

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*December 1, 2005*

**Summit with the Law School Deans** — For the second year in a row, the State Bar hosted a lunch for the deans of the nine Texas law schools following the new attorney induction ceremony in Austin. President Eduardo Rodriguez, President-elect Martha Dickie, Immediate Past President Kelly Frels, and TYLA President-elect Karin Crump were among those who engaged in a lively discussion about current collaborations and areas for future partnerships between the law schools and the State Bar of Texas. As Eduardo said, “The law schools and the State Bar have the same interest at heart: preparing law students to conduct themselves in the most professional and ethical manner.”

We covered a lot of ground, including the logistics of offering course credit for pro bono work, a potential project to send young lawyers and law students to work with the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR), and the implications for Texas law schools and the Texas legal profession of the new foreign legal consultant rule.

**Free Access for Law Students to Online Resources** — In response to the input of Walt Huffman, dean of the Texas Tech University School of Law, TexasBarCLE is now offering free access to its Online Classroom and Online Library to all law students, faculty, and staff at the law schools in Texas.

**Creation of CFO, CTO Positions** — We announced this week that two of the Bar's management positions would have new job titles: Sheryle Patterson, who has been Director of Finance, will now occupy the position of Chief Financial Officer. At the same time, Brad Powell, who has been Director of Information Technology, will become our Chief Technology Officer. These changes reflect the reality of the roles the respective positions play. Both Brad and Sheryle will report directly to me.

**Management Retreat Planned** — State Bar department and division managers and several other employees will participate in a daylong management retreat on Dec. 14. One of the purposes of the retreat will be to receive the final reports of three special project teams I assigned to provide input on an employee opinion survey, our telecommunications system needs, and a member survey. Sam Zigrozzi, the director of the Charles Dana Center at the University of Texas, will facilitate the retreat. Sam previously served as an executive at IBM and Columbia/HCA Healthcare System.

**Advertising Review Interpretive Comment** — To assist attorneys in complying with elements of the recently amended advertising rules, the State Bar Advertising Review Committee has issued an interpretive comment regarding reference to past successes in lawyer advertisements. The interpretive comment is printed in the December issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* and can be found on the State Bar website at [www.texasbar.com/adreview](http://www.texasbar.com/adreview).

**Bats Out of the Belfry?** — A contractor has been selected to remove the bats which have been getting into the area above the ceiling on the 2nd and 6th floors of the Texas Law Center. The bats will not be harmed in any manner. Bat-exclusion devices will allow the bats to exit, but not reenter, the building. When all the bats have left the building, the entry points will be sealed.

**Demographic Projections** — The Research and Analysis department has completed a 10-year projection of the number of active and inactive attorneys in the State of Texas. The department projects a 16 percent increase. This analysis will help us plan space needs at the Law Center for the next 10 years.

**Business Cards for State Bar Directors** — State Bar business cards have been useful on some occasions for Directors. ABA conferences are a good example of where this might be the case. Please let Candiss Held or Jennifer Reames in my office know if you would like a supply of cards noting your status as a State Bar Director, and they'll be happy to place an order for you.

**TexasBarBooks** — TexasBarBooks is beginning to see the benefits from our recent catalog mailing. Sales during the month following the mailing increased by 33 percent over the previous month. While other factors may have affected book sales during this two-month period, we feel confident that we're seeing a healthy return on the investment put into creating, printing, and mailing the first TexasBarBooks catalog in many years, and we're pleased to have made lawyers more aware of the products we offer.

**Free Real Estate Forms Online** — Nine real estate forms created by the Real Estate Forms Committee of the State Bar of Texas are now available free of charge on the TexasBarCLE website. The forms can be accessed at <http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/PMRealEstateForms.asp>.

**Lawyers Assistance** — The San Antonio Bar association has agreed to assist in marketing the new “attorneys only” facilitated mental health group in San Antonio.

**Committee Objectives** — Standing Committee Chairs have submitted their objectives for the year for their respective committees. The list of committee objectives can be found on the State Bar website at [www.texasbar.com/committees](http://www.texasbar.com/committees).

**Emily Jones** — As many of you know, Texas Lawyers Care director Emily Jones has undergone intensive treatment. We're happy to report that she is home and doing well.

**By the Numbers** — During the last 10 years, the number of attorneys has increased by 18 percent while the number of insureds carrying health insurance through the State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust has declined by 33 percent — 2.7 percent of State Bar members now carry health insurance through the insurance trust.

## 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.

