

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Clarkson at 7:15 a.m.

PRESENT

President	Diane Clarkson
Vice President	Steve Merrival
Immediate Past-President	Matthew Thomas
Trustee	Nicholas Andrews
Trustee	Antoni Froehling
Trustee	Amanda Searle
Trustee	Heather Straub
Trustee	John Wilson
Trustee	Lindsay Camandona
Pierce County Superior Court Presiding Judge	Judge Elizabeth Martin
Pierce County Commissioner	Diana Kiesel
Pierce County Commissioner	Mark Gelman
Pierce County District Court Presiding	Judge Judy Rae Jasprica
Young Lawyers Section President	Kelley Kavanagh
Family Law Section Past President	Terri Farmer
Volunteer Legal Services	Chris Maharry
Minority Bar Association President	Mark Brady
Washington Women Lawyers Magazine	Erica Eggertson
Law School Liaison	Andrea McNeely
Karl Williams	Professor John Weaver
Executive Director	Chair, Muni/District Court Liaison Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Secretary/Treasurer	Sarah Richardson
Collaborative Law	Lynn Johnson
Tacoma Municipal Court	Judge David Ladenburg
WSBA BOG 6 th District	Keith Black
Criminal Law Section	Claire Vitikainen, Matthew McGowan

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH MINUTES

The minutes of the March Board of Trustees meeting were approved. President Clarkson added to the minutes that the last strategic plan of the TPCBA, done in 2013, was reviewed and discussed at the retreat. Most of what was planned has been completed and Steve and his board will be gearing up for the next 5-year plan.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Diane Clarkson

President Clarkson reported the Board Retreat of March 24 at the Branch Colonial House went very well. She added that she presented an award on behalf of the TPCBA to Judge Strombom on April 11th at CI Shenanigans, for Judge Strombom's 27 years of judicial service. President Clarkson addressed the topic of her idea to hold a TPCBA's "Got Talent" event which will showcase the talent of our TPCBA membership. Look for more information on what promises to be a fabulous event.

FINANCIAL REPORT- Kit Kasner

In Sarah Richardson's absence, Kit discussed the March financial statement which showed the overall grand total with reserves to be \$326,400.59. This was an increase over the March 2016 comparison report due in large to an additional \$42,000 paid this year for Lawyer Referral percentage fees.

VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES REPORT

Volunteer Legal Services liaison Chris Maharry and Trustee Nick Andrews made a plea for increased funding of VLS. Citing the significant success of VLS in providing legal services to those in need, Maharry and Andrews, joined by others, called for increased financial support of VLS by the TPCBA to help meet the expanding services VLS is providing for our community. Among other issues facing VLS, its volunteer capacity has grown allowing for increased quality of services, and a three year grant funding the Housing Justice Project staff attorney came to an end on June 1.

In a letter to the Board, VLS noted that approximately 15% of the Bar membership currently volunteers time to provide civil aid and others give to the Campaign for Equal Justice, the Pierce County Law Firm Campaign, plus the Bar Foundation dues check-off. In its letter, VLS explained that it now offers a bigger and better program than in the past and is in need of additional funding to support and continue to grow that program. VLS called for the Board to develop a mechanism for providing a stable additional funding source. The VLS call for help spurred a strong reaction and promises to be a focus of ongoing board discussion.

The Run for Equal Justice will be held at the end of April. It was also noted that the Campaign for Equal Justice accepts donations year-round on its website.

LIAISON REPORTS

SUPERIOR COURT – Judge Elizabeth Martin

Judge Martin reported that the Superior Court is completing its local rules update this spring, with a likely noteworthy change being the expansion of mandatory e-filing to certain ex parte orders. This change affects attorneys only (not self-represented litigants) and applies to the

type of orders previously accepted by mail. The \$40 filing fee previously applied to mail-in orders will also apply to the e-filed orders.

Other changes discussed involved the rules for reconsideration and revision of commissioners' rulings, as well as a clarification of civil discovery cut-off rules for all case tracks. Check the Superior Court Local Rules Website for final updates.

Judge Martin also reported the passing of Judge Waldo Stone, who will be much missed.

SUPERIOR COURT COMMISSIONERS – Commissioner Mark Gelman

Commissioner Gelman reported that the commissioners are working to make the commissioner's docket more efficient and hoping to implement electronic filings, add a night commissioner, and looking to improve the use made of the physical plant.

DISTRICT COURT – Judge Judy Jasprica

Judge Jasprica reported that mental health, opioid use and homelessness are the most dramatic factors affecting litigants in District Courts. To address these issues, the District Court is in the process of seeking a grant to address opioid diversion assistance and is looking for partners in support of that effort. Currently, the District Court has a behavioral health program as well and is up and running with its DART (Drug Assistance Reduction Team) program. The DART program has approximately 29 defendants participating as of April 2017. District Court Judge Maggie Ross has the authority to grant a dismissal of a Superior Court DART case upon entry of the plea in District court, avoiding any delay.

DISTRICT/MUNICIPAL COURT COMMITTEE REPORT – Karl Williams, Committee Chair

Karl Williams reported on the new Lakewood Police Department Phlebotomy Program. Lakewood police officers participating in the program are now authorized to draw blood in impaired driving cases. The majority of blood draws performed under this program are being done subject to warrant, however if the individual requests to have a blood draw, the officer can perform that as well. Jurisdictions in Arizona and Idaho have implemented similar programs. The officers authorized to perform blood draws will have completed phlebology training.

FAMILY LAW - Terri Farmer

Terri reported the Family Law speaker this month is Joe Shaub, licensed mental health and family therapist, who will present on taking care of yourself. All are welcome to attend this CLE which will be April 19 at Noon. Next month's topic will be on PTSD and the speaker will be from VA/Madigan.

YOUNG LAWYERS – Kelley Kavanagh

Kelley reported that Law Week is the first week of May and the Law Day Luncheon is scheduled Friday, May 5th at CI Shenanigans, cost is just \$25.00. The luncheon speaker is Noah Purcell,

Washington State Solicitor General and the theme is “The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy”. Also the Swearing In Ceremony for new attorneys is scheduled May 3rd at 4:00 pm at the Pierce County Courthouse, Room 100.

MINORITY BAR - Mark Brady

The Minority Bar hosted their annual Youth & Law Forum on March 31. They are looking at possibly combining the two groups: the TPCBA Diversity Committee and the Pierce County Minority Bar.

WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS - Erica Eggertson

The March 8 event in honor of Women’s History Month was very successful. She also reported the WWL Annual Clothing Drive was also a big success.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The next meeting date will May 16, 7:15 am at the Harvester.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m.