

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

November 30, 2007

YouTube Video Contest Deadline — Entries are due by Saturday, Dec. 15, for the State Bar's YouTube video contest, *Lone Star Stories: Texans on Justice*. Lawyers, students, and other Texas citizens have only a couple of weeks to add the finishing touches to their three-minute videos on the theme "Texans capturing the promise of justice for all." The winners in each of two categories will receive \$2,500. For more details, visit www.texasbar.com/texansonjustice.

President-elect Rolling Up Sleeves — On Tuesday, State Bar President-elect Harper Estes met with the budget subcommittees in Austin. He is also busy considering committee assignments for the 2008-2009 bar year. Members can access an online interest form at www.texasbar.com/committees. Applications are due on Friday, Dec. 7.

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, contact Candiss Held at (800)204-2222, Ext. 1416.

BOD Central — Take advantage of BOD Central, the page on the State Bar website where you can find reimbursement forms, committee rosters, the board calendar, and many other resources. There's also a map that shows State Bar directors by district. Visit www.texasbar.com/bod.

Email Etiquette — As a courtesy to your fellow board members, please don't hit "reply all" to meeting notice requests. You can just reply to Candiss. Thanks!

Bank Agreement Reduces Credit Card Fees — The State Bar has signed a new merchant services agreement with Bank of America. After an analysis by a team that included Finance Division Director Cheryl Howell and Chief Information Officer Brad Powell, the State Bar anticipates saving approximately \$46,000 per year.

Big Month for Lawyer Referral — In October, the State Bar Lawyer Referral Information Service (LRIS) collected \$46,791.64 in revenue. Of that, \$44,541.64 was referral fees from cases. This is LRIS' highest monthly total for referral fees.

Funding Renewed for LRE Programs — The Hatton W. Sumners Foundation will once again fund the Citizen Bee and Being an American Institute, both of which are coordinated by the State Bar Law-Related Education Department. Over the past 19 years, the Sumners Foundation has awarded \$4.9 million in grants to LRE efforts.

Lawyers' Voices — TLAP Director Ann Foster and TexasBarCLE Director of Video Production Paul Burks have recorded the first 11 segments in the “Lawyers’ Voices” project. Lawyers discuss their challenges and successes related to recovery from alcoholism, drug addiction, and depression. The next recording dates are tentatively set for late January in Houston.

Building Update — The perimeter waterproofing project for the Texas Law Center has been approved and is scheduled to start next week. General Counsel has begun drafting the contract for the window replacement. The contract for davit installation has been executed. We are moving toward a March 1 start date for replacing the windows and renovating floors 3 through 6.

Move Scoop Keeps Staff Informed — The State Bar’s Move Team has been distributing regular updates on the construction projects at the Texas Law Center to staff via an e-newsletter called “The Move Scoop.” The Move Team has also set up a comment box for staff members to submit questions or comments regarding the changes.

EEO Training — Staff will take part in an EEO management training on retaliation next week.

Automatic Enrollment — Legislation takes effect Jan. 1 that requires new State Bar employees to be enrolled in the TexaSaver 401(k) plan at 1 percent of monthly compensation unless they opt out.

Welcome — In a special election to fill an unexpired term, El Paso lawyer Cori Harbour was elected vice president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association.

... And Farewell — Texas Supreme Court General Counsel Lisa Hobbs is leaving the court to take a part-time position in private practice. We wish her and her family well.

Short Story Fiction Writing Contest — The *Texas Bar Journal* has announced its second Short Story Fiction Writing Contest. Entries are due March 1, 2008. The winning entries will be published in the June 2008 issue of the magazine. For more information, visit www.texasbar.com/tbj.

Blawgs — The State Bar website maintains a page of links to blogs maintained by Texas lawyers at www.texasbar.com/blogs.

Holiday Shopping — Need a gift for a colleague, client, or favorite lawyer this holiday season? Check out the State Bar of Texas merchandise at www.texasbar.com/merchandise.

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.

