

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

July 24, 2007

**Bar Leaders Quartet** — We look forward to seeing you in Houston this week, where four great events are taking place: the Board Retreat, Committee and Section Chair Orientation, Bar Leaders Conference, and Advanced Criminal Law Course. Board members should plan to arrive by 11:30 a.m. on Thursday so they can have lunch with their liaison committees. Board members should plan to stay through Saturday to attend the Bar Leaders Conference. All events take place at the Westin Galleria.

**State Bar Sends Three to Governor's Leadership Program** — State Bar Chief Information Officer Brad Powell, TexasBarBooks Director Sharon Sandle, and TexasBarCLE Director of Operations Martin Chait are participating in the Governor's Executive Development Program, a three-week, intensive educational program directed by the Governor's Office and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Previous participants include Deputy Executive Director Michelle Hunter, Governmental Relations Director KaLyn Laney, Communications Division Director Kelley Jones King, and Compliance Division Director Ray Cantu.

**Keeping Up with the Joneses** — Don Jones has accepted a new assignment as manager of day-to-day operations for Texas Lawyers Care, the State Bar's pro bono department. Emily Jones (no relation) continues to serve as executive director of the Texas Access to Justice Commission and director of the State Bar Legal Services to the Poor Division. In other Texas Lawyers Care news, two new attorneys have joined the staff: Elma Garcia, formerly of the Texas Advocacy Project, and Lisa Villarreal-Rios, who has worked for the Texas Office of the Attorney General and the Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR). Texas Lawyers Care will be celebrating its 25th anniversary on October 4 at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin. For more information, call (800) 204-2222, Ext. 1873.

**Texas Law Center Update** — The Jaworski Fountain and Plaza restoration is complete. In other Texas Law Center news, the new conference rooms on the 1st floor are being used for meetings and the 2nd floor makeover is complete. Employees on the 6th floor are expected to move to the 2nd floor staging area in September. The target date for remodeling the 6th floor, including the replacement of windows, is October 1.

**Elevator Replacement** — Workers have completed electrical work and commenced mechanism and cab work on the elevators at the Texas Law Center. Each elevator is expected to take 8 to 10 weeks to complete.

**Disaster Hotline** — The State Bar's Disaster Hotline is taking calls from Texans affected by recent storms. If you know someone in need, please refer them to (800)504-7030. If you are willing to help answer basic legal questions, please visit [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com) to volunteer.

**TexasBarBooks Wins Award** — The Association for Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA) has awarded TexasBarBooks an award for outstanding achievement in its "Best Publications" category for the 2006 editions of the *Texas Pattern Jury Charges*. The award is one of only 15 annual awards granted to competitors representing more than 300 organizations. ACLEA will present the award to TexasBarBooks at the ACLEA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia on July 31.

**Friday Update Update** — Surveyed at the conclusion of the legislative session, 93 percent of subscribers to the State Bar’s legislative e-newsletter, the Friday Update, reported that it met their expectations, 98 percent indicated it provided useful information, and 99 percent said it should be continued during future legislative sessions. Each edition of the Friday Update is archived at [www.texasbar.com/fridayupdate](http://www.texasbar.com/fridayupdate). The September issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* will include a series of articles on changes enacted by the Texas Legislature and what they mean for Texas lawyers.

**LRE Summer Institutes** — The State Bar Law-Related Education Department has wrapped up its busy schedule of summer institutes. Among the programs was the Hatton W. Sumners/LRE Social Studies Student Teacher Institute, which prepares elementary-, middle-, and high-school students to be better civic educators. All materials distributed are correlated with TEKS standards and the TAKS test. Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht, a former Hatton W. Sumners Scholar, spoke to teachers about the court and the Texas judicial system.

**Pirates of the Preamble** — Law Focused Education, Inc., a subsidiary of LRE, has unveiled a new game on its website titled “Pirates of the Preamble.” Visit [www.texaslre.org](http://www.texaslre.org) and click on “online games.”

**“Super Lawyer” Advertisements** — Attorneys intending to place advertisements in the upcoming “Super Lawyer” issue of *Texas Monthly* need to submit their advertisements to the State Bar Advertising Review Department. If you have questions about the advertising rules, please contact Gene Major at (800)204-2222, Ext. 1503.

**Number Crunchers** — The State Bar is pleased to welcome Dr. Mark Mallon as director of research and analysis and Randall Rau as director of accounting in the Accounting Department. Mallon replaces Nils Olsson, who joined another state agency. Rau succeeds Cheryl Howell, who was promoted to director of finance.

### By the Numbers

- There were 2,399 attendees at the State Bar Annual Meeting in San Antonio.
- There are 922 windows at the Texas Law Center that will be replaced as part of the building’s renovation.
- In June, 11,858 State Bar members submitted changes of address. Staff processed 8,365 of these, while 3,493 were made online via MyBarPage at [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com).
- As of July 18, more than 13,000 State Bar members had paid dues and taxes online — a 22 percent increase from a year ago.
- During “cleanout” days at the Texas Law Center, staff filled forty 55-gallon recycling bins and sixteen 55-gallon shred bins. The Accounting Department shredded more than 800 lbs. of paper.

## 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.

