

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Tacoma Harvester, 29 North Tacoma Avenue

7:15 a.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Matthew Thomas

PRESENT

President:	Matthew Thomas
Vice President:	T. Diane Clarkson
Secretary-Treasurer:	Kenneth W. Blanford
Trustee:	Heather R. Straub
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison:	Judge Stephanie Arend
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison:	Judge Ronald Culpepper
Volunteer Legal Services Liaison/ Minority Bar Liaison:	Mark V. Brady
Criminal Law Section:	Philip Thornton
Family Law Section Liaison:	Barbara H. McInville
Trustee:	John R. Wilson
Trustee:	Sara E. Richardson
Trustee:	Sophia Palmer
Trustee:	Antoni H. Froehling
Young Lawyers Section President:	Ryan Hogaboam
WSBA Liaison, 6 th District:	Keith M. Black
WA Women Lawyers Liaison:	Ingrid McLeod
Seattle University School of Law Liaison:	John Weaver
TPCBA Executive Director:	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Tacoma Municipal Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge David Ladenburg
Criminal Law Section:	Maureen Goodman
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison:	Commissioner Diana L. Kiesel
Immediate Past President:	John R. Christensen
Collaborative Law Liaison:	Lynn Johnson
District Court Liaison:	Judge Margaret Ross
Trustee:	James McCormick
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison:	Judge Frank Cuthbertson

President's Report – Matthew H. Thomas

This week we are going to send the judicial evaluation out to the members. Judge Hogan and Judge Tollefson have been asked not to be included in the evaluation as they are retiring. Judge Culpepper is neutral about whether he should be included in the poll as he is also preparing to retire. The purpose of the poll is to educate the public as to the Judges. An issue was raised as to whether we should rate judicial candidates.

The Federal Practice CLE was well attended. All the board members are encouraged to speak at a CLE or at the very least attend a CLE for TPCBA. Linda Klein (President Elect of the American Bar Association) will be speaking at the Pierce County Courthouse on June 28, 2016.

Vice-President's Report— T. Diane Clarkson

No Report Given.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report– Kenneth W. Blanford

No Report Given. Minutes passed with changes.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Bar rating discussions: In the past candidates for judge have declined to be rated by the bar. The issue was raised as to how to handle potential candidates that decline to be evaluated. As a note, unless the candidate requests to be rated they are not rated and listed as "Not Rated".

Action Items

REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS/COMMITTEES/SECTIONS

TPCBA Membership Survey - John Wilson

John Wilson met with Kit to discuss timing of the survey. The committee decided to send the TPCBA Membership survey at a different time than the Judicial Evaluation Survey. They are thinking of sending out the Membership survey shortly after the Judicial Survey (possibly mid-July). The Membership Survey will touch on communication between membership and the association, how the TPCBA is functioning, and Lincoln Day. The last survey was done 3 years ago.

Pierce County Superior Court Liaison - Judge Stephanie Arend

Judge Arend passed out the Judges Rotation Schedule effective July 5, 2016. The judges are on 18 month staggered terms. The judges participated in Habitat for Humanity on June 11, 2016. Family Court is working with the Plain Language Forms.

Discussion of coverage for the retirement of Judge Tollefson: The plan is to have Judge Larkin (retired) fill in the CD courts to free up a trial judge.

Judicial Liaison District Court – Judge Ross

None.

Judicial Liaison Municipal Court – Judge Ladenburg

None.

Trustee and Section Liaison Reports

Young Lawyers Section – Ryan Hogaboam

The Young Lawyers are putting on their social. There is no charge for the event and open to family and friends. The Tap Room does allow children. The YL are providing scholarships for convention attendees and are enthusiastic about attending. The photo directories are available for purchase.

WSBA Liaison, 6th District: Keith M. Black

The board of governors finished their June meeting. Some new governors were elected. Brad Furlong is the new president elect. The five-year Task Force on the increase of civil litigation costs has come up with nine recommendations. Some of the recommendations are unanimous. Some of the recommendations are contested. They have done a complete review of sections (for the bar association). The sections have been included in the discussion. In July the bar is having their retreat in Walla Walla. They are going to provide the recommendations of the Task Force to the Bar Association so it can be reviewed.

Family Law Section – Barbara H. McInville

July 1, 2016 is the deadline for the new mandatory forms. After July 1, 2016 the old forms cannot be used. She will bring the new forms to the next meeting, so we can see the difference. The forms are geared towards an 8th grade reading level. The intent is to make the process easier for Pro Se's. The forms have doubled in length, with significantly more check boxes.

Criminal Law Section –Philip Thornton

The Criminal Law Section has been working with the Superior Court. There are some changes coming through. There is a backlog of cases. Judge Schwartz is going to publish a new list of protocols regarding continuance of omnibus hearings, where pleas can occur; CDPJ will be a gatekeeper to sending people out to trial. The jail has put in input, with one days notice they can meet with, bring over defendants to meet with attorneys in the big pit.

Collaborative Law – Lynn Johnson

None.

Other Reports

Washington Women Lawyers – Ingrid McLeod

Have an upcoming happy hour on June 30, 2016 at 5:00 at Primo Grill.

Minority Bar Association and Volunteer Legal Services - Mark V. Brady

VLS

Washington Web Lawyer is making progress, with faster responses to questions. Funding is always a concern for VLS. VLS is exploring several funding options. The Housing Justice Project has served 100 clients and has had great success in serving its clients. On June 22, 2016, the Pierce County Law campaign held a reception at the Pacific Grill.

Minority Bar Association.

The Minority Bar Association held an event on June 24, 2016 at the STAR Center. The event was a Peace project to encourage youth to not use guns or violence.

Bar Convention – John R. Christensen

None

Other Business

None.

ADJOURNED