

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*August 23, 2007*

**Lawyer Privacy Bill Takes Effect Sept. 1** — Gov. Rick Perry signed into law legislation that allows lawyers to keep confidential State Bar records that include their home address, home telephone number, Social Security number, email address, and date of birth. Attorneys who want to restrict personal information for public access can do so one of two ways: (1) by going to their attorney profile contact information on [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com) and checking the box requesting restriction of home information using the Home Address fields, or (2) completing the Restriction for Public Access of Personal Information Form available at [www.texasbar.com/membership](http://www.texasbar.com/membership). Attorneys whose home address is the only address on file who choose to restrict it for public access should consider providing an alternate public contact (or office) address for clients or potential clients. Attorneys can update the “office address” in their online attorney profile contact information on the State Bar website. For more information, call Membership at (800)204-2222, Ext. 1383.

**State Bar Dues and Taxes Due** — Attorneys have until August 31 to pay member dues and occupation taxes before they will be suspended. Roughly 15,000 attorneys have paid their fees online, an increase of more than 2,000 from a year ago.

**Minority Affairs** — The fifth and final Texas Minority Counsel Program “Save the Date” reception took place last week in Austin. Approximately 60-70 minority and women attorneys attended. The Minority Affairs Department is gearing up for the TMCP conference, Sept. 6-7 at the Hilton Austin Hotel. A golf tournament, spa event, and awards reception will take place Sept. 5 at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort in Bastrop. More than 400 people have registered for the conference. Corporations are in the process of selecting candidates to interview on-site during the conference.

**Standing Committee Goals/Objectives** — As required by State Bar 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 Bar. Once completed, the reports will be posted online at the Bar website. Board members will be notified when the reports are posted online.

**Sections** — Emails were sent to all section chairs with their specific board advisor and alternate advisor information, encouraging sections to keep their board advisors apprised of meetings and events.

**Complete Archive of *Texas Bar Journal* Now Online** — Thanks to an alliance with William S. Hein and Co., State Bar members now have free access to a complete archive of the *Texas Bar Journal*. Go to [www.texasbar.com/tbj](http://www.texasbar.com/tbj) and click on the Hein logo to browse searchable PDFs of each issue of the magazine dating to its founding in 1939.

**Join the Texas Bar Circle** — Keep in touch with friends, network with State Bar members around the world, and browse jobs for Texas Bar members in the Texas Bar Circle, an online network similar to social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook. Texas Bar Circle, a secure, closed community accessible only to Texas lawyers, is the first online community offered by the State Bar of Texas, and the first social network offered by a state bar association in the United States. To join Texas Bar Circle, visit [www.texasbar.com/circle](http://www.texasbar.com/circle).

**Driving on the Right Side of the Road** — Working with the Texas Municipal Court Education Center, Law-Related Education (LRE) will create three curriculum units and develop two online games for trainers to use at its workshops next summer. The purpose is to infuse the study of traffic safety issues into social studies classes in 4th and 7th grades and high school government classes. In other LRE news, Dodie Kasper, LRE Consultant, won the American Lawyers Auxiliary Teacher of the Year at the ABA meeting in San Francisco.

**High Powered, High Minded, High Tech** — The Texas Access to Justice Commission collaborated with the chief information officers of Andrews Kurth, Baker Botts, Bracewell & Giuliani, Fulbright & Jaworski, and Vinson & Elkins to develop and implement a training program for legal services providers to use technology to better serve low-income clients. Volunteer instructors provided beginning and advanced training on the use of Microsoft Word in a legal environment. More than 150 legal services staff members participated in these free training sessions in Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston.

**LAMP Project Aids Military Personnel** — The State Bar Military Law Section and Texas Lawyers Care continue to support LAMP, the Legal Aid to Military Personnel project. The program's volunteer director, Col. Bryan Spencer (Ret.), matches pro bono lawyers with deployed military personnel to assist them with legal issues connected with their deployment. The program also helps with probate matters. The program was initially launched during the Gulf War, then re-launched shortly after 9/11.

**Instant Downloads** — A website upgrade will enable TexasBarBooks to offer customers the ability to download materials at the time of purchase. Future plans include the ability to download pattern jury charges. In other technology news, TexasBarBooks is producing webcasts featuring PJC committee members.

**President-elect Nominee Process Underway** — The State Bar Board of Directors is soliciting candidates for the 2008 president-elect race. State Bar Rules stipulate that the 2008 president-elect nominees shall come from any county of the state. The board's Nominations and Elections Subcommittee is accepting names and background information of potential candidates. Please write the subcommittee to recommend potential candidates, c/o Martha Dickie and Bob Black, Nominations and Elections Subcommittee Co-Chairs, P. O. Box 12487, Austin 78711-2487. Anyone submitting a name for consideration should first obtain that person's consent to have his or her name submitted. Details about the information that should be included in the nomination packet will appear in the September issue of the *Texas Bar Journal*. If you have questions, please contact Candiss Held at (800)204-2222, Ext. 1416.

**By the Numbers** — The Advanced Family Law Course in San Antonio earlier this month attracted 1,907 attendees, 173 more than a year ago. Other advanced courses this summer have also done well: Advanced Estate Planning and Probate (305); Advanced Real Estate Law (534); and Advanced Personal Injury (more than 1,000).

## 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.

