

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 2, 2006

Bar Leaders Conference — A new ingredient was added to the traditional combination of the State Bar Board's retreat and the Local Bar Leaders Conference this year, with scheduling of the orientation for Section and Committee chairs included in the mix. All indications are that the overall meeting was a great success, and we hope to continue this arrangement next year. The orientation on July 20 was attended by more than 70 Committee and Section chairs and treasurers, who had an opportunity to meet their board advisors and learn about important elements of the State Bar. More than 300 bar leaders attended the conference, about 30 of whom attended the Access to Justice workshops to learn how local bars can become more involved in access to justice issues and how the State Bar can support their efforts. Next year, we hope to involve the sections in a presentation to local bar representatives on partnership projects that could be implemented in their local communities.

ABA Annual Meeting — State Bar President Martha Dickie, President-elect Gib Walton, and Immediate Past President Eduardo Rodriguez will be in Honolulu, Hawaii, Aug. 3-8, for the American Bar Association's 2006 Annual Meeting. On Aug. 4, the National Association of Bar Executives will recognize the Pipeline Project as an outstanding public service project with its LexisNexis Community and Educational Outreach Award. Rodriguez will accept the award on behalf of the State Bar. During the meeting, Kim Askew, a partner in the Dallas office of Hughes & Luce, L.L.P., will be sworn in as chair of the ABA Litigation Section and Jay Ray, a participating associate in the Collin County office of Moseley Law, P.C., will be sworn in as chair of the ABA Young Lawyers Division.

Texas Access to Justice Commission — On July 20, Jim Sales, chair of the Texas Access to Justice Commission, met with the 38 grantees of the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation that provide legal services to low-income Texans. Sales updated the providers on the commission's work and solicited suggestions on how the commission could better address legal services delivery problems.

Advanced Family Law Course Coming Soon — Final preparations are under way for the 32nd Annual Advanced Family Law Course, the biggest live CLE event in Texas, which will be held Aug. 14-17 at the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel in San Antonio. Compared to the same point last year, TexasBarCLE has received 200 more registrations for this year's event.

TexasBarCLE Makes Customer Service a Priority — At their weekly meetings, TexasBarCLE staff are reviewing difficult or unusual occurrences to make sure that they are helping train one another to deliver the best and most professional customer service. A continuous conversation is under way about what are the best ways to handle various situations.

Office of Minority Affairs — Last week's Diversity Summit at the Bar Leaders Conference was a success, with the largest attendance in recent years. Preparations for the Texas Minority Counsel Program are moving along smoothly. We are receiving a steady stream of registrations and corporate sponsorships. The office is looking to hire an administrative assistant; the job posting closes on Aug. 4.

TYLA Creates New Public Service Project — The Texas Young Lawyers Association has created a program to educate teenagers about the role of youth leadership in the civil rights movement. “They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement” seeks to inspire today’s youth to get involved in making a positive difference. Volunteer lawyers are needed to present the program in high school classrooms this fall. Visit www.TheyHadADreamToo.org.

Texas Family Law Practice Manual — The 2006 supplement to the Texas Family Law Practice Manual was released in May. We have already received a favorable response to some of the new features included in the supplement, such as hyperlinked case citations in the CD-ROM version of the manual. Those lawyers attending the upcoming TexasBarCLE Advanced Family Law Course will have the opportunity to purchase the manual at a 25-percent discount. We will also be offering attendees the option of purchasing the Texas Family Law Practice Manual Practice Notes, either individually or bundled with the CD-ROM; these unique bundles will only be available at the Advanced Family Law Course.

Linda Monk to Speak at LRE Annual Conference — Linda Monk, a graduate of the Harvard Law School who twice received the ABA’s Silver Gavel Award, will be the featured speaker at the Law-Related Education Annual Conference in February 2007. In her book, “The Words We Live By,” Monk takes readers through the U.S. Constitution line by line, providing analysis, surprising facts, little-known information, alternate interpretations, and historical anecdotes. The result, according to Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, is “a wonderfully accessible yet deeply insightful guide to our Constitution, which should be read and enjoyed by a wide audience of old and young alike.”

Annual Meeting e-Group — We will set up an e-group for the 2007 Annual Meeting section program chairs, allowing more effective communication regarding Annual Meeting events.

Law Center Update — Construction has been on hold pending a meeting with ESA engineers regarding their continuing role in equipment and remodeling projects. For remodeling projects, the State Bar will contract directly with an architect for design work and then request proposals from general contractors to build according to the design. For equipment projects, ESA will handle the design and construction management. Meetings with vendors to begin the process of furniture acquisition are being arranged.

New Phones, New Numbers — After months of preparation, a new telephone system will be activated in the Texas Law Center. The “cut over” is scheduled for the weekend of Aug. 5. The new main phone number is (512)427-1463. The new main fax number is (512)427-4100. The toll-free number remains (800)204-2222. Staff extensions will continue to work until further notice.

By the Numbers — On July 24, the State Bar Lawyer Referral Service made 475 referrals to attorneys, one of the highest number of referrals made in a single day.

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.

