

Corpus Christi Bar Association

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Corpus Christi Bar Association Resolution regarding State Bar of Texas President Larry McDougal's Social Media Comments

On July 1, 2020, Richmond, Texas attorney Larry P. McDougal, Sr. took office as president of the 105,000-member State Bar of Texas. On Friday, July 10, 2020, Mr. McDougal published a divisive post on social media that an election poll worker in Fort Bend County who was wearing a "Black Lives Matter" t-shirt was violating the law and that she should have been issued a citation and removed from the premises. Afterward, various posts made by Mr. McDougal prior to his election as a State Bar of Texas Officer were circulated on the internet. In these posts, Mr. McDougal referred to members of Black Lives Matters as members of a "terrorist group", objectified a female attorney allegedly suffering from substance abuse, and made light of police brutality. On July 11, 2020, certain leaders of the State Bar of Texas and the Texas Young Lawyers Association issued a statement denouncing Mr. McDougal's online comments that had come to light at that time. In a press release dated, July 13, 2020, the African American Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Texas issued a "Call to Action" to Mr. McDougal requesting a formal apology and that he adopt specific measures concerning training and education as his "Presidential Project" in an effort to combat systemic racism.

On July 18, 2020, the Board of Directors of the Corpus Christi Bar Association discussed its response, if any. As a result, The Corpus Christi Bar Association enters the following resolution:

It is hereby resolved... The Corpus Christi Bar Association affirms the July 13, 2020, Call to Action by the African American Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Texas. We believe that the State Bar president has an obligation to uphold the values of all Texas lawyers. The dignity of the office demands a leader with courage, compassion, and good judgment. Therefore, we call upon Mr. McDougal to earn the respect of his constituents through thoughtful reflection and the grace of public good works as outlined in the Call to Action steps.

Issued on this 24th day of July, 2020.

Jeffrey J. Lehrman
Corpus Christi Bar Association, President