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2018-2019 State Bar of Texas

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports are included in the July issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* to update Texas lawyers on State Bar activities. The reports do not necessarily reflect the position or official policy of the State Bar of Texas, which is formulated by the State Bar Board of Directors or by the membership through referendum. For more information or to complete a Committee Volunteer Interest Form, go to texasbar.com/committees or call 800-204-2222, ext. 1516.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—BUSINESS, CONSUMER, INSURANCE, AND EMPLOYMENT • PATTERN JURY CHARGES—CRIMINAL
PATTERN JURY CHARGES—FAMILY AND PROBATE • PATTERN JURY CHARGES—GENERAL NEGLIGENCE, INTENTIONAL PERSONAL
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TEXAS BAR JOURNAL BOARD OF EDITORS • WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION

ADMINISTRATION OF RULES OF EVIDENCE

Leslie Sara Hyman, Chair

The Administration of Rules of Evidence Committee continues to evaluate the rules of evidence to ensure they are internally consistent, match the actual practice of law, and, to the extent possible, track the Federal Rules of Evidence.

Issues currently under substantive review, and the subcommittee chairpersons:

Alex Bell chairs a subcommittee considering whether audit response letters should be included within the protections of Rule 503.

Peter Haskel chairs a subcommittee considering amendments to Rule 503(b)(1)(C).

Johnathan Stone chairs a committee considering whether the limited accountant privilege contained in the Texas Occupations Code warrants a change to the Texas Rules of Evidence.

Two subcommittees chaired by Bell are reviewing the latest changes to the federal authentication and hearsay rules to determine whether to make corresponding changes to the Texas rules.

In March, the committee formed a subcommittee to review the Texas Supreme Court's decision in *In re City of Dickinson* to consider whether to propose amendments to the rules in light of the decision.

ADVERTISING REVIEW

Chuck Noteboom, Chair

Letters sent to lawyers about non-compliance were changed and now there is no referral to disciplinary counsel by bar staff without Advertising Review Committee approval. Lawyers can now appeal staff decisions about compliance to the ARC.

Advertising Review Rules were simplified and are in the approval process. The committee created an educational initiative for encouraging lawyers to report ads (Rule 7.07 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct), including webpages, as the committee wants to avoid imposing penalties for failing to do so.

The committee is researching law office marketing firms, especially ones where

lawyers pay to be on "best lawyer lists," to ensure validity. A rating service for lawyer services vendors is in the beginning stage. The concept is to protect Texas lawyers by allowing lawyers only to visit the website and review these services, similar to Google or Yelp reviews.

ANNUAL MEETING

Karen Burgess, Co-Chair

Cliff Gunter, Co-Chair

The 2019 Annual Meeting took place in Austin on June 13-14. The Annual Meeting Committee offered a diverse selection of quality CLE.

With more than 80 informative learning sessions, this year's meeting featured programs for everyone, from the first-year associate to the seasoned professional. State Bar sections provided practice-specific programs as well as joint events, including the Adaptable Lawyer Track, the Business Law Section and Corporate Counsel Section, and a legislative update.

During Friday's General Session, 2018-2019 President Joe K. Longley gave parting remarks, and Randall O. Sorrels was sworn in as 2019-2020 president of the State Bar. At the Texas Young Lawyers Association reception, 2018-2019 TYLA President Sally Pretorius thanked young lawyers for their service and gave farewell remarks. Victor Flores was sworn in as the 2019-2020 president of TYLA. The Austin community and law firms statewide deserve acknowledgement and gratitude for their dedicated support of the Annual Meeting.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2020 Annual Meeting in Dallas on June 25-26.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Tiffany Crouch Bartlett, Chair

Since 1985, the Child Abuse and Neglect Committee has worked to ameliorate child abuse and neglect by creating resources for the public and planning continuing legal education tracts for attorneys. In August 2018, the committee presented a Child Abuse and Neglect Workshop at the 44th annual Advanced Family Law Course

in San Antonio, which included sessions about the ethical duties of attorneys, judicial ethics, and a caselaw update.

In January 2018, the State Bar Board of Directors approved the Child Protection Law Section. Members of the committee were instrumental in forming the section, and some now serve on the section's council. During the bar's biennial committee review, the board's Committee Review Subcommittee recommended that the committee be sunsetted in favor of the section, since the Child Protection Law Section would afford more opportunities to serve the core missions of public and attorney education. To learn more about improving the practice of child protection law, please go to childprotectionlawtx.com.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Hon. Xavier Rodriguez, Chair

The Continuing Legal Education Committee met with the State Bar Board of Director's Professional Development Subcommittee and bar staff to propose topics for CLE programs and to discuss challenges and opportunities facing TexasBarCLE and TexasBarBooks. TexasBarCLE will emphasize in its programs practical consequences—how changes in law affect practice. Scholarships are available for all CLE programs and TexasBarBooks publications. The number of applicants has steadily grown allowing more attorneys to attend events. Expanding webcasts and online classes remains a priority.

In 2018, the committee drafted a joint resolution with the Board PDP Subcommittee urging recognition of the technical competency requirement. After consideration by the Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda, the Texas Supreme Court amended Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 1.01 to reflect that remaining proficient in the practice of law includes knowledge of technology benefits and risks. TexasBarCLE and the Computer & Technology Section have created free videos addressing these technology issues, listed online at texasbar.com/tech-resources.

TexasBarBooks added the *Texas Probate System* to its online subscription service. The TexasBarBooks online library now includes all TexasBarBooks practice manuals. New editions in the Texas Pattern Jury Charges and the Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges series were also released this year.

COURT RULES

Giana Ortiz, Chair

In September 2018, the Court Rules Committee submitted a proposal to the Texas Supreme Court establishing a procedure for victims who are minors to identify anonymous cyberbullies. The committee also proposed an amendment to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 21a to clarify that parties may serve discovery via electronic filing.

In March 2019, the committee submitted a number of proposed amendments for consideration. First, the committee proposed a new rule providing mandatory trial continuance for the parental leave of a lead attorney upon the birth or adoption of a child, regardless of the applicant's gender. Second, the committee proposed an amendment to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 190.4 to clarify that a continuance does not modify other discovery-control-plan dates, absent an agreement or court order. Third, the committee proposed an amendment to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 193.3(b) to clarify that a court may impose sanctions for the failure of a party to comply with a privilege-log request. Finally, the committee proposed an amendment to Texas Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 273 to clarify jury submission procedure.

The committee continues to consider and analyze other proposed rule amendments including to Texas Rules of Civil Procedure Rules 99, 107, 190.3, 199.4 and Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure Rule 49, as well as a proposed process for statewide vacation letters.

DISABILITY ISSUES

Sean Pevsner, Chair

This year, the Disability Issues Committee continued to educate the public and members of the bar on legal issues

facing Texans with disabilities. Guest speakers visited the committee to speak on disability rights law. The committee collaborated with these speakers to create CLE courses on supported decision-making and obtaining bar exam accommodations. The committee is planning a disabled veterans' benefits course and continues to cosponsor the Special Education, Child Welfare, and the Juvenile Justice System CLE.

The committee continues to support Texas courthouse compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act by collaborating with different state courts to ensure court personnel are providing reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities who attend court hearings. The committee supports State Bar compliance by advising the board of directors and State Bar staff on ADA issues.

To learn more about the Disability Issues Committee and the CLE courses, go to texasbar.com/disabilityissues.

DIVERSITY IN THE PROFESSION

Glen Hill, Chair

The Diversity in the Profession Committee continued to enhance opportunities for attorneys from diverse backgrounds and to increase the participation of these attorneys in State Bar activities. The committee furthered these goals by promoting its flagship program, the Texas Minority Counsel Program, or TMCP, and sponsoring several statewide mentoring and education programs. TMCP provided mentoring, networking, and business development opportunities for attorneys who desire to work in or with law firms, corporations, or government entities. The committee sponsored the Texas Minority Law Student Program at UNT Dallas College of Law and Texas Tech University School of Law, which gave law students advice on clerkship and networking and mock interview feedback from local attorneys. This year, the committee facilitated the Texas Minority Attorney Program, which provided networking opportunities for solo practitioners and small-firm attorneys from diverse backgrounds.

The committee obtained in-kind

sponsorships to offset bar exam preparation course tuition for five class of 2019 law school graduates. Additionally, the committee applied for a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation to increase the number of scholarships and provide the scholarship program with dependable resources for fiscal year 2020.

JURY SERVICE

Kaci Singer, Chair

The purpose of the Jury Service Committee is to improve the treatment of jurors within the judicial process and to develop and implement programs to ensure broad citizenship and support.

In 2015, the Legislature designated the first week of May as Jury Appreciation Week. The committee has provided information to judges and clerks regarding ideas for celebrating the week, including the ability to order stickers for those serving on a jury during the week.

This year, the committee began preparing a public service announcement regarding jury service as well as an announcement sharing information on perpetual jury service scams seen throughout the state and country.

LAW FOCUSED EDUCATION

Kevin Vela, Chair

The Law Focused Education Committee launched the web-based project *What Do Attorneys Do?* Scenarios added this year showcase different types of attorneys and were designed to start discussions with students during classroom visits. The committee also added grade level activities and an elementary book list to the website. These resources aid attorneys during classroom visits and allow students to explore the roles of lawyers. In response to requests, the committee created a section providing Celebrate Freedom Week ideas. These materials are available for free download on the State Bar of Texas Law-Related Education website, texaslre.org.

