

# LAW OFFICE OF CINDY V. TISDALE, PLLC

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July 21, 2021

Co-Chairs Larry McDougal and Charlie Ginn  
Members, SBOT Nominations and Elections Subcommittee

Re: Resume and Statement of Interest to Serve as President of the State Bar of Texas

Dear Mr. McDougal and Mr. Ginn:

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss my interest in serving the lawyers of Texas as a potential candidate for President-Elect for the State Bar. I am humbled and awed by the chance to appear before you and tell you of my commitment to the Bar and answer any questions you may have of me.

It is a privilege to be a lawyer. I am the first in my family to graduate college, nevertheless obtain a graduate degree. My practice spans 26 years—so far. I still get a sense of satisfaction in helping others. I still get a rush of adrenaline when preparing for trial. I still look forward to going to work every morning. Being an attorney gives me a purpose, and I would love the opportunity to give back to the profession that has given me so much.

I started this journey in 2008 by becoming a member of the Family Law Section's Council. I went on to chair numerous committees and eventually to lead the Section as Chair in 2017-2018. I was elected as a Director to the State Bar Board of Directors for District 14 in 2011. My colleagues elected me to serve as Chair of that body in 2013-2014. I was appointed to the Texas Bar Foundation in 2015 and served as its Chair in 2017-18. I am currently President-Elect for the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists and was just nominated to join the executive committee of the American Association of Matrimonial Lawyers. This is just a few ways I have served Texas attorneys. My leadership of these organizations has prepared me to serve in a bigger role as President of the State Bar of Texas.

My service to the Bar is a source of pride for me. My resume speaks for itself as to all of my volunteerism for the Bar. I have done my best to serve when requested and where needed. Our Bar already has an outstanding staff and volunteers that make our Bar great. Our CLE programs are among the best in the world. We provide member benefits that far exceed our dues. We provide law practice management to help attorneys in all areas run their practice. There is a wealth of

resources available to Texas attorneys from the Bar. Yet with all this, why are we more fractured than ever?

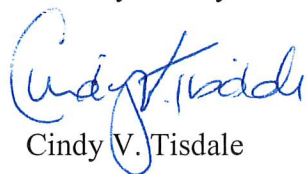
Many State Bar Presidents have tackled this problem head-on by focusing on communication with our members. Even with the distribution of information through a multitude of platforms on the great programs and benefits available to Bar members, some still refuse to read or believe. Clear and concise communication is the best tool we have for membership engagement. We will never be able to convince all of our members of the great work being done, but we can make certain every attorney has the information necessary to make informed decisions and take advantage of all Bar programs.

Even with all of the great people and programs that make up our Bar, we have been through a tumultuous time recently. Our very existence is being challenged. With all that is transpiring, our Bar continues to move forward. Our Bar continues to provide attorneys with support. Our Bar continues to build on the strong foundation laid by all those before us. I would be honored to be a part of that.

These years of service have led me to this Statement of Interest. I want to be an asset and to serve. With the current attack on the Bar, communication is more important than ever. Rumors snowball. Misinformation abounds. We need to be clear about what is transpiring. Silence breeds mistrust. We need to let our members know our Bar is strong and continues to serve its members.

I hope you notice that I use “our” and “we” when discussing the Bar. This is OUR Bar. When our Bar succeeds, we all succeed. We are fighting for our future with our very existence being challenged. I want to help lead that fight if you give me the opportunity.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Cindy V. Tisdale

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## EDUCATION

B.A. – Baylor University (1991)  
J.D. – Baylor University (1995)

## EMPLOYMENT

McLennan County District Attorney's Office—Assistant District Attorney 1995-1997  
Dunnam & Dunnam, Waco, Texas—1997-1999  
Reed & Tisdale, Waco, Texas—1999-2003  
Law Office of Cindy V. Tisdale, PLLC—2003-present  
Lynch, Chappell & Alsup, P.C., Midland, Texas, Of Counsel—2019-present

