

To the Board of Directors of the Texas Bar:

In re: January 22nd, 2021 meeting

Topics addressed:

- *The perceived value of online digital discussion forums for rules votes; and
- *The perceived value of lowering the signature requirements for petition candidates for the Bar presidency (such as Steve Bolden & Steve Fischer, etc.).
- *Reform proposals for the Texas Bar's grievance process.

RULES REFERENDUM DISCUSSION FORUMS:

Why are there no active digital discussion forums available at (or linked from) the Texas Bar's rules vote page?

<https://www.texasbar.com/rulesvote>

Might you remember the ones that I'm 99% sure were on the TexasBar website during the 2011 referendum process? They were helpful. Why not launch new ones, or at least link to external ones as long as censorship is not allowed at those?

The CDRR forums for the rules change proposals pertained to prior versions of at least some of the proposed rule amendments. They are also no longer active. Meanwhile external circumstances have changed for at least one of the rule change proposals, involving the increasingly bankrupt federal government from which a growing quantity of folks in different states want to secede instead of achieving reciprocity. New forums are therefore warranted, por favor.

The forums a decade ago were quite helpful. Otherwise folks have to listen to each presentation to learn of others' feedback. That isn't cost-effective. Searchable forums could be quite the fad, inspiring higher vote percentages.

Online forums for writing our feedback about proposed rule changes help those bar members who would like to read others' posts and make their own posts as well. For the same reasons that a newspaper article about a public event is more useful than having to attend and try to hear and take note of everything, digital online discussion forums are probably between one million and two million times more helpful to the legal community and Texas, overall, than mere verbal comment venues (in person or online). They're also far more useful to attorneys than a typical nonlawyer journalist's brief coverage in some newspaper article. That comment is not intended to belittle the great contributions that honest journalists make to our democracy, but rather to focus on the needs of the legal community when evaluating amendment proposals. Online digital discussion forums are the way to go, are they not?

It might be that TexasBar.com could benefit by merely linking to external online discussion forums for such rules discussions. Any such forum should be pre-certified as being open to any and all attorney members though. Those known to be available are linked, below, at TexasBarSunset.com.

Including such forums could boost the perception that we do indeed have self-rule within the Texas Bar, such that it's worth keeping around.

SIGNATURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PETITION CANDIDATES:

Also, it would be worthwhile lowering the signature requirements for petition candidates for the Bar presidency (such as Steve Bolden & Steve Fischer, etc.). Petition candidates' participation has boosted voter participation rates in the past, as one can confirm at:

<http://www.TexasBarSunset.com/voter-abstention>

GRIEVANCE REFORM FEEDBACK REQUESTED:

Finally, are there any proposals regarding grievance reform here:

<http://www.TexasBarSunset.com/reforms>

to which you object? If so, would you please e-mail me as to why, so that I can try to shed any ignorance which might still plague me about them? Such communication can be done confidentially if you prefer.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich

(***Rich Robins is a Texas-based, bilingual litigator of contract disputes, statewide. Although he has never been publicly or privately sanctioned by any bar authority in any state or country, Rich finds the current Texas attorney disciplinary system to be counterproductively potentially hazardous for well-meaning attorneys, and also unnecessarily cost-increasing for honest clients. All of Rich's Sunset-related and Texas Bar-policing work is proudly done strictly as an unpaid volunteer.)

Rich Robins, Esq.
Editor, <http://www.TexasBarSunset.com>
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Houston, TX 77006-2380
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Subject: REFORMATTED Commentary re: rules referendum digital discussion forums & petition candidates
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 5:17:36 PM Central Standard Time
From: Rich Robins
To: BoardofDirectors
Attachments: Bar board submission Jan. 22 2021.pdf

* State Bar of Texas External Message * - Use Caution Before Responding or Opening Links/Attachments

There are formatting issues with the e-mail that I sent a few minutes ago. I am sending a slightly polished & modified version in .pdf format now, as well as a textual one below.

Thank you for your attention to public commentary,
Rich

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