



TCDLA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Saturday, September 12, 2015
Sheraton Galleria Center
Dallas, Texas

Introduction:

Sam Bassett, President calls the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was present. Sam recognized all the past presidents, guests and new board members.

Roll Call:

Officers

- P Sam Bassett, President
- E John Convery, Pres-Elect
- P David Moore, 1st VP
- P Mark Snodgrass, 2nd VP
- P Kerri Anderson-Donica,
Treasurer
- P Grant Scheiner,
Secretary
- P Michael Gross, *Voice*
Editor

Directors

- P Susan Anderson
- E Marjorie Bachman
- P Heather Barbieri
- E Robert Barrera
- P Curtis Barton
- E Rick Berry
- E Fred C. Brigman, III
- P F. Clinton Broden
- E Jim Darnell
- P Nicole DeBorde
- P Don Flanary

- E Steven Gordon
- P Deandra Grant
- P Keith Hampton
- P Melissa Hannah
- P Jo Ann Jacinto
- P Steve Keathley
- P Laurie Key
- P Adam Kobs
- P Bradley Lollar
- A Louis Lopez
- P Jani Maselli Wood
- P Hiram McBeth
- A Michael McDougal
- P George Milner, III
- P Angela Moore
- P Anthony Odiorne
- P Stephanie Patten
- E Oscar Pena
- A Carole Powell
- A Bennie Ray
- P Ray Rodriguez, Jr.
- P Sarah Roland
- P Jeremy Rosenthal
- P David Ryan

- P John Hunter Smith
- A Ed Stapleton
- P George Taylor
- A Oscar Vega
- P Greg Westfall

Associate Directors

- P Chris Abel
- P Roberto Balli
- P Casie Gotro
- P Michael Head
- P Susan Kelly
- P Nathan Miller
- P Michelle Moore
- P Audrey Moorehead
- E Michelle Ochoa
- P Scott Pawgan
- P Carmen Roe
- E Frank Sellers
- E Monique Sparks
- P Courtney Stamper
- E Mark Thiessen
- A Greg Waldron

Key: P = Present; E = Excused Absence; A = Unexcused Absence

Past Presidents in Attendance: Mark Daniel, Tim Evans, William Harris, Ron Goranson, Bobby Mims

Guests: Chris Reyes, Bill Mason, Kristen Brown

Staff: Joseph Martinez, Melissa Schank, Rick Wardroup, Mari Flores

President Announcements: Sam Bassett (Sam) welcomed everyone to the board meeting and said how excited he is to be here.

Recognitions, *Sam Bassett*

Sam gave recognition to Robb Fickman for all his organization and work for the Declaration of Independence Readings.

Timothy Cole Commission, *Sam Bassett*

Sam will participate on the committee as an advisor. John Convery is invited to continue to serve next year as TCDLA President or appoint someone.

NACDL Report

Indigent Defense Report was given and John Convery will spearhead this issue and work with NACDL.

Charles Butts Memorial Scholarship

Sam has created a Charles Butts Memorial Scholarship funded through TCDLEI. You may donate through the TCDLA office.

NACDL Reception and Seminar, *Sam Bassett*

NACDL will have a Midwinter Conference Mental Health on February 17-20, 2016, in Austin. TCDLA and others will sponsor a Texas style reception. Contact TCDLA office if you would like to be a sponsor.

Fallen Heroes, *Michael Gross*

A moment of silence was given in recognition of fallen hero Charlie Butts who was a founding father of TCDLA from San Antonio.

MOTION: Minutes – June 20, 2015

Motion to adopt the minutes from the TCDLA Board Meeting on June 20, 2015, in San Antonio made by Michael Gross, seconded by Susan Anderson - motion carries.

Executive Director's Report, *Joseph Martinez*

- Thanked Melissa for handling all the insurance and remodeling from the flood in the office.
- Joseph gave on State Bar report of cle providers in Texas.
- The Court of Criminal Appeals has increased their 401k contribution for employees from 8% to 9.5%. Executive committee has approved increase and to update the personnel manual.

MOTION: 401K

Motion to increase TCDLA 401k contribution for employees from 8% to 9.5% made by Susan Anderson, seconded by Bob Hinton – motion carries.

Seminars, *Melissa Schank*

TCDLA continues to work hard to differentiate TCDLA seminars. We encourage everyone to help promote and encourage seminar attendance. TCDLA will work with anyone on setting up payment plans for Psychodrama in Round top, October 7-10, 2015.

TCDLEI has given \$40k in scholarships, we encourage everyone to donate, and staff have iPad set up to take donations today!

DWI seminars continue to be challenging with many new entities putting on seminars. Melissa encouraged board members to “Accept No Substitutes” and come to a TCDLA DWI event, special discounted rates for attending multiple DWI events in a year. Visit the website to see some of the new topics for cle this year!

Membership, *Melissa Schank*

We are down by 99 from the same time frame last year. We encourage everyone to review the board complimentary non renewals lists included in board packets, please contact members you have endorsed.

Publications, *Rick Wardroup*

Rick is working on completing all the publications for immediate print and distribution. He welcomes any suggestions or assistance. A suggestion was made to create a Gun Law cheat sheet.

Capital Assistance Report, *Rick Wardroup*

Rick reported that the CCLI, bring-your-own-case grant had not been renewed through the CCA by the Department of Justice and that efforts were made to determine whether TCDLA could put on a similar program but that it was determined that such an effort wasn't possible because the CCA grant would not allow use of funds to train on on-going cases so long as the case could end up being considered by the CCA. Therefore, the capital trainings at South Padre Island in November and in Houston in February 2016, would be the usual lecture type program.

