

State Bar of Texas

Public Information & Media Relations Activities

News Releases

News Releases and Media Advisories are issued on a wide variety of State Bar activities, including Texas attorneys' pro bono efforts, honors and recognition, community service, law related education (LRE) efforts, TYLA projects and events, and leadership changes. News releases are available online at texasbar.com/media.

News Clips

In addition to searching and distributing electronic news clips daily, the Public Information Office maintains a comprehensive file of print news clips from around the state on coverage related to the State Bar, Texas lawyers and issues affecting the profession.

Texas Gavel Awards Program

The purpose of the Texas Gavel Awards program is to recognize journalistic excellence that fosters public understanding of the legal and judicial system. The awards are judged by a panel that includes out-of-state journalists, editors and members of academia.

Legal Experts Referrals

Increasingly, the Bar is sought out by reporters needing help with answers to substantive legal questions. The Public Information Office assists reporters in locating legal experts, helping position the State Bar as the foremost authority on legal issues. To further assist reporters, a Media Resources page is maintained on the State Bar's website: texasbar.com/media.

Public Service Pamphlets

Public service pamphlets to help Texas consumers with common legal problems are available through the Public Information Office. Issues such as family law, landlord-tenant disputes, consumer information and elder law are covered. Most titles are available in hard copy and as PDFs at texasbar.com/pamphlets.

Public Affairs Committee

The Public Affairs Committee is staffed by the Public Information Director, and plans an Open Government CLE Seminar held in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting and oversees the Texas Gavel Awards program.

Open Government Forum

As a community service to help educate public officials and the media, as well as offering CLE to Texas lawyers, the Public Information Office plans an Open Government Forum in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting. The event features a stellar panel to address issues from several perspectives and offers legislative updates to help ensure compliance with open records and open meetings laws.

Disaster Response

The State Bar coordinates with legal services providers and local bar associations to gather and disseminate information on obtaining assistance during declared disasters such as hurricanes, floods, etc.

Client Page Distribution

The *Texas Bar Journal* Client Page addresses issues of interest to clients of Texas lawyers and the general public. The Public Information Office distributes this page monthly to community newspapers for reprint free of charge.

Disciplinary Action Updates

The Public Information Office works closely with the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel to respond to media inquiries about specific lawyers and the system in general. Disciplinary actions as published in the *Texas Bar Journal* are distributed to media on a monthly basis. This notification to newspapers (and to television stations in major markets) helps keep the public informed and shines a spotlight on the Bar's self-regulation efforts.