Using these web-based programs, committee members gave presentations to classrooms, community groups, and local bar associations. Members continued to meet with local school districts, private school networks, and community

groups, providing materials developed by the LRE department. Members also spoke at events and promoted the use of the website.

LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Penny Robe, Chair

The Law Practice Management Committee worked to fulfill its three purposes: (1) programs, publications, and other activities conducive to the effective, ethical management of the delivery of legal services; (2) the delivery of legal services at reasonable prices, with sufficient return to ensure the viability of the profession; and (3) an increase in the management knowledge and skills of the members of the bar.

The committee began the year presenting a daylong seminar on June 22, 2018, at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Houston. Throughout the year, members of the committee provided ongoing mentorship and training to lawyers in the Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator.

In 2018, the committee contributed ideas and support to the Lawyer Well-Being Roundtable initiative where it focused on law practice management as a stress reduction tool for Texas lawyers.

Finally, the committee continued to support the Law Practice Management website, found at texaslawpractice.com. The website had an average of approximately 1,600 visitors per month. "What to do if Your Attorney Dies, Disappears, Becomes Disabled, or is Suspended or Disbarred" remained the most visited webpage, as well as the most frequently asked question on the Law Practice Management hotline and email forum.

LAWS RELATING TO IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY

Linda Alice Brandmiller, Chair

The Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality Committee had another active year developing creative ways to educate and connect the bar and beyond on trending immigration issues. New *Ten Minute Mentor* videos include I-9s, citizenship, asylum, and the caravan. The website was

launched, and the committee submitted articles to the *Texas Bar Journal* for an immigration issue in May.

The fall Rio Grande Valley meeting included an update from the public defender, a former forensic consultant for the South Texas Human Rights Center, and the committee participated in citizenship training with ARISE, which is currently working on Department of Justice accreditation.

The winter El Paso meeting included a visit to the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Meeting with staff offers insight into new policies and practices and allows the committee to prepare clients and attorneys for visa processing. The committee received information from a Citizenship and Immigration Services adjudicator and the legal coordinator from Annunciation House, which receives hundreds of released immigrants weekly.

The summer meeting continues to be coordinated with the Immigration and Nationality Law Section at the Annual Meeting in Austin. The committee has invited State Bar officers to events throughout the year to share information.

LAWYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Vickie Mather, Chair

The Lawyers' Assistance Program Committee aids the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program, or TLAP, in facilitating substance use, mental health disorders, and well-being programs.

The Law School and Special Populations Subcommittee made over 30 presentations about well-being to law students and was present at every Texas law school orientation this year. The subcommittee sponsored five wellness forums during ABA Mental Health Week and provided information at wellness fairs. TLAP is coordinating with the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the Office of Minority Affairs to expand its outreach.

The Anti-Stigma Subcommittee prepared materials attacking the stigma of getting help with mental health issues and distributed them to places lawyers frequent. In May, TLAP filmed a video featuring recovering bar leaders that breaks down this stigma.

The Improving Help to the Impaired Lawyer Subcommittee initiated a project in which attorneys from each major community in Texas provide important information about local resources and support groups for mental health and substance use. The subcommittee plans to launch a telephonic program to support lawyers in rural areas.

To get help with mental health and substance abuse issues, please call the confidential TLAP line at 800-343-8527 (TLAP).

LEGAL SERVICES TO THE POOR IN CIVIL MATTERS

Brian McGiverin, Chair

The Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters Committee serves as a clearinghouse to monitor developments in and facilitate coordination of efforts with legal aid providers, private organizations, and local bars. The volunteer members of the committee help the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors carry out one of the bar's core missions: to "assure all citizens equal access to justice."

Every year, the committee applauds efforts that increase access to justice through its Pro Bono Excellence Awards. This year's recipients were recognized at the State Bar's Annual Meeting in June. The committee worked to diversify attendance at access to justice breakouts at the Bar Leaders Conference, which takes place on July 26-27 in Houston. The committee is also organizing events and distributing information for Pro Bono Week in October.

The committee is developing model local rules and recommendations for improving the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure that will reduce unintended negative consequences for indigent parties in the legal system. The committee will actively engage with stakeholders in the areas of family law and consumer debt, as well as with legal aid providers and the judiciary.

LEGAL SERVICES TO THE POOR IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

Fred Hernandez, Chair

The Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters Committee serves one of the State Bar's purposes by providing

legal services to and combatting current legal issues of the indigent. The committee comprises members of the judiciary, prosecution, and public defense, as well as representatives of court administration, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations with a focus on indigent defense.

Projects this year included: (1) creating a “Padilla project” resource to help courts and indigent defense counsel meet their *Padilla* obligations; (2) preparing a report about the value of a state defender’s office that would be the equivalent of the state prosecuting attorney’s office; (3) developing continuing legal education webinars on indigent defense issues; and (4) reviewing state mentoring programs to develop recommendations for mentoring indigent defense attorneys.

The committee also received excellent recommendations for its Michael K. Moore and Warren Burnett awards. The awards recognize individuals or groups who provide exceptional research or writing representing significant contributions to the knowledge and practice of law as well as providing quality legal representation to indigent defendants in Texas. This year’s recipients will be recognized at the State Bar’s Advanced Criminal Law Course.

LOCAL BAR SERVICES

Santos Vargas, Chair

The Local Bar Services Committee has the express purpose of enhancing communication between State Bar leadership and local bar leaders to assist local bars in the management and development of their associations. The committee’s signature event, the Bar Leaders Conference, brings local bar leaders and State Bar officers and directors together to discover resources and new strategies to tackle common challenges.

The committee also plans the annual Law Day contest and Stars of Texas Bars Awards. The State Bar and Texas Young Lawyers Association presented statewide awards at the Law Day ceremony in Austin. This year’s theme, “Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society,” encouraged students to reflect on why the separation of powers is fundamental to our constitutional purpose. The Stars of Texas Bars Awards recognize local bar associations.

Award recipients were acknowledged at the Bar Leaders Recognition Luncheon during the 2019 Annual Meeting on June 13 in Austin.

Outreach to local bar associations through State Bar leadership, staff, and the committee remains strong. Some of the resources available to local bars include speaker coordination, membership assistance, program coordination, and guidance on creating a new association.

MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Nathan Anderson, Chair

The Minimum Continuing Legal Education Committee administers the program of minimum continuing legal education as established by Article XII of the State Bar Rules. The MCLE Department received more than 650,000 attendance records and 30,000 applications for accreditation of CLE activities this year, and over 90% of submissions were received electronically via the MCLE website.

The committee continued its study of the Accreditation Standards for CLE Activities to determine if definitions need revisions due to recent wellness and technology initiatives. The committee also evaluated the effectiveness of the sponsor and member portals that allow for online submissions and tracking course applications.

This year, the MCLE Committee initiated a study of interactive online CLE programs. The purpose of this study was to consider changes to the Texas MCLE regulations that would allow credit for interactive or gaming type CLE programs, such as interactive courtroom skills programs. Sponsors of interactive CLE may apply for provisional MCLE accreditation if they are able to estimate time of completion for their activities and agree to forward evaluations and participation results to the MCLE Committee for review.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—BUSINESS, CONSUMER, INSURANCE, AND EMPLOYMENT

William John Chriss, Chair

The Texas Pattern Jury Charges—

Business, Consumer, Insurance, and Employment Committee is pleased to have published its 2018 edition.

The volume has been updated to reflect new statutory and caselaw. The contracts section has been expanded to include new questions and instructions on ambiguity and on reformation as an affirmative cause of action. It also now includes materials on money had and received, voluntary payment, and unjust enrichment. Our committee has worked closely with the PJC—Oil and Gas Committee’s volume for several years to draft new contracts material and to update existing material included in the contracts section of both volumes.

The committee has also worked closely with the other PJC volumes and the PJC Oversight Committee to update comments relating to broad form submission and the preservation of charge error and to include new material on Fifth Amendment privilege.

The committee is now working on its 2020 edition and will continue to work closely with the other volumes to address overlapping issues.

The committee will post all new drafts to texasbarbooks.net before publication and welcomes input from the bench and bar. Please send comments, questions, and suggestions for new topics to books@texasbar.com.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—CRIMINAL

Wendell A. Odom, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—Criminal Committee is responsible for maintaining four published volumes of model jury instructions for use in criminal cases. The committee recently released the 2018 edition of the second volume of the series, *Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges—Defenses*. In this edition, the self-defense instructions have been supplemented with instructions on the threat of deadly force under Texas Penal Code § 9.04 and an alternative instruction concerning the effect of finding the defendant committed a weapons offense. The volume also includes revisions to the self-defense commentary and new instructions on the reasonable discipline, educator-student, and guardian-incom-

petent defenses. The committee has also made substantial headway on its revisions to *Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges—Intoxication, Controlled Substance & Public Order Offenses*, to be released later this year.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—FAMILY AND PROBATE

JoAl Cannon Sheridan, Chair

Following the publication of the 2016 edition of *Texas Pattern Jury Charges—Family & Probate*, the committee made several updates for the 2018 edition. The instruction on joint managing conservators was revised to include an explanation of geographic restrictions. The committee added a new question and comment on reimbursement of attorneys' fees by a party who has acted in bad faith or without just cause in guardianship proceedings. Commentary on exculpatory clauses in express trusts was revised and included a new instruction on bad faith and a revised instruction on intentional conduct. The committee is monitoring 2019 legislation that will require updates to the existing charges and comments for incorporation in the 2020 edition.

