



Steve A. Keathley  
Attorney at Law  
steve@keathleykeathley.com

Sarah Clower Keathley  
Attorney at Law  
sarah@keathleykeathley.com

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Mr. Rehan Alimohammad  
Chairman of the Board  
State Bar of Texas

RE: Locations of quarterly meetings of the Board

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to our attention that our 2018-19 quarterly board meetings are scheduled to be held exclusively in, or around, Austin, Texas rather than spread across the State. Traditionally, the Board has the pleasure of meeting across the State of Texas in different regions allowing the Board to meet with the regional local bar associations during the Board meetings. Additionally, members of the Board have coordinated our Board meetings with the Solo and Small Firm Section of the State Bar and provided free CLE to local and regional attorneys prior to each Board meeting. The State Bar President and Directors serve as the speakers for this free CLE event.

This outreach provides a direct connection between local lawyers and Bar leadership which was something many of the opponents of the Bar thought was lacking. We are concerned that pigeon holing all of our Board meetings exclusively in Austin, Texas will appear as if our Board meetings are not accessible to lawyers outside of the Austin area and are not open or transparent. By traveling to different regions in Texas, we can connect with the attorneys where they practice.

Additionally, by rotating our meetings across Texas, we share the travel responsibilities of our Board members. Since our Board of Directors consists of attorneys throughout Texas, there is an inherent cost in all of us meeting in person 4 times per year. The cost of travel and lodging for the Board will be realized wherever the meetings are held. We request that this expenditure of time and resources be shared by all of us on a rotating basis.

In our two years, we have met as a Board in Fort Worth, El Paso, McAllen, Houston, Austin, Lubbock, San Antonio, and now Fort Worth. During these meetings, we have met with countless lawyers in their regions and brought Board leadership directly to those area practitioners. We request the meeting rotations of the Board of Directors continue.

Sincerely,

  
SARAH CLOWER KEATHLEY

  
LISA RICHARDSON