

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 18, 2021
via Zoom

PRESENT

PRESIDENT *	Amanda Searle
VICE PRESIDENT *	Sarah Richardson
SECRETARY-TREASURER *	Catherine Guza
TRUSTEE *	Jennifer Andrews
TRUSTEE *	Steve Krupa
TRUSTEE *	John Cummings
TRUSTEE *	Desiree Hosannah
TRUSTEE *	Heather Swann
TRUSTEE *	Bryan Hershman
FAMILY LAW LIAISON *	Mark Nelson
YOUNG LAWYERS PRESIDENT/LIAISON*	Jordan Couch
PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT	Judge Diana Kiesel
	Judge Stanley Rumbaugh
	Judge Jeanette Lineberry
	Commissioner Barbara McInville
CRIMINAL LAW LIAISON	Dee Sonntag, 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
WSBA LIAISON, 6 TH DISTRICT	Brett Purtzer
GUESTS	Diane Clarkson

* Denotes voting member

ABSENT

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT * James McCormick

* Absences noted only for voting members of the BOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:11 am by President Amanda Searle.

2. MEETING MINUTES

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

3. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—AMANDA SEARLE

DEI CLE- Encourage participation from Board Members. Anticipate more sign-ups closer to the dates.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT—SARAH RICHARDSON

Please keep sending me info to post on the TPCBA Facebook page.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT—JAMES MCCORMICK

Nothing to report.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT—CATHERINE GUZA

Tacoma Pro Bono left so that was a wash for payroll. Expenses are very low compared to last year, so is income. No magazine for June/July so no expenses but also no income from advertisements. Hope for income from upcoming CLEs (Animal Law, Love Stinks, Year End Potpourri, etc.)

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ed Troyer- Received guidance letters from board members. Still waiting on John's letter. Last meeting went quite long. Decision to hold separate meeting regarding topic. Bryan will step out due to conflict. John cannot write letter because of conflict. Heather and Steve wrote letter. Meeting will be for anyone to attend; board members would vote on letters.

Steve- Federal Bar Association for Western District Racism in Courts starts today at Noon. Bar Association Training in diversity.

Will training be taped? Kit asked FL Section. Mark will inquire more and send out email.

6. NEW BUSINESS

None

7. ACTION ITEMS

None

8. UPDATES FROM THE COURTS

SUPERIOR COURT—JUDGE RUMBAUGH

All 5 criminal court rooms filled with trials, uses 10 trials. Other trials being set at Lakewood Community Center and Remann Hall. Cases not bumped because of lack of capacity. Getting into back log. Goal is 275 days that 95% cases resolved. Very high goal, but not there yet. 800 C class felonies to be charged. In addition to current 1640 cases of back log.

Recent honor- chair of jury friendly sub-committee. People are showing up to serve. Goal to try to be as juror friendly as possible. City moved parking meters, so parking is hard for JURORS. Sitting in Armorer in uncomfortable chairs. Would like to improve response rates and satisfaction rates. Open to suggestions. Bill pending in legislature, to increase juror compensation in one county, died a slow death. Better money for jurors would be better and help with economic hardship.

Masking, social distancing, wiping down, sanitization still used. Increases trial length because of process.

Courtrooms added projections of sound quality and improvements to the courtroom.

JUDGE JEANETTE LINEBERRY

Court is backed up. 2500 cases that need to be reviewed for filing. Small claims is backed up. Mandatory mediation are virtual and slowed down. Back log is hard to determine. Only shut down for month and went virtual right away. Hard to give number of back logged cases.

Changed process and procedures to acclimate. When things open up, will look at what will stay virtual for efficiency.

Pilot court for Courts of Limited Jurisdiction Case Management System. E-file kicked back and will start June 21st. Odyssey, then will continue to use JABS and LINX. Once transition, will only have Odyssey. Administrative office of courts paying for this.

