

**THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.**  
**hosted by Wayne Graham and Brandon Koenig at John Kesler's Office**

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:35 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2025, Board Meeting** – Joe moved to approve, seconded by Brandon. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
  - 3.1 Summer BBQ Date (Heather) – August 20? – Heather said August 13 is not available, but asked if August 20 would work. The board said yes. Heather will try to reserve August 20, 2026, for the TCBA Summer BBQ.
  - 3.2 Renew Flippingbook for another year (Heather) - \$1116.00 – Brandon moved to approve, seconded by Melissa. The motion carried without objections.
  - 3.3 Renew Zoom account for another year (Heather) - \$170.29 - Brandon moved to approve, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
  - 3.4 Strengthening connection with Sound Legal Aid (Marie) – Marie said Sound Legal Aid is interested in strengthening their connection with the TCBA. Sandra Miller, Executive Director at Sound Legal Aid, originally reached out to see if Sound Legal Aid could become a member of the TCBA, but we told her we don't have that option for organizations. The American Bar Association and a couple of other groups have memberships that staff, paralegals, and organizations can join. Should we offer this option for organizations? A discussion took place. The Board said yes, we could offer memberships to paralegals and legal staff, but we would have to delineate between these memberships and an attorney membership and we would need to amend the bylaws. The paralegals and legal staff would be non-voting members. Michael volunteered to draft an amended section in the bylaws to include a description of the membership for individuals that are paralegals, legal staff, law students (including those in the paralegal program), and individuals working for organizations that work closely with lawyers such as Sound Legal Aid staff and the paralegal program at South Puget Sound Community College and what the cost of a membership would be.
  - 3.5 Membership for organizations, paralegals, office staff (Marie) – See. 3.4. Some ideas to strengthen relationship with Sound Legal Aid: have more joint CLE programs, volunteering and having a TCBA board member on their board.
  - 3.6 WSBA Local Hero Award Nominations (Heather) – Heather said the WSBA sent an email requesting nominations for their Local Hero Award. The WSBA will present an award to the TCBA nominee on March 6, 2026, at a WSBA Board of Governors meeting at the Great Wolf Lodge. Heather will send the Local Hero nomination form to the TCBA members with a deadline of February 5. The TCBA Board will discuss the nominations at their February 11 meeting and select an award recipient.

4. **Old Business** – No old business to discuss.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** (Brandon) – October 2025 Balance Sheet, November 2025 & December 2025 Financial Reports, Transferring funds to CD - Brandon provided a financial report for October 2025, November 2025, and December 2025. Heather shared that the \$1.00 on the Balance sheets for CD#2 should actually be \$0.00. Heather will discuss how to fix this when she meets with the accountant in January. Brandon confirmed with the board that we want to have \$15k in CD#1, so he will transfer money from the checking account to CD#1 so the balance is \$15k in CD#1. Joe moved to approve the financial reports and the transfer of funds to CD#1, seconded by Jeffrey. The motion carried without objections. Brandon said we received the credit card machine from Heritage Bank so we can offer a credit card payment option at future events soon.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Jerry) – Jerry shared that Trevor Zandell will be presenting on *Easements* at the January 30 CLE. Terry Church will be presenting *Mandatory Arbitration and the Arbitration Process* for the March 27 CLE. Jerry is working on a *Speak Out for Justice* CLE in April with Justice Montoya-Lewis, Judge Buckley and possibly Judge Thomas and a couple other judges as speakers. He is working on finding a February speaker.
7. **Committee Reports**
  - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Nothing to report.
  - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – Melissa said she thought it went well and was well attended. There is no future CLE planned. Marie said we should consider getting a new microphone/speaker for our CLEs as it was difficult to hear some of the speakers during the CLE. Jeffrey volunteered to look into the cost of purchasing a lapel microphone or something similar. Marie asked Heather to include the Sound Legal Aid QR code in future Legal Briefs so members can use the QR code to access the Sound Legal Aid website to volunteer. Heather will ask Sound Legal Aid to include it on their future advertisements. Marie said we need to have a clock at the CLEs so we can let speakers know how much time they still have. Marie said Jennifer Johnson asked to see the reviews from the half day CLE. Heather will provide the reviews to the speakers. Bill asked Heather to ask Indian Summer to come and replenish the coffee milk and possibly other supplies at future events.
  - 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie and Jerry) – Jenna said Patrick O’Connor submitted an established rule change. Marie said Justice Gonzalez said to submit state rule changes to the GR9 process. Jeffrey said he and Jennifer Johnson are planning to work on the immediate rule restraints.
  - 7.4 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne, Jerry) – No report. D&D Game Night (Mike DeWitt) – Heather said the next game night is on January 29.
  - 7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – IN RE Spotlight – Heather said the January Legal Brief was mailed to the members last week. Jenna volunteered to find someone at her office to complete the IN RE Spotlight for the March Legal Brief. Heather will send Jenna the questions. John asked if we could add the day of the week on the announcements for the CLEs, events, etc. in the future.
  - 7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – Michael is working on a Bylaws amendment for Section II Membership. See 3.4.
  - 7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – Marie said the next meeting is on January 26.
  - 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – Marie said we need to schedule a meeting to start discussing the topic. Marie will send an email to the committee. Melissa shared a topic idea: Declaration of Independence. We need to schedule the preliminary round when the national debate in Washington D.C. isn’t happening. Heather will reach out to a couple schools to check for conflicts.
  - 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – No report.

- 7.10 Bigelow House & Community Connections (Marie) – No report.
- 7.11 Annual Meeting & Dinner (Heather) – Heather said she has nothing to report, but will start working on the menu, price for the event soon.
- 7.12 County Charter (Michael) – Michael said there was a meeting, but he wasn't able to attend.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – Bill said there was a meeting yesterday. They discussed budget cuts and the closure of in-person services at the Clerk's office.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Jenna Norden) – Jenna said Sound Legal Aid is not going to immediately fill Stacy Hicks position right now. They did bring Michelle back to help with the clinics.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – John shared that Devin said they are having a meeting next Wednesday.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Jenna Norden) – Wayne said he is thinking about coordinating a joint meeting with PAO and Defense to discuss the pretrial services Public Safety Assessment tool that the Court considers at prelims.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Kelly Wood) – No report.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Susan Pai) – Susan provided a written update that Johanna Martinez is leading the Thurston County Mentorship Program initiative. Jennifer Benway and I have a meeting with Justice Sal Mungia this Friday to invite him to be one of the mentors. Justice Stephen Gonzalez has already agreed to be one. I am drafting a proposal for the TCBA Board to review (to Kristin Jensen, administrator of TCSC) to include the attached photo of the presiding judges of TCSC with a "Welcome to TCSC" plaque at the lobby at Family Juvenile and Main Campus. Our next D&I meeting is February 3.  
Marie said the background behind the original letter that Susan sent to the WWL last summer regarding the portraits at the Supreme Court is that Justice Gonzalez has a friend who is an artist who he asked to create a picture of Justice Smith. Justice Gonzalez hung the picture at the Temple of Justice. He then asked the artist to create a picture of Justice Yu. Justice Yu then asked the artist to create a picture of Justice Gonzalez. Justice Gonzalez wanted to reflect the different cultures of the justices.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Bill thanked John for hosting the meeting and Wayne and Brandon for providing the food and drinks for the meeting.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** February 11, 2026, hosted by Bill Pope and Melissa Goldmann at John's Office

12. **Adjourn** 6:45 p.m.