

**TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, June 20, 2017  
Tacoma Harvester Restaurant

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President Diane Clarkson.

**PRESENT**

President	Diane Clarkson
Vice President	Steve Merrival
Secretary-Treasurer	Sarah Richardson
Trustee	Amanda Searle
Trustee	Lindsay Camandona
Trustee	Nicholas Andrews
Trustee	John Wilson
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison	Judge Elizabeth Martin
Pierce County Commissioner Liaison	Commissioner Mark Gelman
Pierce County Commissioner Liaison	Commissioner Diana Kiesel
Pierce County District Court Liaison	Judge Judy Jasprica
Young Lawyers Section President	Kelley Kavanaugh
Immediate Past-President	Matthew Thomas
Family Law Section Liaison	Terri Farmer
WSBA Liaison, 6 <sup>th</sup> District	Keith Black
Seattle University Law School Liaison	Ret. Judge Brian Tollefson
Washington Women Lawyers	Professor John Weaver
TPCBA Magazine	Erica Eggertsen
VLS	Andrea McNeely
Executive Director	Laurie Davenport
	Kit Kasner

**ABSENT**

Criminal Law Section	Claire Vitikainen
Collaborative Law Liaison	Lynn Johnson
Tacoma Municipal Court Judicial Liaison	Judge David Ladenburg
Trustee	Heather Straub
Trustee	Antoni Froehling
Minority Bar Association	Mark Brady
VLS	Chris Maharry

**MAY MEETING MINUTES**

Motion and approval to adopt April meeting minutes.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **President's Report – Diane Clarkson**

The Superior Court Commission has been meeting with several county officials. Congratulations to TPCBA Vice President Steve Merrival on his retirement last week from the Pierce County Prosecutor's office. Diane is considering two options for a board service project at either the parks department or a family shelter.

### **Vice-President's Report – Steve Merrival**

Steve attended the Guardianship committee meeting this month. The grounds are being prepared for Lawyerpalooza.

### **Secretary-Treasurer Report – Sarah Richardson**

We are slightly under budget as of the end of May and have over \$300,000.00 in our accounts, so we are doing well.

## **BUSINESS**

### **Unfinished Business**

Laurie Davenport, Director of VLS, was invited to update the board on VLS growth and budget. The current 5-year plan is ending. Grants and donations have increased and VLS now has 4 attorneys on staff. Staffing and duties are often dictated by the terms of grants; as grants expire, positions may terminate unless replaced by other funding or grants. Laurie gave examples of recent grants and funding and said many are offered because of multiple factors in Pierce County including high poverty and diversity, a crowded courthouse, the concentration of service members from the base who need legal assistance, large rural areas without adequate transportation resources, good tracking and record keeping by VLS, and comprehensive services provided by VLS that go beyond just a one-time meeting. Increasing numbers of attorneys commit to on-going volunteerism.

Securing funding and grants is an on-going process; they don't always match up with VLS and TPCBA budget cycles. An endowment, such as the Campaign for Equal Justice has, is ideal for funding purposes. Laurie gave the history of VLS's creation and funding since the 1980s. It's a fluctuation of funding groups, grants, IOLTA, private donations and member donations.

The primary goals for the future of VLS are to increase the diversity of local funding for VLS and to increase regular volunteer participation.

**New Business – None**

## **COMMITTEE / LIAISON / SECTION REPORTS**

### **Pierce County Superior Court – Judge Martin**

Jury training now includes a video about unconscious bias that was approved by all 3 Pierce County courts served by the jury administration. She'd like to schedule time for attorneys to view the video and may include a presentation from Court Administrator Chris Gaddis regarding jury mapping. Judge Whitener is hosting the Color of Justice symposium in August for girls 11-17. The Judges and Commissioners are working with Habitat for Humanity this weekend. The court hopes to hire a 9<sup>th</sup> Commissioner in October. Commissioner Gelman said the court will be expanding e-filing for court signatures in the next few months.

### **Pierce County District Court – Judge Jasprica**

The DART program designed to refile felony drug charges in district court in order to provide probation services started last October is growing fast. District Court has 8 judges with only 5 courtrooms able to hold jury trials so they rotate often. A new statewide case management system should roll out for District Court in about 18 months.

### **WSBA Board of Governors – Keith Black and Ret. Judge Brian Tollefson**

Keith introduced Brian Tollefson as his successor. He announced WSBA president Robin Haynes's resignation. Former BOG member and Pierce County DPA Sean Davis was hired as in-house counsel for WSBA.

### **Young Lawyers – Kelley Kavanagh**

The section plans to host a trivia night later in the summer between the Young Lawyers and the Criminal Lawyers Section.

### **Family Law – Terri Farmer**

The section's school supply drive is on-going and seeks donations from all TPCBA members. Section meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at noon in courtroom 100. This month's topic is how to obtain benefits for military dependents via chains of command.

### **Bar Convention – Matt Thomas**

Brochures for the Bar Convention are finished. Several fun activities are planned for Saturday at the convention.

### **Washington Women Lawyers – Erica Eggertsen**

WWL is holding a school supply drive in early August and planning small sidebar events with judges.

### **Seattle University – John Weaver**

Former UPS Dean Wallace Rudolph recently passed away. Spring 2017 graduation concluded in May and a new class for 2020 / 2021 has begun.

**ADJOURNED AT 8:25**