Proposed rule will be posted for comment by end of week, for 30 days, before it is filed. Not mandatory for attorney of record for criminal cases. Not mandatory for initial forms of cases. Waivers can be accommodated. Proposal will be on their website.

City of UP- contract started with Prosecutor. 6-year contract. Will step in and handle those cases. DAC will handle those defendants that are indigent.

Looking forward to welcoming people back to court. People's feedback is they feel safe with guidelines being followed.

MUNICIPAL COURT

Amanda attended meeting that they are working on returning to in-person sessions.

COMMISSIONER MCINVALLE

Yesterday approved Full Time Treatment Court- Community agencies increasing beds for involuntary commitment. Will start July 1st.

Inslee signed Washington House Bill 1320. July 2022 and will make significant changes and increase in DV cases- allows evidence and discovery and contempt, etc.

Ask for feedback from those who appear regularly in front of the Commissioners how to improve dockets, remote vs hybrid, provide support to pro se, to keep things moving. No back log- staying on top of things.

JUDGE KIESEL

None

9. UPDATES FROM THE TPCBA SECTIONS

FAMILY LAW SECTION—Mark Nelson

DEI Training- June, August, September. Kit sent out flyer.

CLE on RCW 26.64- Parentage and Sexual Assault Act in the works

Uniformed Commissioner Evaluations- Can be applied to all Commissioners. Sent to FL Section.

Technology committee with Judge Ashcraft- to keep show cause and family matters via Zoom

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION—JORDAN COUCH

Nothing but plan to solidify CLE by next month.

10. UPDATES FROM THE BOARD LIAISONS

COLLABORATIVE LAW—LESLIE BOTTIMORE

None.

MINORITY BAR ASSOCIATION—DESIREE HOSANNAH

Revamp program- Kids are tired of Zoom

Program outside, in Eastside of Tacoma, includes BBQ. Trying to engage young people in community.

Trying for August.

Need to secure speakers and funds. Use food and activities to get kids in the door.

Topics also being worked out.

Save the date will be sent out.

LAW SCHOOL LIAISON—JOHN WEAVER

Annette will be retiring after 9 years at Seattle University. More faculty retiring.

New “acting” director of law clinic. Hope she will stay on.

UW will maybe be online graduation and Gonzaga will be live graduation.

LSAT will be reformed in 3 years.

Nat Conf of Bar Examiners will look at impact on Communities of Color, POC

WA WOMEN LAWYERS LIAISON – JENNIFER ANDREWS

Spring Clean will be in May 20, 2021. 4:30-6:00pm. Benefits Closet at Hope Sparks. Drop off at Miranda Banner. Jennifer Andrews office is also drop off location. If you want to attend, send Jennifer an email. Gently used professional clothing.

TACOMAPROBONO—CARLY ROBERTS

HJP- Huge expansion. Awarded 7 new attorney positions and support staff.
Large grant from County to combat evictions/eviction prevention in rural parts of county.
Homeless camp outreach- Comprehensive Resources every Wednesday morning. Legal issues are main reason for homelessness. Trying to help address issues.

Hosted 2 LFO- April and May- very successful. 20% are homeless, 2% own property, 22% incarcerated because of LFO, 40% license suspended, 80% had improved criminal justice system after LFO. Restorative Justice project to rebuild trust in system.

VOLCA approved.

Puyallup of Tribe- Memo of Understanding for Legal Programs and hope for continued funding and expansion.

Eviction Moratorium ends June 30th. Will be busy July 1st.

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION LIAISON- DEE SONNTAG

Calculation of Offender Score CLE
Task force to take care of current charges and looking at those serving time.

WSBA- BRETT PURTZER

The next BOG meeting is this Thursday and Friday, so he will have more to share next meeting. One of the matters that will come up in the upcoming meeting is the election for the next President of the WSBA, so Brett will report the results at the next meeting.

11. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

12. NEXT MEETING

Next Board of Trustees meeting by Zoom, Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 a.m.