



Continuing the **CONVERSATION**

MOST OF YOU HAVE SEEN MY FACEBOOK POST FROM JULY 10, 2020, and my blog comment from 2015. Regardless of how you feel about them, one thing is certain: Racial injustice is a very important issue right now and it must be addressed.

I have listened intently to all viewpoints since my controversial post in July. I respect the sentiments of those who spoke out at the special board meeting regarding their opinions on my statements and a plan for change.

In summary, I listened and heard from all demographics, and I believe we should all spend more time engaging with one another in a supportive and understanding manner. If we have closed minds and refuse to listen, this problem will only grow worse.

Reflecting on my time at Gerry Spence's Trial Lawyers College, I learned if you are talking, you are not listening and if you are not listening, you are not learning. If you are not learning, you cannot make good decisions. As the president of the State Bar of Texas, I want to make strides to improve our ability to truly listen and grow.

I look forward to continuing the conversation and learning more as an organization. With continued education and perseverance, I believe the State Bar will continue to grow and serve Texans in an even better way. I take my role as president very seriously, and I will continue to lead this organization in the best way possible. I've learned from these issues, and I want my actions to speak louder than my words.

At the September 25 board meeting I will report back from my deliberations with others and lay out my preliminary plan for advancing these issues. I am seeking alliances and collaborations with regional and other similarly situated state bar associations, our state bar sections and committees, and our newly created president-elect's task force. I look forward to sharing more with you soon.

LARRY MCDOUGAL

President, 2020-2021
State Bar of Texas