

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
Texas Law Center  
Austin, TX  
Thursday, September 13, 2018**

The Executive Committee met on September 13, 2018, in Austin at the Texas Law Center. President Joe K. Longley called the meeting to order at 10:37am, and Executive Director Trey Apffel called the roll.

**Present:** Christy Amuny, Erich Birch\*, Estrella Escobar, Jarrod Foerster, Chair Laura Gibson, Charlie Ginn, Wendy-Adele Humphrey, Sarah Keathley, Neil Kelly, President Joe K. Longley, TYLA President Sally Pretorius, TYLA Immediate Past President Baili Rhodes, Greg Sampson, Dinesh Singhal, President-elect Randy Sorrels, and Immediate Past President Tom Vick.

**Participated by phone:** Immediate Past Chair Rehan Alimohammad\*

**Excused absences:** Justice Phil Johnson\*, Emily Miller\*

*\*Nonvoting member*

I. Remarks from the General Public:

Carlos Leon of Austin, addressed the Executive Committee regarding a grievance matter.

II. REPORTS:

A. Approval of Minutes:

**Upon motion properly made by Immediate Past President Tom Vick and seconded by Director Christy Amuny, the minutes of the March 8, 2018, Executive Committee meeting were approved as presented. {SEE ENCLOSURES}**

B. Report from the Executive Director:

C. Mr. Apffel reported on various travels, meetings, and activities since January. He reported on the SOLACE program (Support of Lawyers- All Concern Encouraged) which will be launched on September 1. Mr. Apffel also reported on Law Night at the Ballpark and the SBOT Podcast. He then asked Lona Chastain to present a PIA update, which included updates on open records requests and training.

D. Report from the President: President Joe K. Longley reported on his recent travels and his "President's Message" e-blast. President Longley related that he attended the TYLA Executive Committee meeting wherein TYLA discussed its budget, by-laws, and board manual. President Longley reported that he visited the ProBAR offices in Harlingen regarding the family separation crisis and that Bree Buchanan from TLAP visited the ProBAR offices to present on compassion fatigue. He also stated that any director can receive an access badge to the Texas Law Center.

E. Report from the Chair of the Board: Chair Laura Gibson reported on board communications, solicitation of candidates to serve as chair, and her recent travels as chair. Chair Gibson reported on the proposed protocol for Access to General Counsel Services. {SEE ENCLOSURES}

**Chair Laura Gibson moved that the Executive Committee approve the Access to General Counsel Services Protocol. President-elect Randy Sorrels seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.**

E. Closed Session: At 11:11 am, the Executive Committee recessed the open meeting and reconvened in closed session pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding pending litigation or contemplated litigation, including *Jovita Pardo v. the State Bar of Texas et al.*

<sup>1</sup> Enclosures are available at [www.texasbar.com/bodmaterials](http://www.texasbar.com/bodmaterials).

**With the exception of Board liaisons, Section representatives, and essential staff, all other individuals including non-essential staff and other guests excused themselves from the closed session.**

**Open Session: At 11:30 am, the open session of the Executive Committee meeting reconvened. President Longley reported that during the closed session, only matters relating to consultations with legal counsel concerning contemplated litigation were discussed. No action was taken in closed session.**

F. **The Executive Committee recessed at 11:31 am and returned at 11:43 am.**

G. Report from the President-elect: President-elect Randy Sorrels reported on recent travels and member benefits. President-elect Sorrels related that he would like to get more people aware of what the State Bar is doing. He reported that the Budget Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday, September 27, to discuss the budget process and the timeline for preparation of the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget. The Budget Committee will present a proposed fiscal year 2019-2020 budget to the Executive Committee and to the Board at their respective January 2019 meetings.

