

TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Tacoma Harvester Restaurant

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:19 by President Steve Merrival.

PRESENT

President	Steve Merrival
Vice President	Ken Blanford
Secretary-Treasurer	Sarah Richardson
Immediate Past-President	Diane Clarkson
Trustee	Nicholas Andrews
Trustee	Casey Arbenz
Trustee	Lindsay Camandona
Trustee	Kelley Kavanaugh
Trustee	Lisa Kremer
Trustee	Amanda Searle
Pierce County Commissioner Liaison	Commissioner Diana Kiesel
Pierce County Commissioner Liaison	Commissioner Robyn Lindsay
Pierce County District Court Liaison	Judge Judy Jasprica
Tacoma Municipal Court	Judge David Ladenburg
Seattle University Law School Liaison	Professor John Weaver
Volunteer Legal Services	Chris Maharry
Washington Women Lawyers	Jennifer Andrews
Family Law	Jennifer Andrews (for Amanda Cook)
Young Lawyers	Amanda Searle (for Meaghan Driscoll)
Executive Director	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Pierce County Superior Court Liaison	Judge Elizabeth Martin
WSBA Liaison, 6 th District	Ret. Judge Brian Tollefson
Minority Bar	Mark Brady
Young Lawyers	Meaghan Driscoll, Excused*
Collaborative Law	Lynn Johnson
Criminal Law	Matthew McGowan
Family Law	Amanda Cook, Excused*

*Excused absences only noted for voting members.

DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

January and February meeting minutes were approved by consensus following no discussion or objection.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report – Steve Merrival

Steve discussed his goals including reviewing and discussing the relationships between VLS, TPCBA and the Bar Foundation. He'd like on-going communication among all 3, and a committee for the future 5-year plan. The VLS branding agenda item should be postponed to the April meeting when Laurie Davenport meets with the Board of Trustees. He'd like membership to grow with widespread participation. He seeks ideas for participation from the local AGs office. Discussion ensued regarding bar dues, on-line CLE access, a membership drive, and revenue raising ideas. Steve also seeks a concerted mentorship effort with new attorneys to involve Young Lawyers and VLS. New BOT members were asked to introduce themselves and their goals. Kelley Kavanagh supports YL support and participation, Lisa Kremer is interested in the history of the TPCBA and appreciates VLS as part of our mission, Casey Arbenz likes the camaraderie of the organization and volunteering with VLS, Ken Blanford seeks to balance the budget.

Secretary-Treasurer Report – Sarah Richardson

Lincoln Day banquet expenses and revenue are not in yet. Agrees with Ken Blanford on the need to balance the budget and asks for that as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Past President Report – Diane Clarkson

None.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: VLS rebranding action item is postponed to April.

COMMITTEE / LIAISON / SECTION REPORTS

Pierce County Superior Court – Commissioner Lindsay

The Trueblood task force is considering grants for dealing with mental health issues on criminal and civil cases and is talking to stakeholders statewide. The Judges had their retreat this month.

Pierce County District Court – Judge Jasprica

Three new district court courtrooms will be built on the 5th floor, and renovations to a 9th floor courtroom will occur. A civil division courtroom staffed by Judge Dacca was created. Infractions and the video arraignments will be held on the first floor. Judges Jasprica and Ross will share a criminal caseload

and calendar space was created for the DART (drug abuse reduction team) cases. Veterans court is beginning and the County Council is finalizing funds for a new Probation Office and Court Coordinator.

Tacoma Municipal Court – Judge David Ladenburg

The court is introducing itself to, and working with, the new city council members. The city attorney and manager support the on-going efforts for the court to go paperless.

Young Lawyers – Amanda Searle for Meaghan Driscoll

The section is working on long term planning. They are hosting a social on March 15 and are planning Law Day/Week which will be the first week of May.

Family Law – Jennifer Andrews for Amanda Cook

The section will host a CLE for RCW 26 GAL training this year. They have a social scheduled at the Pacific Brewing Company.

Volunteer Legal Services – Mark Maharry

Hiring is underway to replace two staff attorneys. Heather Swann will be the next VLS liaison to the TPCBA. The goal of the proposed rebranding is to provide clarity to laypeople about the services offered. Mark champions the leadership and effectiveness of VLS. The Run for Equal Justice fundraiser needs teams and people to sign up. It takes place during the Tacoma City Marathon (April 28/29).

Washington Women Lawyers – Jennifer Andrews

WWL has been hosting brown bag lunch CLEs at Vandenberg Johnson

Seattle University – John Weaver

Seattle University is hosting a Sidebar event in Tacoma on Thursday, March 1 for graduates and the Pierce County bench and bar. It will be hosted at Ledger Square Law offices. The bar exam is being held 2/27 & 2/28 in Tacoma.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Steve reported that Justice Gonzalez is interested in speaking at next year's Lincoln Day Banquet.

ADJOURNED