

**MINUTES
STATE BAR OF TEXAS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Austin Marriott Downtown
304 East Cesar Chavez St.,
Austin, TX 78701
Thursday, June 17, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

The Board of Directors of the State Bar of Texas met in a regular session on June 17, 2021, at the Marriott in Austin, Texas. Outgoing Chair of the Board Charlie Ginn called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., and Executive Director Trey Apffel called the roll. A quorum of voting Board members was present. Director Diane St. Yves led the invocation and Director Adam Schramek led the pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags.

Present:

Benny Agosto, Andy Almanzán, Chad Baruch, Kate Bihm, Rebekah Brooker, David Calvillo, Luis Cardenas, Luis Cavazos, Jason Charbonnet, Thomas Crosley, Christina Davis, Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, President Sylvia Borunda Firth, Steve Fischer, Lucy Forbes, President-elect Laura Gibson, Immediate Past Chair of the Board Charlie Ginn, August Harris, TYLA Immediate Past President Britney Harrison, Forrest Huddleston, Michael Hurst, Lori Kern, Bill Kroger, Yolanda Cortes Mares, Dwight McDonald, Immediate Past President Larry McDougal, Carra Miller, Lydia Mount, TYLA President Jeanine Rispoli, TYLA President-elect Michael Ritter, Adam Schramek, Audie Sciumbato, Mary Scott, David Sergi, David Smith, Jason Smith, Todd Smith, Diane St. Yves, Nitin Sud, Robert Tobey, Andrew Tolchin, Chair of the Board Santos Vargas, Michael Vasquez, and Kimberly Pack Wilson and Kennon Wooten.

Liaisons*: Judge Elisabeth Earle, Rakhi Israni, Justice Debra Lehrmann, Judge David Newell, and Judge Michael Truncale.

Section Representatives*: Carlos Cardenas, Deborah Cordova, Bob Goss, Sonya Hoskins, Kathryn Murphy, Michael Smith.

Excused Absences: Kelly-Ann Clarke, Kimberly Naylor

(* = *nonvoting*)

A. Remarks from the General Public:

There were no remarks from the general public.

- B. Presentations and Swearing-In of New Officers and Directors: Outgoing Chair of the Board Charlie Ginn gave remarks about Incoming Chair of the Board Santos Vargas. Justice Debra Lehrmann administered the oath of office to incoming Chair Santos Vargas. Chair Santos Vargas reported on the Board committees and Section/Standing Committee advisor and alternate advisor assignments for the upcoming year.

Justice Debra Lehrmann then administered the oath of office to incoming President-elect Laura Gibson, and President-elect Laura Gibson made brief remarks. Chair Santos Vargas called all the incoming directors, liaisons, and section representatives of the board to come forward, and Justice Debra Lehrmann administered the oath of office *en masse*.

- C. Presentation to Incoming President: Chair Santos Vargas presented incoming President Sylvia Borunda Firth with the traditional President's gavel, and incoming President Sylvia Firth discussed her upcoming initiatives for the board and for State Bar staff, including lawyer well-being and diversity and inclusion.

- D. Report from the Executive Director: Executive Director Trey Apffel gave remarks on the call of service of the board, the state of the State Bar, and the need for self-regulation.
- E. General Counsel: Ross Fischer had no report.
- F. Legal Counsel: John Sirman had no report.
- G. Texas Young Lawyers Association: TYLA President Jeanine Rispoli reported on various TYLA projects for the upcoming year, including the development of a civility hub for matters pertaining to civility and civil discourse.
- H. Texas Access to Justice Commission: Trish McAllister gave an update on Access to Justice efforts in Texas, the pandemic, the winter storm, and the challenges and issues of virtual hearings. She also provided updates on Rule 145, self-represented litigants, federal funding for legal aid, and ongoing legal aid efforts.
- I. SBOT Mission Statement: Chair Santos Vargas led the board in reciting the SBOT Mission Statement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.