

# Beverly Godbey Elected Chair Of the State Bar Board of Directors

By Ellen Carnes



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— Beverly Godbey

**B**everly B. Godbey, a partner in the Dallas office of Gardere, Wynne, Sewell, L.L.P., has been elected chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. She will be sworn in during the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in San Antonio, June 23–24, and will serve until June 2012.

“I’m excited to have an opportunity to meet other engaged bar leaders across the state,” Godbey said. “It’s inspiring to see so many people who are working toward obtaining equal justice for all.” Access to justice is a passion of Godbey’s. She serves on the Texas Access to Justice Commission and chairs the Bar Leaders for Justice Committee, where she works to enhance pro bono civil legal services for indigent Texans.

Godbey says that her primary role as chair of the board will be to support incoming State Bar President Bob Black. “From my viewpoint, the chair works as a partner with the president to promote the goals and programs of the State Bar, ultimately seeking to enhance the role of lawyers in our society, provide valuable community service, and help all lawyers find fulfillment and happiness as a member of the legal profession.”

A *magna cum laude* graduate of Southern Methodist University, Godbey earned her J.D. from Tulane Law School. At Gardere, her practice focuses on commercial litigation, including deceptive trade practices, bad faith, ERISA, insurance coverage, and non-subscriber and products liability. Godbey is an AV-rated trial lawyer who has been recognized as one of the Best Women Lawyers in Dallas by *D Magazine*.

A past president of the Dallas Bar Association and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Godbey plays an active role in the community. She has received accolades for her work raising money for pro bono initiatives, including a Pro Bono Appreciation Award and an Equal Access to Justice Rainmaker Award. “I started fundraising in Dallas in the 1990s,” she said. “I really enjoyed the fundraising and jumped at the opportunity to do it statewide.”

In her free time, Godbey enjoys playing tennis, needlepointing, and spending time with her family. Her husband, David, is a federal district judge in Dallas. They have two children, John, a high school senior set to attend Duke University in the fall, and Ruth, a high school junior. ❖

## ELLEN CARNES

is assistant editor of the *Texas Bar Journal*.