

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 30, 2006

All the Governor's Men — On Friday, Bill Jones, former general counsel to Texas Gov. Rick Perry, addressed the TYLA board of directors meeting in New Braunfels as part of TYLA President Karin Crump's new leadership speaker series. Jones served as TYLA president during 1996-1997. On Aug. 23, another former general counsel to Perry, Texas Supreme Court Justice David Medina, was one of the featured speakers at a MABA Texas scholarship fundraiser in Houston. Medina was joined by Texas Solicitor General Ted Cruz and legal legend Richard "Racehorse" Haynes. The lunch raised an estimated \$30,000.

A Salute to Colonel Bivins — State Bar Director Demetrius Bivins retired from military service on Aug. 1 with the rank of full Colonel. He served a total of 30 years, 14 on active duty (including two deployments) and 16 in the reserves. Bivins' last assignment was as Deputy Brigade Commander, 321st Civil Affairs Brigade, in San Antonio. Upon retirement, Bivins was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Oyez! Oyez! Oyez! — The State Bar held a reception yesterday to honor Andrew Weber, who served as clerk of the Supreme Court of Texas for four years and as a staff attorney for the three years prior to being named clerk. Weber is now a partner in Kelly Hart & Hallman.

On the Corpus Christi Bay — The State Bar Board of Directors will meet Sept. 14-15 in Corpus Christi. You should receive detailed information in the mail next week.

Council of Chairs — The Council of Chairs will meet Sept. 8 in Austin.

Retention Help — The Sections Department is sending each section chair a list of non-renewing members.

Homework Assignment for Committee Chairs — As required by board policy, standing committee chairs have been asked to submit a report outlining their goals and objectives for the current bar year. Chairs have until Sept. 30 to submit their reports to the State Bar. Once completed, the reports will be posted online at TexasBar.com. Board members will be notified when the reports are posted online.

State Bar Dues Due — On Aug. 23, email reminders were sent to remaining attorneys who have not paid their member dues or occupation taxes. Attorneys have until Aug. 31 to pay their fees before they will be suspended. As of Aug. 25, there were 12,879 attorneys who had paid dues or taxes online, an increase of 3,441 from the same time last year.

Economic Indicator — The September issue of the *Texas Bar Journal*, which should arrive on your desks next week, carries the most advertising in a single issue of the magazine since the peak of the Internet boom. Advertising representative Pat Niekamp, who deserves much of the credit for the increase, was recently named president of the Austin Advertising Federation.

Renewed Interest in Workers' Comp — Attendance at the Advanced Workers' Compensation Course, Aug. 24-25 in Austin, was up more than 10 percent compared with last year. An area of practice that had seemed to be on the decline may be on the upswing.

Law Practice Management Videos Added to CustomCLE — The Law Practice Management program’s video library has been incorporated into TexasBarCLE’s CustomCLE service.

CLE in the YouTube Era — In July 2006, nearly 3,500 lawyers registered for a program on TexasBarCLE’s Online Classroom. This is a 39 percent increase over July 2005. “Business Law Ethics” was the most popular program.

Star Power — TexasBarCLE presented a webcast on Aug. 23, “Negotiating and Drafting Indemnity Clauses.” It featured Hull Youngblood, Claude Ducloux, Judge Alan Waldrop, and David Smith. The program drew an audience of 363, an unusually large turnout for such a program.

State Bar Activates Hotline to Assist El Paso Flooding Victims — The State Bar has established a Disaster Hotline, (800)504-7030, to assist people with basic legal questions as they begin to rebuild their lives following recent devastating flooding. As basic needs are met and clean-up efforts continue, attention is likely to shift to issues such as replacing lost documents, housing, landlord-tenant disputes, consumer rights, and insurance questions. Lawyers from Texas RioGrande Legal Aid are available to answer the hotline and help with basic legal questions in English and Spanish. Additional disaster relief resources are available at www.texasbar.com/elpaso.

TYLA Rolling Out “They Had A Dream Too” — On Sept. 15, TYLA will begin the statewide rollout of its new video about children and the Civil Rights Movement. Narrated by NAACP Chair Julian Bond, the video features interviews with Dr. Terrence Roberts (who was a member of the Little Rock Nine), Franklin McCain (a member of the Greensboro Four), former San Antonio mayor and HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros, and former Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights Norma Cantu. The rollout will follow a four-hour training session for TYLA’s ProBAR Children’s Project. TYLA is recruiting volunteer lawyers to provide pro bono legal representation to unaccompanied children detained at the South Texas border.

Phone System Tips — On the main menu, the welcome and the menu audio are now one message, allowing someone who knows the menu hierarchy to press “1” immediately for an extension. The after-hours menu now announces that the State Bar is closed, as well as its business hours, followed by, “If you know your party’s extension, press ‘1.’” 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.

Coffee Windfall — A few months ago, the Texas Law Center added a Starbucks coffee maker to the break room, next to a drawer for voluntary donations. After the first 75 bags of coffee and hot chocolate, we are pleased to report a profit of \$2.86.

By the Numbers — The State Bar mailed 349,971 pieces of mail during the month of July.

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.

