

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

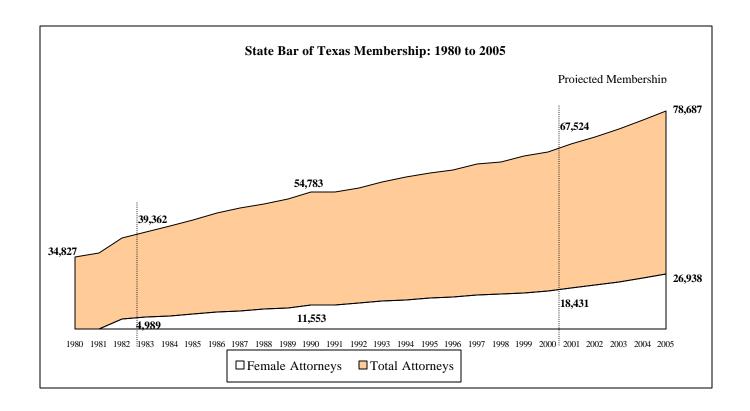
DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

June 2001

Statistical Profile of the State Bar of Texas Membership (2000-01)¹

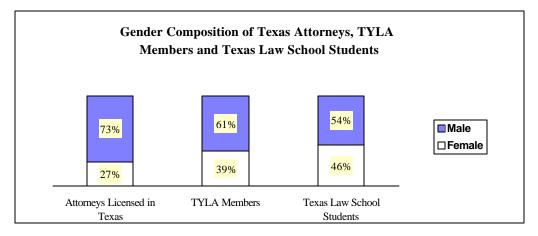
By Carol L. Cannon, M.A. and Kevin J. Priestner

The State Bar of Texas membership has increased by 94 percent over the last two decades, rising from some 34,800 active members in 1980 to around 67,500 in 2000. During the same time period, the Texas population grew 42 percent.² This translates into the current ratio of one attorney for every 327³ people compared with the 1980 ratio of one attorney for every 455 Texans. If the current trends continue, there will be nearly 79,000 attorneys licensed by the State Bar as active members in the year 2005.⁴



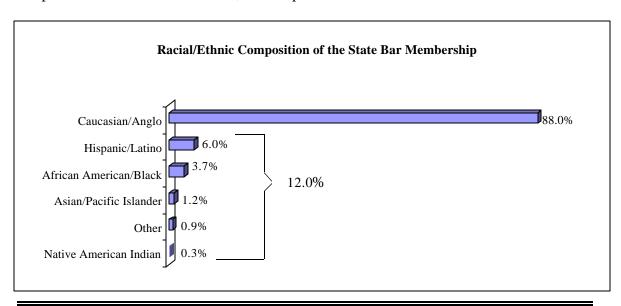
Women in the Profession

Since 1982,⁵ when there were fewer than 5,000 female attorneys in Texas (13 percent of the membership), the number of women attorneys licensed in Texas has nearly quadrupled, while the Bar membership as a whole has increased by 72 percent. Women lawyers licensed in Texas now number some 18,400, accounting for 27 percent of all licensed attorneys in Texas, 39 percent of Texas Young Lawyers Association⁶ (TYLA) members, and 46 percent of Texas law school students.⁷ Women are projected to comprise 34 percent of all State Bar members by the year 2005.⁸



Racial/Ethnic Minorities

The number and percentage of minority attorneys entering the profession have also grown dramatically in recent years. Since 1993, minority membership has grown 69 percent compared with 17 percent for the general membership. Currently, 27 percent of Texas law school students, percent of TYLA members, and 12 percent of all Texas Bar members are minorities—6.0 percent Hispanic/Latino, 3.7 percent African American/Black, 1.2 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, 0.3 percent Native American Indian, and 0.9 percent other race/ethnicities.



Years Licensed and Age

The typical Texas attorney is 45 years old and has been licensed for 15 years.¹¹ These figures have been increasing incrementally over the last several years, largely as a function of the aging of the 57 percent of the attorney membership born during the "Baby Boom" period.¹² Thirty-two percent of Texas attorneys are members of TYLA.

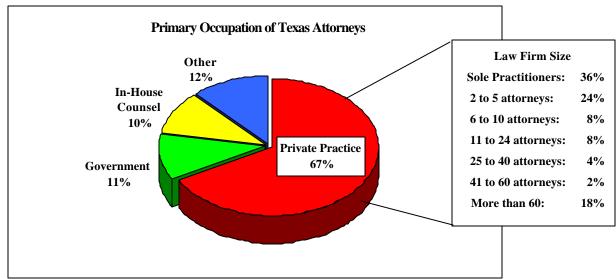
Geographic Distribution

Almost all Texas attorneys (95 percent of in-state attorneys) reside in a metropolitan county, ¹³ and only around 3,100 attorneys are located in rural areas. Approximately 73 percent of in-state members currently live in one of the five major metropolitan counties of Harris (28 percent), Dallas (21 percent), Travis (11 percent), Bexar (seven percent), or Tarrant (six percent) counties. Nearly 5,900 attorneys—nine percent of the total State Bar membership—reside outside of Texas. With a ratio of one attorney for every 107 people, Travis County has more attorneys per resident than any other Texas county. The attorney/population ratios in other major Texas metropolitan counties are: 1:161 (Dallas County); 1:191 (Harris County); 1:319 (Bexar County); 1:346 (Nueces County); 1:412 (Tarrant County); and 1:669 (El Paso County).

Attorney Occupation and Law Firm Size14

The percentage of Texas attorneys working in private law firms has declined in the past few years, from an estimated 75 percent in 1995 to a current 67 percent. Correspondingly, the proportion of attorneys working in government settings and as in-house counsel has grown. About 11 percent of the current membership are government lawyers compared to nine percent a few years ago, and approximately 10 percent work as house counsel, up from some eight percent in 1995.

