

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 16, 2020
via Zoom

PRESENT

PRESIDENT *	James McCormick
VICE PRESIDENT *	Amanda Searle
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT *	Kenneth Blanford
SECRETARY-TREASURER *	Heather Young
TRUSTEE *	Jennifer Andrews
TRUSTEE *	John Cain
TRUSTEE *	John Cummings
TRUSTEE *	Judge Ronald Culpepper, Ret.
TRUSTEE *	André Peñalver
TRUSTEE *	Heather Swann
FAMILY LAW PAST PRESIDENT/LIAISON *	Gina Auter
YOUNG LAWYERS PRESIDENT/LIAISON *	Joshua Brumley
CRIMINAL LAW SECTION LIAISON	Dee Sontag
MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION LIAISON	Lisa Mansfield
TACOMAPROBONO	Jennifer Ammons
WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS LIAISONS	Cassidy Ingram
PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Judge Stanley Rumbaugh
	Commissioner Diana Kiesel
PIERCE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Judge Judy Rae Jasprica
LAW SCHOOL LIAISON	John Weaver
TPCBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Kit Kasner
OTHER:	Laurie Davenport, TPC Bar Foundation
	Diane Clarkson, DPA Pierce County

* denotes voting member

ABSENT

None

* absences noted only for voting members of the BOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:06 am by President Jamey McCormick.

2. MEETING MINUTES

The May 2020 minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

3. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—JAYME MCCMORMICK

Jamey led a discussion on how to use our voice to facilitate equity, access to justice, and equality in our community and asked if we can do more than issue a statement in support of Black Lives matter. As a result of the discussion the following suggestions were made:

- Have courageous conversations at home and with friends.
- Could we sponsor a training? A few trainers were suggested including Archway Consulting.
- The sharing of resources (books, movies, YouTube videos) for self-education with the members of our bar.
- Hosting open conversations via Zoom or other video conferencing platform.
- Commit to supporting access to justice for all.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT—AMANDA SEARLE

Nothing at this time.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT—KEN BLANFORD

The Bar Convention will be set-over to October 2021 with no re-booking fee or any other penalties. Suncadia has agree to hold our deposit for the rescheduled October 2020 convention for the rescheduled October 2021 convention. This was the best possible outcome we could have hoped for.

4. FINANACIAL REPORT

MAY—HEATHER YOUNG & KIT KASNER

The reports were in the consent agenda for people to review.

May income is down in nearly every category, even when comparing over 2 years. Lawyer Referral is only being staffed half-time right. Expenses are being cut where possible. Kit is looking into webinars or other ways to increase revenue. Most CLEs will be scheduled for later in the year.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS/CARRY OVER ITEMS

Nothing to report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report.

7. ACTION ITEMS

Nothing to report.

8. UPDATES FROM THE COURTS—CURRENT STATE OF OPERATIONS

SUPERIOR COURT--JUDGE STANLEY RUMBAUGH

The Executive Committee has been meeting nearly every day to try and manage the courts.

Superior Court has rented the Armory next door for Jury orientation, instructions, and holding. The space can hold 130 people with appropriate social distancing, which is sufficient for starting Jury trials in July. The hope is to start July 6th with some out of custody matters first. The goal is to have an adequate pool to meet the courts' needs. Juror Questionnaires will be handed out in advance. Voir dire will be a hybrid of 1 juror at a time and the "Donohue" method. Jurors will be brought over to the CCB in groups of 15 and for cause challenges will be allowed in each group. They Venire will be then sent back in groups and this process will repeat until there are a sufficient number of Venire to then address peremptory challenges. Peremptory challenges will be addressed outside the presence of the Venire.

Superior Court is also considering proposals re: Civil Practice received from the Washington State Association for Justice, including, increasing arbitration limits, reducing the number of jurors from 12 to 6, etc. Some of the proposals would require rule changes if adopted.

Civil jury trials with 6 jurors are presently scheduled to resume after September 1st and civil jury trials with 12 jurors are presently schedule to resume after November 1st.