Budget and Finance Committee, *Kerri Anderson-Donica*

Researching ideas for investments. Kerri thanked Mari for all her assistance on the budget preparation. Monthly Reserve Transfers will be on hold from Sept – Jan during our lowest cash flow months and will resume in February once property taxes have been paid The full amount budgeted for reserve transfers will be transferred between February – August.

MOTION: FY 2015-16 TCDLA Budget

Motion to approve FY 2015-16 TCDLA Budget made by Roberto Balli, seconded by Susan Anderson – motion carries.

Check Signers

Executive committee has come up with a new policy to rotate the check signing duties amongst the TCDLA officers.

MOTION: Check Signers – TCDLA Officers

Motion to approve TCDLA Officers to be check signers: Sam Bassett, John Convery, Mark Snodgrass, David Moore, Kerri Anderson-Donica and Grant Scheiner made by David Ryan, seconded by Nicole DeBorde – motion carries.

CDLP, *Jani Maselli Wood*

Jani gave appreciation to the Court of Criminal Appeals for funding CDLP events. CDLP trained 3,052 and over 290 hours of cle. Jani thanked everyone in the room for helping out and asked for any suggestions for future events.

Jani invited everyone to come together to South Padre Island for CLE and the Members' Retreat! This is a great opportunity to speak at the traveling seminars and meet new attorneys and create new camaraderie.

- Tuesday, July 13-17, 2016 – Members' Retreat with President Elect John Convery
- Wednesday, July 13, 2016 – Trainer of Trainers
- Thursday/Friday, 14-15, 2016 – Upholding Justice – One Client at a Time
- Saturday, July 16, 2016 – TCDLA/TCDLEI/CDLP Orientation

Voice for Defense, Michael Gross

Voice is great! Michael recognized Greg Westfall for all his work on creating and setting up the online *Voice* and blog.

Rusty Duncan, Heather Barbieri

More to come – save the date June 16-18, 2016 in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

Lobbyist Report, Allen Place

Sam recognized Allen for all of his work during the session. Allen gave an update on replacing the general counsel/lobbyist position. The executive committee is searching for replacement. The Executive Committee voted this morning to place an ad for the position and will interview.

Affiliate Report, Susan Anderson

Susan is trying to compile a list of all local bars. Staff will send a current list of local bars from the home office.

Amicus Curiae, Angela Moore

Angela reported the current decision process of determining when an issue should be handled through the Amicus Committee which included the General Counsel's input. Angela receives 2-3 requests a week to assist in Amicus. Angela is going to look at NACDL and other state organization's guidelines to see how to improve the current process in order to have some consistency.

By-Laws, Adam Kobs

Adam distributed and reviewed TCDLA Bylaws passed June 2013 regarding Internet Voting procedures. Discussion was held on how the online voting between the board meetings would be conducted. Under the procedures online voting is to be used when an emergency issue comes up in between board meetings and Executive Committee determines a vote is needed.

In near future, the board will be asked to decide whether past presidents maintain the ability to vote. A heated debate was held regarding past presidents voting. This will be on the December Board meeting agenda. Bylaws committee will come up with a report with several options including no changes be made.

Corrections and Parole, David O'Neil

As of August 31st, Rusty Owens is off of the Parole Board. David gave an update on new sentencing guidelines for cases involving aggravate sexual and capital. 500 new beds for DWI program (Bryan and Lockhart) Legislature has changed several laws effecting paroles.

DWI Resource, *Deandra Grant*

Deandra gave kudos to Carmen Roe, Brian Wice, Jed Silverman, Steve Gonzalez, Danny Easterling and Grant Scheiner. Please help promote Stuart Kinard DWI seminar in November 12-13, 2015 in San Antonio. Mark would like to implement a certificate of recognition if you attended all five DWI seminars in two years. This will be brought up to the Executive Committee.

A DWI transcript databank has been created on the TCDLA website. Send transcripts you have to mschank@tcdla.com to be placed on the members' only resource section.

Technology, *Melissa Schank*

Special recognition to Robert Guest for starting and completing a transcript database. They are now available online in the members' only section. If you have any transcripts in the subject send to mschank@tcdla.com.

Prosecutorial Integrity, *Sarah Roland*

Since the board meeting four issues have come up. The committee is currently reviewing volumes of transcripts.

Strike Force, *Nicole DeBorde*

Nicole gave an update. Strike Force's role is to assist attorneys who are being attacked. In other circumstances not within Strike Force guidelines they will be referred to Amicus, Prosecutorial or Judicial committee.

Members Trip, Board Meeting & Federal Law CLE, *Sam Bassett*

Sam invited board members travel to New Orleans for Members Trip, Board Meetings and Federal Law CLE. Make your hotel reservations now limited room at the hotel Monteleone.

- Wednesday, February 10-14, 2016 – Members' Retreat with Sam Bassett
- Thursday/Friday, February 11-12, 2016 – Federal Law
- Saturday, February 13, 2016 – TCDLA Board/Executive and CDLP Meetings

Old Business

Waco Update, *Susan Kelly*

TCDLA continues to support and work with the local Waco bar. Keith Hampton provided an update and may be contacted for additional information.

New Business

MOTION: SABA Resolution for Jimmy Ellison

Motion to create a resolution for recognition of Jimmy Ellison, Executive Director of San Antonio Bar Association made by Michael Gross, seconded by George Milner – motion carries.

MOTION: Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 12:20 pm. Made by David Ryan, seconded by Susan Anderson – motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,
Grant Scheiner
TCDLA Secretary