

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Wayne Graham and Brandon Koenig at the Bigelow House Museum

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

Members Absent: Michael Young, Melissa Goldmann

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 6:16 p.m.

Greg Griffith and Hannah from the Bigelow House Museum provided a presentation about Daniel Bigelow and the Bigelow House Museum. Historical observation: Bill said he is not one of the six original attorneys in Olympia!

2. **Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2025, Board Meeting** – Marie said there is one spelling error on the minutes. With the spelling error corrected, Brandon moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Jerry. The motion carried without objections.

3. **New Business**

3.1 Annual Meeting – May 16 - Menu/Price, Donations for appetizers? (Heather) – A discussion took place regarding the menu and cost for the annual dinner. Due to an increase in the prices at the Olympia Country & Golf Club, the board decided on the Southern BBQ Buffet and to ask for donations from the members for the appetizers. The price for members will be \$60.

3.2 Annual Golf Tournament (Heather) – Heather said the annual golf tournament is on May 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Olympia Country & Golf Club. Greg Rhodes is organizing it again this year.

4. **Old Business** – No old business

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – February 2025 Financial Report – Brandon researched interest rates on CDs at different banks. John made a motion that when the CDs mature, we put the money into the checking account and then decide where to move it, seconded by Marie. The motion carried without objections. Brandon provided a financial report for February 2025.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Marie) – Marie shared that our March speaker had to cancel, so Melissa Denton offered to present on March 28. The topic is *How One Lawyer Can Represent Both Parties - Ethically and Less Expensively*. Justice Montoya-Lewis will be presenting Childhood Trauma for the April 25 CLE. Judge Schaller and Judge Lanese will be presenting at the September CLE.

7. **Committee Reports**

7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – John will reach out to the Court to find a date.

7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – Bill shared that he has received an email from Stacy at Sound Legal Aid who said she has speakers who can present at the CLE. Bill will contact her to set up a date for the CLE.

- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie submitted a proposed rule change on behalf of herself, not on the behalf of the TCBA. Marie submitted a new Arbitration Award form since the current form used by Thurston County does not require service, the new form has a certification of service on it. She also submitted a discovery rule, modified from the Pierce County rule limited interrogatories to 50 including subparts, allowing for additional discovery by agreement of the parties or motion to the court. The judges will review the proposals and determine if they will move forward with either and then will send out for comment.
- 7.4 Social Events Committee (Jerry (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne, Brandon) – Jerry said the turnout at the February Social Event was low. The next event is on March 20 at Top Run Brewery.
- 7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather said the March Legal Brief was emailed to the members on February 28. John said he would organize the IN RE Spotlight for the May Legal Brief.
- 7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – Heather said the survey was sent to the members on February 28. The deadline to submit a response to the survey is March 28. Heather will send a reminder email to the TCBA members.
- 7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – Marie said she took a picture of the computer station at the Thurston County Law Library and would like to include the picture and information about it in the next Legal Brief.
- 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – Marie said the topic is Birthright Citizenship.
- 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – Marie said she has been added to the official email list so she will receive information about the new courthouse in the future. She said that by the end of March the county is soliciting proposals for real estate, rentals, or buildings.
- 7.10 Bigelow House & Community Connections (Marie) – John thanked Marie for organizing our meeting at the Bigelow House tonight. Marie said she wrote an article in the March Legal Brief about Daniel Bigelow. 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) - We had our monthly Family Law Section Meeting yesterday. It was well-attended by our membership, even though it was a relatively light agenda. We spent the majority of the meeting talking about the new Court Commissioner, Patrick Rawnsley, taking the bench, sharing some of our favorite PWR stories, and encouraged the membership to attend his swearing in on 3/28. There will also be some calendar changes at FJC with our new CC taking the bench the week of 3/31, and now all three Court Commissioners will have a family law motion calendar, which is a first for FJC. We had a brief an uneventful legislative update, and then I reminded everyone to attend the upcoming CLE at Tugboat Annie's at the end of this month.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Jenna Norden) – Nothing to report yet. Jenna said she is waiting for Sound Legal Aid to vote her in. Joe said that Sound Legal Aid is having a fundraiser breakfast.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – John said they had a lunch in February. The next lunch is on March 19. The swearing-in ceremony is tentatively on April 18. They have someone for the Young Lawyer Spotlight for May Legal Brief.
- 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 brought his speakers to donate to the TCBA.
10. **Announcements**
 - 10.1 Thank you to Wayne and Brandon for providing the food/drinks tonight.
11. **Date/location of next meeting:** April 9, 2025, hosted by Rosemary Fitzgerald and Michael Young at John's Office
12. **Adjourn** 7:06 p.m.