

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Bill Pope and Melissa Goldmann at John Kesler's Office

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

Members Absent: Jenna Norden, Jerry Gray

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:36 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of September 10, 2025, and September 29, 2025, Board Meetings** - Joe moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Brandon. The motion carried with objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Holiday Lunch Menu/price (Heather) – Heather shared the menu and prices for the holiday lunch at Indian Summer Golf & Country Club.
 - 3.2 Adoption Day Donation Request (Heather) – Heather said that Melanie Hantze has requested a donation up to \$250 to help pay for refreshments and decorations at the 2025 Thurston County Adopt Day celebration. Michael approved the donation request of up to \$250, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.3 Heather on vacation for February 11, 2026, Board Meeting (Heather) – Melissa will take the minutes at the February 11, 2026, board meeting when Heather is on vacation.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 2026 Annual Meeting & Dinner Venues (Heather) – Heather shared the prices for venue options from the Heritage Room, Indian Summer Golf & Country Club and the Olympia Golf & Country Club. After discussion, the board decided to go to the Heritage Room for the 2026 Annual Meeting & Dinner.
 - 4.2 Dates for Board Retreat in October/November (Heather) – The Board Retreat will be on November 15 at 9:00 a.m. at John's Office. John will purchase the food for the retreat.
 - 4.3 Westlaw/Thomson Reuters CLE Opportunity (Heather) – Heather said she confirmed with Dave at Thomson Reuters that there is no obligation from the TCBA members to join or pay anything and he confirmed that there is no obligation. He said he will send more information about how to sign-up, but she has not received anything yet.
 - 4.4 Dates and Venue for CLEs in winter and spring (Heather) – The 2026 dates for the lunch time CLEs at Tugboat Annie's are January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24.
 - 4.5 Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Program (Heather) – Heather said she contacted Toys for Tots but is waiting for additional information from them. When we advertise the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program we will also provide a link to the "Wish List" at Safeplace as an alternative for people who want to donate to a different organization than the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family program.
 - 4.6 Attorney General's Office Involvement (Marie) – Marie said she is going to their next meeting next week.
 - 4.7 New Sales Tax from Dept. of Revenue on Live Presentations (Marie) – Marie said she spoke to Worth Law about this who said this sales tax does apply to the TCBA CLEs. Heather will ask the WSBA how they are handling this new sales tax. Heather will add the tax charge to

website when members register for CLEs.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – September 2025 Financial Report - Brandon provided a September financial report.

Brandon contacted Heritage Bank to discuss their current rates on CDs and recommends we ask Heritage Bank for a rate match of 3.9% based on HomeStreet Bank's rate. Heritage Bank said the shorter rate length is better right now; 3.6% APY for 5 months, 9 months is 3.15% APY for 9 months, and 3.05% APY for 13 months. Brandon recommended to the board to approve the 5 months at 3.6% APY and then ask for the exception form to be completed at Heritage Bank to approve a higher rate. Joe moved to approve the CD rate of 3.6% APY for 5 months, seconded by Jeffrey. The motion carried without objections.

Brandon said Heritage Bank will look into the \$111 that was leftover in the CD account that he closed and ask them to move it to the new CD.

Brandon also asked Heritage Bank about having a credit card option at events. Heritage Bank said they subcontract this out to a 3rd party and have asked the subcontractor to contact Brandon.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Jerry) – Jerry was not present at the meeting, but sent the following update to Heather who shared that the last CLE went great with the Judge Schaller and Judge Lanese. We had a good turnout. Feedback was provided about the CLE. The Halloween CLE will be presented by Ken Kagan. Please encourage your colleagues to attend. The tentative November CLE with Mike Morgan regarding mediation. Heather shared that the November CLE has been moved to November 21 instead of November 14 since Mike Morgan is not available on November 14. The CLE will still be at Tugboat Annie's.

7. **Committee Reports**

7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Marie said there is no date yet.