Drafts of the committee's work will be posted on texasbarbooks.net before publication. Feedback is welcomed from the bench and bar members. Comments and questions, as well as suggestions for new topics to be included in future editions, may be sent to books@texasbar.com.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—GENERAL NEGLIGENCE, INTENTIONAL PERSONAL TORTS, AND WORKERS COMPENSATION

Daniel B. Linebaugh, Chair

The committee continues reviewing the 2018 volume for any appropriate updates for the next publication. As such, the committee is in the process of updating the commentary to PJC 3.4 (Unavoidable Accident) and PJC 28.3 (Personal Injury Damages—Basic Question) to include citations to more recent caselaw. Additionally, in accordance with the *Nabors* opinion, the committee is updating PJC 10.12 (Negligent Entrustment—Reckless, Incompetent, or Unlicensed Driver) and 10.13 (Neg-

ligent Entrustment—Defective Vehicle) to provide the term injury as a bracketed option for these jury questions.

The committee is evaluating what refinements, if any, are appropriate to the nuisance and theft liability chapters. The committee is currently studying PJC 28.8 (Exclusionary Instruction for Other Condition) and 28.9 (Exclusionary Instruction for Preexisting Condition That Is Aggravated) to ensure that they are provided proper context and accurately reflect Texas law.

Finally, the committee is investigating whether jury charges based on pre-2003 law should remain in the 2020 edition of the book.

The committee welcomes new ideas and may be contacted at books@texasbar.com.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—MALPRACTICE, PREMISES, AND PRODUCTS

Jack E. McGehee, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—Malpractice, Premises, and Products Committee continues to develop new charges and commentary addressing numerous areas of law. In medical malpractice, the committee continues to evaluate Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act questions, preservation of error, and statutory references where the underlying statutes have been modified. The committee is also reviewing emergency medical care issues following the *Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital v. D.A. & M.A.* opinion. Additional work continues in the new section involving actions against attorneys, with additional charges that address issues such as degree of care and liability under the Deceptive Trade Practices Act. The committee continued to refine premises liability sections where the plaintiff was an invitee. The committee is also watching for guidance involving the Texas Tort Claims Act, allocation of damages in certain employee injury cases, and other areas. The committee has increased its communication with other PJC committees to standardize common interest areas. The committee understands the importance of its work and is truly dedicated to "getting it right."

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—OIL AND GAS

Ricardo Morales, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—Oil and Gas Committee is pleased to have published its second edition. The committee met regularly to draft new material and update existing charges. The 2018 edition includes an updated contracts section with new questions on reformation as an affirmative cause of action and ambiguity. The committee worked with the Business and Oversight committees on material included in those volumes.

The committee is updating materials and developing new topics for the 2020 edition. The committee is expanding its Improper Use of Real Property Section and will work with PJC—General Negligence as it develops material relevant to both volumes. The committee will update sections as needed to reflect new caselaw and statutory law and will draft additional questions to address any gaps in the current charges. The committee will continue to work closely with the other volumes and PJC Oversight.

The committee will post drafts of new charges prior to publications. Comments and questions from the bench and bar, as well as suggestions for new topics, are welcome and may be sent to books@texasbar.com.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—OVERSIGHT

Jane Bland, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—Oversight Committee refers developments in Texas law and public comments to the appropriate PJC committee, resolves inconsistencies and differing approaches in the volumes through collaboration with the PJC committees, and reviews proposed additions and revisions before publication. The committee provides feedback to the volumes and seeks the best way to alert Texas practitioners to changes in the law.

This year, the committee approved numerous additions, including misappropriation of trade secrets (PJC Business); self-defense, deadly force, and tampering with government records (PJC Criminal); property damage in light of *J & D Towing, LLC v. Am. Alternative Ins. Corp.*, 478 S.W.3d 649,

676 (Tex. 2016); proportionate responsibility (PJC General Negligence and PJC Malpractice); nuisance (PJC General Negligence); and premises liability in light of *United Scaffolding v. Levine*, 537 S.W.3d 463, 471 (Tex. 2017).

A task force with representatives from the PJC committees, chaired by John Gsanger, completed its work on pattern instructions for mental anguish. The committee approved updates to the preservation of error and admonitory instruction sections for volumes with punitive damages.

The committee seeks input from practicing trial lawyers for improvements to the Texas Pattern Jury Charges. Comments or questions may be sent to books@texasbar.com.

PROFESSIONALISM

Suzanne M. Duvall, Chair

The Professionalism Committee identifies factors that influence professionalism and seeks ways to improve the development of new lawyers and their relationships with the judiciary and fellow bar members.

In July 2018, the committee presented a seminar at the Bar Leaders Conference, where attendees learned practical tips for “Day of Civility” presentations, providing a mentorship program, and promoting ethics programs to their members. The committee will present again on July 27 at the 2019 conference in Houston. The committee also works with the Texas Center for the Judiciary Curriculum Committee to include professionalism courses in its CLE curriculum.

The Professionalism Committee provides ongoing services, including a “mentor bank” for attorneys seeking mentoring throughout the state; “Need Ethics,” a database of speakers willing to speak on ethics to local bar associations; a how-to guide for assisting local bars in presenting their own Day of Civility; and partnerships with law schools to promote professionalism from the ground up. The committee also provides Texas Lawyer’s Creed pamphlets for lawyers to give to their clients and posters for judges to display in their courtrooms, available upon request.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rudy A. England, Chair

During the 2018-2019 bar year, the

Public Affairs Committee worked to ensure the continued success of its Open Government Seminar at the 2019 State Bar Annual Meeting. The committee’s mission is to expand public understanding of the legal system and to foster relations with the news media to advance that goal.

The Open Government Seminar, hosted June 14, provided valuable panel discussions for lawyers, media, and the public. The panels offered lively and informed discussions titled “Open Government Law: Vaccine for ‘Fake News’ or Sometime Pathogen?” and “Legislative Update: Trends in Open Government.”

The committee also hosted the 2018 Texas Gavel Awards, which recognize outstanding Texas journalism that enhances public understanding of our legal system. Learn more about the awards at texasbar.com/gavelawards.

REAL ESTATE FORMS

Sara E. Dysart, Chair

The Real Estate Forms Committee maintains the *Texas Real Estate Forms Manual*, which is sold in three forms—hard copy, hard copy with a digital download, and via subscription based. The digital download version has enhanced word processing forms and a PDF file of the manual. The goal of the committee is to maintain the manual as the most up-to-date, comprehensive, and practical publication of its kind. It is not intended to be a treatise on Texas real estate law. It is intended to be a starting point for recognizing the issues, addressed in its 26 chapters, and to provide legal forms to be used by Texas attorneys as they draft documents for real estate transactions. This spring the State Bar of Texas will publish a 2019 supplement to the third edition that will update content and forms.

TEXAS BAR JOURNAL BOARD OF EDITORS

Miles J. LeBlanc, Chair

The *Texas Bar Journal* is the official publication of the State Bar of Texas. In print since 1938, the magazine serves as a publication of record for the Texas Supreme Court, a scholarly legal journal, and the association magazine for the State Bar of Texas. Each month (except for August), the *Texas Bar Journal* is mailed to approx-

imately 117,000 subscribers, is available in digital format, and is the only publication reaching every lawyer in Texas. The board of editors reviews legal article submissions, develops issue topics, and helps set the general editorial direction for the magazine.

In 2018-2019, the Texas Bar Journal Board of Editors examined a number of subjects, including wellness, environmental law, cybersecurity, real estate law, equality in the workplace, criminal law, discovery, and transportation law. The *Journal* also featured coverage of the Texas Young Lawyers Association’s project *Proud to Be an American*. The board offered an informative “Year in Review” issue, introduced a State Bar of Texas director spotlight column, and conducted its annual Short Story Contest.

WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION

Karla Pascarella, Chair

The Women in the Profession Committee reassessed the committee’s goals to determine whether they have been met or if they are still relevant. The committee restated goals, prioritized increasing attendance to accomplish these goals, and created a subcommittee structure to ensure consistent progress.

This year, the committee made comments to the Court Rules Committee regarding paternity/maternity leave in the courtroom and is creating a “#MeToo Movement” project for submission to the State Bar’s blog. The committee used Betty Chapman’s book *Rough Road to Justice: The Journey of Women Lawyers in Texas* to shed light on the history of women’s participation in the State Bar. Chapman attended a book signing on behalf of the committee and attended the State Bar’s 2019 Annual Meeting and the Texas Minority Attorney Program.

The committee also built foundations for several continuing projects: a CLE presentation addressing the status of women in the profession for local and woman bar associations, a program identifying the limitations of and creating solutions for social media platforms and online interaction, and a mentorship program for women practitioners in rural areas. The committee continues to redefine the role of State Bar women attorneys. **TBJ**

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW • AFRICAN-AMERICAN LAWYERS • ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

ANTITRUST AND BUSINESS LITIGATION • APPELLATE • ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST • AVIATION LAW • BANKRUPTCY LAW • BUSINESS LAW

CHILD PROTECTION LAW • CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS • COLLABORATIVE LAW • COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY • CONSTRUCTION LAW

CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL LAW • CORPORATE COUNSEL • CRIMINAL JUSTICE • ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS LAW

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW • FAMILY LAW • GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO, AND SMALL FIRM

GOVERNMENT LAW • HEALTH LAW • HISPANIC ISSUES

2018-2019 State Bar of Texas

SECTION REPORTS

Section reports are included in the July issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* to update Texas lawyers on State Bar section activities. Section membership and dues are voluntary. These reports do not necessarily reflect the position or official policy of the State Bar of Texas, which is formulated by the State Bar Board of Directors or by the membership through referendum. The Animal Law Section did not submit a report. For more information or to join a section, go to texasbar.com/sections or call 800-204-2222, ext. 1420.

