STATE BAR of TEXAS **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

February 22, 2008

Judicial Poll Results Released — The State Bar of Texas Judicial Poll ends at 5 p.m. today. A media advisory will be distributed shortly afterward and a PDF of the results will be posted to the State Bar website at **www.texasbar.com/pollresults**. Members of the State Bar of Texas were given an opportunity to vote on candidates for the Supreme Court of Texas and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, as well as the judges running for their district courts of appeals. The results of the poll are in no way an endorsement of any candidate by the State Bar of Texas, its officers, directors, or staff. The results reflect the opinion of the individual lawyers who voted.

Professional Liability Insurance Disclosure Survey — In response to a request from the Texas Supreme Court, State Bar President Gib Walton has established a Task Force on Professional Liability Insurance Disclosure. The task force is studying whether there should be a rule requiring disclosure of professional liability insurance coverage to clients or the public. A "Model Court Rule on Insurance Disclosure" was approved by the American Bar Association House of Delegates in 2004. The model rule requires lawyers to disclose whether they maintain professional liability insurance, but does not require any lawyer to purchase professional liability insurance. To date, some 20 states have adopted disclosure rules and several others are considering proposed rules. Two states have decided not to adopt such a rule. The task force has distributed to Texas lawyers and posted to the State Bar website a survey to solicit input. To complete the survey, visit **www.texasbar.com**.

Internal Audit Completed — The State Bar's internal audit for FY 2006-2007 was completed by the public accounting firm of Padgett, Stratemann & Co., L.L.P. Each year, certain areas of the State Bar are selected, on a rotating basis, to undergo internal audit. For FY 2007, the following areas of the Bar were selected: (1) Public Funds Investment Act Compliance; (2) Information Technology Management; (3) Membership Department; (4) Finance Division — Cash Receipts; (5) Finance Division — Budgeting & Reporting; (6) Client-Attorney Assistance Program; (7) Advertising Review Department; and (8) Event Planning. The Internal Audit resulted in a report that stated that the auditors had "no comments or recommendations as a result of this engagement."

Annual Meeting Registration Live — Online registration is open for the 2008 State Bar Annual Meeting, which will take place June 26-27 in Houston. Visit **www.texasbar.com/annualmeeting**.

Building Update — On Friday, Feb. 29, at 5 p.m., work crews will begin moving the 6th floor staff to the 2nd floor. Construction on the 6th floor will begin on Monday, March 3. Members of the Move Team met with members of the 6th floor to help them prepare for the move, and employees on the 6th floor are busy readying for the move.

Court Administration Task Force — The State Bar Court Administration Task Force, chaired by former President Martha Dickie and Judge Ken Wise, will meet in Austin on April 7.

Record Attendance at LRE Conference — More than 250 participants attended the Law-Related Education Conference, Feb. 8-9, in Austin. Guest speakers included Max Sherman, author of *Barbara Jordan: Speaking the Truth with Eloquent Thunder*; John Kaminski, author of *Abigail Adams: An American Heroine*; and Dr. Isidore Starr, the "father of law-related education."

Section Reps to the Board Sought — The Sections Department is accepting nominations for two open positions on the Section Representatives to the Board Committee. The openings are for a large-section representative and a medium-section representative. The deadline is March 3. Elections will take place at the Council of Chairs meeting on April 11. For more information, contact Kathy Casarez at (800)204-2222, Ext. 1419.

Watt Named Chair of Council of Chairs — Harper Estes has appointed Dick Watt as chair of the Council of Chairs Committee for 2008-2009. Frederick Barrow was named vice chair. Watt is the current chair of the Oil, Gas, and Energy Resources Law Section. Barrow is chair of the African-American Lawyers Section.

Deadlines for Pro Bono Awards — The deadline to submit nominations for the State Bar of Texas Pro Bono Awards is Wednesday, Feb. 27. The awards are administered by the Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters Committee and include awards for both individuals and attorney groups such as law firms. March 7 is the deadline to submit nominations for Pro Bono Section Awards. For more information, visit **www.texasbar.com/probonoawards**.

Deadline for Texas Bar Journal Short Story Contest — Feeling inspired this weekend? Why not write a short story? The deadline for the *Texas Bar Journal*'s second Short Story Fiction Writing Contest is March 1. For more information, visit **www.texasbar.com/tbj**.

By the Numbers — More than 350 students from seven Texas high schools — including a group Chad Baruch brought from Yavneh Academy in Dallas — were treated to a presentation of the Texas Young Lawyers Association's *They Had A Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement* on Jan. 31 at the Texas Capitol. Former Texas House Speaker James E. "Pete" Laney, 5th District Court of Appeals Justice Carolyn Wright, and University of Texas School of Law professor Norma Cantu addressed the students, who then toured the Capitol and LBJ Library and Museum.

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.

