

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 26, 2007

**Texas Trifecta** — Each year, the Communications Section of the National Association of Bar Executives gives Luminary awards in five categories. This year, the State Bar of Texas entered projects in three of the categories and won all three. The winning entries in the large bar association division were for excellence in regular publications (*Texas Bar Journal*), special publication (Commission for Lawyer Discipline Annual Report), and public relations (a brochure prepared for last year's Annual Meeting featuring interviews with ATJ Pro Bono Champions). The Dallas Bar Association and El Paso Bar Association also received awards. Congratulations communicators!

**Commission for Lawyer Discipline Annual Report** — If you haven't had the opportunity to read the *award-winning* Commission for Lawyer Discipline Annual Report, the 2007 report is posted online at [www.texasbar.com/cdc](http://www.texasbar.com/cdc). In addition to describing recent initiatives of the commission and the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel, the report provides a primer on the grievance process.

**Texas Lawyers Care Celebrates 25 Years** — Three hundred supporters from law firms of all sizes, legal aid programs, the state and federal judiciary, corporations, and friends and families honored the work of Texas Lawyers Care and the State Bar of Texas to support access to justice. The Texas Access to Justice Commission, which sponsored the event, presented awards to the State Bar and to two individuals: Betty Balli Torres, executive director of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, and Emily Jones, executive director of the Texas Access to Justice Commission and a former director of Texas Lawyers Care. The event raised more than \$185,000 for legal services to the poor.

**Lone Star Stories** — As part of its "Let's Do Justice for Texas" public education initiative, the State Bar has launched a YouTube video contest, *Lone Star Stories: Texans on Justice*. Texas residents and attorneys licensed to practice in Texas are invited to submit a short video on the theme "Texans capturing the promise of justice for all." The winners in each of two categories will receive \$2,500. The deadline is Dec. 15. For more details, visit [www.texasbar.com/texansonjustice](http://www.texasbar.com/texansonjustice).

**Committee Appointments** — Standing committee appointment applications are being accepted for consideration by President-elect Harper Estes for the 2008-2009 bar year. Members can access an online interest form at [www.texasbar.com/committees](http://www.texasbar.com/committees) through Dec. 7. Unless otherwise noted, appointment terms are for three years. The 2007-2008 Standing Committee Projects and Objectives Reports are also available online. From the committees home page, click the link to view the reports submitted by committee chairs for their work through September.

**Minority Director Nominations Sought** — Nominations are being accepted for a minority director position on the State Bar Board of Directors. The deadline for nominations is Dec. 15. Persons

interested in being nominated for the position should submit a nomination letter, resume, and letters of recommendation. For more information, see p. 833 of the October issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* or contact Candiss Held at (800)204-2222, Ext. 1416.

**New Lawyer Induction** — New lawyers will be inducted into the profession at a ceremony at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin on Monday, Nov. 12. (The State Bar will be closed in observance of Veterans Day.) Sections are once again extending free membership to newly licensed attorneys. The deadline to apply for the free offer is Friday, Nov. 2. For more information, contact Sections Coordinator Kathy Casarez at (800)204-2222, Ext. 1420.

**Volunteer and Staff Guides Available** — The State Bar of Texas *2007-2008 Volunteer and Staff Guide* is available. The guide contains contact information for State Bar and TYLA board members, Section and Committee leaders, staff, and other bar-related organizations. An online version is available at [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com). To receive a hard copy, email [tbj@texasbar.com](mailto:tbj@texasbar.com).

**Training** — State Bar facilitators have led DDI training sessions at the CDC offices in Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas. Staff will take part in EEOC training on retaliation in the employment context in December and on conducting an investigation in March.

**Flu Vaccines** — On Nov. 6, State Bar employees and their families will be able to receive flu shots for \$20 at the Texas Law Center. (Children must be at least 9 years old.)

**MCLE Changes Take Effect** — Changes to the Texas Minimum Continuing Legal Education Regulations take effect Nov. 1. On June 21, the State Bar Board of Directors accepted proposed changes, which involve categories of credit, to the MCLE regulations approved by the State Bar MCLE Committee. For more information about the changes, contact the MCLE Department at (800)204-2222, Ext. 1806 or visit [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com).

**Compensation Analysis** — Three compensation consultants were contacted to get cost estimates for doing a compensation and classification analysis.

**Window Replacement** — Mickey Redwine and staff met with a glass company and expect to receive a bid on the window replacement project in time to present to the Facilities and Equipment Subcommittee and the Administration Committee and at the Nov. 1 Executive Committee meeting.

## 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 and promote diversity in the administration of justice and the practice of law.

