

# STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

*November 17, 2008*

**Changes to Executive Team** — Don Jones and Kelley Jones King have been made part of the State Bar's executive management team. Don will serve as deputy director of operations and Kelley will serve as deputy director of communications and presidential initiatives. (There are no plans to fill the deputy executive director position.) Between them, Don and Kelley have decades of experience at the State Bar and will make a positive and productive addition to the executive management team.

**Changes to Sections Department** — To increase customer service and support to State Bar sections and assist their councils with providing benefits to members, the State Bar has expanded its Sections Department and named a project manager to lead that effort. Tracy Nuckols, formerly of TexasBarCLE, will work with Michele Schweitzer, Kathy Casarez, Yolanda Odem, Katherine Dilworth, and the rest of the staff to support the State Bar's more than 40 sections. If you have ideas or suggestions for Tracy, please feel free to contact her at (512) 427-1710 or [tnuckols@texasbar.com](mailto:tnuckols@texasbar.com).

**Court Administration Task Force Report Available** — The final report of the Court Administration Task Force, which the State Bar Board of Directors accepted at its Oct. 3 meeting in Midland, is available online. The board has not approved or considered the substantive recommendations of the report. The recommendations in the report represent a consensus of the members of the task force and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the State Bar, its board of directors, members, or volunteers. The State Bar's Legislative Policy Committee has sole discretion to review legislation and make recommendations to the board. The task force report is being published for educational and informational purposes only. To view a PDF of the report, go to [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com).

**Annual Reports Available** — Recent annual reports for the State Bar of Texas, Commission for Lawyer Discipline, Board of Disciplinary Appeals, and Texas Young Lawyers Association are all available online. For the State Bar report, visit [www.texasbar.com](http://www.texasbar.com) and click on "News and Publications." For the CFLD report, go to [www.texasbar.com/cdc](http://www.texasbar.com/cdc). You can find BODA's Report 2008 at [www.txboda.org](http://www.txboda.org). For TYLA's report, visit [www.tyla.org](http://www.tyla.org) and click on "TYLA Overview." Collectively, these reports provide an excellent overview of the operations and disciplinary proceedings of the State Bar of Texas and the great work being done on behalf of lawyers and the public.

**Legislative Updates** — In January, the State Bar's Governmental Relations and Communications divisions will again team up to educate members about the 81st Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. The free "Friday Update" is a weekly e-newsletter that provides summaries of legislation potentially affecting the legal profession and links to relevant bills. The State Bar is prohibited by a U.S. Supreme Court decision and Section 81.034 of the State Bar Act from lobbying on most issues, but strives to keep its members informed. To subscribe, visit [www.texasbar.com/fridayupdate](http://www.texasbar.com/fridayupdate).

**Leadership SBOT** — Last month, the members of the inaugural class of the State Bar’s leadership academy convened near Bastrop. State Bar President Harper Estes, President-elect Roland Johnson, and TYLA President Sylvia Cardona were on hand to welcome the 19 members of the class, who represent diverse practice areas from all across the state. The program included guest speakers, interactive activities, and a service project. Thanks to a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, each of the class members will receive seed money to create a public service project in his or her community.

**Annual Meeting Program Taking Shape** — The State Bar Annual Meeting Committee, chaired by Dallas director Talmage Boston, is helping to organize what promises to be another outstanding Annual Meeting, June 25–26, at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, the committee has lined up Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Doris Kearns Goodwin, author of *Team of Rivals*, to speak. Other confirmed speakers include Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, and *New York Times* columnist David Brooks.

**Texas Law Center Update** — The multiyear renovation of the Texas Law Center continues. Current work focuses on the renovation of the 4th floor, which is on track to be completed by January.

**State Bar Donates Furniture to Ike Victims** — In October, the State Bar sent four truckloads of furniture to assist lawyers in Orange County whose offices had flooded as a result of Hurricane Ike. The delivery consisted of 55 desks, 60 chairs, 45 filing cabinets, and 55 bookshelves.

**“LiveHelp” Available for Hurricane Victims** — Victims of Hurricane Ike can visit Texas Law Help, [www.texaslawhelp.org](http://www.texaslawhelp.org), to talk via computer with a legal volunteer. The service is free.

**Let’s Do Justice for Texas** — As part of the State Bar’s “Let’s Do Justice for Texas” public education initiative, President Harper Estes has overseen the development of additional radio spots (which are playing throughout the state), a series of toolkits for lawyers to use as resource guides when they visit classrooms or speak to community groups, and a second YouTube video contest with the theme “Ideals That Unite Us.” To listen to the radio spots, download the toolkits, or watch the call for entries for the YouTube contest, visit [www.texasbar.com/justicefortexas](http://www.texasbar.com/justicefortexas).

**Luminary Awards** — The State Bar of Texas and the Austin Bar Association hosted the annual Communications Section Workshop of the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE). During an awards luncheon, the State Bar received luminary awards for excellence in marketing (2007 Annual Meeting) and public relations (“Let’s Do Justice for Texas.”) Congratulations!

## 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.

