

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Jeffrey Carr & Joe Scuderi at Jerry Gray's Office

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

Members Absent: Rosemary Fitzgerald, Jenna Norden, Brandon Koenig, John Kesler III

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:36 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2025, Board Meeting** – Joe moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Melissa. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 2026 Annual Meeting & Dinner Venue (Heather) – Heather will look into other venue options and share the options at the October meeting.
 - 3.2 Dates for Board Retreat in October/November (Heather) – Heather will send out a Doodle Poll to find a date for the Board Retreat.
 - 3.3 Westlaw/Thomson Reuters CLE Opportunity (Heather) – Heather said Westlaw/Thomson Reuters reached out and shared information about their free virtual CLE program. Their program is available to all TCBA members. The board asked Heather to confirm with Westlaw/Thomson Reuters that there is no fee for our members to attend their CLEs. Heather will provide follow-up information at the October board meeting.
 - 3.4 Dates and Venue for CLEs in winter and spring (Heather) – The board would like to stay at Tugboat Annie's. Heather will contact Tugboat Annie's for January – April 2026 availability.
 - 3.5 Resolution of Support – Sound Legal Aid (Marie) – Sound Legal Aid has requested a Resolution of Support from the TCBA. Joe moved to approve the wording used in the 2019 Resolution of Support for Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services for the 2025 Resolution of Support for Sound Legal Aid, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections. Heather will create a 2025 Resolution of Support using the 2019 Resolution of Support wording and send to Marie for her signature.
 - 3.6 Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Program (Heather) – A discussion took place. Heather will look into other options such as Toys for Tots and Safeplace in addition to having the Salvation Army as an option this year and will report back at the October meeting.
 - 3.7 Attorney General's (AG's) Office Involvement (Marie) – Marie said the judges have really expressed wanting to have more AG's involved, specifically at the bench/bar meetings. She reached out to the AG's office. Erika Uhl responded to her and said Ingrid Zerpa wants to be on the rules committee, Alec Graham is going to be at the bench/bar meeting, and Kelly Wood from the Ecology Department at the AG's office is interested in being the TCBA Real Estate and Land Use Committee chair. It would be terrific if the state paid for the AG's membership dues so more AG's would join the TCBA and participate more. Marie will reach out to Erika Uhl to ask her who she should talk to about that.
 - 3.8 New Sales Tax from Dept. of Revenue on Live Presentations (Brandon) – Marie will reach out to Cynthia Worth to ask if this tax pertains to the TCBA. This will be discussed next meeting.

4. **Old Business** – No old business.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** (Brandon) – March, April, May, June, July, August 2025 Financial Reports – Marie said the financial reports have not been discussed for the last six months and we need to discuss and approve them before the October board meeting. Marie said she will send Brandon an email. Marie asked the board to take some time to look at the financial reports from the last six months over the next week, and if anyone has any questions to send an email. Heather will send a Doodle Poll to find a date for a meeting during the lunch hour to discuss and approve the financial reports from the last six months and also discuss the CD. Bill motioned to approve Heather to contact the following banks to ask for rate sheets for CDs: HomeStreet Bank, Olympia Federal, Timberland Bank, Wells Fargo, Twin Star, WSECU, and Vanguard, seconded by Jeffrey. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Jerry) – Jerry said Judge Lanese and Judge Schaller are presenting at the September 26 CLE. The next CLE is on October 31 and then November 14. Wayne said Ty Menser came to a meeting and discussed the new courthouse recently. Maybe we could get someone from the Attorney General’s office to discuss land use also so then we could request CLE credits.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Marie will reach out to Judge Skinder for a meeting date.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – Melissa has reached out to Commissioner Rawnsley to get his presentation information for the October 8 half day CLE.
 - 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie said she would like someone else from the board on the committee and asked if anyone would like to volunteer. Jerry volunteered to join this committee. Marie said the judges are looking at discovery limits in family law and civil cases. Wayne will talk with Patrick O’Connor and get his input.
 - 7.4 Social Events Committee (Jerry (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne, Brandon) – Jerry said the social hour has had some were heavily attended nights and have been a lot of fun and some not well attended nights. Marie said we should not give up on it yet and advertise it to the Attorney General’s office too. Marie said an organized bike ride would be fun. Jerry will let Heather know some dates.
D&D Game Night (Mike DeWitt) – The next D&D night is on October 23.
 - 7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – In Re for November Legal Brief – Heather said the September Legal Brief was emailed to members on September 9. Wayne will ask Judge Buckley to do the IN RE Spotlight for the November Legal Brief.
 - 7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – No report.
 - 7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – No report.
 - 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – No report.
 - 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – Marie included an article in the September Legal Brief and said you have to be forthright to the public about what’s happening with the new courthouse. The tribe is going to have to pay for parking, road modifications, and the county, city, and state are all going to be involved and the costs will be absorbed by all of the entities.
 - 7.10 Bigelow House & Community Connections (Marie) – No report.
 - 7.11 County Charter Effort (Michael) – No report.
8. **Section Reports**
 - 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – No report, but they did have a family law meeting yesterday.
 - 8.2 Pro Bono (Jenna Norden) – No report. Marie said the volunteer clinics at Safeplace have moved to the Sound Legal Aid office now.

- 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 (Susan Pai) – Marie said Susan Pai sent a Proposal to Washington Women Lawyers. Marie will reach out and discuss this proposal and process with Susan Pai.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** October 8, 2025, hosted by Bill Pope and Melissa Goldmann at John's Office

12. **Adjourn** 7:19 p.m.