

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Bill Pope and Melissa Goldmann at John Kesler's Office

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

Members Absent: Brandon Koenig

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:35 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2026, Board Meeting** - Joe moved to approve, seconded by Jeffrey. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Fall CLE dates at Tugboat Annie's (Heather) – Heather shared that the fall CLE dates have been reserved at Tugboat Annie's on September 25, October 23, and November 20.
 - 3.2 TCBA Annual Golf Tournament (Heather) – Heather said Greg Rhodes has offered to organize the annual golf tournament again this year. He has not reserved a date at the Olympia Golf & Country Club yet.
 - 3.3 Proposed 2026-2027 Board Officers & Board of Directors (Marie) – The proposed Officers are: Jerry as President, Jeffrey as President-Elect, Melissa as Secretary and Brandon as Treasurer. Michael will be leaving the board after his term ends on May 31, 2026, so we need to advertise the vacant position that Michael is leaving. Positions 2, 4 & 6 are up for election this year. John will move to position 2. Jason Foust has expressed interest in being on the board in the past. In addition to advertising the vacancy on the board to the TCBA members, Heather will send an email to Jason Foust to see if he is still interested.
 - 3.4 Request to send letter to the County Commissioner about funding to the clerk's office (Marie) – Marie said Judge Murphy would like to meet with her and a couple others from the board to discuss this. Melissa and Jerry volunteered to attend this meeting too.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Section Chairs Policy (Michael) – This was completed at the February meeting. These amendments will be sent to the membership and ask for comments so the board can discuss them at their April 15 meeting.
 - 4.2 Letter to the Court (John) – No report. Remove this from the agenda.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – February 2026 Financial Report & \$15,000 transfer to CD – Brandon was not at the meeting so the financial reports will be discussed at the next meeting. Marie will reach out to Brandon to find out the status of the \$15k transfer to the CD.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Jerry) – Jerry shared that Terry Church and Bryan Johnson will be the presenters at the March 27 CLE. The topic is *Arbitration*. The April 24 CLE topic is *Threats to the Judiciary* presented by Judge Buckley, Justice Montoya-Lewis, and Judge Thomas. The WSBA has helped organize this CLE and will help advertise it to all WSBA members. Jerry said Susan Pai shared information about a possible DEI CLE. The speaker is Susan Coskey. Jerry will follow-up with Susan Coskey and see if she would be interested in doing a 3-hour DEI CLE in the fall or a

1-hour lunchtime CLE in the fall.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Marie is waiting to hear back from Judge Skinder with a date.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – Jerry will follow-up regarding a possible DEI CLE in the fall.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie and Jerry) – There is one rule that was circulated regarding warrants. There is a public comment period.
- 7.4 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne, Jerry) – John will organize the March Madness contest again. There will be a golf tournament in May. Maybe a bike ride in the summer.
D&D Game Night (Mike DeWitt) – Mike will get back to Heather with a date in May.
- 7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – IN RE for May – Rosemary volunteered to find someone to complete the IN RE Spotlight questions. Heather will send her the questions and details.
- 7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – Michael sent the board the Bylaws changes to membership for organizations, paralegals, office staff, and sections. Heather will send the bylaws changes to the members to be voted on at the May 8, 2026, Annual Meeting.
- 7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – No meeting since the last one.
- 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – The topic this year is Treason. Judge Schaller and Judge Wilson will help judge the preliminary round on April 16. The final round will be on April 28.
- 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – The infrastructure of the new property is not what they thought it was.
- 7.10 Bigelow House & Community Connections (Marie) – No report.
- 7.11 Annual Meeting & Dinner (Heather) – Agenda, price, & donations – Heather shared that the price for the food has increased by \$2 per person than initially believed. Members can make donations to help pay for the dessert. The agenda will be the same as past annual meetings but will also include a discussion about the bylaw amendments during the business meeting.
- 7.12 County Charter (Michael) – Michael attended a meeting regarding the County Charter effort being led by Renew Thurston County. 1st step is a resolution from the board of County Commissioners that kicks off the process, 2nd step is the election of drafters, 3rd step is to draft the county charter, 4th step is a proposed county charter to go to the voters of the county for approval. If the county operates by charter, the county can decide what positions are elected. They will work on outreach to organizations. Michael will continue to attend these meetings after he leaves the board.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had a monthly meeting today, and while the meeting was well-attended, there were virtually no agenda items. We discussed the celebration for Edith Vanderwal that took place last Tuesday, 3/3, and the gathering of legal professionals at the celebration of life for Monique Rawnsley (the wife of Commissioner Patrick Rawnsley) this past Sunday, 3/8. Two of the Court Commissioners thanked the local bar for essentially acclimating to the new “culture” at FJC, in which there are no presentation hearings. The bench was appreciative that the family law attorneys have adapted to the new expectation and are consistently bringing orders to present to court at the conclusion of their hearings. The Clerk’s office invited feedback on the prioritization of services, and Linda Myhre Enlow seemed open to answering questions of the local bar if they kept having issues. Then, at the conclusion of the meeting, Judge Thomas invited everyone to weigh in on the Task Force working on revising the Oath of Attorney.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Jenna Norden) – Sound Legal Aid’s Fundraising breakfast is on May 20 at

- Heritage Room.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – No report.
 - 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Jenna Norden) – Rosemary is organizing a lunchtime CLE on April 8 on How to Get Your Client into a Drug, Veterans, or Mental Health Court, and then in May there will be a CLE on Diversion. The CLE will be free and it is at Thurston County Superior Court. Jerry said he can bring some pizza to share. The invite for the CLE will be sent to all TCBA members. Heather will send Rosemary the information needed for the CLE. Wayne said there is a program for CYS for 18–22-year-olds. Wayne is trying to maintain/ensure future funding for the program.
 - 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Kelly Wood) – No report. Heather said Kelly Wood is not a TCBA member. She sent him an email and asked him to join the TCBA. Marie will reach out to him regarding the section and becoming a member also.
 - 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Susan Pai) – Susan sent a proposal to hang a picture of the Thurston County Superior Court judges at the courthouse. Marie said the board is in the process of setting up a meeting with the judges and will discuss the proposal with the judges then.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Bill thanked Melissa for providing the food and John for providing the conference room space. Marie also thanked Bill for providing the drinks.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** April 15, 2026, hosted by Jeffrey Carr and Joe Scuderi at John’s Office

12. **Adjourn** 6:56 p.m.