

DRAFT
MINUTES
STATE BAR OF TEXAS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, June 9, 2022 – 9:00 a.m. CDT

Marriott Marquis
1777 Walker St.
Houston, TX 77010
Houston Ballrooms 6 & 7

A. Call to Order at 9:04 a.m. CDT from the Chair of the Board Santos Vargas

B. Roll Call from the Executive Director Trey Apffel

Present:

Benny Agosto, Chair of the Board Chad Baruch, David Calvillo, Elizabeth Sandoval Cantu, Luis Cavazos, Jason Charbonnet, Craig Cherry, Kelly-Ann Clarke, Jeff Cochran, David Courreges, Thomas Crosley, Immediate Past President Sylvia Borunda Firth, Steve Fischer, Lucy Forbes, President Laura Gibson, August Harris, Matthew Hill, Forrest Huddleston, Lori Kern, Modinat “Abby” Kotun, Bill Kroger, Dwight McDonald, Lawrence Morales, Lydia Mount, Kimberly Naylor, TYLA President-elect Laura Pratt, TYLA Immediate Past President Jeanine Rispoli, TYLA President Michael Ritter, Audie Sciumbato, Mary Scott, John Sloan, David Smith, Todd Smith, Paul Stafford, Alex Stelly, Nitin Sud, Radha Thiagarajan, President-elect Cindy Tisdale, Robert Tobey, Aaron Tobin, Andrew Tolchin, Immediate Past Chair of the Board Santos Vargas*, Michael Vasquez, Kimberly Pack Wilson, and Kennon Wooten.

Liaisons*: Rakhi Israni, Justice Debra Lehrmann, Judge Jesse McClure, and Judge Melody Wilkinson.

Section Representatives*: Jerry Bullard, Carlos Cardenas, Bob Goss, Sonya Hoskins, and Michael Smith.

Excused Absence: Kenda Culpepper, Dr. Gregory Fuller, and Carra Miller.

C. Invocation by Director Audie Sciumbato

D. Pledge to the U.S. and Texas Flags by Director Lucy Forbes

E. Remarks from the General Public

Members of the public were given the opportunity to comment during the meeting. There were no remarks from the public.

F. Swearing In

a. Chair of the Board

Justice Debra Lehrmann swore in the Incoming Chair of the Board Chad Baruch. Chair of the Board Baruch then gave general remarks.

b. President-elect

Justice Debra Lehrmann swore in the Incoming President-elect Cindy V. Tisdale.

c. New Directors

Justice Debra Lehrmann swore in all incoming elected directors, public members, liaisons, and section representatives.

G. Incoming President

Chair of the Board Chad Baruch presented Incoming President Laura Gibson the Rosewood Gavel. President Gibson reported on three presidential initiatives for the Bar year 2022-2023: Succession Planning, Suicide Prevention Training and the replenishment of the Sheeran-Crowley Memorial Trust Fund, and the education of bar members and the public on the Grievance System.

H. Report from the Executive Director Trey Apffel

Executive Director Apffel gave a general report.

I. Texas Young Lawyers Association

TYLA President Michael Ritter gave a general report.

J. Texas Access to Justice Commission

TAJC Chair Harriet Miers reported the annual gala raised over \$550,000 to provide access to justice for veterans and provided a general report.

K. General Counsel

No report was given by General Counsel Ross Fischer.

L. Legal Counsel

No report was given by Legal Counsel Brad Johnson/Chris Ritter.

Closed Session: At 9:56 a.m., the State Bar Board of Directors recessed the open meeting and reconvened in closed session at as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel, including regarding pending or contemplated litigation, including *McDonald v. Firth* (No. 21-800, 142 S. Ct. 1442 (2022); No. 20-5448, 4 F.4th 229 (5th Cir. 2021); No. 1:19-cv-219-LY (W.D. Tex.)) and *Bennett v. State Bar of Texas* (No. 4:21-cv-02829 (S.D. Tex.)), and regarding requests from Joe Longley and Marc Gravely for documents from Vinson & Elkins related to the *McDonald* litigation; and as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to deliberate regarding personnel matter(s).

Open Session: At 10:45 a.m., the open session of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors meeting reconvened. During the closed session, only matters relating to consultation with legal counsel regarding pending or contemplated litigation, including *McDonald v. Firth* and *Bennett v. State Bar of Texas*, and regarding requests from Joe Longley and Marc Gravely for documents from Vinson & Elkins related to the *McDonald* litigation were discussed.

No action was taken during the closed session.

M. State Bar of Texas Mission Statement was recited.

N. There being no further business, Director Dwight McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Jason Charbonnet seconded. Meeting adjourned by Chair of the Board Chad Baruch at 10:47 a.m. CDT.