

**WAUKESHA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Monday, March 25, 2024
via Zoom videoconference**

Present: Sarah Guenther (Treasurer), Christine Hansen (Secretary), Alexander Kay, Corey Montiho (President), Jack Pitzo, AnnMarie Sylla (Past President)

Excused: Remzy Bitar, Jesse Blocher, Michelle Fitzgerald, Aaron Hall (President Elect), Andrea Lau, Daniel Rieck, Sara Scullen

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. Discussion was had at the meeting about the feasibility of transferring money between the accounts to cover costs associated with the annual meeting. Treasurer Guenther also advised that the website domain has been renewed and the DFI annual report has been filed.

Board of Governor's Update: District 6 Board of Governors (BOG) Representative AnnMarie Sylla reported that as a result of State Bar President Elect Jane Bucher being appointed to the Green County Circuit Court, BOG is establishing a special committee to nominate a new president and a special election for State Bar president will be held.

Old Business:

1. **February 2024 Minutes:** Approval of the February 2024 amended minutes was tabled to the April 2024 meeting as a quorum was needed to approve.
2. **Presidents Plaque.** President Montiho reported that he and/or Attorney Lau will be dropping the plaques off at Geiger Awards to be updated.
3. **Judge Strampe Portrait and Portrait Plates:** President Montiho reported that he and/or Attorney Lau will be ordering the nameplates from Geiger Awards for Judge Strampe's, Judge Foster's, Judge Haughney's, Judge Dreyfus's, and Judge Lazar's judicial portraits.

New Business:

1. **Bench Bar Committee:** Treasurer Guenther shared Presiding Judge Ralph Ramirez's request on behalf of the Waukesha County Circuit Court judges that division roundtables be held in lieu of meetings of the WCBA Bench Bar Committee and, since the WCBA currently is not hosting its annual Judges' Update Luncheon, that there be a virtual judge's update in June or July over which Judge Ramirez would preside. Discussion on the history and purpose of both the Bench Bar Committee and the judicial roundtables was had including, but not limited to:

Judicial Roundtables:

- The Family Law Section routinely holds section updates.
- Juvenile Court holds its "Buzz Session" geared toward DHHS.
- The Criminal Law Section will be holding its roundtable in April (see below).
- Probate Section – No information available.
- Civil Litigation Section – No information available.

Bench Bar Committee:

- Has historically met in person quarterly.
- Has included one to two circuit court judges, designated WCBA members, and a representative of the District Attorney's Office, Office of the State Public Defender, and court administration.
- Prior discussion and action items have included courthouse updates, updating the local rules, section issues, and suggesting members for committees.
- The Bench-Bar Committee, while sanctioned as a standing committee in the WCBA bylaws, 7.02 (2018), has not been active since the Covid-19 pandemic.

AnnMarie Sylla recommended keeping both the Bench Bar committee and the section/division roundtables since they have different goals and purposes. No action taken. Further discussion to be had.

- 2. Website Committee and Training:** President Montiho reported that the website training was completed and recorded for Directors to reference as needed. President Montiho is still looking for volunteers for the website update exploration committee.
- 3. Annual Meeting:** Past President Sylla and Christine Hansen reported on possible venues for the 2024 annual meeting. Past President Sylla recommended holding the 2024 annual meeting at the recently renovated Clarke Hotel on May 16, 2024, beginning at noon. The cost of the event was discussed as was the attendance fee. Past President Sylla will obtain a written proposal from the Clarke Hotel to circulate to the Board for review and vote.
- 4. Annual Awards:** Discussion was had about soliciting nominations for the annual Lifetime Achievement Award, Distinguished Member Award, and Community Service Award presented at the annual meeting. Consensus was reached to extend the nomination deadline to April 5, 2024. President Montiho will coordinate with Treasurer Guenther and Past President Sylla to send a reminder email to the membership and to publish on the WCBA website and/or social media pages.
- 5. Board Member Status:** Attorney Pitzo advised that he will not be remaining on the WCBA Board of Directors when his term ends June 30, 2024. As such, there will be at least one seat to fill on the 2024-25 Board of Directors. President Montiho will coordinate with Treasurer Guenther and Past President Sylla for the open position to be posted on the website and for notice of the opening to be sent to the membership. A volunteer is also still needed for secretary. Discussion was had on the duties of the secretary.
- 6. Other/2024 Criminal Justice Roundtable.** Attorney Pitzo advised that the 2024 Criminal Justice Roundtable has been rescheduled to a new prospective date of Monday, April 29, 2024, in Room G55. Food will be provided. Attorney Pitzo will continue to work with Attorney Patrick Campbell of the Criminal Law Section and the criminal bench to coordinate the event. A recommendation was made to send out notice of the change to the membership.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Secretary Hansen, seconded by President Montiho. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Hansen, Secretary