

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*March 7, 2006*

**State Bar Election** — The out-of-office campaign season for president-elect is in full swing. Candidates have full schedules as they travel around the state meeting as many lawyers as possible. In an effort to help more bar members see the candidates, Kelly Frels and Bill Elliott conducted a videotaped interview with Andrew Strong and Gib Walton. Candidates were given an opportunity to discuss why they want to be president-elect of the State Bar of Texas and to offer their perspectives on issues facing the legal profession. We hope you will watch this interview (available at [www.texasbar.com/election](http://www.texasbar.com/election)) and encourage your constituents to do the same. Local bar associations with websites have been asked to link to the interview as one more way to educate lawyers about the candidates.

**Judicial Poll** — The State Bar 2006 Judicial Poll ended on Feb. 22. Out of a total of 77,119 eligible voters, the return rate was 18.62 percent. This includes 7,739 online votes and 7,021 paper votes for a total of 14,360. The overall return rate for the 2004 Judicial Poll was 12.3 percent. The results are available at [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com).

**Webcasts at the Texas Law Center** — On Feb. 24, TexasBarCLE presented webcasts on the legal careers of Clarence Darrow and Justice Douglas, as presented by accomplished actor Graham Thatcher, followed by panel discussions of the ethical and practical issues portrayed. Staged in room 101 of the Law Center, the Darrow program drew 64 live registrants and 61 on the Internet. The Justice Douglas program attracted 51 live attendees and 58 on the Internet.

**No Names Mentioned** — A Feb. 21 webcast from the 6th floor studio at the Law Center was titled “Next Generation of Pharmaceuticals and Medical Device Litigation.” An earlier version of the title of this included the names of certain drugs, but it was discovered that the mention of these drugs caused spam filters on office email systems to eliminate the email notification sent out for this program.

**Cooperative Effort Online** — The Online Classroom version of the Prairie Dog Lawyers Advanced Criminal Law Course is now available on [www.TexasBarCLE.com](http://www.TexasBarCLE.com). A joint venture of the State Bar and the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the program was staged live at Texas Tech Law School on Jan. 6 and featured speakers from Texas and around the nation.

**Law School Outreach** — On Saturday, March 4, Law Practice Management conducted the “Planning to Conquer the Real World of Private Practice” seminar at Thurgood Marshall School of Law. This seminar is presented to graduating classes at all Texas law schools.

**Section Reps to Board Nominations** — The Sections Department received eight nominations to fill the upcoming vacancies on the Section Representative to the Board Committee. These nominations will be forwarded to the Nominations Committee. Voting will take place at the Council of Chairs meeting on April 7.

**No Trip to Costa Rica** — The International Law Section has canceled its scheduled trip to Costa Rica this April due to lack of interest.

**Protecting the Pictures** — The updating of the Texas Law Center has progressed to the second floor. President's pictures and donor's paintings that are exhibited on that floor are being stored in Archives during construction.

**New Tool For Texas Judges** — The Law-Related Education Department of the State Bar of Texas has created a new curriculum, "All Rise! — Comprehending the Texas Court System," which will provide judges with the tools to conduct classroom presentations to fourth- and seventh-grade students. Funded by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, the curriculum offers a variety of online classroom activities including an interactive computer game that will help students understand the role of Texas courts. The curriculum is entertaining as well as educational. LRE is working to match interested judges with classrooms.

**Pre-proposal Conference** — A pre-proposal conference was held on Tuesday, Feb. 28, for auditors and investment firms interested in bidding for the State Bar's business. Two firms will be bidding on the auditing services and five firms have expressed interest in the investment management services.

**Texas Lawyers Care Gets Assistant Director** — Laura Tansey Rey-Sanchez has been named assistant director of Texas Lawyers Care. Prior to accepting the newly created position, Laura was a program attorney for Texas Lawyers Care.

**Pro Bono Training** — The State Bar Family Law Section will sponsor pro bono recruitment training programs in Waco and Abilene on March 24. For more information call Texas Lawyers Care at (800)204-2222, Ext. 2155 or email [tlc@texasbar.com](mailto:tlc@texasbar.com)

**Enthusiastic Response to Short Story Contest** — The deadline has passed for the *Texas Bar Journal's* 2006 Short Story Fiction Writing Contest and more than 100 Texas lawyers have submitted entries. The top three stories, as judged by an independent panel (consisting of Mark Curriden, James Hime, Rue Judd, Terri LeClercq, Lynne Liberato, and Michael C. Smith), will be printed in the June 2006 issue of the magazine.

**By the Numbers** — The Minimum Continuing Legal Education Department has certified almost 11,000 courses so far this fiscal year, or 1,369 courses per month. // On average, almost 750 attorneys fail to be in compliance with their MCLE requirements each month as their birthdays roll around. // March will be the busiest CLE month in the history of the State Bar, with 38 programs presented.

## 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.