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW • INSURANCE LAW • INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW • INTERNATIONAL LAW

JUDICIAL • JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS • JUVENILE LAW • LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW • LAW STUDENT DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW • LGBT LAW • LITIGATION • MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW • MUNICIPAL JUDGES

NATIVE AMERICAN LAW • OIL, GAS, AND ENERGY RESOURCES LAW • PARALEGAL DIVISION • POVERTY LAW • PUBLIC UTILITY LAW

REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, AND TRUST LAW • SCHOOL LAW • TAX • WOMEN AND THE LAW • WORKERS' COMPENSATION

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW*April Griffin, Chair*

The section saw great success on its significant projects, the 2018 Advanced Texas Administrative Law Seminar held August 16-17 and the annual Mack Kidd Administrative Law Moot Court Competition.

The moot court competition is designed to introduce Texas law students to administrative law and to provide experience in brief writing and presenting oral arguments before higher court justices and experienced administrative law practitioners. The 2018 winning team came from Baylor Law School, prevailing in the championship round argued before the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin's Chief Justice Jeff Rose, Justice Melissa Goodwin, and then Justice Michael Toth.

This year's seminar—co-sponsored by the University of Texas School of Law Continuing Legal Education Department—will be held at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center in Austin on August 15-16 and will offer 13.25 hours of CLE credit, including one hour of ethics. All seminar attendees are invited to a networking reception following the first day's program. Section members are eligible for a \$25 discount on registration fees and the seminar will also be offered via live webcast by the law school.

Section members receive the *Texas Tech Administrative Law Journal*, financially supported by the section, and a quarterly online newsletter.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN LAWYERS*Ebony R. Rivon, Chair*

The African-American Lawyers Section, or AALS, supports local African-American bar associations and Black Law Students Associations, or BLSA, by providing financial assistance to support legal education, community engagement, and equal justice initiatives. AALS was pleased to sponsor the following events, all of which raised scholarships for minority students: Houston Lawyers Association Scholarship and Awards Gala, J. L. Turner Legal Association Foundation Scholarship Gala (Dallas), L. Clifford Davis Legal Association Gala (Fort Worth), San Antonio Black Lawyers Association Scholarship

Gala, and Virgil C. Lott Golf Classic (Austin Black Lawyers Association).

The section hosted meet and greets designed to connect BLSA students, local bar leaders, and AALS members, develop relationships, and encourage involvement in their organizations and the section. AALS also granted sponsorship requests to BLSA chapters to allow them to attend their regional, state, and national conventions and competitions.

The section hosted the third Annual Summit at UNT Dallas College of Law, which offered members six hours of free CLE with panelists from state and federal judges to in-house counsel and experienced trial attorneys. This year, AALS recognized Wesley Terrell (Trailblazer Award), Judge Tonya Parker (Distinguished Jurist Award), and Rhonda Hunter (Outstanding Achievement Award).

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION*Trey Bergman, Chair*

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section has continued its efforts to encompass all forms of ADR, including arbitration and mediation for all practice groups both domestic and international. *The Alternative Dispute Resolution Handbook* is now published and resides in the "members only" portion of the section's website. The website is being updated to accommodate the increased size of *The Handbook* and ensure secure access for members only. A daily news feed subscription to Lexology with domestic and international arbitration and ADR matters is being arranged. Certification in ADR is being explored with the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. The award-winning ADR blog continues to regularly post timely topics. The annual January advanced ADR training seminar in Austin had a record attendance in 2019 and is next scheduled for January 24, 2020. The basic arbitration training took place again on March 27, 2019, in Austin, with another large attendance. Section members across the state provided complimentary CLE through "roadshow" lunch presentations. Member benefits include reduced tuition to all seminars, free online access to *The Handbook*, and a free subscription to the daily Lexology feed. Join now to help the cause.

ANTITRUST AND BUSINESS LITIGATION*Lucas C. Wohlford, Chair*

The Antitrust and Business Litigation Section strives to provide resources and educational opportunities to its members, focusing on antitrust enforcement and complex commercial litigation that may affect Texas and Texas lawyers.

The section's 2019 annual meeting included a presentation titled "Antitrust in the Amazon Era: The New Brandeis Movement, Consumer Welfare, and the Future of Antitrust Theory." The presentation featured a moderated debate between two leading commentators on antitrust and competition policy—Elyse Dorsey, attorney adviser to Federal Trade Commission Commissioner Noah Joshua Phillips, and Sandeep Vaheesan, of the Open Markets Institute.

In addition, the section presented its annual Distinguished Counselor Award to Tom Jackson, of Dallas, at the 2019 annual meeting. The award recognizes service to the section, excellence in antitrust or business litigation, and high professionalism and ethical standards.

Finally, the section continued its tradition of supporting initiatives promoting law school pro bono, lawyer assistance, and access to justice programs by making donations to Texas Tech University School of Law, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, and the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program, and by sponsoring a law school intern in the Antitrust Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Texas.

APPELLATE*Justice Brett Busby, Chair*

The section had a productive year thanks to the council and committee chairs, who are among the best lawyers in the appellate bar. If you are not a committee member and would like to work with these lawyers, please go to tex-app.org to learn about committees and contact me to get involved.

The section offers many valuable member benefits, including free online CLE videos on appellate topics that are updated regularly. The section sponsors opportunities for members to meet appellate judges, collaborate with local bar associations on diversity programs, and operate an appellate pro bono program

that allows advocates to gain experience while helping Texans in need.

The section has a new Forms Committee, which is creating a list of frequently filed appellate motions. These forms will be available to members online.

Do you have an appeal raising an issue important to the appellate bar? Remember the Amicus Brief Committee, which screens requests for amicus participation and, if approved, finds a lawyer to write a brief for the section pro bono. These briefs do not advocate a particular outcome; they express the section's position that a key issue warrants resolution for the benefit of the bench, the bar, and litigants.

ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST

Chi Reece, Chair

The Asian Pacific Interest Section hosted its 24th Annual Conference this April in Austin. In addition to CLEs and networking, the section presented the following awards: Best Under 40—Shruti Krishnan, Albert Liou, and Bill Richmond; Affiliate of the Year—South Asian Bar Association of Dallas/Fort Worth; Pro Bono Attorney—Michael Lee; Outstanding Mentor—Jason Shyung; Champion of Diversity—Audrey Chang; and the Justice Wellington Chew Award—Russell T. Wong. The luncheon keynote featured Judge James C. Ho, of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, and Judge Peter Sakai, of the 225th District Court in Bexar County. The evening awards gala keynote was given by Albert Li, of Ottobock North America. The section appreciates its sponsors for the event. The section also revamped its website and published quarterly newsletters highlighting accomplishments of its members and other notable members of the community.

AVIATION LAW

Bruce Marshall, Chair

The Aviation Law Section hosted its second fall CLE program in November 2018 in San Antonio and provided a number of excellent speakers on a variety of aviation industry topics. Work still continues on the section's efforts to create the new specialty area in aviation law. The requisite signatures were obtained in 2018 and a draft application is currently under review by the Texas Board of Legal

Specialization. The section website was recently updated. Information about the section's leadership, events, and CLE materials are now readily available online.

This year's midyear meeting was again hosted in conjunction with the SMU Air Law Symposium on the morning of March 29 and included a CLE program along with a brief section meeting. Also, the section's scholarship program was expanded and made available to law students attending all Texas law schools. The scholarship was awarded on June 13 during the section meeting at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Austin.

Finally, the section planned and provided an informative CLE program for the Annual Meeting on June 13 with outstanding speakers from many sectors of the aviation industry.

BANKRUPTCY LAW

Layla Milligan, Chair

The Bankruptcy Law Section has been actively fulfilling its purposes: to promote the study of bankruptcy law, report on laws and decisions affecting parties in the bankruptcy process, provide a forum for the legal and financial communities, and to provide and facilitate pro bono legal services.

The section recently held its biennial Bench Bar Conference in Austin. Bankruptcy judges, attorneys, trustees, and financial professionals from across Texas attended and were offered a variety of CLE topics covering consumer and business bankruptcy issues.

The section continues to host webinars on both consumer and business bankruptcy law topics that are free to its members. Information about these webinar programs can be found at statebaroftexasbankruptcy.com.

The Young Lawyers Committee has been assisting with its MoneyWise program, a course offered by volunteer bankruptcy attorneys and judges to high school students and adults to teach financial literacy in a fun and interesting way.

The section also sponsors the Elliott Cup, a law school moot court competition in which teams argue before 5th Circuit-area bankruptcy attorneys and volunteer judges. The 2019 competition was held in Dallas.

The Bankruptcy Law Section offers many opportunities to learn, volunteer, and grow in the practice of bankruptcy law.

