TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 15, 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 Cummings
TRUSTEE *	André Peñalver
TRUSTEE *	Heather Swann
FAMILY LAW PAST PRESIDENT/LIAISON *	Gina Auter
COLLABORATIVE LAW LIAISON	Leslie Bottimore
CRIMINAL LAW SECTION LIAISON	Laura Rodgers/Dee Sontag
MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION LIAISON	Desiree Hosannah
TACOMAPROBONO	Jennifer Ammons
WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS LIAISONS	Carly Roberts
PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Commissioner Diana Kiesel
LAW SCHOOL LIAISON	Professor John Weaver, Ret.
WSBA LIAISON	Judge Brian Tollefson, Ret.
TPCBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Kit Kasner

* denotes voting member

ABSENT

TRUSTEE *	John Cain
TRUSTEE *	Judge Ronald Culpepper, Ret.
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION	Joshua Brumley

* absences noted only for voting members of the BOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:02 am by President Jamey McCormick.

2. MEETING MINUTES

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

3. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—JAYME MCCMORMICK

Jamey shared that the feedback he received from the resolutions passed by the BOT in July was overwhelmingly positive.

Jamey and Kit are discussing/working on an on-line/virtual format for the Lincoln Day Banquet.

The Executive Committee (Jayme, Amanda, Ken, Heather, and Kit) are working with Attorney Brooke Johnson on presenting updated Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to the BOT and then ultimately to the membership for review and a vote; however, the current Bylaws require a 2/3 quorum of membership to vote on any changes.

Pierce County is now well represented on the WSBA BOG as our President-Elect is Judge Tollefson, Lisa Mansfield was appointed (however now that she is Lakewood Municipal Court Judge she may not be able to serve), and Brett Purtzer was elected to District 6.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT—AMANDA SEARLE

Nothing in addition to the Lincoln Day Banquet.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT—KEN BLANFORD

Nothing to report.

4. FINANACIAL REPORT--HEATHER YOUNG & KIT KASNER

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

Although Covid-19 has impacted revenue, comparing 2019 to 2020 our cash flow is similar for July and August and our bank balances are similar.

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

SUPERIOR COURT—COMMISSIONER DIANA KIESEL

No update from the Judges to provide.

9. UPDATES FROM THE SECTIONS

FAMILY LAW SECTION—GINA AUTER

The Family Law Section continues to meet via Zoom and there is good attendance at the monthly meetings/CLEs. The meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Family law trials are continuing via Zoom.

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION—LAURA RODGERS & DEE SONNTAG

There are 4 courtrooms available for jury trials. Because many criminal trials scheduled were unable to start for a variety of reasons (pleas, attorneys not wanting to appear in person in court due to fear of the unknown/fear of Covid, etc.), Court Administration is now scheduling more than one jury trial per Judge per day in hopes that this will assist in keeping criminal jury trials being heard rather than courtrooms and Judges not being utilized. Jurors are reporting feeling safe, but bored. There have been issues with Zoom often being offline and other technology issues so family, friends, and the public are not being able to access criminal matters.

10. UPDATE FROM TACOMAPROBONO—CARLY ROBERTS & JENNIFER AMMONS

Tacomaprobono is very busy and has a need for additional volunteers, particularly in family law. There is at present a 40+ person waiting list for help with family law matters. Email Carly if you can help.

Free253 is a workgroup with Tacomaprobono, CDR, and Fair Housing to assist and educate the public and interested parties about evictions in light of the moratorium ending on 10/31. Tenants cannot be evicted for past due rent if they have a reasonable payment plan to repay the past due rent.

They are holding trainings aimed at eviction prevention.

They are working on a pilot program to have attorneys in the DV courtroom to assist victims on the afternoon DV docket.

They will use some of the Cares Act funding to create work stations in the office for self-represented parties without access to technology.

Tacomaprobono is hoping to run a Payment Plan Day similar, to the LFO Day last year, to assist as many people as possible in setting up payment plans for their court fines.

