

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*May 16, 2006*

**Annual Meeting Arrangements** — We hope that all officers and directors turned in their reservation information by the May 10 deadline! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pam Dudley or Diana Corbin. We are looking forward to a great “Honoring the Judiciary” meeting and hope all of our directors will take advantage of this opportunity to visit with our members.

**Bar Leaders Conference** — The Bar Leaders Conference is scheduled for July 21-22 in Dallas. An executive committee meeting, board retreat, and committee and section chair orientation will be held prior to the conference to minimize bar leader travel and maximize the opportunities directors have to talk to various constituencies from throughout the state.

**State Bar Budget Hearing** — President-elect Martha Dickie presented the State Bar's proposed FY 2006-2007 budget to the Supreme Court on Tuesday, May 9. The hearing went well and we anticipate receiving the court's approval before our new fiscal year begins on June 1.

**Special Session Ends** — The Legislature's special session on school finance and related taxation issues ended today. All five tax bills passed. Details of the impact of HB 3 (franchise tax bill) on the legal profession were outlined in the Friday Update of May 5. (You can link to the Friday Updates through [TexasBar.com](http://TexasBar.com).) HB 3 will take effect in 2008. More than 3,000 State Bar members opted in to receiving the Friday Updates during the special session.

**Reception for Pat Moore** — As most of you know, Pat Moore will be leaving the State Bar at the end of the month. In honor of her service as general counsel, a reception will be held at the Texas Law Center on Friday, May 19, from 3 to 5 p.m. Please join us as we wish her well during the next phase of her life.

**Changes at TYLA** — Carol McCord has resigned her position as director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. Tracy Brown is running the TYLA office as the search for a new director gets underway.

**Supreme Court Historical Society Dinner** — The Texas Supreme Court Historical Society's annual John Hemphill Dinner is Friday, June 2. Supreme Court Clerk Andrew Weber will be the keynote speaker. Earlier in the day, the court will accept the portraits of former Justices Thomas M. Reavley and William L. Garwood. The dinner will be dedicated to the memory of former Justice Will R. Wilson, Sr., who passed away in December. We have reserved tables for new directors. Others interested in attending can purchase tickets by calling (512)481-1840.

**Texas Trial Academy** — The second Texas Trial Academy was held at the University of Texas School of Law, May 7-11. As part of its mission to improve the quality of legal services to the poor, the Access to Justice Commission once again collaborated with the Texas Fellows of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Thirty-four fellows trained 29 legal aid lawyers from across the state.

**ABA Day** — The American Bar Association hosted “ABA Day in Washington,” May 7-11, for bar leaders to participate in legislative briefings and meet with their congressional representatives regarding continued funding for the Legal Services Corporation. The Texas delegation consisted of Justice Harriet O’Neill, Supreme Court of Texas; Judge Lora Livingston, 261st District Court of Travis County; Martha Dickie, president-elect of the State Bar of Texas; Kelly Frels, immediate past president; Tom Godbold, chair of the board of directors; Michelle Hunter, deputy executive director; Richard Tate, chair of the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation; Betty Balli Torres, TEAJF executive director; Jay Ray, chair-elect of the ABA Young Lawyers Division; Bill Whitehurst, ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid & Indigent Defendants; Jim Sales, chair of the ATJ Commission; and J.A. (Tony) Patterson, Jr., a partner in Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. During the opening session, Justice O’Neill accepted a plaque to commend the ATJ Commission.

**Document Imaging System** — An IT project is underway to digitize historic judgment files for the Office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel. By mid-June, more than 1,800 case files on microfiche and more than 8,000 paper case files will be imported into a new document-imaging repository. The new system will improve CDC’s ability to retrieve and print information statewide and expand its search capability through optical character recognition (OCR) technology. Expansion of the imaging system to other departments is planned.

**New Telephone System** — After months of construction, cabling work, and coordination, the new telephone system in the Texas Law Center is nearing completion. The new system should be up and running by the end of May, but switchover will await staff training. Some individual telephone numbers will change, but we will make every effort to ensure that key extensions and department phone numbers will be automatically forwarded to provide for a smooth transition. The next phase will be integrating the CDC offices.

**Section Membership Data** — To assist sections in the management of their members, the IT staff has created automated processes that export section member data and make it available for download by the section leadership. The new processes export data on a weekly basis and make it available to download. Our thanks to the Intellectual Property Section for its assistance with the development of this new service.

**By the Numbers** — From August through February, 20,895 visitors viewed Ten Minute Mentor presentations. The number of free tutorials available for viewing continues to grow, with more than 200 topics now available at [www.tenminutementor.com](http://www.tenminutementor.com). The next opportunity for members to add their expertise to the library will be at the Annual Meeting. To schedule a taping, please contact TYLA director Andrew Evans at (806)468-3340 or [andrew.evans@sprouselaw.com](mailto:andrew.evans@sprouselaw.com). • The number of State Bar members casting ballots in this year’s election was 8,344. While that number represents a slightly less than 3 percent increase over last year’s 8,119 electronic voters, we’re somewhat disappointed. A team is assessing the electronic voting process to determine what worked and what didn’t work in a continuing effort to improve the system. Board members who have comments are asked to send them to Kathy Holder at [kholder@texasbar.com](mailto:kholder@texasbar.com).

## 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.

