

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 16, 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 *	Mark Nelson
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION*	Jordan Couch
PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Judge Diana Kiesel
	Commissioner Barbara McInville
PIERCE COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	Judge Jeanette Lineberry
COLLABORATIVE LAW LIAISON	Leslie Bottimore
PIERCE COUNTY MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION LIAISON	Desiree Hosannah
TACOMAPROBONO	Carly Roberts
WASHINGTON WOMEN LAWYERS	Desiree Hosannah
LAW SCHOOL LIAISON	Professor John Weaver, Ret.
TPCBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Kit Kasner
GUESTS	Sarah Richardson (incoming Pres. Elect)
	Catherine Guza (incoming Sec./Treas.)
	Steve Krupa (incoming Trustee)
	Bryan Hershmann (incoming Trustee)

\* denotes voting member

ABSENT

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT *	Kenneth Blanford
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\* absences noted only for voting members of the BOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by President Jamey McCormick.

2. MEETING MINUTES

The January 2021 minutes were moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

3. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—JAYME MCCMORMICK

Jayme introduced the new officers who will take office at the Lincoln Day Banquet on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Bar Convention has been moved from October 2021 to October 2022 at Suncadia. It did require a \$20,000 deposit to be paid in 2021 to be applied to the bill in 2022. It will be the weekend of October 14-16, 2022.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT—AMANDA SEARLE

The Lincoln Day Banquet is in February 18<sup>th</sup>. 150 people have signed up so far. 9 of the 10 banners have been sold by Kit, one was given away to a sponsor.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT—KEN BLANFORD

Nothing to report.

4. FINANACIAL REPORT--HEATHER YOUNG

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

January numbers look good because of the inflow membership dues. The board should keep an eye on the budget this year as there was the payment of the \$20,000 deposit to Suncadia for the Bar Convention in 2022. It was required to move the convention. It was a good trade off as suing Suncadia to try and get out of the contract would have most likely cost far more in attorney's fees and the deposit will be applied to the convention costs in 2022. The Executive Committee felt it was a good use of our reserves to spend the \$20,000 to move the convention. Ken, Jayme, and Amanda have agreed to chair the Convention Committee and will begin working on it now in hopes to secure early sponsorships to offset this expense with some revenue. The expense will appear in the February financial report.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None.

7. ACTION ITEMS

None.

8. UPDATES FROM THE COURTS

SUPERIOR COURT—COMMISSIONER MCINVALLE

The Commissioners are working on a reasonable solution to the issue of page limits and on a work group for what their dockets could/should look like post pandemic. They plan to continue to reach out to the practice groups who appear in front of the Commissioners for input.

DISTRICT COURT—JUDGE LINEBERRY

District Court is pleased that the Behavioral Health Tax passed, they are working on a proposed model and excited to get the ball rolling to utilize the funding. Odyssey will go live in June and it will become mandatory for Attorneys in November.

9. UPDATES FROM THE TPCBA SECTIONS

FAMILY LAW SECTION—MARK NELSON

The Family Law Section is hosting a Minor Guardianship CLE on February 26<sup>th</sup>, since it is virtual it is open state-wide. Thank you to Judge Kiesel and Commissioner McInville for their assistance. The section is continuing to work with the Commissioners on page limits and use of Zoom post pandemic.

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION—JORDAN COUCH

Casino Night is being moved from 2021 to 2022 due to the pandemic. No date has been chosen yet, but likely May or June 2022. The ABA is planning for a LAW DAY in 2022, but has not yet released any details. Jordan will keep us posted as details are released by the ABA.

10. UPDATES FROM THE BOARD LIAISONS

COLLABORATIVE LAW—LESLIE BOTTIMORE

The Collaborative Law Professionals continue to meet regularly/monthly, with a guest speaker each month. The state wide group is having their annual meeting the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> of March and it will be virtual this year.

MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION—DESIREE HOSANNAH

The Minority Bar is working with Alpha Phi Alpha in facilitating a discussion for the communities of color on the importance of Covid vaccinations and persons of color are among the hardest impacted by Covid and have expressed a reluctance to vaccinate. The talk will be presented on February 21<sup>st</sup>. There will also be a presentation with the local NAACP Chapter and President Tracey Flood on February 20<sup>th</sup> on the same topic. The Minority Bar is looking for assistance in spreading information as this topic is important for all, but especially communities of color.

The Minority Bar has obtained a grant with Legal Pathways and UW Tacoma and will be developing a scholarship with UWT for a student taking the LSAT and student who will be taking the bar exam.

Desiree's church, Bethlehem Baptist Church, operated a shelter that had to close. It will reopen on March 1<sup>st</sup> and will focus on DV survivors, predominantly women and children. The shelter can be reached at 253-472-1147 and will offer housing, mental health, and education referrals as well as temporary shelter.

LAW SCHOOL LIAISON—JOHN WEAVER

SU will have a table at the Lincoln Day Banquet so drop in and say "hello."

John provided his report by email and it follows:

Things are proceeding as usual at SU, UW and Gonzaga Law schools, although students at Gonzaga are more likely than those at SU and UW to be distracted by highly ranked basketball teams

Donna Deming retired after 30 years and Seattle U has welcomed a new Associate Dean for Student Affairs. She is Kristin DiBiase, who comes to the law school from Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law where she was associate director of academic and bar success. Seattle University has welcomed two new professors who will begin in the fall semester. Eduardo Penalver will begin his tenure as president of Seattle University and is also a professor at the law school. He comes from Cornell, where he was dean of the law school. He will likely be busy as president. Sital Kalantry also comes from Cornell, where she was a tenured professor at the law school. She will be teaching Contracts and Comparative Constitutional Law. More information on all three of these appointments is available on the School's website. <https://law.seattleu.edu/>

In addition, the Public Interest Law Foundation at Seattle U will be holding a virtual fundraiser on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Access more information or make a donation at <https://givebutter.com/PILF2021>

Gonzaga's Public Interest Law Project information is here <https://accounts.google.com/b/0/AddMailService>

UW's Public Interest Law Association can be reached by emailing [pila@uw.edu](mailto:pila@uw.edu).

TACOMAPROBONO—CARLY ROBERTS

TPB is part of a community wide consortium aimed at ending street homelessness in our community/county by November 2021. They are trying to find funding for a mobile outreach van to hold Wi-Fi, computers, printers, etc. as many people experiencing homelessness in the outer portions of the county do not have access to transportation resources to get them downtown to TPB and other agencies. TPB was awarded a Housing Hero Award by the Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium. They continue to prepare for the potential end of the eviction moratorium—currently set to expire in about 6 weeks. There is an increase in the

need for family law volunteers. The Native American Legal Aid Program has taken on some cases involving the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the funding for the program is now quarterly rather than annual. TPB is working on translating their website into other languages to make it more accessible and to address access to justice for more communities. TPB has a relationship with the Rainbow Center. TPB has a new Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Wolkenhauer.

#### WSBA—BRETT PURTZER

The WSBA has contracted with Epiphanies of Equity to assist with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training. They are currently in the planning phase including how to trickle down the trainings/information to the general membership. The WSBA is looking at how to reduce the office overhead costs as many staff members have indicated they prefer working from home and would like to continue to do so following the pandemic. The WSBA is looking to sublease some of the space they currently hold for the duration of the lease in an effort to downsize.

#### 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, March 16, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

#### 14. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 a.m.