

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
via Zoom

PRESENT

PRESIDENT *	James McCormick
VICE PRESIDENT *	Amanda Searle
SECRETARY-TREASURER *	Heather Young
TRUSTEE *	Jennifer Andrews
TRUSTEE *	John Cain
TRUSTEE *	Judge Ronald Culpepper, Ret.
TRUSTEE *	John Cummings
TRUSTEE *	André Peñalver
TRUSTEE *	Heather Swann
FAMILY LAW PAST PRESIDENT/LIAISON *	Gina Auter
PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Judge Diana Kiesel
	Judge Stanley Rumbaugh
	Commissioner Barbara McInville
PIERCE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Judge Jeanette Lineberry
CRIMINAL LAW SECTION	Laura Rodgers
PIERCE COUNTY MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION LIAISON	Desiree Hosannah
TACOMAPROBONO	Carly Roberts
WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS	Jennifer Andrews
LAW SCHOOL LIAISON	Professor John Weaver, Ret.
TPCBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Kit Kasner
GUESTS	Diane Clarkson

* denotes voting member

ABSENT

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT *	Kenneth Blanford
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION*	Jordan Couch

* 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 December 2020 minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

3. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—JAYME MCCMORMICK

The Bylaws still have a few revisions to be made as well as some policies and procedures to be presented to capture items that were in the previous bylaws that we do not want to lose, those will be maintained in policies and procedures. Those will be presented at the February meeting.

The elections are coming up.

Thank you to Ken Blanford and Heather Young for all their hard work and who will be cycling off the Board.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT—AMANDA SEARLE

The first ever virtual Lincoln Day Banquet is in February 18th. Retired Judge Cuthbertson will be the speaker. Kit has sold six of the 25 advertising banners.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT—KEN BLANFORD

Nothing to report.

4. FINANACIAL REPORT--HEATHER YOUNG

The December Financial report was included in the consent agenda for people to review.

Following the December meeting the Washington State Governor published our state's plan for how to distribute the Covid vaccines to our populace and based on that plan it appears that the general public will not have access to the vaccine until the summer through the winter. The Bar Convention was moved by the Executive Committee from October 2020 to October 2021 on the belief that the pandemic would have resolved and that we could meet in person. If we are unable to do so, and we are unable to move the convention again then we are looking at a potential loss of \$50,000-\$60,000 in 2021. The Executive Committee is reaching out to Suncadia to see if we can cancel our contract or move our meeting to 2022. Based on this potential for a substantial budget deficit in 2021 Heather instructed Kit to delay payment of the \$4,000 to TPB to a later date until the Executive Committee could investigate and report back to the Board. In the interest of transparency Heather shared this with the Board. Discussion ensued about what could or could not be done regarding the contract with Suncadia, including filing suit and force majeure. The Executive Committee reported that they had discussed those options with legal counsel in 2020 when making the decision to move the Convention from October 2020 to October 2021. Discussion also included the TPCBA reserves, our 2020 budget, our 2021 budget, and the TPB budget. Heather Swann brought the following motion: "I, Heather Swann, move to release the TPB funds now." The motion was seconded by John Cummings. The motion passed with six votes in favor.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None.

7. ACTION ITEMS

None.

8. UPDATES FROM THE COURTS

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE RUMBAUGH

There is a delay on the start of jury trials to March 1st. They will start with two departments holding criminal jury trials due to a limited number of potential jurors. It will likely be April before civil jury trials resume. There is an understandable reluctance of people to gather in groups. No one on the bench or the bench staff has come down with the virus. No one on jury service has come down with the virus that can be attributed to jury service. Superior Court believes that The Armory will be available again for jury selection as they believe Cares Act II funding will be available to pay for it. There will still be only 5 court rooms available at the County-City Building for jury trials. Superior Court may be able to use Remann Hall and the Lakewood Community Center, as previously planned, for civil jury trials but not criminal jury trials. There has been discussion about doing jury trials remotely, via Zoom, but Pierce County declined.

Pierce County authorized a 23rd Superior Court Judge; however the approval vote came after the Governor's budget was released so there is, at present, no state money. The county is working on having the state's portion appropriated from state. The new department will likely be open for business summer of 2021.

Pierce County's involuntary commitment numbers are skyrocketing and no one really knows why.

Trial date certainty problems are really snowballing as all 5 civil departments are carrying 450-500 cases that are not being resolved, except for domestic cases, due to no jury trial availability. Type 2 cases are being continued to late summer or early fall making it hard to maintain docket discipline. This delay is increasing the costs of litigation and is disappointing to litigants. In some cases discovery has been stalled. The court expects practitioners to use technology to move discovery along.

SUPERIOR COURT—COMMISSIONER MCINVALLE

Commissioner Watson was just sworn in and she will be working in room 117. Involuntary commitments have recently exploded. Wellfound Behavioral Health is now accepting longer term commitments and has added beds. The Uniform Guardianship Act rolled out on January 1st, including Minor Guardianships. Unlawful Detainers will be a huge issue when the moratorium is lifted. Commissioner Services has two employees working remotely. Room 105 is now DV screening and room 129 is now Ex Parte.

DISTRICT COURT—JUDGE LINEBERRY

District Court shut down in March and initially resumed trials in July. They shut down again in November and will resume trials again in April. They just completed several big construction projects: courtrooms on the 5th floor, attorney-client meeting rooms, probation officers on the 6th floor, and a District Court Resource Center at 925. They have an Equity and Resource Committee. District Court is participating in a statewide pilot project for a new case management system. Through Cares Act funding they are participating in a jail confinement alternative program.

9. UPDATES FROM THE TPCBA SECTIONS

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION—LAURA RODGERS

There is a lot of anxiety for people who have been arrested and not yet charged and a lot of anxiety for witnesses, all due to the delays. Bail for the indigent is a rather large issue.

10. UPDATES FROM THE BOARD LIAISONS

TACOMAPROBONO—CARLY ROBERTS

Their clients' needs have only increased during the pandemic. In 2020 they served over 3500 clients with half the number of volunteers and ½ the number of volunteer hours. 1500 of their clients were in family law, 150 were tribal members, and 350 were victims of DV. The Goldmark Luncheon is on 2/5 at noon. Their transition to an independent 501(c)(3) is going well.

MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION—DESIREE HOSANNAH

The Minority Bar Association is off to a slow start this year. There will be more to report at the next meeting.

11. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Jennifer Andrews shared that TPCBA members, Angie and Brian Boice, lost their 9 year old son this past weekend to a tragic ski accident. Kit will be providing the membership with information on a Go Fund Me account if members wish to donate.

12. NEXT MEETING

Next Board of Trustees meeting by Zoom, Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.