Be on the lookout for letters for the Campaign for Equal Justice requesting financial support.

Carly made an ask that the BOT and membership consider a Bylaw change to support civil legal aid, perhaps by requiring BOT participation.

11. UPDATES FROM BOARD LIAISONS

WSBA—JUDGE BRIAN TOLLFESON, RET.
TPCBA is part of 4 congressional districts (6th, 8th, 9th, and 10th) so we have 4 Governors on the BOG representing us, depending on where in Pierce County a member lives, plus potentially At Large Governors as well.

The issue of mandatory malpractice insurance is still before the Supreme Court. The BOG created a committee to propose an alternative to mandatory malpractice insurance and the proposal is extensive disclosure to the public if a member does not have malpractice insurance.

The BOG also have a Covid-19 Task Force, their work and information can be found on the WSBA web site. The task force in the process of putting together a poll to membership to gauge the impact of Covid-19 on members.

Lisa Mansfield may not be sworn in as an At-Large Governor as she was just appointed Lakewood Municipal Court Judge. If she is not sworn in there is some question on how the position will be filled, by election or an appointment.

MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION—DESIREE HOSANNAH

The Minority Bar is joining with local minority sororities and fraternities to get out information to the public about the census. They are also working with local organizations to assist with people experiencing homelessness.

COLLABORATIVE LAW—LESLIE BOTTIMORE

They are having regular meetings via Zoom.

WA WOMEN LAWYERS—CARLY ROBERTS

Their annual event is coming up on October 9th and will be virtual.

LAW SCHOOL—PROFESSOR JOHN WEAVER, RET.

John provided a written report.

12. GOOD OF THE ORDER

There were about 50 new lawyers sworn in at the virtual swearing in.

John Cummings suggested that perhaps in the Bylaws discussion that additional voting members could be added, including someone from the Minority Bar.

13. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting Tuesday, October 20th, time and location to be determined.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 am.

Law School Report as of September 2020:

Seattle University and Gonzaga have both started classes. Seattle University is on-line. Gonzaga is, has face to face, synchronous and asynchronous education going on. University of Washington has not yet started classes. They are following a hybrid model with most classes being taught remotely.

A little more detail on Seattle University

The entering class was 220

- 61% Women
- 41% People of Color
- 16% LBGTQ
- 5% Veterans
- There are 34 students in the part-time division

Justice Whitener will be speaking as one of the law school's Influential Voices series on Constitution Day September 17 at 5:30 (virtually of course) The link to the event is

https://law.seattleu.edu/influential-voices-justice-g-helen-whitener-98

I'm sorry to have to report the deaths of Don Carmichael and James Rosenthal.

Don was on the faculty for many years and was interim dean during the transition period of our move to Seattle University. He was, as you recall, a talented bass play (stand-up), a woodcarver of skill. He was also a plaintiff's attorney in the first case brought under the Wilderness Act. He retired to Maine where he continued to play music. He died on August 23 in Maine.

Fewer of you may have know Jim. He to Seattle U Law on a five-year grant to teach the Special Education clinic (the Civil component of the "Law Practice Clinic"). After the grant ended, he went on to teach a Special Education (SPED) seminar course, to create and host the annual National Conferences on SPED for ALJs/Hearings Officers at SU. He passed away in Seattle on September 2.

Just as a reminder on behalf of Seattle University

- We will have externships in the fall, though they are already started. There will externships in the spring, though many will be virtual as we comply with state requirements. If you have questions you should contact Gillian Dutton, the program director, at duttong@seattleu.edu.
- Our Center for Professional Development is available to assist in finding law graduates and students for employment opportunities at lawcareers@seattleu.edu. I am sure that you can locate the appropriate office either UW or Gonzaga's website.

There was a bar exam on September 9 and 10 and some people came, though not many. The next scheduled exam is February.

Utah, Oregon, and Louisiana joined Washington as Diploma Privilege States, there will be articles in the next Bar News on the topic and I'm sure the WSBA report may have something on this.

I'll update anything at the meeting.

John Weaver