



TCBA Annual Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Present: Michael Pehinec, Lillian Hines, Joseph Kirby, Hayden Brainard, Kelly Damm, Aaron Eberle, Ciano Lama, Clea Weiss, Elizabeth Ahern, Elizabeth Peck, Jessica Rapp, Kathleen Sullivan, Kevin Kelly, Kirstin Tiffany, Kristin Gutenberger, Liam Murphy, Mark Masler, Maura Kennedy-Smith, Ray Schlather, Teresa McNamara, Peter Littman, Tyler Bugden, J Justin Woods.

- I. **2019 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion made to approve minutes; motion seconded; No discussion; Minutes approved unanimously.**
- II. Unfinished Business – none
- III. Induction of New Members - Clea Weiss, introduced herself, solo practice doing appeals. Andrew Melendez – not on call. Lindsay Johnson – not on call. J Justin Woods – hung his shingle this January in Auburn and 18B cases in Tompkins. Tyler Bugden – moved from Salt Lake City, admitted to NY bar transfer from Utah bar, working at Hiscock Legal Aid Society doing legal appeals. Pehinec introduced new members if they were not on the call.
 - a. Motion to accept and induct – Damm moves, Schlather second, no discussion, no objection, Passed to move all 8 members into Tompkins County Bar Association. Congratulations new members.
- IV. Presidents Report – Pehinec reported: not much to add to the written report, 2020 was unique year, it's been difficult to move forward on a lot of things in practice and through the bar association. Kevin Kelly may be new president, want to set up new scholarship program, working with local law firms, have individuals work with local law firms as summer interns to get them involved in the legal community. Work more with McNamara at LAWNY, who may be the new VP. Another project – Peter Walsh, estate planning video on website and explain basics of what to ask and what to look for, encourage them to go to firms instead of going online, not to be intimidated by not knowing what to do. Not to solicit business, but how to videos. Working with JR on Veterans issues. Working with Judge Miller to develop program to identify the people and push them to resources/attorneys to help them. Last year big project was bylaws and we got that done. Carla McKain shared Equal Access to Justice, something we hope to carry forward. Thank Board members for attending meetings. Thanks to Peter Walsh for all he has done on the Board, and Hayden Brainard.
- V. Treasurers Report – posted 2020 report to website and circulated with invitation. Income – member dues, we spent some money on events (from last year). Sent some delegates to House of Delegates Meetings, maintaining website, misc expenses. Dues – chose not to

cancel dues, keeping them the same, because, in the past TCBA operated at a loss, so want to keep dues to have a nest egg so we don't run into problems that we have in the past. Schlather – question regarding dues, if members cannot afford it, but if someone certifies that they cannot afford it, is there a way to waive those dues? Pehinec says the Board may be able to do that, would support new Board doing that, may not even take a certification, just a discussion. Aherne – maybe attorneys and firms would be willing to supplement that. Pehinec – yes, that could be discussed at next meeting. J Justin Woods – two bar associations in NY waived dues to new attorneys in January. Pehinec - will suggest making it an action item, to allow people to take advantage of it.

- VI. Statement by Liam Murphy – Asking the Board to consider adding, making someone available to government structures, to participate in the conversations going on about public safety and equity/inclusion. Judges are overburdened, many hands would make work lighter, encouraging the Board to show what steps are being taken. Would like to see more concrete steps and making opportunities available to be involved in that. Pehinec – will make sure Sindy Garey will send out emails on behalf of the bar, which previously was not happening because there were so many emails with COVID, now have a better procedure in place to correspondence and people can better see what the Board is doing.
- VII. New Business – opened for discussion, no one came forward.
- VIII. Election of Officers and Directors – slate of new board, <http://tompkinsbar.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2021-TCBA-Slate-of-Officers-and-Directors.pdf>. If you ever want to be part of the Board, reach out, we would love to have you. Motion to accept new slate – Judge Kennedy Smith motion, Judge Masler second, opened discussion, no discussion, no objections. Passed.
- IX. Statement by President Elect, Kevin Kelly - thank you. He is excited to work with Carla on access to justice, with Teresa with LAWNY, and Liam on systematic bias. Thank you.
- X. Motion to adjourn – Kevin Kelly motion to adjourn, Joe Kirby second, motion to adjourn 2020 meeting passed. Adjourned at 5:49pm.

Next Meeting Date: TBD