## SERVICE TO THE BAR

Board of Disciplinary Appeals, member, appointed by the Texas Supreme Court 2020  
Chair of the Board of Directors for the State Bar of Texas, 2013-2014  
State Bar of Texas Board of Directors, District 14 Representative, 2011-2014  
State Bar of Texas Executive Committee, 2012-2015  
Chair of the Texas Bar Foundation, 2017-2018  
Texas Bar Foundation Board of Trustees, 2015-2019  
Chair to the Council for the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas 2017-18  
Council for the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, 2008-2018  
Pattern Jury Charge, Family Law Committee Member, 2019-  
Pattern Jury Charge, Family Law Committee Vice Chair, 2020-  
Co-Chair State Bar Workgroup on Texas Lawyer Needs Arising From the 2020  
Pandemic and 2021 Winter Storm  
Co-Course Director, Advanced Family Law Course – August 2011  
Course Director, Trying Your First (Or Next) Divorce – January 18, 2013  
Co-Course Director, the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists Trial Institute,  
January 2015  
Co-Course Director, New Frontiers in Marital Property Law, October 2015  
Co-Course Director, Annual Meeting for the State Bar of Texas, June 2016  
Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters – Committee Member 2012-2013  
Supreme Court Task Force for the Delivery of Legal Services to the Poor – Committee  
Member 2012-2013  
State Bar of Texas Affordable Legal Services – Committee Chair 2012-2013

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

Member, American Board of Trial Advocates, 2017-present  
Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, 2003-present  
Fellow, International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, 2014-present

Fellow, American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, 2010-present  
Texas Super Lawyer, 2019-2021  
James C. Watson Inn of Former Officers and Directors, Member  
Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, Board of Directors, 2012-present  
Executive Committee for the Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists 2017-present  
Texas Bar Foundation, Sustaining Life Fellow  
Presidential Citation from Allan DuBois, President of the State Bar of Texas  
Presidential Citation from Trey Apffel, President of the State Bar of Texas  
Recipient of the Standing Ovation Award for Outstanding Volunteer for 2013, from the  
Texas Bar CLE  
College of the State Bar of Texas, Member  
State Bar of Texas Family Law Section, Member  
Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists, Member  
Hood County Attorney of the Year Award 2004 and 2007  
Hood County Bar Association, Member  
Children's Advocacy Center of Hood and Somervell County – President 2011-2012,  
Board of Directors

## **LECTURES/PUBLICATIONS**

“Third Party Discovery,” Marriage Dissolution Institute, Fort Worth, TX April 2009  
Moderator, Family Law Essentials, Stephenville, TX July 2009 (Lecture Only)  
“Maximizing Results at Mediation,” Family Law Essentials, Victoria, TX October 2009  
(Lecture Only)  
“Electronic Evidence: How to Avoid Getting Shocked,” Ultimate Trial Notebook, San  
Antonio, TX December 2009 (Voted one of the Best for 2009 CLE)  
“Advocating and Defending Unusual Child Support Requests,” Family Law On The  
Front Lines, San Antonio, TX July 2010  
“Collecting Child Support,” Advanced Family Law 2010, San Antonio, TX August 2010  
“Discovery and Drafting in the Computer Age”, Advanced Family Law Drafting Course,  
Houston, TX, December, 2010  
Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists Trial Institute, Panelist, Las Vegas, NV, Feb.  
2011 (Lecture Only)  
“Admissibility of Electronic Communication in Family Law,” Texas College for Judicial  
Studies, Austin, TX April 15, 2011  
“Closing the File,” Family Law Drafting, Dallas, TX, December 2011  
“The Top 10 SAPCR Cases You Need To Know,” Advanced Family Law, Houston, TX  
August 2012.  
“The Trial Notebook,” Trying Your First Jury Trial, Austin, TX, December 2012.  
Texas Academy of Family Law Specialists Trial Institute, Panelist, Colorado Springs,  
CO, February 2013 (Lecture Only)  
“Enforcement and Clarification Proceedings Under Chapter 9,” Marriage Dissolution  
Institute, Galveston, TX, April 2013  
“Unusual Motions,” Advanced Family Law, San Antonio, TX, August 2013  
“Unusual Possession Schedules,” Advanced Family Law Drafting, Dallas, TX, December  
2013  
“Using Form Discovery,” Marriage Dissolution, Austin, TX, April 2014  
“Family Law Update,” Solo and Small Practitioner’s CLE, Galveston, TX, September  
2014

“Family Law Update,” Tarrant County Family Law Bar Association CLE, Fort Worth, TX, November 2014

“Family Law Update,” Essentials for General Practitioners, San Antonio, TX, December 2014

“Family Law Update,” Essentials for General Practitioners, Lubbock, TX January 2015

“Family Law Update,” Essentials for General Practitioners, Sugarland, TX March 2015

“Property Update,” Marriage Dissolution, Dallas, TX April 2015

“Property Update,” State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX June 2015

“Direct and Cross Examination of Collateral Witnesses,” Advanced Family Law, San Antonio, TX, August 2015

“Drafting Documents to Close the File,” Advanced Family Law Drafting, Dallas, December 2015.