The median law firm size (four attorneys) has remained steady during the last several years. Currently, 60 percent of Texas attorneys in private practice are sole practitioners or work in small firms (two to five attorneys). Eighteen percent of private practitioners are in firms with more than 60 attorneys.



Participation in State Bar Sections

About 43 percent of State Bar members participate in at least one voluntary area-of-interest section, and this figure has remained fairly constant since 1995. Twenty-four percent of Texas attorneys are currently members of two or more sections. Historically, the State Bar's Litigation Section has had more members than any other section, but the sections that have gained the most members since 1995 are Real Estate, Probate and Trust Law and Intellectual Property Law. Of the largest sections, Intellectual Property Law has had the highest growth rate since 1995 (47 percent), reflecting the growing importance of this area of law. The sections with the greatest declines in membership during this time period are Consumer Law (down 18 percent), Entertainment and Sports Law (down 17 percent), and Environmental and Natural Resources (down 12 percent).

Largest State Bar Sections		
Section Title	Number of Members	Percent of All Section Members 15
Litigation	8,020	28%
Real Estate, Probate and Trust	6,611	23%
Business Law	4,052	14%
Family Law	3,881	13%
Labor and Employment Law	3,081	11%
Corporate Counsel	3,035	11%
General Practice, Solo and Small Firm	2,156	8%
Oil, Gas and Mineral Law	2,100	7%
Intellectual Property	1,913	7%
Criminal Justice	1,832	6%
Taxation Section	1,731	6%

Board Certified Attorneys

Currently, nearly 6,400 attorneys (nine percent of the membership) are board certified in at least one area. The two largest areas of specialization are Personal Injury Trial Law (26 percent), followed by Civil Trial Law (19 percent).

Areas of Legal Specialization		
Specialization Title	Number of Board Certified Attorneys	Percent of All Board Certified Attorneys 16
Personal Injury Trial Law	1,660	26%
Civil Trial Law	1,233	19%
Criminal Law	747	12%
Family Law	639	10%
Estate Planning and Probate Law	582	9%
Commercial Real Estate Law	485	8%
Civil Appellate Law	391	6%
Labor Law	379	6%
Residential Real Estate Law	322	5%
Oil, Gas and Mineral Law	273	4%
Tax Law	223	4%
Administrative Law	185	3%
Business Bankruptcy Law	175	3%
Consumer Bankruptcy Law	162	3%
Farm & Ranch Real Estate Law	103	2%
Immigration and Nationality Law	69	1%
Consumer Law	51	1%

The Texas Young Lawyers Association

There are major differences in race/ethnicity and gender between TYLA and senior bar members. Both women and minorities account for a larger percent of TYLA than the senior bar—women represent 39 percent of TYLA but only 22 percent of the senior bar, while minorities account for 19 percent of TYLA compared with nine percent of the senior bar.

Employment choices for TYLA members also differ somewhat from those of the senior bar, most noticeably in the occupation of government attorney, at which 15 percent of TYLA members are employed, compared to 10 percent of senior bar members. Among private practitioners, TYLA members tend to work in larger firms than senior bar members do (the median law firm size is nine attorneys and three attorneys, respectively). Over twice the percentage (43 percent) of senior bar members are sole practitioners compared to TYLA members (20 percent). Correspondingly, over twice the percentage (27 percent) of TYLA members work in law firms with more than 60 attorneys, compared to attorneys of the senior bar (13 percent).

Senior bar members are more active in State Bar sections than TYLA members. About 38 percent of TYLA members and 45 percent of the senior bar participate in one or more sections.

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Notes

¹ Current attorney population figures are from the State Bar's membership records as of December 31, 2000. Unless otherwise noted, all figures refer to active State Bar members. Some figures are estimates, as not all information is known for every active attorney.

² Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census/The Texas Data Center, Texas State Population Estimates and Projections Program. The Texas population was estimated at 14,229,191 in 1980 and 20,190,519 in 2000.

This ratio is based on the in-state attorney population (61,662) as of December 31, 2000.

⁴ A logarithmic growth model was used to make the projection. This model assumes a constant rate of growth for the years 2001-2005 based on the average annual growth rate in the State Bar membership 1982-2000 (3.06 percent).

⁵ Information on gender is not available prior to 1982.

⁶ The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) consists of all attorneys licensed in Texas who are 36 years or younger as of June 1 of each year, or attorneys within their initial 36-month licensing period as of June 1. The senior bar consists of all attorneys who are not members of TYLA.

⁷ National Association for Law Placement, 2001-2002 National Directory of Law Schools.

⁸ A logarithmic growth model was used to make the projection. This model assumes a constant rate of growth for the years 2001-2005 based on the average annual growth rate in the female State Bar membership 1982-2000 (7.59 percent).

⁹ 1993 is the first year in which race/ethnicity is known for over 90 percent of the membership.

¹⁰ Based on the 2000-01 academic year. Source: National Association for Law Placement (NALP).

¹¹ Based on year first licensed in any jurisdiction.

¹² Baby Boomers are the cohort of 76 million U.S. children born between the years 1946 and 1964.

¹³ Fifty-eight out of 254 Texas counties are classified by the U.S. Department of Commerce as components of a metropolitan area.

¹⁴ Occupation and law firm size figures are estimates as these demographics are unknown for some attorneys.

¹⁵ Percent of attorneys who are members of any section and who hold membership in the listed section.

¹⁶ Percent of all board certified attorneys who are certified in the listed area.