7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – Heather shared some venue options and prices. After discussion, the board selected Indian Summer Golf & Country Club to be the venue for the half day CLE on January 12, 2026. Melissa said that Commissioner Rawnsley has agreed to co-present with Jennifer Johnson at the half day CLE.

7.3 Rules Committee (Marie and Jerry) – No report.

7.4 Social Events Committee (Jerry (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne, Brandon) – Brandon said he will reach out to the Young Lawyer section Chairs, Devin Kohr and Peter Lindgren to see if they have any ideas for events. Heather will include an advertisement in the November Legal Brief to ask for any event ideas from the members.

D&D Game Night (Mike DeWitt) – Heather shared that Mike had to cancel the October game night. Mike will send a new date for the next game night which mostly likely won't be until January 2026.

7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather said Wayne is organizing the IN RE Spotlight for the November Legal Brief. Ads and articles are due by October 21.

7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – No report

7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – They discussed possibly adding more computer terminals, but space is a concern. They also discussed having someone in person at the locations periodically to help assist the public. Judge Skinder wondered if the SPSCC Paralegal program could help by working at the stations, like as an internship. We could advertise the location and hours that the stations would have interns available to help. Coincidentally before the meeting, Marie was approached by an SPSCC paralegal program student for an interview. Marie reached out to Adam Tenenbaum who is the head of the SPSCC paralegal program to discuss the possible internship option. He indicated that they have an internship program that could be set up however we wanted, paid or unpaid, number of hours, etc. but an attorney would need to supervise and train the interns. Marie said this

can be set up how we want, and the law library has money to be able to pay the interns to help with this. The computer terminals are at Thurston County Superior Court, Family and Juvenile Court by the Clerk's office and one at the HUB. Marie will report this information back to the Law Library Board.

Adam also mentioned that in the past a member of the bar served on the SPSCC advisory committee, and he might recommend that a TCBA board member be on the advisory committee in the future.

- 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – No report.
- 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – Wayne said the funding is coming from a different source than the general funds.
- 7.10 Bigelow House & Community Connections (Marie) – No report.
- 7.11 County Charter Effort (Michael) – No report. Michael said to take this off the agenda.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – Melissa said there was a section meeting recently that was well attended.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Jenna Norden) – Jenna was not at the meeting, but sent the following report: This Friday evening, the 10th, you are invited (bring a friend or two!) to the Fall Volunteer Happy Hour @ Three Magnets Brewing Co. (600 Franklin St SE, Olympia, WA, 98501, from 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – John said there is a lunch on October 15 at Brewery City pizza on the westside. The swearing in ceremony is on October 17. Six people are signed up to be sworn in.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Jenna Norden) – Rosemary said the most useful meeting we had was when we brought in the Department of Corrections to present. Wayne said they could have some other practitioners for a CLE.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (?) – Marie asked Heather to send another email to the Real Estate list that there is an opening for a section chair.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Susan Pai) – Marie sent Susan an email regarding the D&I proposal. Susan sent a summary of the initiatives the D&I section are pursuing to the TCBA:
 - Diverse Judges' Portraits Initiative at the State Supreme Court, Thurston County Superior Court, and the Thurston County Superior Court Family and Juvenile
 - Book Club as a team building exercise.
 - CLEs, for example:
 - Tools for Interrupting Bias
 - Experiences on the Bench
 - Language Matters
 - Handling Disrespectful Juror Behavior Toward Minority Women
 - Lived Experiences and Bias Within the Legal System
 - Joint Minority Mentorship Program (JMMP) in Thurston County
 - A smaller scale program modeled after Judge Rania Rampersad's JMMP in King County

Marie will follow-up with Susan regarding the proposal again.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

Congratulations to Jerry on his anniversary today!

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** We will be combining the November 12, 2025, board meeting with the Board Retreat on November 15. The Board Retreat will be at John's office. The December 10, 2025, meeting will be hosted by Jenna Norden & John Kesler at John's Office.

12. **Adjourn** 7:11 p.m.