

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 20, 2006

First We Lose Milton Friedman — I am sorry to report that Sheryle Patterson, the State Bar's Chief Financial Officer, has decided to resign effective Jan. 31, 2007. Sheryle has been with the Bar more than seven years, and we owe her a considerable "Thank you" for the continued improvement in our financial records and financial performance over that time. She has worked diligently to help prepare the Bar for that eventual, but inevitable, time when our records will have to meet the same "Sarbanes-Oxley" level of scrutiny that publicly listed enterprises must comply with. All of us wish her the very best as she embarks on a very significant full-time career as a mother.

Protecting Home Addresses — Pursuant to a recent court ruling, *The State Bar of Texas vs. the Attorney General of Texas*, an attorney member's home address, home phone number, and date of birth maintained in the State Bar membership records are *not* subject to public disclosure. Third parties who submit a public information request for member addresses or mailing lists will now be provided with the office address we have on file for each attorney member, even if the member has selected their home address as their "preferred" mailing address. The office address will continue to be published in the online Attorney Profile and official State Bar mailings will continue to be sent to the preferred address as designated by the attorney member. Attorneys whose home address is the only address on file should consider providing an alternate public contact address for clients or potential clients by updating the "office address" in their online Attorney Profile on TexasBar.com. Alternatively, an attorney may grant the State Bar authority to disclose their home information by (1) updating their attorney profile contact information on TexasBar.com and checking the disclosure authorization checkbox following the home address fields or (2) completing the written authorization form at www.texasbar.com/membership. A completed, signed, and notarized form can also be emailed (in PDF format) to us at memmail@texasbar.com, or faxed to us at (512) 427-4124.

New Lawyers — On Nov. 2, the Board of Law Examiners released the results of the July 2006 bar exam. There were 2,243 individuals who passed the exam. On Nov. 13, following the New Lawyer's Induction Ceremony in Austin, the State Bar hosted a lunch for the deans of the Texas law schools. New lawyers have the opportunity to join several sections at no cost for the remainder of this bar year.

Administrative Suspensions — Since 1996, the Supreme Court of Texas mandated that all lawyers licensed in the State of Texas are required to take "A Guide to the Basics of Law Practice" course not later than 12 months after licensure. Pursuant to Supreme Court Order (dated June 6, 2006,) the State Bar suspended 122 attorneys on Nov. 1 for failure to take the course.

Building Update — Work has begun on the cooling tower replacement. Carrier developed a unique design for the State Bar that will cost \$300,000 less than the amount budgeted. The replacement work is scheduled to be completed in six weeks. The contract for the replacement of the elevators has been signed. Work on the roof is awaiting a permit from the City of Austin. We interviewed three general contractors for the floors P1, 1, and 2 remodel. Architects have completed planning for which floor (floors 3 -6) each department will be located on once those floors are remodeled. Also, the architects have completed a plan for the sequence of

moves to the staging areas while each floor is being remodeled. The architects are now working on the detailed planning of each floor. Bids have been received for the new furniture from 7 different providers and are being evaluated by the staff and the architects.

Budget — The budget subcommittees will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28, and Thursday, Nov. 30, to discuss their assigned areas of the State Bar's proposed FY 2008 budget. The budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 11. At the budget hearing, the entire budget committee will meet to discuss the findings and recommendations of the subcommittees and to discuss and formulate the complete budget that they will present to the board of directors in January.

Finance — The State Bar has received the completed financial audit for FY 2006. The Finance Committee will be meeting on Dec. 4 to discuss and accept the audit from the financial auditors, Maxwell, Locke & Ritter. The committee will present the audit to the board of directors at the January meeting.

Legal Aid Litigators — The Litigation Section will fund three summer internships for Texas law students to work at legal services programs next summer. The grants will provide stipends for the law students to do litigation-related work for the programs that receive the grants. The section's chair-elect, Alistair Dawson, serves on the Supreme Court Task Force to Expand Legal Services Delivery, which was created by the court at the request of the Access to Justice Commission to increase the involvement of attorney organizations in providing legal services to the poor. The Litigation Section is the second section to provide summer interns to legal aid programs: the Labor and Employment Law Section funds two interns each summer.

Connecting CDC Dallas — A new telephone system was installed in the Dallas CDC office on Nov. 15. This is the last of the new installations, and work will now begin on networking all of the telephone systems to provide direct-dial access between the State Bar regional and Austin offices.

LRE Grants Renewed — The Hatton W. Sumners Foundation renewed grants for three programs the State Bar Law-Related Education Department administers: the Hatton W. Sumners Institutes (\$584,000), Being an American (\$44,000), and Citizen Bee (\$46,000). This is the eighth grant LRE has received from the foundation.

Training State Bar Staff — The first DDI management training course, "Essentials of Leadership," is being scheduled for December. Six in-house facilitators received intensive training by DDI and were certified to deliver DDI courses.

Referrals Increase — In October, the State Bar Lawyer Referral Information Service made 7,233 referrals to lawyers, local bar associations, legal aid programs, and other entities. This number represents an increase of 1,000 referrals from October 2005.

By the Numbers — TexasBarCLE registrations for webcasts increased from 1,196 in FY 2006 to 2,663 in FY 2007; Online Classroom downloads increased from 15,295 to 18,424; and live and video-replay seminar attendance increased from 12,472 to 13,408.

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.

