

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*May 3, 2006*

**State Bar Election Results** — Gib Walton of Houston was elected to serve as president-elect during the 2006-07 bar year. He will serve as president of the State Bar during the 2007-08 bar year. Bill Miller of Texarkana was elected president-elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

**Law Day** — Martha Dickie and Karin Crump were on hand for the State Bar's Law Day luncheon and program on May 1. We honored poster and essay contest winners from Beth Yeshuran Day School in Houston, Salazar Elementary School in Alice, Galena Park Middle School in Galena Park, and McCallum High School in Austin. Law Day programs will continue this week across the state.

**Annual Meeting Registration** — Be sure to get your Annual Meeting registration information in by May 10. Board members are reminded: Do not register online! If you have questions, contact Diana Corbin or Pam Dudley. We are looking forward to a great event to "Honor the Judiciary."

**Statements Mailed** — Attorney Dues and Occupation Tax statements were mailed on May 1 and are due on June 1, 2006. Member dues, occupation taxes, the legal services fee, and section memberships can be paid online at [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com).

**Budget Hearing Scheduled** — The Supreme Court budget hearing to review the proposed 2006-07 State Bar budget is scheduled for May 9 at the Supreme Court Courtroom.

**Spring CLEANing** — Management staff of TexasBarCLE and TexasBarBooks participated in a one-day strategic planning workshop on April 11 called "Spring CLEANing." Staff considered things that it could stop doing, throw out, or defer and got quite a list. Next they looked at things they should be doing that are not being done now, and got an even bigger list. As they worked through the day, they also stumbled on a number of simple changes that were put on a list called "just do it."

**We the People** — The Texas team, Lamar Academy from Brownsville, made it to the top 10 out of 50 states competing in the "We The People ..." national competition. Way to go Lamar Academy and Law Related Education!

**Happy Trails to Gisela** — Law Practice Management Director Gisela Bradley recently retired from the State Bar. She had been a part of the LPM program for 11 years. We wish her well in her retirement!

**Texas Pattern Jury Charges on TexasBarBooks Forum** — The Texas Pattern Jury Charges drafting committees are completing work on the 2006 editions of the PJC's. Their work is posted on the Internet, and Texas attorneys are invited to view the proposed changes and respond with comments. To view the posted revisions to the Texas Pattern Jury Charges, go to [TexasBarCLE.com](http://TexasBarCLE.com), scroll down to "Practice Manuals" and click on the link "Review Changes to the Texas Pattern Jury Charges."

**New Lawyers** — The Texas Board of Law Examiners will release the February Bar Exam results on May 4. Results can be obtained at [www.ble.state.tx.us](http://www.ble.state.tx.us). The New Lawyers' Induction Ceremony will be Monday, May 22, in Austin.

**Continuous Improvement Process** — Division manager nominations for the best individual employee objectives for the current fiscal year were due May 1. Some 525 individual objectives were prepared and monitored. Under this experimental program, started in June 2005, up to 20 percent of employees below the division manager level will be eligible for special merit awards to be announced in June 2006. These awards are expected to average 1 to 2 percent of recipient employee's base pay.

Meanwhile, the timetable has been set for developing individual objectives for the next fiscal year. These objectives (3 to 4 per employee) must be directly linked to the State Bar Strategic Plan and its mission and purpose statements. All objectives will be approved and finalized by July 1.

**Ceiling Installation Complete** — The first major phase in the multi-year renovation of the Texas Law Center — replacing ceiling tiles, installing sprinklers, and updating wiring — is complete.

**Costa Rica Delegation** — The Law Related Education Department will host two delegates from Costa Rica this week. They will be in Texas to observe the Project Citizen Showcase and review our program, which is now being used in Costa Rica. Section chairs have been invited to meet with these delegates on Thursday.

**Appellate Training Program** — The Access to Justice Commission trained 23 legal aid lawyers during its 2006 Appellate Training Program, which featured members of the State Bar Appellate Section. The purpose of the program, which took place in Austin, April 20-21, was to enhance the skills and techniques of legal aid lawyers to write briefs and to argue their motions more effectively and more persuasively.

**2006 Texas Trial Academy** — As part of its mission to improve the quality of legal services to the poor, the ATJ Commission is collaborating for a second year with the Texas Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers to conduct a Texas Trial Academy, May 7-11. Legal aid lawyers from across the state will attend the intensive trial advocacy training, which will once again be held at the University of Texas School of Law. A staff of 34 Texas Fellows of the American College will participate in this trial training program.

**ABA Days** — The American Bar Association will host "ABA Days in Washington," May 3-4, for bar leaders throughout the country to participate in legislative briefings and meet with their congressional representatives regarding continued funding for the Legal Services Corporation. The primary message of the Texas delegation is the importance of the continued support of the Legal Services Corporation and why all of society has a stake in ensuring that justice for all is a reality in our democracy.

## 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.

