

December 7, 2020

Mr. Charlie Ginn
State Bar of Texas Board of Directors
The McGraw Law Group
1504 First Avenue
McKinney, TX 75069

Re: Nomination for Chair of the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Texas

Dear Chair Ginn:

This letter is respectfully submitted in support of my nomination for Chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors for the year 2021-2022. Service to our board and the legal profession is a humbling honor. I approach service to the board with respect for and guidance from the pursuit of our State Bar Mission.

As Chair, I will carry on the legacy created by Chair Ginn to promote efficiency and transparency in the oversight of meetings of the State Bar Board of Directors.

These are several things you could expect of me

1. ***The Pursuit of Diversity and Inclusion:*** We must redouble our efforts to ensure that our board reflects who we are as a bar and as a community. I am working within my district to recruit individuals of color, women, and others of diverse backgrounds to participate in bar activities and to run for Director. It would be quite an honor to sit alongside Sylvia Firth as the first ever female chair and female President.
2. ***The Pursuit of The State Bar Mission.*** At the end of each meeting, the Board of Directors recites its mission statement in unison. I would encourage each Director to understand, as part of their initial training, the origins of the mission statement and its fundamental purpose. This would help promote the promulgation of policies and procedures that would elevate the purpose and mission of the Bar. I would continue the tradition of the recitation of the Mission.
3. ***Efficiency at meetings:*** My ability to speak clearly and concisely will be geared toward encouraging civil discourse among the board.

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Mr. Charlie Ginn, Chair
State Bar of Texas Board of Directors

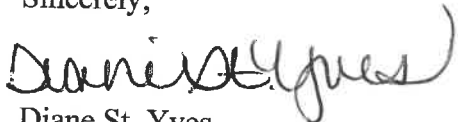
4. ***Mentorship.*** *I would like to foster a mentorship program connecting new board members with those more experienced. Many may consider the first year, or even two years of service to the board, as a learning curve. Many are just getting their first chance to experience board meetings and committees.* As an example, incoming directors could be teamed with third-year directors. In addition, we have a trove of knowledge from sitting directors who served previously on the board. This could enable newer directors to gain insight into the Board's workings, committees, meetings and learn more quickly how to be a stronger and more effective Director.

5. ***Listening.*** I want to ensure for our members an environment where everyone feels they can share thoughts and opinions. My door is and will always be open. We are all Directors, and I will work steadfastly toward fostering an environment of collegiality and camaraderie.

Regardless of the outcome, I will work diligently in pursuit of our State Bar's mission, for our members as well as for the public we serve. It is a high honor to even be considered for such a leadership role. I got to this board position through hard work and diligence. You can expect these qualities of me no matter who is elected.

If there is anything I can answer for or if you would like to visit with me in making your selection, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Diane St. Yves

DSY/ah

Diane St. Yves
Law Office of Diane St. Yves, PLLC
5020 Montrose Blvd., Suite 310
Houston, Texas 77006
(281) 501-1558
(281) 501-1548 Facsimile
diane@styveslaw.com

Qualifications:

Board certified family law attorney with over 30 years of cumulative legal experience. Firm practice includes family law matters, estate planning and probate and general civil litigation.

Professional Experience:

July 1, 2012 to present
Managing Attorney
Law Office of Diane St. Yves, PLLC
Board Certified - Family Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Solo practitioner specializing in the area of family law. Additional areas of practice include probate and estate planning, litigation, personal injury and general counsel for small businesses.

March 2007 to June 2012
Associate/Partner
The Carrigan Law Firm, LLP

Partner with litigation boutique firm handling family and criminal docket, civil litigation including business and personal injury litigation. Briefed and argued cases in several Texas State Courts of Appeal and the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

April 1985 to March 2007
Paralegal
Board Certified - Family Law (1994)
Board Certified - Civil Trial Law (1998)
Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Board certified paralegal for over 25 years with family law specialty firms, civil trial and personal injury firms. Responsible for all facets of litigation and trial.

January 1979 to January 1985
United States Army (Active Duty and Individual Ready Reserve)
SGT, Military Intelligence Branch
French/Russian (98G2L)
Honorable Discharge

Education

University of Houston; J.D. with honors (2006)

University of Houston; B.A. Political Science, magna cum laude (2001)

Central Texas College, A.A.S., Legal Assistant, with highest honors (1991)

Defense Language Institution, Presidio of Monterey, California

French Language Course (1978)

Russian Language Course (1981)

Associations

State Bar of Texas (2007 to present)

Board Certified - Family Law

Texas Board of Legal Specialization (2013 to present)

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2019)

Director, State Bar of Texas (2019-present)

- Member, Discipline & Client Attorney Assistance Committee
- Member, Member Services & Education- Insurance/Member Benefits
- Advisor - Health Law Section
- Advisor - Military & Veterans Law
- Standing Committee Alternate Advisor - Disability Issues

Member, State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee (District 4) (2018-2019)

Sustaining Life Fellow, Texas Bar Foundation (2014 to present)

Family Law Section, State Bar of Texas (2012 to present)

College of the State Bar of Texas (2011 to present)

Gulf Coast Family Law Specialists (2014 to present)

Burta Rhoades Raborn Family Law American Inns of Court (2014 to present)

Houston Bar Association (2006 to present)

- Member, Family Law Section (2006 to present)
- Member, Oil, Gas and Mineral Law Section (2019)
- Member, Probate, Trusts and Estates Section (2019)

Member/Former Director, Coastal Bend Women's Lawyer Association (2009 to 2013)

Houston Trial Lawyers Association (2009 to 2011)

Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (2010 to 2013)

University of Houston Alumni Association (2001 to present)

Evening Law Students, University of Houston (Lifetime Member)

Corpus Christi Bar Association (2011 to 2013)

Member, Baker Institute for Public Policy

Adjunct Professor, Blinn College - Paralegal Department (2013-2014)

Board of Trustees Member, Council on Recovery (1999 to present)

Courts Admitted

Texas State Courts
Federal District Courts, State of Texas
 Southern District of Texas
 Western District of Texas
 Eastern District of Texas
5th Circuit Court of Appeals
United States Supreme Court
New Hampshire State Court
New York State Court
District of Columbia

Legal Seminars & Presentations

Speaker/ Author; *Characterization and Tracing, Highlights - Family Law Year in Review* 2017
Speaker/ Author; *Characterization and Tracing, Lawyer Forward* 2018
Speaker/ *From the Attorney's Point of View, Taking Control Workshop*, November 2017/March 2018/October 2018/March 2019/June 2019
Speaker/Women in the Law, Texas Bar CLE; March 16, 2018
Speaker/Panelist, *Financial Wellness*, Houston Young Lawyers Association; October 8, 2019
Speaker/Panelist, *Social Media*, Association of Women Lawyers, August 28, 2019
Speaker, *Attorney Wellness*, The Woodlands Bar Association, January 8, 2020
Speaker/Panelist, *Modern Mediation Seminar*, Tom King, January 24, 2020