

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

June 17, 2008

National Bar Association Convention — The State Bar is a Bronze-level sponsor of the National Bar Association's annual convention, which will take place in Houston, July 26–August 2, at the Westin Galleria and Westin Oaks. The National Bar Association is the oldest and largest organization of attorneys and judges of color in the world. The State Bar has tickets for the “Houston Reception,” “Opening Session and Concert,” and “President's Reception.” Directors interested in representing the State Bar at one or more of these events should contact Candiss Held or Jennifer Reames by Friday, June 20, at (512)427-1400. The tickets will be extended on a first-come, first-served basis.

Court Administration Task Force — The sixth and final scheduled meeting of the Court Administration Task Force will take place in Houston on Tuesday, June 24, at the Hilton Americas Hotel. The meeting starts at noon in Grand Ballroom D.

Board of Directors Photo — Officers, directors, liaisons, and section representatives should have received information last week on State Bar Board of Directors events during the upcoming State Bar Annual Meeting. On Wednesday, June 25, both the outgoing board and the incoming board will attend the board meeting, which begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Hilton Americas Hotel. Around 3 p.m., the outgoing board will convene in an adjacent room for a group photo. Please wear business attire.

Board Events at Annual Meeting — After Wednesday's board meeting, the board reception begins at 6:30 p.m. and board dinner at 7:30 p.m. On Thursday, the incoming board of directors meeting starts at 8:30 a.m. and will end before the Bar Leaders Recognition Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Karen Hughes, former White House counselor and U.S. Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, will deliver the keynote address. Gib Walton will present presidential citations and other awards. On Thursday night, the Presidents' Gala reception begins at 7 p.m. Dinner follows an hour later. On Friday, June 27, Harper Estes will be sworn in as president during the General Session Luncheon, which starts at 11:30 a.m. The General Session will segue into what promises to be a great debate on immigration organized by the State Bar Litigation Section.

New Directors Orientation — On May 30, the new members of the State Bar Board of Directors received hard hats emblazoned with the State Bar seal before embarking on a tour of the construction at the Texas Law Center. That evening, the directors attended the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society's John Hemphill Dinner, where Professor Mark Steiner of South Texas College of Law discussed Abraham Lincoln's law career. On Saturday, the new directors learned the ins and outs of serving on the board. Mark your calendars for the Board of Directors Retreat, which will take place on Thursday, July 17, in The Woodlands. Committee and Section Chair/Treasurer Orientation takes place the same day. The Bar Leaders Conference begins Friday and concludes Saturday.

Happy (Semi-) Retirement — At a reception at the Texas Law Center on May 29, friends and colleagues honored Emily Jones, who recently retired as director of the State Bar’s Legal Services to the Poor Division. After a monthlong break, Emily will return to work part-time as executive director of the Texas Access to Justice Commission. Emily is missed already, but the State Bar’s access to justice initiatives remain in good hands: Don Jones is handling Emily’s division director duties and Elma Garcia has been named director of Texas Lawyers Care.

Building Update — The remodel of the 3rd floor is on schedule to be completed in August. After floors 4 and 5 are remodeled, the 2nd floor will be reconfigured to accommodate the Austin office of the Chief Disciplinary Counsel. The State Bar received an initial estimate for the 2nd floor remodel that was somewhat higher than expected. Rising construction costs and the need to build more CDC work spaces than planned because of the centralization of the intake process are the primary causes. Formal bids will be “value engineered” to drive costs to an acceptable level. Staff are tending to a few quality issues connected with the remodel of the 6th floor — replacing bookcase shelves prone to bowing, considering how best to protect wooden surfaces, and hiring an acoustical engineer to evaluate unacceptable sound levels in the studio. Additionally, structural engineers successfully tested the newly installed windows with hurricane-force spray, and film will be applied to the new windows on the 2nd floor (which were installed to “square up” two former corner terraces) to match the newly installed windows on floors 3–6.

Compensation Study — During today’s Administration Committee meeting in Austin, the Employment/Salary/Evaluation Subcommittee recommended Public Sector Personnel Consultants to conduct a compensation study. The recommendation will be taken to the board for approval in June.

National Exposure for TLAP — In response to a recent article, “Attorney, Interrupted: Seeking Meaning, Recovery for a Legal Life Lost,” which appeared in *Texas Lawyer* and on Law.com on May 5, the Texas Lawyers’ Assistance Program (TLAP) has been receiving calls from around the country. TLAP staff have talked with each caller to discuss the issues and distributed copies of *Practicing from the Shadows: Depression and the Legal Profession*, the DVD produced during Martha Dickie’s year as State Bar president. To order a free copy of the video, call TLAP at (800)343-8527. Earlier this month, TLAP co-sponsored with Texas Lawyers Concerned with Lawyers (TLCL) the 19th annual TLCL Conference in Houston.

By the Numbers — The Law-Related Education Department trained more than 8,000 teachers this past year, a record number for the department.

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.