BUSINESS LAW

Evan A. Young, Chair

The Business Law Section's redeveloped website continues to provide more value for its members. Many resources on the website are available to the public, but section members can access an incredible array of scholarship, data, and useful forms with just clicks of a button. Full access to the *Texas Journal of Business Law*, a trove of written materials helpful to practitioners in every business law field, annotated forms, on-demand webinars, and fresh legislative updates are just some of the improvements available. Many of the section's committees have pages with even more details about their work and opportunities for committee members to interact, including new committees like Blockchains and Virtual Currencies, which are at the cutting edge. All section members are encouraged to become more involved—and all Texas lawyers are invited to join the section.

In addition to the ever-improving and expanding website, the Business Law Section continues its traditional work. For example, the section assists the Legislature in its goal of ensuring the uniformity and high quality of Texas business law, looks to increase the reach of its mentorship program, and hopes to engage as many of its members in person as it can at its multiple CLE programs.

CHILD PROTECTION LAW

Justice Debra H. Lehrmann, Chair

The Child Protection Law Section's first full year was a rousing success. After just 14 months, membership has grown to 878!

Last year the inaugural CLE in Austin sold out within a week, and the excellent reviews of the event suggest the section is on the right track. And this year's sold-out CLE in Dallas—with 341 registrants—only confirms the importance of and need for deeper knowledge and education in the area of child protection law, which the section is committed to delivering.

To that end, the website, childprotectionlawtx.com, offers information on proposed legislation and significant updates in the field, as well as information on upcoming events and how prospective members may join the section.

Section members prepared the curriculum for the section's CLE at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting and the section workshop, which will be held on August 12-15 at the Advanced Family Law Seminar in San Antonio. I am immensely proud of the section's efforts, and I'm grateful to the bar for supporting this young and growing section as it endeavors to support those who protect our state's most valuable resource—its children.

CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Candace M. Groth, Chair

The Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Section had a wonderful 2018-2019. The 13th annual Bill of Rights Course was a success, drawing civil rights and constitutional law practitioners, law professors, and judges from across the nation. Highlights from this year's course, which occurred on May 17, 2019, included lectures titled "The Third Amendment: The Runt Piglet of the Bill of Rights," "Corporate Constitutional Rights," and "Searching for Data Privacy," as well as a presentation of the 2019 Patrick Wiseman Award. The section also had its Annual Membership Meeting on May 17, 2019.

Additionally, the section co-sponsored a half-day CLE at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting with the Appellate Section featuring Texas Supreme Court, 5th Circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court updates and a presentation on the Pledge of Allegiance. Furthermore, the section continues to sponsor the *Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights*, which members of the section receive as part of their membership. The section also began a total upgrade of its website to make it more dynamic and meaningful for members. The new website is expected to go live later next year. Exciting things are happening and the section looks forward to an even better 2019-2020.

COLLABORATIVE LAW

Brett A. Christiansen, Chair

The collaborative law movement continues its rapid growth not only in family law but also into most every practice area. The section continued its focus of educating colleagues, clients, and prospects on the benefits of collaborative law and fine-tuning its message to include what collaborative is and what it isn't. The section is diligently working to dispel myth and misinformation that surrounds this innovative tool in the toolbox of dispute resolution options. The section amended its bylaws to welcome professionals participating as neutrals to become members of the section. The annual Collaborative Law Conference was a two-day event held in Dallas that showcased presenters from the state's practice leaders and was themed "Breaking Bad." Presentations included in-depth analysis of matters gone awry and the creative means used to bring parties back together and refocus on resolution. The year concluded with an informative, thought-provoking CLE presented by Linda Alvarez at the State Bar Annual Meeting. Alvarez is a leader and co-founder of the Conscious Contracting movement, which advances agreements aligned with each party's values and is designed to stimulate and sustain positive relationships and enterprises.

COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY

Sammy Ford IV, Chair

The mission of the Computer and Technology Section is to be a resource to the legal profession in matters involving technology. This mission is especially important in light of the Texas Supreme Court's recent change to paragraph 8 of the comment to Rule 1.01 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. That change made clear that to maintain competence in the practice of law includes knowing about relevant technology.

For the second year, the section sponsored "With Technology and Justice for All CLE." This year's CLE focused on building a resilient law practice that could weather various natural and other disasters. The section publishes *Circuits*, a quarterly members-only newsletter,

and has added videos to its series titled *Tech Bytes*, which is available to all Texas lawyers at texasbar.com/tech-resources.

Section members continue to enjoy the Texas Legal app, which provides access to Texas rules and codes with links to caselaw. The final event this year was the Adaptable Lawyer Track, which included programming, a section general membership meeting, and a "Tweet and Greet" gathering held during the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Austin. For more information, contact the administrator at admin@sbot.org.

CONSTRUCTION LAW

Matthew J. Sullivan, Chair

The Construction Law Section focuses the majority of its efforts on the continuing education of its 2,650 members through CLE programs and scholarly publications. In addition to serving as a joint sponsor of two CLE programs, the section publishes the *Construction Law Journal* semi-annually, a monthly caselaw update known as the *Change Order*, and will soon provide webinars on timely topics. The section supports the Texas Access to Justice Foundation and will donate \$25,000 this year to provide funds for legal services to low-income Texans.

The annual Basic Course in Texas Construction Law was held December 13-14, 2018, in Austin, where 177 attendees learned about a variety of introductory topics. Over 900 attendees participated in the 32nd annual Construction Law Conference on February 28 and March 1, 2019, in San Antonio, where attendees heard presentations on cutting-edge topics. The section raised more than \$40,000 for Helping a Hero—an organization that provides accessible housing to severely wounded U.S. veterans—which was the designated charity for this year's conference. The *Construction Law Journal*, published with assistance from student editors at South Texas College of Law Houston, included seven articles on a variety of topics. For more information, go to constructionlawsection.org.

CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL LAW

Esther Chavez, Chair

Continuing its tradition of offering the highest-quality CLE, the section hosted

two well-received programs: a half-day event at the State Bar Annual Meeting and a two-day program on advanced consumer and commercial law topics. The section's next advanced program will be September 5-6 in Austin and will feature the newly established Mark Kincaid Memorial Lecture on insurance law.

The section's 2018 Richard Alderman Award for CLE Excellence was awarded to Jill Campbell, of BakerRipley in Houston.

The section announced its 2019 Craig Jordan Consumer Protection Writing Competition, which was established to provide law students an opportunity to offer perspectives on the challenges facing consumers in today's marketplace. First place receives a \$4,000 award.

Finally, the section continues to offer members free subscriptions to:

- its acclaimed *Journal of Consumer & Commercial Law*, published in cooperation with the University of Houston Law Center; and
- the Lexology news feed featuring articles on timely consumer and commercial law decisions.

The section also hosts a group email list through Texas Bar Connect, where members may post questions and receive comments from other members.

More information about the section's activities is available at txconsumerlawyers.org.

CORPORATE COUNSEL

Jeffrey J. Walker, Chair

The Corporate Counsel Section serves more than 4,600 lawyers who represent companies in Texas, including in-house counsel and outside counsel. The section provides many benefits to its members including promotion of quality CLE for no charge or at discounted rates, invitations to complimentary local and statewide networking events, and collaboration with company legal departments to provide on-site programs directed to their unique needs. Programs for this bar year include the State Bar Annual Meeting CLE program co-sponsored with the Business Law Section, In-House Counsel 101 and Advanced In-House Counsel co-sponsored with TexasBarCLE, the Corporate Counsel Institute co-sponsored with the

University of Texas School of Law, and a Legal Ethics & Compliance program co-sponsored with the Rowling Center at SMU Dedman School of Law. Valuable resources and updates are provided to members through the section's publications, including the highly regarded *Corporate Counsel Review* published at the South Texas College of Law Houston, the section newsletter *Corporate Counsel Currents*, and *Newsstand*. The section has long supported pro bono organizations by awarding grants to pro bono providers and by providing pro bono service opportunities in Texas, as outlined in the section website at texascorporatocounsel.com.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Kenda Culpepper, Chair

The Criminal Justice Section's mission is to promote collaboration between judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers to benefit the criminal justice system. Council members have diligently worked together this year to improve services for all members, such as revamping the website, newsletter, and bylaws and working on new and effective trial notebook supplements. The section continues to allow free membership for lawyers in their first two years of practice.

To maintain the section's commitment to providing low-cost CLE opportunities to lawyers in underserved regions, the section provided a daylong CLE to practitioners in South Texas and hosted a half-day criminal law CLE at the State Bar Annual Meeting. The section also worked with the Texas District & County Attorneys Association to produce a free online *Brady* CLE and worked with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association to produce a CLE to help lawyers and judges understand the process and purposes of sex offender registration and deregistration. The section offered \$15,000 in member scholarships to criminal justice conferences throughout Texas.

The section formed an exciting collaborative and exploratory task force with the Texas Department of Public Safety to create new protocols improving the timeliness and efficacy of preliminary drug lab testing procedures.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS LAW

Victoria Helling, Chair

The Texas Entertainment and Sports Law Section, or TESLAW, continued providing members with information about the applicable law surrounding arts, entertainment, and sports.

At the State Bar's Annual Meeting in June 2018, TESLAW offered the "Best Legal Practices for Advertising on Social Media" and "10 Biggest Gaming Decisions" CLE programs and an exclusive insight from attorney and past chair Mike Farris, who represented the plaintiff in the well-known *Fifty Shades of Grey* litigation before a jury in Fort Worth, resulting in a \$13.2 million judgment in Farris' client's favor.

