

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*January 23, 2008*

**And the Envelope Please** — The State Bar has announced the winners of its YouTube video contest, “Lone Star Stories: Texans on Justice.” The winner of the \$2,500 award in the age 18 and older category is Natalie Jordan of Dallas for her video, “Texans on Justice.” As the result of a tie in the judging, two \$2,500 scholarships will be presented in the under 18 category. Brothers Raphael and Alexandre Chaumette of Sugar Land won for their video, “The Promise of Justice for All.” Huey Fischer of Rockport also won in the under 18 category for “The Murder of Ima Bacon: A Tale of Justice in Texas.” The entries were judged by Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson, ESPN Legal Analyst Roger Cossack, *Apprentice* contestant Amanda Hill, Texas Music Office Director Casey Monahan, and Rich Parsons, press secretary to Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst. To watch the winning videos, go to [www.texasbar.com/texansonjustice](http://www.texasbar.com/texansonjustice). Board members, please make plans to stay at the board meeting in Grapevine on Friday night for a special awards presentation.

**TYLA Candidates Selected** — At its board meeting in Corpus Christi last weekend, the Texas Young Lawyers Association announced its slate of officer candidates for 2008–2009: president-elect, Cori Harbour and Kristie Wright; chair-elect, Davis Chapman and C.E. Rhodes; vice-president, Kirsten Barron Cohoon and Jennifer Evans Morris; secretary, Natalie Cobb Koehler and Jaime Rangel; and treasurer, David Anderson and David Courreges. Sylvia Cardona will serve as president and Clay Scheitzach will serve as chair of the board. At the meeting, TYLA board members also heard from State Bar president-elect candidates Claude Ducloux of Austin and Roland Johnson of Fort Worth.

**Judicial Poll** — Ballots are being mailed today for the State Bar Judicial Poll. The election is being handled by the same company that conducted the State Bar and TYLA elections last year. The ballots for the judicial poll will have a voter authorization number (VAN) printed on them so that attorneys can vote either online or via paper ballot. The poll closes on Feb. 22 at 5 p.m.

**Clean Audit** — The financial audit has been completed for FY 2007. The result is an unqualified opinion, also referred to as a “clean audit.” This is the best audit opinion the State Bar can receive.

**Support for ATJ Internship Program** — The Texas Legal Protection Plan has donated \$50,000 to the State Bar that will be used to support the Access to Justice Internship Program. The funds will provide stipends for summer interns from all nine Texas law schools to work in legal aid offices in areas where there are no law schools. A check will be presented at the board meeting in Grapevine.

**Technology Delivered** — In December, the ATJ Commission Technology Committee completed delivery of 305 computers, 59 printers, 22 scanners, and software to 37 legal services programs in Texas thanks to a one-time bulk purchase with funds from the Texas Access to Justice Foundation.

**Building Update** — The contract for the window replacement project has been signed. A mock-up of the new window system is being installed on the first floor of the Texas Law Center to test. The contract for davit installation has also been executed, with installation planned for later this month. The expected start date for the renovation of floors 3 through 6 remains March 1.

**LRE Receives New Grant** — The State Bar Law-Related Education Department is the recipient of a Play by the Rules mini-grant for 2007–2008. During the pilot year of the program, LRE will target the seventh-grade populations of at least two school districts. The innovative program is based on a 72-page, question-and-answer student book and teacher guide that addresses more than 200 laws. The booklet will be adapted for Texas and then proofed by representatives of a Texas law school.

**New Exhibit at Texas Law Center** — “Lawyers at the Alamo,” currently on exhibit on the first floor of the Texas Law Center, is sponsored by the State Bar History and Preservation Committee, the Texas Bar Historical Foundation, and the Texas General Land Office. The exhibit, which will be on display through March, is dedicated to the memory of Gov. Bill Daniel because of his frequently voiced desire to see the Alamo lawyers honored. The display cases in the James R. Dougherty Pavilion will feature images and biographical material related to other lawyers who were active in the cause of Texas independence. The State Bar Archives Department worked closely with Robert N. Jones, vice chair of the History and Preservation Committee and special projects counsel to the General Land Office, to mount the exhibit at the 2007 State Bar Annual Meeting in San Antonio. The exhibit was so popular with lawyer attendees that the Gov. Bill and Vara Daniel Center for Legal History decided to display it in Austin throughout Texas History Month.

**Hughes, Toobin Among Annual Meeting Speakers** — The 2008 State Bar Annual Meeting will take place June 26-27 in Houston. At the Bar Leaders Recognition Luncheon, the keynote speaker will be former White House Counselor and U.S. Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes. At the Bench Bar Breakfast, the keynote speaker will be Jeffrey Toobin, staff writer at *The New Yorker*, CNN legal analyst, and author of *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court*. Following Friday’s General Session, where Harper Estes will be sworn in as State Bar president, Roger Cossack will moderate a Litigation Section debate on immigration featuring Mark Krikorian (Center for Immigration Studies), David A. Martin (University of Virginia School of Law), and Cecilia Munoz (National Council of La Raza). Other featured speakers include Marty Kaplan (“How Television Influences Jurors”), David Frederick (“The Art of Oral Advocacy”), and the mayors of Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio (“The Future of Texas Cities”). Online registration begins Feb. 19. For law firm sponsorship opportunities, contact Holly Wilkerson at (512)427-1514.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the State Bar of Texas is to support the administration of the legal system, assure all citizens equal access to justice, foster high standards of ethical conduct for lawyers, support and provide services to its members, enable its members to better serve their clients and the public, and educate the public about the rule of law and promote diversity in the administration of justice and the practice of law.