“Drug Testing,” Marriage Dissolution, Galveston, April 2016

“Getting It In and Keeping It Out,” Advanced Family Law, San Antonio, TX, August 2016

“Dr. Strangelaw: Or How I Stopped Fighting and Learned to Love Collaborative Law,” Abner V. McCall Inn of Court, October 2016 (Lecture Only)

“Family Law Update,” Solo and Small Practitioner CLE, Fredericksburg, TX, April 2017

“Courtroom Evidence and Demonstration,” Marriage Dissolution, Austin, TX April 2017

“Legislative Update,” Texas Bar College Summer School, Galveston, TX July 2017

“Valuation Demonstration,” Advanced Family Law, San Antonio, TX August 2017

“Managing Your Law Practice,” Mastering Your Practice: Family Law & Estate Planning and Probate, Horseshoe Bay, TX September 2017 (Lecture Only)

“The Art of Case Analysis,” Mastering Your Practice: Family Law & Estate Planning and Probate, Horseshoe Bay, TX September 2017 (Lecture Only)

“Closing the File: Are We There Yet?” Advanced Family Law Drafting, Fort Worth, TX December 2017

“Getting Information to Value a Business,” Marriage Dissolution Institute, Dallas, TX April 2018.

“Family Law Basics: From the Beginning to the End,” Texas Bar College 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer School, Galveston, TX July 2018.

“Exposing Confirmatory Bias: The Example of Sexual Abuse Allegations,” Advanced Family Law, San Antonio, TX August 2018.

“Unusual Possession Schedules” and “Closing the File,” Texas Association of Paralegal Specialists, Addison, TX September 2018.

“Preparing Your Client for Trial: Managing Emotions and Expectations,” Advanced Trial Skills for Family Lawyers, New Orleans, LA, December 2018.

“Exposing Confirmatory Bias: The Example of Sexual Abuse Allegations,” Family Justice Conference, Austin, TX January 2019.

“The Art of Case Analysis,” Moderator of Panel, Mastering Your Practice: Family Law, The Woodlands, TX February 2019 (Lecture Only).

“Managing Your Law Practice,” Panelist, Mastering Your Practice: Family Law, The Woodlands, TX February 2019 (Lecture Only).

“Is ICWA Ancient History?” Advanced Child Protection Law Course, Dallas, TX, April 2019.

“Initial Client Interviews and Managing Client Expectations,” Marriage Dissolution, Galveston, TX, April 2019.

- “Family Law Legislative Update,” Texas Bar College Summer School, Galveston, TX, July 2019.
- “Representing the Compromised Parent,” Advanced Family Law, San Antonio, TX, August 2019.
- “Family Law Legislative Update,” Hood County Bar Association, Granbury, TX, September 2019.
- “Property,” Trying Your First (Or Next) Divorce, Austin, TX October 2019.
- “Initial Client Interviews and Contract Basics,” Texas Bar College 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Summer School, Galveston, TX June 2020
- “With a Little Help From My Friends: Working with Financial Experts,” Advanced Family Law, August 2020
- “The 30-Minute Cross, 3-Minute Direct, 5-Minute Witness: Including Presenting and Managing Exhibits,” Advanced Trial Skills, Webcast, December 2020.
- “Property Issues,” Handling Your First (Or Next) Divorce, Webcast, February 23, 2021
- “Evidentiary Issues: Text Messages, Facebook and Social Media,” Advanced Child Protection Law Course, Webcast, March 2021
- “The New Discovery Rules: The Who, What, When, How and What,” Wild West CLE, State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division, Granbury, TX, April 2021
- “The Brady Bunch: SAPCR Case Law Update,” Marriage Dissolution, Webcast, April 2021
- “Disfunction and Disorders in Complex Custody Cases,” Panel Discussion, Innovations: Breaking Boundaries in Custody Litigation, Webcast, May 2021
- “Temporary Orders,” Texas Bar College 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer School, Galveston, TX July 2021