In November, the Entertainment Law Institute provided programs that ran the gamut of music, film, and fashion. A special boot camp course, Entertainment Law 101, was held the day before ELI, providing a concise overview of entertainment law basics.

All section members receive the quarterly e-newsletter *TESLAW Tidbits*, which provides summaries of recent court decisions as well as helpful practice documents. Additionally, members receive the semiannual *Texas Entertainment and Sports Law Journal*, which provides in-depth analysis of legal issues facing the entertainment and sports industries.

TESLAW is a section for lawyers who actively practice in the fields of art, entertainment, and sports law, as well as those who are simply interested.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW

Steve McMillen, Chair

I became chair in August 2018 with three goals: 1) update the bylaws; 2) energize the standing committees; and 3) oversee creating a new website. The section succeeded in updating its bylaws, which were approved by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors in February. The six standing committees, now formalized in the bylaws, are essential to the section's mission. The Law School Committee oversees practitioner panels, and so far, the committee has visited Texas A&M University School of Law and University of Houston Law Center. The committee awards academic scholar-

ships in memory of Buck J. Wynne and eight summer internships with government agencies in Texas. The Pro Bono and Community Outreach Committee awarded grants to TreeFolks, Texas Trees Foundation, and Trees for Houston to support tree planting throughout Texas. The Education Committee sent Emily Rogers and Greg Ellis to speak on water law at the State Bar's Annual Meeting and is planning its annual Superconference. The Website and Technology Committee is working to bring online a new website soon. Finally, after several years of service, Lyn Clancy is stepping down as editor in chief of the *Texas Environmental Law Journal*, the primary publication overseen by the Publications Committee.

FAMILY LAW

Stephen J. Naylor, Chair

For many years the Family Law Section's Pro Bono Committee has led the way pairing indigent litigants and attorneys via its "attend our CLE and take 2 cases" project. This year the section has seminars scheduled for Cleburne, Huntsville, Longview, McAllen, Victoria, and Wichita Falls. Membership in the Family Law Section is only \$40 a year, and you receive the *Family Lawyer's Essential Tool Kit*, a quarterly *Family Law Section Report*, and discounts on State Bar family law seminars. If you are already a member, thank you. If not, please join.

The Family Law Section continues to produce some of the best publications to aid its members in the practice of law: the *Family Law Checklists*, *Predicates Manual*, *Family Law At Your Fingertips*, the *Family Lawyer's Essential Toolkit*, and the *Client Handbook*. The section also sells DVDs that instruct clients regarding depositions, trials, mediation, and a social media presence. The Formbook Committee recently released a new update to the *Texas Family Law Practice Manual*, an essential tool every family law attorney should have in his or her office. If you are interested in purchasing any of these publications, please go to sbotfam.org.

GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO, AND SMALL FIRM

Kevin W. Mutscher, Chair

In the past year the General Practice,

Solo, and Small Firm Section has undertaken several projects, one of which will soon arrive in print form for members. The *Solo and Small Firm Development* 2019 edition is an update of a 2007 edition. Members will find value in that publication.

The council is also in the development stages of producing an annotation to the *Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct*. It is intended that the annotation will cross-reference the rules with ethics opinions.

The section has continued to produce a half-day seminar at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting as well as co-sponsor the General Practice Institute at Baylor Law School. The institute is now in its 42nd year. Similarly, the *General Practice Digest* has continued to be published three times a year.

The section has continued to keep an eye on State Bar activities and inform members of those activities. In the past year those activities have included audits and the costs thereof, revisions to rules, and new mandatory methods by which bar dues must be paid—and upon whom the burden of compliance rests.

GOVERNMENT LAW

Enid Howard, Chair

The Government Law Section continues to provide common ground, services, and resources for State Bar members dealing with the challenges of state and local government. The section promotes a better understanding of the law relating to municipal corporations and other public bodies through roadshows, meetings, and studying, analyzing, and disseminating current information concerning legislation and judicial decisions. Together with co-sponsorship from the Texas Young Lawyers Association and local bar associations, the section presents roadshows in Tyler, Texarkana, and Dallas, bringing dynamic speakers to government lawyers in communities that do not often receive "live" CLE.

In January 2019, the section held a two-day CLE centered on a historic outreach event by the Texas Supreme Court and Arkansas Supreme Court. The Government Law Section was part of the team that coordinated the CLE formed around the timing of the oral arguments.

The section will host the 2019 Advanced Government Law Seminar July 24-26 in Austin. Speakers will present topics useful for new government lawyers as well as material that will assist lawyers who have been practicing in government law for many years. The section also keeps updating its website to bring current resources and information to members.

HEALTH LAW

Hal Katz, Chair

The Health Law Section continues to focus on creating better understanding and cooperation among attorneys and other professionals involved in the health care industry. It is currently planning the 32nd annual Texas Health Law Conference, which will be held October 6-8 in Austin and titled "Objective Clear, and Destination Uncertain." The conference is co-sponsored by the Texas Hospital Association and will be held at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, with an estimated 13.75 hours of CLE credit, including one hour of ethics.

Major initiatives of the section include recruiting and engaging young lawyers, increasing its presence and use of social media, and tracking proposed and adopted health law related rules in the *Texas Register*. The section was also active in monitoring and providing feedback on proposed Texas legislative changes dealing with a medical power of attorney.

HISPANIC ISSUES

Justice Gina Benavides, Chair

An ongoing goal of the Hispanic Issues Section is to promote diversity in the legal profession. The section accomplished this goal by promoting diversity within the State Bar of Texas. The section has been actively promoting diversity on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors by submitting qualified names for the at-large director. The sections also ensures that it is included in CLE programs, especially since bar meetings and programs have been in the Austin area, which can limit representation of minorities. The section has offset this by doing free CLE programs in Lubbock and Tyler.

The section also addresses the ongoing immigration issues at the border by partnering with the American Bar Asso-

ciation Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights & Responsibilities and its chair, Richard Pena, to provide pro bono services in the Rio Grande Valley. Betty Balli Torres, a former section chair, spent a weekend assisting in the processing of asylum seekers and refugees. The section will continue to work on this endeavor.

The section hopes to continue to serve as the voice of Hispanic attorneys and its community to bring their concerns to the attention of the State Bar.

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW

Lisa Sotelo, Chair

The Immigration and Nationality Law Section has focused its efforts on revamping its structure to ensure sustainability and guide the coming years' officers in providing more tangible and regular resources to its members. The section's bylaws have been revised, and its new website is set to launch by the second quarter of 2019. The new site will provide updates and resources to members, including volunteer/pro bono opportunities and options to obtain CLE or watch previously recorded, brief training, or informational videos related to immigration and nationality law.

The section reported more than 16,000 pro bono hours with over 17% of its members reporting. The section is also developing an annual pro bono project in collaboration with the State Bar's Legal Access Division and Family Law Section.

The section sponsored a networking social at the State Bar of Texas Advanced Immigration Law Conference in Houston and worked with the Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality Committee, or LRIN, to share information and updates. Section officers joined the LRIN Committee on its annual consulate tour in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and is looking to expand the consular tours to other posts along the border to invite more section member participation.

INSURANCE LAW

Lisa A. Songy, Chair

The Insurance Law Section launched its new and improved website—please check it out. Additionally, the section continued its longstanding tradition of providing quality continuing legal

education, including informative webinars as well as quality in-person seminars. In March, the section presented “How to Try an Insurance Case” and followed it up with the Advanced Insurance Law Seminar and annual Casino Night, a top-notch seminar in San Antonio at which the Legends Award was presented to a very deserving individual. Thanks to all those who helped plan and speak at the events. Your hard work is appreciated.

The section continued its efforts at providing quality publications to membership. *Right Off the Press* continues to provide caselaw updates on important new decisions. The *Journal of Texas Insurance Law*, available in both print and digital format, published in-depth analysis of pressing legal issues unique to insurance practice. A new articles feature on the website published on-point, concise discussions of key insurance issues. Finally, in an attempt to bring back the collegiality of the practice of law, the section hosted networking happy hours around the state.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Kirby Drake, Chair

The Intellectual Property Law Section continued its pro bono tour educating entrepreneurs on IP law in Waco this year.

In February, the section held the Advanced Intellectual Property Course in Dallas, including a presentation by U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Commissioner for Trademarks Mary Boney Denison.

The 2019 Annual Meeting in Austin included 6 hours of CLE as well as awards and a keynote presentation by Larry Hornbeck.

The Advanced Patent Litigation Course will be held in July in San Antonio.

This year also has been a year of firsts for the section.

The section introduced the IP Legends series, an initiative designed to capture the life and vitality of lawyers who have made their mark on IP law in Texas through written or recorded interviews. The first interviewee was Tom Morris, an Amarillo trial attorney who is well known in the IP community for having successfully argued the *Graham v. John Deere Co.* case at the U.S. Supreme Court. This is the seminal case on patent obviousness and continues to be regularly

cited over 40 years after it was first decided.

