

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Rosemary Fitzgerald & Michael Young at John Kesler's Office

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

Members Absent: Brandon Koenig, Jenna Norden

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:37 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2025, Board Meeting** – Joe moved to approve, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Venue/Dates for fall CLEs (Heather) – Heather asked if we want to continue having our CLE's at Tugboat Annie's. The board said yes. Heather will reach out to Tugboat Annie's to set the fall CLE dates.
 - 3.2 Annual Meeting Agenda (Heather) – Heather shared the agenda for the Annual Meeting. There are no changes to the agenda.
 - 3.3 Judicial Evaluation Survey Results (Heather) – A discussion took place. Heather will send out the comments and results to the judges and membership.
 - 3.4 Bigelow Award Nominations (John) – The deadline will be extended to April 17. The board will meet on April 18 at 12:15 p.m. on Zoom to select a winner. Heather will send the Zoom link.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – March 2025 Financial Report – Brandon was not at the meeting so this will be discussed at the next meeting.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Marie) – The April CLE speaker is Justice Montoya-Lewis. Heather will send the flyer to neighboring bar associations and the WSBA.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The next meeting is on June 10 at 12:00 p.m. The TCBA will provide Meconi's sandwiches again.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – Bill said the committee met with Stacy at Sound Legal Aid today and they are organizing a half day CLE on Wednesday, October 8 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The CLE topics will be directed to volunteers for Sound Legal Aid. The cost will be \$100 each for members, \$75 each for current Sound Legal Aid volunteers and \$85 each for members that sign up at least 4 people at a time from the same firm. We will extend the invite to the other counties as well. Sound Legal Aid shared at the meeting that they are working on trying to streamline their intake process.
 - 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – No report.

- 7.4 Social Events Committee (Jerry (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne, Brandon) – Jerry said the next social hour is on April 17 at Hoh River Brewery. The last happy hour there was only 1 other member. Heather said the Dungeons and Dragons game night is on April 24 and May 22.
- 7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Advertisements and articles are due by May 15. Heather wills end John the In Re questions.
- 7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – No report on the Bylaws.
- 7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – The next meeting is on April 28.
- 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – The preliminary round is on April 23rd at the Thurston County Courthouse and the final is on April 29 at Tugboat Annie’s.
- 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – Marie is still waiting for the date for the next meeting.
- 7.10 Bigelow House & Community Connections (Marie) – The TCBA board meeting at the Bigelow House Museum was great. Marie said Matt Morbello, Sound Legal Aid, Nate at Resource Hub and herself are going to Grays Harbor to see the free clinic on April 11.
- 7.11 County Charter Effort (Michael) – No report.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) –We had our monthly meeting today over the noon hour. We discussed the following:
 - Clearing up some confusion with docketing errors on court orders by utilizing the Clerk’s Action Required language.
 - We discussed the process for scheduling a UCCJEA Hearing.
 - We received a new directive from the court when entering QDROs and also with Orders Transferring to the Court Case Coordinator. In both cases, we were instructed that essentially less is more and to remove a cover page and/or any pages related to UAs if UAs are not being ordered by the court.
 - Upcoming “Take Your Child(ren) to Work Day” and the Bench Bar Meeting.
 - We also discussed some new exciting developments with the Clerk’s Office (like Kiosks to streamline the waiting process and how to request certified copies online).
 - Lastly, we discussed the critical nature of a potential budget shortfall and it is clear the court is stressed about any budgetary cuts that may be made. Bill received minutes from their meeting.

Bill asked Heather to thank Meredith on behalf of the Board for sending the minutes.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Jenna Norden) – Breakfast is on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00 a.m. the Heritage Room.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – The next Swearing-in ceremony is on April 18 at 4:00 p.m. The Young Lawyer section met at Brewery City pizza in March. They will meet again on April 23 at Brewery City Pizza. John said Matthew Maki won the 2 free tickets to the TCBA Annual Meeting from the March Madness competition sponsored by John.
- 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 (?) – The Board appointed Susan Pai to be the Diversity & Inclusion Section Chair.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Home Street Bank – Heather shared HomeStreet Bank contacted the TCBA and asked how they can get involved with the TCBA. After discussion, the Board said they could advertise in the Legal Brief and donate towards TCBA events.

10. **Announcements**

10.1 Bill said the Swearing-in for Pat Rawnsley was delightful.

10.2 Thank you to Rosemary and Michael for providing the food/drinks.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** May 14, 2025, hosted by Marie Docter & Jerry Gray at John's Office

12. **Adjourn** 7:06 p.m.