

December 2, 2020

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Re: 2021-22 SBOT Chair of the Board Election

Dear Charlie:

I write to express my interest in running for Chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors for the 2021-22 bar year.

Having held every officer position in my local bar and young lawyers association, I have spent much of my career serving our profession. For the past two years, I have very much enjoyed doing the work of the State Bar, including chairing the policy committee. It is because I can do even more for our profession and our State Bar that I have decided to run for Board Chair.

First, I am confident that the 2021-22 bar year will see a return to in-person meetings and believe we can do so in a manner that improves them for all directors. In particular, there are steps we can take in returning to live meetings that encourage more open dialogue. I would work with the president and executive director to investigate different room configurations and options for board member participation other than standing in line at a microphone. Indeed, one of the benefits of our Zoom meetings has been greater collaboration between board members as a result of everyone having a microphone and only needing to “raise their hand” to be recognized to speak.

Second, there are steps we can and should take to make up for lost social time between board members. One of the benefits of being a board member is getting to know fellow leaders from across the state. During my first year of service, this happened at board lunches, dinners and receptions. Due to the global pandemic, none of that happened this past board year. This has been particularly hard on our first year directors. I would redouble efforts to make up for lost time and make sure our new board members and second year directors get the opportunity they deserve to build those relationships. In particular, I would work with the president and executive director to add optional teambuilding exercises for all board members at the first in-person meeting we have.

Third, this year’s presidential controversy has resulted in some attorneys losing confidence in the State Bar. I have worked diligently this year as policy committee chair helping to create and implement new policies aimed at restoring that confidence. As chair, I would continue the healing process by promoting the ideals of the State Bar as reflected in our mission statement. In particular, I would work with the president and executive director to promote the goals of diversity, equity and inclusion in our profession and our leadership. This includes actively reaching out to

community leaders to speak during the public comment section of board meetings. And once our meetings are in-person, we can continue to use technology such as Zoom to allow greater community participation.

In closing, we are living in unprecedented times. Our profession has undergone a monumental change in how we practice law as a result of the global pandemic. We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. As chair, I would work hard to seize on the opportunity we have to come out of the pandemic a stronger and better organization and board than when we entered it.

You have been the steady hand we needed during these trying times and a model for all chairs who follow. I thank you for your service and, should my fellow directors entrust it to me, stand ready to take the baton.

Very truly yours,



Adam T. Schramek