The section also held its first Trademark Boot Camp, educating attorneys, paralegals, and law students on trademark law.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Tom Wilson, Chair

The International Law Section focused on Mexico, culminating in a three-day trip to Mexico City, which featured two half-days of CLE presentations. The section held its 31st Annual Institute in cooperation with the Mexico Center of the Rice University Baker Institute. A highlight of the Annual Institute was a keynote address by Mexico's Supreme Court Justice Eduardo Medina Mora. The section also had programs in Austin (on international legal issues in the technology industry), San Antonio (on international legal issues in the health industry), Houston (on the international legal impact of the #MeToo movement), and Dallas (on the development of international lawyers and on immigration). New to the section was a quarterly newsletter of which three editions have been published and are available to all at ilstexas.org/resources/ils-newsletter. The section's International Human Rights Committee sent a letter to 95 in-house counsel in Texas on the impact of international human rights issues on Texas companies and conducted a poll of in-house counsel that showed all wanted more information on the topic. The committee also awarded its annual writing contest scholarship to Chantal Carriere, of the University of Houston Law Center.

JUDICIAL

Hon. Randy M. Clapp, Chair

The section's focus this year was judicial compensation. Texas judges have received only two pay raises in the past 18 years. This is a topic of interest if Texas wants to continue to attract judicial candidates from among experienced and successful attorneys. The Judicial Compensation Commission has recommended a 15% increase in judicial compensation.

Past efforts have failed for reasons that seemingly have nothing to do with judicial compensation.

Ultimately, the Legislature passed a bill that would increase judicial compensation based on longevity. This would reward judges who desire to stay on the bench (and who manage to get re-elected). At press time, this bill was pending before the governor.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

Howard M. Bookstaff, Chair

Several board members have been instrumental in providing educational opportunities for the attorneys and justices of the peace members of the section. During the past year, the section had a CLE luncheon presentation on the “Renewal and Revival of Judgments” and added material to the website. The section also had a CLE presentation at the Annual Meeting on June 13, 2019, followed by a social that afternoon.

The purpose of the section is to: (1) further the administration of justice in the justice courts; (2) provide a forum for the exchange of information on matters of practice and procedure in justice courts; (3) provide information and educational opportunities for the membership; and (4) cooperate closely with the State Bar of Texas and other professional organizations in developing, supporting, and promoting legal and professional activities affecting justice of the peace courts.

In addition to licensed attorneys in good standing with the State Bar of Texas, membership in the Justice of the Peace Courts Section is open to all current and former Texas justices of the peace. Justices of the peace who are not licensed attorneys can become associate members of the section.

JUVENILE LAW

Kaci Singer, Chair

The Juvenile Law Section held its 32nd annual Juvenile Law Conference in Austin in February. Over 400 people attended from all juvenile law disciplines, including judiciary, prosecution, defense, state agency, probation, and law enforcement. The section continues to emphasize juvenile justice psychology and theory, law and legal practicum, practical implementation, and best practices in the educational information it provides. The section will sponsor its 33rd annual conference in

Galveston February 16-19, 2020.

The section continues to provide multiple networking opportunities at its annual conference. It is also seeking to expand its reach by offering advertisement for and networking opportunities in connection with local juvenile law conferences.

The section also seeks to provide more meaningful resources to its members, such as updated forms and contact information for members. The section requests that members provide input and ideas on ways to increase member input and involvement.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Teresa Valderrama, Chair

Among the larger and more diverse sections, the Labor and Employment Law Section consists of attorneys who represent both employers and employees, as well as in-house and government attorneys concerned with workplace law issues. Because the section strives to represent interests across a diverse constituency, the section does not ordinarily take sides on legislation affecting workers.

The section promotes efficient litigation, conflict resolution, and trial skills development focused on workplace law issues, including through the sponsorship of two CLE programs annually and the publishing of a newsletter every two months, featuring relevant and important decisions during the year.

Reflecting the balance of interests, the section’s council consists of an equal number of employee and employer attorneys, and the chair rotates between them. The section strives to make cohesion, candor, and concern for clients its hallmark, as it builds friendships that cross many lines.

LAW STUDENT DIVISION

Taylor Winn, Chair

The Law Student Division had another active year, and once again many students took advantage of joining the division online. For a \$15 annual membership fee, law students receive many of the great benefits that are available to licensed attorneys, including a monthly subscription to the *Texas Bar Journal*, the Texas Young Lawyers Association *eNews*, and free access to Fastcase and

Casemaker. Each student receives a student bar card, a free T-shirt, and free registration to TexasBarCLE live and video replay seminars and complimentary written materials.

LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW

Ross Peavey, Chair

As one of the fastest growing new sections of the State Bar, the Legislative and Campaign Law Section continues to build on the success of previous years. Hosted in December, the section’s most recent annual CLE featured a panel discussion by the Texas Legislative Council on best practices for legislative drafting, an overview of legislative procedure, and an insider’s preview of the 86th Legislature. The section looks forward to continuing this event.

The section issued several newsletters throughout the year featuring analyses of recent court decisions involving elections, redistricting, and campaign finance. The Texas Ethics Commission has issued a number of important new rules and opinions recently and the section has worked hard to update members about its important work. The section continues to work with the Texas Board of Legal Specialization to create a certification in the areas of legislative and campaign law.

The section participated in the State Bar Annual Meeting by providing a half-day CLE that provided a legislative and ethics update as well as a presentation on state and federal election law. The section ended the year with a meet and greet that allowed section members to network and make connections in this growing practice area.

LGBT LAW

Nicole LeBoeuf, Chair

The LGBT Law Section began the 2018-2019 year at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Houston in June 2018 by hosting CLE, leading a local LGBT Bar Association’s Affiliates Congress, hosting two evening receptions, and participating in the Diversity Forum. The section again worked closely with the State Bar to produce a full day of live CLE covering LGBT legal topics in December 2018 called “LGBTQ

Legal Issues in Changing Times: What Every Texas Practitioner Needs to Know,” bringing the section’s total CLE offerings to more than 1.5 days for the year. The topics included LGBT family law issues, LGBT issues in immigration and employment law, and the criminalization of HIV. The LGBT Law Section also cooperated with developing local LGBT bar associations by cosponsoring programming.

LITIGATION

Wes Christian, Chair

The Litigation Section continued to thrive this year by providing valuable grants, publications, and programs. The section provided more than \$85,955 in grants and scholarships principally to those who provide legal aid to those less fortunate.

The section also published the highly acclaimed *News for the Bar* and *The Advocate*, which a lawyer recently used to win a key hearing on an anti-SLAPP motion. Both publications keep section members current on caselaw and events impacting our practice.

The section additionally provided the thought-provoking and character-building Texas Legal Legends program. Last year, the program inducted Harriet Miers, Carolyn Wright-Sanders, and James C. Harrington as Texas Legal Legends. These lawyers continuously used their law licenses to effect positive change by enforcing the rule of law, acting as gatekeepers of justice for all, exposing and stopping systemic fraud (which damages citizens in multiple business settings), and making a difference in the lives of countless citizens in this great state.

The section also continued its fiscal responsibility program by enforcing its recently passed reimbursement policies and developing a corporate short- and long-term planning committee to examine how lawyers will practice in the future and how that impacts the needs of members.

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

Lisa Windsor, Chair

The Military and Veterans Law Section serves active duty/reserve judge advocates, former service members, government

civilian attorneys, and anyone interested in representing military members and veterans. The section’s Facebook page provides members with up-to-date news, answers attorney questions on military/veterans law, and advertises clients needing assistance. Section members routinely provide pro bono representation to indigent veterans and participate in veterans’ free legal clinics.

On February 22, the section co-sponsored the Veterans Justice Clinic with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, presenting topics on Veterans Justice Outreach, Veterans Affairs appeals, military discharges, and the recent U.S. Supreme Court session. The section’s spring CLE, held March 29-30 in Salado, trained participants on the effect of antimalarial drugs on service members’ mental health, the use of biometrics, military prevention of sexual assault, and the VA Caregiver Support program. At the State Bar Annual Meeting in Austin on June 14, experts presented on the military status of immigrants in positions of vital national interest, restrictions on free speech in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, processing sex crime allegations, representing veterans with mental illnesses, and ethics in sexual assault cases.

The section welcomes any suggestions on topics of interest and how it may better serve its membership.

MUNICIPAL JUDGES

Hon. Laura Anderson, Chair

Over 5.2 million cases were filed in 940 municipal courts throughout Texas last year. In every case, procedural justice is paramount. Procedural justice occurs when people are treated with respect, they understand the process, they have a chance to be heard, and they believe they have been treated fairly. When procedural justice occurs, people are more likely to obey court orders.

Fifty-eight percent of municipal judges in Texas are attorneys and many of those attorneys also serve as magistrates. Almost 700,000 magistrate warnings were given by municipal judges last year. In light of the recent litigation and proposed legislation on bail reform,

the Municipal Judges Section co-sponsored a discussion on bail reform at the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center’s judge seminar in Addison. The topic remains important as evidenced by the discussions at the State Bar Annual Meeting and TMCEC legislative updates.

Not only are 1,317 municipal judges throughout the state handling on average over 3,600 cases, they also understand that traffic safety initiatives save lives by gaining compliance and driver responsibility. By engaging the community and providing traffic safety materials, municipal judges don’t have to wait until someone steps into their courtroom to explain the importance of traffic safety.

NATIVE AMERICAN LAW

Ray Torgerson, Chair

The Native American Law Section has been productive in the 2019 State Bar year. Members have been involved in various matters, including ongoing federal challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act, peyote conservation issues in South Texas, and monitoring proposed legislation in the Texas Legislature.

