

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, July 19, 2016
Harvester Restaurant 29 N Tacoma Ave, Tacoma
7:15 A.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Matthew Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:20 a.m.

PRESENT

President:	Matthew Thomas
Vice President:	T. Diane Clarkson
Immediate Past President:	John Christensen
Trustee:	James McCormick
Trustee:	Antoni Froehling
Young Lawyers Section President:	Ryan Hogaboam
Criminal Law Liaison:	Philip Thornton
VLS Liaison/Minority Bar Association Liaison:	Mark Brady
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Presiding Judge Frank Cuthbertson
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Ronald Culpepper
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Stephanie Arend
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Commissioner Diana Kiesel
Law School Liaison:	John Weaver
Executive Director:	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Secretary/Treasurer:	Kenneth Blanford
Trustee:	Sophia Palmer
Trustee:	Sarah Richardson
Trustee:	Heather Straub
Trustee:	John Wilson
Criminal Law Liaison:	Maureen Goodman
Family Law Section:	Barbara McInville
WSBA BOG 6 th District:	Keith Black
District Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Margaret Ross
Tacoma Municipal Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge David Ladenburg
Collaborative Law Liaison:	Lynn Johnson
WA Women Lawyers Liaison:	Ingrid McLeod

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE MINUTES/TREASURER'S REPORT

A quorum was not present. The June minutes and Financial Report were tabled until the September meeting.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – Matthew Thomas

The August Board of Trustees meeting is cancelled for the summer. Matthew Thomas generously invited everyone to go sailing with him. For planning purposes, he can accommodate up to 8 at a time. This will be a fun outing that will be scheduled in August.

The Judicial Survey Questionnaire for Pierce County Superior Court Judges was discussed by the board. Comments were the length of the survey. It was suggested to streamline it by first asking if the person

has ever been in front of the judge, if not, then that person could move to the next question. Judge Culpepper suggested that the percentage of the rating (excellent, very good, acceptable, below expectations, unacceptable) are taken from the grand total and the grand total includes the answer of *don't know/doesn't apply* which really doesn't give a true percentage rating.

Matt will send a letter and the survey results to the TNT.

The Judicial Candidates ratings done by the Judicial Qualifications Committee will be posted to our TPCBA website once completed. The interviews are ongoing and a press release will be sent when completed.

REPORTS FROM THE LIAISONS/SECTIONS/COMMITTEES

Superior Court Judicial Liaison Report

Judge Cuthbertson said he has been using Pro Tem Judges in CD1 Court. They have an inventory of cases that need to go out.

Judge Culpepper thanked the TPCBA again for work done to assist the planning for Judge Tollefson's well attended retirement celebration.

Bar Convention

John Christensen, Convention Committee Chair, reported that the very thoroughly themed brochure is out. Copies were on the tables. All the speakers are lined up and many meet the new CLE requirements which allows credits for mental health, physical health, etc. A photo booth will be part of the Friday evening entertainment where, when you are in front of the screen, it puts you in a Star Wars action scene and you will get your photo sometime following. John encouraged the board to attend and to watch the room reservation deadline of August 25 and the registration deadline of September 10.

Young Lawyers Report

Ryan Hogaboam, Young Lawyer Section President, reported there will be an Obi-Wine-Kenobi wine toss at Bar Convention. The young lawyers are getting excited about the event and they are hoping to financially help some of the young lawyers with their attendance. They are also meeting next week to plan the new lawyer CLE which will follow the fall swearing in ceremony. Date of the ceremony to be set.

Animal Law CLE Report

Commissioner Kiesel reported she will be speaking at the upcoming TPCBA Animal Law CLE on July 30 at Pt. Defiance. She recently had three cases on her docket involving pets. It was also reported that the seminar has been approved for 5.25 credits.

Volunteer Legal Services Report

Mark Brady reported that VLS has fewer volunteers in the summer months and he encouraged the board members to join and assist with the Monday evening clinic.

Minority Bar Association Report

Vice President Diane Clarkson reported the Minority Bar Association recently held a meeting. They are working on a statement how not to be a political group.

Other

Matt discussed the recent Editorial Board/Magazine Committee meeting. The next magazine will feature folks from different areas – police officer, reverend, defense attorney and a prosecutor. The idea is to

have a dialogue, important to attorneys, about current issues facing everyone especially the minority community. Judge Cuthbertson added he could address litigants that could be added to the dialogue to hear about court disparity.

Professor Weaver added if you can use an intern or need an employee, to call John or the Law School.

James McCormick added that he and John Wilson of the Legislative Committee are working on the very early stages of assisting with the courthouse renovation and the plans for the 5th floor. He also reported the Foundation campaign kick-off letter is going out in the mail. This year it is a one-year campaign instead of a three-year.

Criminal Law Report

Criminal Law Co-Chair Phil Thornton commented on a “new sheriff in town” referring to Judge Schwartz who began his CDPJ rotation on July 18th. He takes the bench at 8:45 am daily and asked that all parties be present and ready at that time.

Phil also reported that the supplemental plea forms have been placed on the county website now which will help speed up the process.

ADJOURNED 8:05 a.m.