The judicial settlement conference program has had mixed success, with a lot of type-3 cases (domestic) resolved. Very few type-2 cases took advantage of the program.

Superior Court continues to work on access to the CCB and court rooms and remaining compliant with social distancing requirements.

Superior Court held a mock trial with the Health Department observing to test social distancing needs, etc. An issue with the HVAC was noted, with only 10% air exchange, which is not ideal.

There is room to hold only 5 jury trials at one time, keeping social distancing. 323, 100, and the old wing on the second floor have sufficient room with a "buddy court room" used for the jury at recesses. There will still be a few open court rooms for civil bench trials, most likely type-3 cases. There do remain issues with counsel tables particularly with multiples attorneys and parties.

COMMISSIONERS—COMMISSIONER DIANA KIESEL

Western State has remained open, with masks, gloves, and social distancing.

Commissioner Kiesel will rotate downtown to the CCB on July 7th. The remainder of the rotations are still in the works.

DISTRICT COURT—JUDGE JUDY RAE JASPRICA

District Court just resumed in-person arraignments, with an anticipated increase on June 29th. Much of the work of District Court is still being managed remotely.

The 3 new District Court courtrooms on the 5th floor are now upon and running and probation is on the 6th floor in a new space.

The plan is to have work crew back in operation on June 29th, criminal jury trials on August 3rd, and civil trials in September. There is a significant back log.

9. UPDATES FROM THE SECTIONS

YOUNG LAWYERS—JOSH BRUMLEY

Casino Night has been moved to March 21, 2021.

FAMILY LAW—GINA AUTER

The monthly meeting/CLE was held via Zoom and was well attended.

The family law calendar is still slower than pre-Covid. The Commissioners are regularly hearing matters via Zoom, Court-Call, or on the pleadings.

Zoom trials are now happening, and they are harder than in-person trials.

CRIMINAL LAW—DEE SONTAG

The Criminal Law Section is trying to contribute to a solution in a broken system and to think about how they can put words into action. In early June the public defenders participated in a Black Lives Matter public defender march, this was a nationwide event.

DAC is still limiting their in-person courtroom contact in groups, rotating from in-court to working from home.

10. UPDATE FROM TACOMAPROBONO

TACOMAPROBONO—JENNIFER AMMONS AND LAURIE DAVENPORT

Some of the staff is now back in the office, but all clinics remain virtual.

DV referrals have doubled. They are working on fundraising for DV.

The Housing Justice Project received a grant from the State and have 2 full-time attorneys and a half-time paralegal.

They will be participating in a virtual Pride Parade in July.

For the summer they have 2 paid interns from the UWT.

11. UPDATES FROM BOARD LIAISONS

MINORITY BAR—LISA MANSFIELD

Judge Rebecca Glasgow, Division 2, is interested in putting on a CLE for Appellate practice and brief writing. Lisa will reach out to the Young Lawyers to see if they are interested as well.

The Public Defender March took place in early June and the participants laid down on the ground at the courthouse for 8:36 for George Floyd.

There will be a Juneteenth Celebration on 6/19 at 5:00 p.m. at People's Park in Tacoma.

The Minority Bar will be participating in the Big Hat event for Tacoma Pride.

WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYWERS—CASSIDY INGRAM

They are holding virtual socials via Zoom.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL—JOHN WEAVER

SU (and the other schools) are working on various forms of classes when school resumes in the Fall, in person and hybrid.

Some SU students petitioned the faculty to support their request for diploma privileges and 3 faculty members took on the task, writing a letter to the WA Supreme Court in support of the students. The WA Supreme Court granted the request and granted diploma privileges for those applicants from any ABA accredited law school that had already signed up to take the July or September Bar Exams. Now the students need to determine if they will take the exam or take the diploma privileges.

Some law firms are talking about treating lawyers differently based on whether they passed the bar exam or were admitted via diploma privileges.

12. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nothing.

13. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 21st, time and location to be determined.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 am.