

WAUKESHA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Monday, February 19, 2024
via Zoom video conference

Present: Jesse Blocher, Michelle Fitzgerald, Sarah Guenther (Treasurer), Christine Hansen (Secretary), Alexander Kay, Andrea Lau, Corey Montiho (President), Daniel Rieck, Sara Scullen, AnnMarie Sylla (Past President)

Excused: Remzy Bitar, Aaron Hall (President Elect), Jack Pitzo

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Montiho at 12:02 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sarah Guenther circulated the financial reports prior to the meeting. At the meeting Treasurer Guenther provided information about the historical and current status of the WCBA operating account. Discussion was had about controlling costs, pursuing sponsorships, the possibility of raising fees and dues to address rising costs, and potentially transferring money between accounts.

Board of Governor's Update: District 6 Board of Governors (BOG) Representative AnnMarie Sylla reported that the next BOG meeting is at the end of February 2024. District 6, which is comprised of Waukesha County, has three representatives: Sylla, Latrice Knighton, and Alexandra Evans. There are currently two seats available in District 6: hers and Attorney Knighton's. She is completing her second consecutive term. Attorney Knighton moved out of state during her first term which was scheduled to conclude on June 30, 2025. Attorney Blocher is interested in one of the seats and will be circulating nomination papers. Representative Sylla also indicated that she has information on the WILL lawsuit for members who have questions.

Old Business:

1. **October 2023 and January 2024 Minutes:** President Montiho moved to approve the minutes. The October 2023 and January 2024 minutes were approved.
2. **Courthouse Banner:** President Montiho reported that the old WCBA courthouse banner has been destroyed and there is ongoing discussion with Clerk of Court Monica Paz about what new signage opportunity will be available. Treasurer Guenther encouraged us to stay engaged in the discussion with Ms. Paz and Programs and Projects Analyst Kevin Smith.
3. **Presidents Plaque.** Attorney Lau reported that she has received five WCBA plaques for the past presidents and prior WCBA award winners that were previously displayed in the courthouse. Attorney Lau will deliver them to President Montiho. Attorney Sylla has a list of past presidents but not the award winners. The Board has historically used Geiger Awards to update the past presidents plaque.
4. **Judge Strampe Portrait and Portrait Plates:** President Montiho reported that Judge Strampe sat for his portrait October 16, 2023, and proofs have been sent but a portrait has not been selected. President Montiho will follow up with Judge Strampe in two weeks so a final portrait can be selected. Once selected President Montiho will coordinate getting Judge Strampe's, Judge Foster's, Judge Haughney's, Judge Dreyfus's, and Judge Lazar's nameplates made at Geiger Awards so they can be affixed to the portraits by courthouse facilities management to ultimately be rehung in their new location.

- 5. Law Student Membership:** President Montiho had reached out to the law schools about the availability of law student membership in the WCBA but received no response. He will reach out again. Treasurer Guenther suggested connecting with the law in court intern coordinator.

New Business:

- 1. Bench Bar Committee:** Treasurer Guenther will reach out to Presiding Judge Ralph Ramirez on the status of the Bench Bar Committee to see if they have been meeting.
- 2. Website Committee and Training:** President Montiho established a committee to explore updating the current WCBA website. He will lead the committee and is looking for volunteers to join the committee. There is an upcoming training for the current website on March 11, 2024, at noon. Attorney Fitzgerald requested to be included. Attorney Sylla also indicated that there are training videos for the website's operation for those interested.
- 3. Annual Meeting:** Discussion was had about the 2024 annual meeting's location and date. Secretary Hansen and Attorney Sylla agreed to coordinate the event and President Montiho and Attorney Lau offered to help. A recommendation was made to explore facilities for a lunch meeting on a Monday through Thursday the weeks of May 6, 2024 and May 13, 2024. Treasurer Guenther will send out an email to the membership to solicit award nominations and Attorney Sylla will post the same to the website.
- 4. 2024-2025 Calendar of Events.** President Montiho reported that Secretary Hansen recommended setting the WCBA 2024-2025 calendar of events. Discussion had; no objections raised. Treasurer Guenther recommended reviewing the bylaws since they have not been reviewed since 2018 and currently assign the task of organizing and planning events hosted by the WCBA to the past president.
- 5. Other/Board Member Terms:** Past President Sylla indicated that her term on the Board of Directors will be ending in 2024 but she is willing to stay on the board as a director if no one else expresses interest. Treasurer Guenther reported that Attorney Pitzo's and Attorney Lau's terms on the Board of Directors also expire on June 30, 2024. Attorney Lau indicated that she will stay on the Board. President Montiho will need to reach out to Attorney Pitzo to determine if he will also be remaining on the Board.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Secretary Hansen, seconded by President Montiho. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Hansen, Secretary