

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2015

Tacoma Harvester, 29 North Tacoma Avenue

7:15 a.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President John Christensen

PRESENT

President:	John Christensen
Vice President:	Matthew Thomas
Secretary-Treasurer:	Kenneth W. Blanford
Immediate Past President:	Dawn Farina
Trustee:	Dwayne Christopher
Trustee:	James W. McCormick
Trustee:	Wendy Zicht
Trustee:	Sara E. Richardson
Trustee:	T. Diane Clarkson
Pierce County Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Stephanie Arend
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison:	Diana L. Kiesel
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison:	Judge Cuthbertson
Tacoma Municipal Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Elizabeth Verhey
District Court Liaison:	Judge Margaret V. Ross
Young Lawyers Section President:	Lindsay Camandona
Criminal Law Section:	Maureen Goodman
	Phillip E. Thornton
Volunteer Legal Services Liaison:	Jason Ruyf
Minority Bar Association Liaison:	Sarah Lee
Executive Director:	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Trustee:	Sophia Palmer
Family Law Section Liaison:	Kevin G. Rundle
WSBA Liaison, 6 th District	Keith Black
Collaborative Law Liaison	Lynn Johnson

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST MINUTES

Minutes from last meeting where approved.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – John Christensen

The Superior Court Judicial Court Survey is ready for review. Our charge is to determine if the survey is appropriate. The survey would be sent out early 2016. It would be very similar to the

one that was done by the District Court. Please review this and get back to Kit or John Christensen. We will discuss this further at the next meeting. The survey has been sent to the Superior Court Judges.

A concern has been raised regarding political postings in the attorney lounge. At issue, is whether this is something the Bar should consider regulating. There may be County/City Building regulations regarding the posting of political messages within the County/City Building. There is also a concern about excessive clutter in the lounge. A motion was made and passed to explore regulation of this issue

Action Item: John Christensen to inquire.

Paint Tacoma Beautiful is very close to completing its project. Eisenhower Carlson, as well as many other volunteers, has supported this project.

Vice-President's Report— Matthew H. Thomas

No Report

Secretary-Treasurer's Report– Kenneth W. Blanford

Financial Report adopted. Discussion of consent agenda.

Old Business

None

New Business

A motion was made to allow law students to become members of the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association for free. The Motion passed. A question was raised about whether this would entitle the law students to court passes.

Action Items

Moranco Insurance contract has been received. John Christensen expressed concerns about the length (in duration) of the contract. A discussion of the specifics of the contract was made with concerns regarding the obligations, long-term viability and profitability, and insurance required by the bar. Wendy Zicht suggested we should have our CPA review the actual contract to make sure that there is no problem with our nonprofit. Matthew Thomas expressed concerns about changing the nature of the Bar Association and whether the proposed contractual duties for the TPCBA will place additional burdens on a hard pressed TPCBA staff.

John Christensen is going back to Moranco to clarify the above issues and present the findings to the group.

REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS/COMMITTEES/SECTIONS

Judicial Liaison Superior Court – Judge Cuthbertson

No report given.

Judicial Liaison Municipal Court – Judge Elizabeth Verhey

A new Jail Coordinator has been hired. Organizationally the person is under the City Attorney's Office. The Jail Coordinator will coordinate with the jails as to the inmates, where they will be located, and any problems. The Municipal Court has started a mental health docket, every morning on Wednesday.

Trustee and Section Liaison Reports

Young Lawyers Section – Lindsay Camandona

The Bar Convention is coming up. Young Lawyers are sponsoring the wine toss. The Young Lawyers have created a scholarship program and are sponsoring five young lawyers to attend the convention. New lawyers' swearing in is scheduled for September 28, 2015 at the Federal Court House. The Young Lawyers are planning on putting on a CLE, and are still working on the Lawyer Directory.

Family Law Section – Kevin Rundle

Wendy Zicht reported that the statewide Pattern Forms came out and the Family Law Section met to comment on them. The forms are geared towards pro se litigants. There is a fear that the forms will open up further litigation.

Criminal Law Section – Philip Thornton/Maureen Goodman

The Section is happy that they have a new co-chair, Philip Thornton.

Diversity Committee – Dwayne Christopher

Close to finalizing a scholarship for bar prep materials. Working on selection process. Need to make sure plan works with non profit status.

Mentorship Committee – Wendy Zicht

Mentorship Program has gone live. It is available on the bar website. Attorneys whom have been practicing for more than 10 years are eligible to be mentors.

Other Reports

Minority Bar Association – Sarah Lee

Held a successful barbeque on August 22, 2015

Volunteer Legal Services - Jason Ruyf

Looking for additional volunteers for the Volunteer Legal Services. October 22, 2015 is Pro Bono Night. This event will be a way of thanking those that volunteer.

Other Business

None

ADJOURNED