Immediate Past President position. When we send out the proposed board positions to the members we will also advertise for section chairs for the Real Estate and Land Use section and the Diversity & Inclusion section.
 - 3.4 **Bigelow Award Nomination Form (Heather)** – Heather asked if anyone has any changes to the Bigelow Award Nomination form. No one had any changes. Heather will send the nomination form to the members tomorrow and note on the email that the board encourages people to re-submit nominations from last year and that nominations will be retained for three years.
 - 3.5 **Annual Book Review by Accountant (Heather)** – Heather met with the TCBA Accountant in January. She sent the board her report. The board said the report looked good.
 - 3.6 **Local Hero Award Nominations (John)** – A discussion took place. Joe moved to approve Christy Peters as the 2025 Local Hero Award recipient, seconded by Brandon. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.7 **Donation Request Letter (John)** – A discussion took place. The board decided to decline the donation request. John said he will draft a letter to SPSCC tomorrow and send it to Heather to send to SPSCC.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 **2025 Holiday Lunch venue (Heather)** – Heather shared that the 2025 Holiday lunch will be on December 5, 2025, at Indian Summer Golf & Country Club.

- 4.2 2025 Summer BBQ Date & Venue (Heather) – Heather shared that the Summer BBQ will be on August 7, 2025, at Tumwater Historical Park.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** (Brandon) – January 2025 Financial Report - Brandon shared the January financial report. He said we have quite a bit of money in our checking and recommended we look into redistributing some of the money into a CD or a savings account. He will do some research and report back.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Marie) – Marie said the February 21 CLE topic is Pro Bono Opportunities in Immigration Law in the South Sound. Vonda Sargent will be presenting in March on Diversity, and Justice Montoya-Lewis will be presenting on childhood trauma in April.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Nothing to report.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – John said the January 31 half day Evidence CLE was great. Bill said he was on Zoom and the sound was an issue when Pat spoke. We had about 65 attendees. Bill said he has received an email from Stacy at Sound Legal Aid about organizing a CLE/training with the TCBA on landlord/tenant and family law. Marie drafted an outline for the CLE. Bill will ask Sound Legal Aid if they have attorneys that can be the speakers at the CLE. If not, the board discussed asking Drew Mazzeo or Carrie Graf to talk about landlord/tenant laws. Sound Legal Aid said they are fine with us charging a fee to attend the CLE/training.
 - 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie said Matt Morbello is looking for proposals for rule changes to the local rules by February 18 that will be adopted on September 1. After discussion, the board decided they do not have time to submit something.
 - 7.4 Social Events Committee (Jerry (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne, Brandon) – Jerry shared that the social hour at ilk Lodge in January went well. There were about 10-12 people that came to the event. The next social hour will be on February 20 at Mount Olympus Brewing after work.
 - 7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather said the advertisements and articles are due by February 20 for the March Legal Brief. Joe volunteered to find someone to complete “IN RE” Spotlight for the March Legal Brief. Heather will send Joe the spotlight questions.
 - 7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – Michael said the survey questions are ready to go. John wrote a letter to go with the survey. John said great work to Michael on this. John said to send the survey to the members on February 28, 2025, with responses due by March 28, 2025. Heather will send the introductory paragraph to John and Michael to approve before sending it out to the members. A vote took place to approve the survey questions that Michael submitted. It was a unanimous vote to approve the survey questions as proposed.
 - 7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – Michael said they had a meeting recently. The Westlaw stations are up and running at Thurston County Family & Juvenile Court, The Hub, and at the Thurston County main campus. After funding these computer stations, the balance in the law library account is \$559,000. For every filing money is donated to the law library, so that is why there is so much money in the account. Something they have talked about is to have a paid person at the stations and possibly getting a 2nd computer at each location. Jenna asked if there is an option to have a computer in the jails. Michael said he will ask about that.
 - 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – Marie said they have five possible topics – 1. Birthright Citizenship/Safe harbor, 2. Transgender Women in Sports, 3. Student Choice related to enacting executive orders, 4. Regarding the power and parameters of presidential pardons, and 5. The Tik Tok Ban. A discussion took place. The Law Day Speech Contest Committee will meet again to discuss the topics and will select one.
 - 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – Marie said she went to the County Commissioners meeting

recently and there was a proclamation that was signed to support a new courthouse. Judge Skinder and Judge Buckley were also at the meeting. Marie shared at that meeting that there are numerous problems that had come up in the past, like environmental issues, etc. John Pettit was also at the meeting. Mr. Pettit said the County can't make tax payers pay for a new courthouse. Marie sent an email after the meeting and asked what the next steps are, but hasn't heard anything back. She will follow-up and report back at the next meeting.

- 7.10 Bigelow House & Community Connections (Marie) – Marie said our meeting next month is going to be at the Bigelow House. She talked to Shirley Battan who said someone will be there to let us in. Someone will give a 10-minute presentation on the past 4 Presidents at the start of the next meeting. Their address is 918 Glass Avenue, Olympia. Marie said to arrive a few minutes early so we can take a look at the pavers on the sidewalk honoring past Bigelow Award recipients. Marie said the Community Connection offers a free clinic in Grays Harbor. Marie said she, Matt Morbello, Nate from the HUB, and Stacey from Sound Legal are going to go visit the Grays Harbor site to get ideas for how they run it so we can set one up in Thurston County.
- 7.11 County Charter Effort (Michael) – No report.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – Melissa said we had a meeting yesterday that was well attended.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi/Jenna Norden) – Joe said their fundraiser breakfast is in April. Jenna is going to take Joe's place on the Sound Legal Aid board.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – John said he talked to Devin who said they have a young lawyer lunch meeting next week at Brewery City Pizza. Peter is checking with someone to complete the Young Lawyer Spotlight for the March Legal Brief. Devin will check into dates for the next Swearing in Ceremony.
- 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 Brandon said he recently got new speakers so would like to donate his old speakers to the TCBA for events.

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Thank you to John and Jenna for providing the food/drinks and John for hosting the meeting at his office.

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** March 12, 2025, hosted by Wayne Graham and Brandon Koenig at Bigelow House Museum at 918 Glass Avenue, Olympia.

- 12. **Adjourn** 7:07 p.m.