At the State Bar Annual Meeting in Austin, the section participated in the Diversity Forum on June 13 and hosted several CLE sessions on June 14. CLE topics included ongoing federal challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act, a caselaw update on national and local levels, and ethics. The section held its annual business meeting on June 14, following the CLE presentations.

The section also is planning an annual meeting for January 2020. The section continues to work on its long-term goals of increasing membership—especially among young attorneys—and increasing attendance and participation at conferences. The section’s website is texasnativeamericanlawsection.com.

OIL, GAS, AND ENERGY RESOURCES LAW

Kathleen E. Magruder, Chair

The Oil, Gas, and Energy Resources Law Section is older than the State Bar itself. Thus, it was fitting that the section celebrated its 80th anniversary in September 2018 with a gala held in

conjunction with the Advanced Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law Course. Jack Balagia provided a thoughtful and insightful keynote address about the relevance of the section's practice, and the section applauded the many accomplishments it has achieved over the years.

As in previous years, the section sponsored a number of CLE programs during 2018 in its continuing effort to support its members through education. The section also published quarterly section reports containing updates on changes in the law along with articles concerning topics of current interest.

The section continued its program of supporting new entry to the practice by supporting law students who have an interest in practicing energy law. The section provided internships with five state agencies and awarded scholarships to the two highest-grade recipients in the general oil and gas courses given at Texas law schools.

Also of note, members of the section participate in the continuing process of updating the *Texas Pattern Jury Charges—Oil & Gas*.

PARALEGAL DIVISION

Stephanie R. Sterling, President

The Paralegal Division had another active year. All new and renewing members can access applications online. Renewing members are required to have six CLE hours, of which one hour must be in ethics. The division digitally publishes a quarterly professional magazine, *Texas Paralegal Journal*, and keeps members up to date with its monthly e-newsletter, Paralegal Pulse, and various specific event e-blasts. The website, txpd.org, is a wealth of information for members containing copies of the division's publications, an online CLE calendar listing educational opportunities throughout the state, and a job bank. The division collaborates with the Texas Board of Legal Specialization to promote the TBLS Board Certified Paralegal exam in eight specialty areas of law. This year, the division's annual meeting will be in conjunction with the annual

Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar September 18-20 in Austin, and the theme is "There's No Place Like TAPS—20 Years of CLE Excellence." The keynote speaker will be Judge Darlene Byrne, of the 126th Civil District Court in Travis County. This seminar provides up to 14 TBLS-approved CLE hours over three days. In lieu of speaker and volunteer gifts, the division will donate funds to the Austin Bar Foundation.

POVERTY LAW

Alberto Mesta, Chair

The Poverty Law Section had a productive year. At the annual meeting at the 2018 Poverty Law Conference, several individuals were honored for their service advocating for low-income communities. The honorees were Jerome Wesevich and Tracy Odvody-Figueroa from Texas RioGrande Legal Aid for their work on disaster relief legal issues arising from Hurricane Harvey. The section also honored John Henneberger from Texas Housers, a nonprofit that supports low-income Texans' efforts to achieve the American dream of a decent, affordable home in a quality neighborhood. The next Poverty Law Conference will be held August 27-30 in Austin. The conference offers targeted continuing legal education with a public interest focus and features presentations from knowledgeable poverty law practitioners and private attorneys. The section established a grant to fund innovative ideas to help nonprofits advocate for the indigent community in Texas.

Along with the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, the section conducted a poverty simulation at the State Bar Annual Meeting to help participants understand what it might be like to be a part of a typical low-income family trying to survive from month-to-month. The section also presented on how settlements impact a client's state and federal public benefits.

PUBLIC UTILITY LAW

Ron Moss, Chair

The Public Utility Law Section pro-

vides opportunities for utility law practitioners in Texas to interact with and learn from each other. One of the most important events sponsored by the section is its annual conference, which will be held this year on August 9 at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center in Austin. The conference typically includes commissioners or executive staff from state agencies such as the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Railroad Commission of Texas, who share their perspectives on issues of importance to regulated entities such as electric, natural gas, telecommunications, and water utilities. Speakers and attendees from private practice and the public sector interact to make this an enriching and economical day of CLE. During the years in which the Legislature is in session, as it is this year, the annual conference also provides a valuable opportunity for utility law practitioners to analyze and discuss how new legislation affects their clients and constituencies.

REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, AND TRUST LAW

David Dickson, Chair

The Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section's extensive 2019 legislative program addressing guardianships, decedents' estates, trusts, and related matters proceeded through the Texas Legislature. The section will present session updates relating to real estate, probate, and trust law. REPTL honored Robert "Doc" Watson (real estate) and Jerry Frank Jones (probate) as its 2018 Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award recipients. The section published four quarterly issues of the *REPTL Reporter* and sent e-blasts containing information relevant to members throughout the year. Section members enjoyed more than \$30,000 in discounts on registration fees for TexasBarCLE seminars. The Public Service Committee awarded a \$10,000 grant to Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources for providing legal assistance to low-income Texans. The Student

Writing Contest winners received \$4,500 in awards. REPTL continues its partnership with the Oil, Gas, and Energy Resources Law Section in funding the Texas Title Standards Joint Editorial Board. All 18 members of the section's 2018-2019 Leadership Academy completed their course on March 29, 2019, at the Texas Law Center in Austin. Under the leadership of former council member Shannon Guthrie, the candidates were required to attend four full-day meetings over the past eight months and complete a group project.

SCHOOL LAW

Mark Tilley, Chair

The School Law Section comprises individuals who represent the interests of parents, students, employees and employee organizations, educational institutions and their governing bodies, and state and national education-related agencies and associations. This broad diversity of interests and an atmosphere of collegiality and professional cooperation help make the School Law Section a unique group committed to the interests of all its constituents. The section is dedicated to providing information on legal issues arising in Texas schools to a wide range of legal practitioners and education law-related associations by offering high-quality CLE and opportunities for networking with colleagues. The 34th annual UT School Law Conference, held February 28-March 1 in Austin, was a great success thanks to UT LAW CLE, the planning committee, and the presenters. The section will hold its 33rd annual School Law Retreat July 19-20 at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa near Bastrop. This popular tradition provides an opportunity for CLE and socializing with colleagues and their families in a relaxed environment. At the retreat, the section will present the Kelly Frels Lifetime Achievement Award, which was given to David Thompson in 2018 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to school law.

TAX

Catherine C. Scheid, Chair

Benefits of the Tax Section include:

a website (texassection.org) featuring a 24/7 CLE library (free CLE hours for members), *Texas Tax Lawyer* that is published three times a year (featuring tax articles, outlines, and comments the section submitted to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the IRS, and the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts), and a link to join committees; CLEs during the year, such as Tax Law Day, Property Tax Seminar, the Tax Workshop program (an un-taped, in-depth interactive seminar focusing on one topic with government and prominent private practice speakers), Annual Meeting, the International Tax Symposium, and a monthly tax update with professor Bruce McGovern at noon on the first Wednesday of each month; and the Leadership Academy, which helps future tax leaders take ownership of their careers. You can serve the Tax Section by writing a comment on proposed regulations, representing a taxpayer in the U.S. Tax Court with the Pro Bono Committee, training service members to be certified return preparers to help the soldiers complete their income tax returns, or joining a committee and meeting wonderful colleagues.

WOMEN AND THE LAW

Deborah L. Cordova, Chair

The Women and the Law Section had a productive year. On November 13, 2018, the section supported the Hidalgo County Bar Association Women's Bar Section at its 10th Annual Heart Gallery of Hidalgo County, whose mission is to promote awareness, understanding, and adoption of children in the foster care program. The section also supported the Texas Women Lawyers, or TWL, at its Annual Meeting and CLE in March. Council member Natasha R. Martinez was honored by TWL with the Brenda Tso Rising Young Lawyer Award.

The section's *Women's Advocate* newsletter highlighted members, local organizations, and articles written by members. The section's top-quality telephonic CLE programs were well attended and included

topics on "Avoiding Online Liability" and "The Employment Law Landscape." The section also conducted its first writing competition for Texas law students, which called for essays identifying and analyzing legal challenges for women in Texas and/or nationwide.

The section hosted the CLE "Identifying and Overcoming Obstacles and Stereotypes" at the State Bar Annual Meeting followed by the section's Council and Membership Meeting and presented the following awards: Sarah T. Hughes Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, Louise B. Raggio Award, Barbara Culver Clack Award, and Harriet E. Miers Writing Competition Award.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Ken Wrobel, Chair

The laws and rules governing this section continue to evolve. The area of highest concern has been over the protection of first responders. This legislative session shed new light on this area between wanting to support the first responders and the immense financial burden on the communities.

The board recently enacted updated bylaws and the section has linked together on Texas Bar Connect.

The 2018 Advanced Workers' Compensation Seminar provided discussions on medical and legal topics. The section hosted a golf tournament that benefitted Kids' Chance of Texas, an organization that provides scholarships to children whose parent was killed or catastrophically injured when working. The recipient of the 2018 Barbed Wire Award went to Joe Anderson, of Burns Anderson Jury & Brenner, for his years of service and dedication to this area of law.

The 2019 Advanced Workers' Compensation Seminar will again be held in August in Austin. There will be a half-day seminar that provides an introduction and basics to this area of law and then two days for the advanced seminar. The section will again hold a charitable event at Top Golf before the seminar and a social event after its annual section meeting. **TBJ**