President-elect Sorrels presented materials pertaining to a task force that he would like the Executive Committee to consider: Courthouse Access Badge Task Force. {SEE ENCLOSURES}

**President-elect Sorrells made a motion to approve the creation of the Courthouse Access Badge Task Force and its membership. Seconded by Director Estrella Escobar. President Longley found the motion and second out of order as being in conflict with the State Bar Act. Discussion ensued. President Longley made an amended motion to have an Executive Committee meeting on September 28. {TAB D}**

H. **The Executive Committee recessed for lunch at 1:10 pm and returned at 1:31 pm.**

I. Report from the Immediate Past President: No report.

J. Nominations & Elections Subcommittee: Immediate Past President Tom Vick reported that the subcommittee interviewed six individuals to be considered as nominees for president-elect. The subcommittee voted to select Cezy Collins of El Paso and Larry McDougal of Richmond as recommended nominees. {SEE ENCLOSURES}

**On behalf of the Nominations and Elections Subcommittee, Immediate Past President Tom Vick made a motion that the Executive Committee approve Cezy Collins of El Paso and Larry McDougal of Richmond as the State Bar Candidates for president-elect for the 2018 election. Motion coming from a subcommittee, no second was needed; No discussion. Motion carried.**

K. Audit & Finance Committee: Director Jarrod Foerster reported on the State Bar's financial statements, the fiscal year 2017-2018 financial audit, the fiscal year 2017-2018 Internal audit, the Transparency Consulting Project, and a proposed Business Expense Reimbursement Policy and Procedures. {SEE ENCLOSURES}

L. Policy Manual Subcommittee: Director Estrella Escobar reported that there were three action items for the Executive Committee's consideration: a proposed approach for officer and director Requests for Records; a series of updates to reflect the role of the State Bar's elected General Counsel; and designation of the person who serves as Budget Committee Chair. {SEE ENCLOSURES}

**On behalf of the Policy Manual Subcommittee, Director Escobar moved that the Executives Committee approve the revisions to the Policy Manual concerning Officer and Director Requests, the General Counsel, and the Budget Committee Chair. The motion having come from a subcommittee, no second was needed. No discussion; motion carried.**

<sup>1</sup> Enclosures are available at [www.texasbar.com/bodmaterials](http://www.texasbar.com/bodmaterials).

M. Administration Committee:

Director Christy Amuny reported that the Administration Committee will meet to begin work on the question of whether the Texas Bar Journal should move toward a digital-only format. She also reported that the Facilities and Equipment Subcommittee is working on location options for the Dallas Regional Counsel's Office, whose lease is set to expire. Director Amuny called on Director Wendy-Adele Humphrey to report on the SBOT Strategic Plan.

N. Performance Measures and Strategic Planning Subcommittee:

Director Humphrey reported that the Performances Measures and Strategic Planning Subcommittee drafted updates to the strategic plan based on input received at the Board retreat in July. {SEE ENCLOSURES}

**On behalf of the Performance Measures and Strategic Planning Subcommittee, Director Humphrey moved that the Executive Committee approve the updated strategic plan for presentation to the full Board on September 28. The motion coming from a subcommittee, no second was needed. No discussion; motion carried.**

O. Discipline & Client Attorney Assistance Committee: No report.

P. Professional Development Subcommittee: Director Sarah Keathley reported that the next joint meeting of the CLE Committee and the Board PDP Sub-Committee is December 6 in Austin. She also reported that the State Bar is holding a free CLE event for solo and small firm practitioners on November 7 in Corpus Christi.

Q. Insurance/Member Benefits Subcommittee: Director Greg Sampson reported on updates on the Texas Bar Private Exchange and non-insurance member benefits.

R. Section Representatives to the Board: No report.

S. Supreme Court Liaison Report: Nina Hess Hsu had no report.

T. Texas Young Lawyers Association: TYLA President Sally Pretorius reported on various TYLA projects: Compassion Fatigue Awareness, Diversity Tool Kits, Junior Judges, Bookshelves in the Courtroom, TYLA Podcast, and the Shero project. President Pretorius reported that TYLA has two high school senior interns who are working on the video for the Junior Judges.

U. General Counsel: No report.

V. Legal Counsel: No report.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.**

<sup>1</sup> Enclosures are available at [www.texasbar.com/bodmaterials](http://www.texasbar.com/bodmaterials).