GENERAL INFORMATION



BACKGROUND

The State Bar of Texas, an administrative agency of the state's judicial branch, is charged with many responsibilities, including providing educational programs for the legal profession and the public, administering the Minimum Continuing Legal Education program for attorneys, and managing the grievance procedure. A public corporation whose funding sources include lawyers' dues and Continuing Legal Education program fees, the State Bar of Texas receives no appropriations from the State's General Revenue Fund. The State Bar is subject to sunset review by the Legislature and successfully underwent that process for the second time in 1991 and the third time in 2003.

The State Bar of Texas had its beginning in 1882 when 300 lawyers and judges gathered in Galveston to form the Texas Bar Association. Desiring to establish a better vehicle through which attorneys would maintain the highest ethical standards, a bar committee began in 1927 to draft a bill that would unify the bar through legislation allowing further controls over standards of legal practice. The State Bar Act, which was adopted by the Legislature in 1939, mandated that all attorneys licensed to practice law in Texas be members of the State Bar.

ORGANIZATION

The State Bar of Texas is governed by a board of directors. Its members receive no compensation and are elected by the membership. The State Bar includes committees, boards, sections, and divisions that are run by more than 4,500 volunteers, both lawyers and non-lawyers. Their responsibilities include general oversight of the Bar, providing assistance to local bar associations, developing continuing legal education programs for attorneys, conducting educational activities for the public, and administering the grievance system. The staff at the Bar's headquarters in Austin and in regional grievance offices around the state supports the work of the volunteers.

TEXAS LAW CENTER

Located in the Capitol Complex at 15th and Colorado Streets in Austin, the Texas Law Center is the State Bar's headquarters. It is near the Supreme Court Building and State Capitol. The Law Center also houses the Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Center for Legal History which features changing displays of legal history. The Texas Law Center has been recently refurbished to meet the changing needs of the profession.

MEMBERSHIP/NAME & ADDRESS CHANGES

It is important that attorneys keep the Membership Department informed of any changes of address, name or phone number. Please notify this department at (800) 204-2222 or (512) 427-1463, ext. 1383 immediately to eliminate misrouted mailings and phone calls. Updates can also be made online at www.texasbar.com. This department processes approximately 10,000 address changes annually. It also serves as a clearinghouse for all licensed lawyers in the state of Texas and handles the record keeping for dues for the entire membership.

STATE BAR ADDRESS

P.O. Box 12487 Austin, Texas 78711-2487 1414 Colorado St. Austin 78701-1627 www.texasbar.com

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Toll Free: (800) 204-2222 Local: (512) 427-1463 Fax: (512) 427-4100

OTHER TOLL FREE NUMBERS

Advertising Review	(800) 566-4616
Attorney Occupation Tax	(800) 583-8070
Disaster Response Hotline	(800) 504-7030
Ethics	(800) 532-3947
Grievance	(800) 932-1900
IOLTA	(800) 252-3401
Judges' Assistance Program	(800) 219-6474
Lawyers' Assistance Program	(800) 343-8527
Lawyer Referral Service	(800) 252-9690

CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

Austin Headquarters

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