

**AGENDA**  
**STATE BAR OF TEXAS**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Friday, September 27, 2024 – 8:00 a.m. CDT**

**Overton Hotel & Conference Center**  
**2322 Mac Davis Lane**  
**Lubbock, TX 79401**

The presiding officer will be physically present at the meeting location listed above.

**Members of the Public:**

View the meeting via PC, Mac, iOS or Android Device:

[www.youtube.com/statebaroftexas](http://www.youtube.com/statebaroftexas)

**Public comments will be received under agenda item 5.**

Those who wish to address the Board of Directors in-person should fill out a speaker card at the beginning of the meeting and submit it to a staff member onsite. To sign up to speak remotely, please email [boardofdirectors@texasbar.com](mailto:boardofdirectors@texasbar.com) or call (512) 427-1400 or (800) 204-2222 (toll free) before 5 p.m. CDT on Thursday, September 26, 2024. Please provide the agenda item number you wish to speak on.

Written comments regarding agenda items must be received by 5 p.m. CDT on Monday, September 23, 2024, for timely distribution to the board before the meeting. Please submit written comments by email to [boardofdirectors@texasbar.com](mailto:boardofdirectors@texasbar.com) and indicate the agenda item you are referring to.

Link to the September 27, 2024, Board of Directors Agenda and Materials:

[www.texasbar.com/bodmaterials](http://www.texasbar.com/bodmaterials)

**Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, an individual with a disability must have an equal opportunity for effective communication and participation in public meetings. Upon request, the State Bar of Texas will provide reasonable modifications and equal access to communications. For assistance, please contact Tami Knoll at (512) 427-6850 or (800) 204-2222 (toll free) at least two working days prior to the scheduled meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Individuals with speech or hearing disabilities can contact Ms. Knoll by routing through Relay Texas at phone number 7-1-1 or another designated phone number provided at [relaytexas.com](http://relaytexas.com).**

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|---|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. <b>Call to Order</b>   | Paul K. Stafford |                    |
| 2. <b>Roll Call</b>   | Trey Apffel      |                    |
| 3. <b>Invocation</b>  | Cade Browning    |                    |
| 4. <b>Pledge to the U.S. and Texas Flag</b>   | Alex Stelly, Jr. |                    |
| 5. <b>Remarks from the General Public</b><br><i>(Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment during the meeting.)</i> |                  |                    |
| 6. <b>Report from Chair of the Board</b>  | Paul K. Stafford | <b>(Materials)</b> |
| <b>A. Action:</b> Consider and discuss approval of Consent Agenda Items   |                  |                    |
| <b>B. Presentation of Resolutions</b>   | Steve Benesh     |                    |

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- C. Discussion:**
- 1) General Report
  - 2) Solicitation of candidates to serve as Chair of the 2025-26 Board of Directors
7. **Report from Executive Director** Trey Apffel **(Materials)**  
**Discussion:** General Report
8. **Report from President** Steve Benesh **(Materials)**  
**A. Discussion:** General Report
- B. Update on the Building Planning Special Committee** Sylvia Borunda Firth
- 1) **Discussion:** General Report
  - 2) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of authorizing State Bar staff to move forward with design and construction planning
  - 3) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of Building Planning Special Committee recommendation to select Owners Representative
9. **Report from President-elect** Santos Vargas  
**Discussion:**
- 1) General Report
  - 2) FY 2025-26 Budget Committee Update
  - 3) Committee Review Taskforce Update
10. **Report from Immediate Past President** Cindy Tisdale  
**Discussion:** General Report
11. **Executive Committee**  
**Nominations & Elections Subcommittee** Cindy Tisdale/Kennon Lily **(Materials)**  
**Discussion:** General Report
12. **Administration Committee** Elizabeth Sandoval Cantu **(Materials)**  
**A. Administration Committee**
- 1) **Discussion:** Report regarding the Texas Supreme Court's Preliminary Approval of Rules Governing Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals and Licensed Court-Access Assistants and proposed comments
  - 2) **Discussion:** Comments from the Supreme Court of Texas Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann/Justice Brett Busby
  - 3) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of Administration Committee's proposed comments regarding the Texas Supreme Court's Preliminary Approval of Rules Governing Licensed Legal Paraprofessionals and Licensed Court-Access Assistants to be submitted to the Texas Supreme Court on behalf of the board before the November 1, 2024 deadline

- B. Performance Measures & Strategic Planning Subcommittee**  
**Discussion:** General Report
- Alex Stelly, Jr.
13. **Discussion:** Texas Access to Justice Commission
- Harriet Miers
14. **Audit & Finance Committee**  
**A. Discussion:**
- Forrest Huddleston **(Materials)**
- 1) Financial Reports and General Review of Financial Statements
  - 2) Update on Financial and Internal Audits
- B. Investment Overview**
- Nathan Smith
- C. Action:** Consider and discuss approval of the State Bar’s quarterly investment reports for May 2024
- D. Action:** Consider and discuss approval of the adoption of PFM Broker/Dealer List for investments
- E. Action:** Consider and discuss approval of the adoption of the State Bar of Texas investment policy
15. **Minimum Continuing Legal Education Committee**
- Stuart Colburn **(Materials)**
- 1) **Discussion:** General Report
  - 2) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of the MCLE Committee’s recommendation to change Section 2.1.2 of the Texas MCLE Regulations on accredited CLE activities to include credit for attorney participating in moot court/mock trial competitions
16. **Discipline & Client Attorney Assistance Committee**
- A. DCAAP Subcommittee**
- Jeff Cochran
- Discussion:** General Report
- B. Client Security Fund Subcommittee**
- Lawrence Morales II
- Discussion:** General Report
17. **Member Services & Education Committee**
- A. Appeals-Grant Review**
- Cade Browning **(Materials)**
- 1) **Discussion:** Report on Grant Authorization Request Received:  
“Leadership Class” by State Bar of Texas Family Law Section
  - 2) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of recommendation of the Appeals/Grant Review Subcommittee to uphold the decision of the Texas Board of Legal Specialization to revoke certification of Mr. David Leigh Sheller in Personal Injury Trial Law
  - 3) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of recommendation of the Appeals/Grant Review Subcommittee to uphold the decision of the Texas Board

- of Legal Specialization denying the application of Judge Melissa Morris for certification in Criminal Law
- 4) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of recommendation of the Appeals/Grant Review Subcommittee to uphold the decision of the Texas Board of Legal Specialization denying the application of Judge Maria Aceves for certification in Civil Trial Law
- B. Professional Development Subcommittee**  
**Discussion:** General Report  
Aaron Tobin
- C. Insurance/Member Benefits Subcommittee**  
**Discussion:** General Report  
Radha Thiagarajan
18. **Public Services & Education Committee**  
**A. Affordable Legal Services Subcommittee**  
**Discussion:** General Report  
Kenda L. Culpepper
- B. Legislative Policy Subcommittee**  
**Discussion:** General Report  
David Courreges **(Materials)**
19. **Section Representatives to the Board Committee**  
**Discussion:** General Report  
Judge Jerry Bullard
20. **Commission for Lawyer Discipline/Chief Disciplinary Counsel**  
**Discussion:** General Report  
Judge Monica Gonzalez/  
Seana Willing **(Materials)**
21. **Texas Young Lawyers Association**  
**Discussion:** General Report  
Hisham Masri **(Materials)**
22. **Discussion: Liaison Reports**  
**A. Supreme Court Liaison**  
Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann  
**B. Court of Criminal Appeals Liaison**  
Judge Jesse F. McClure III  
**C. Judicial Section Liaison**  
Judge Bill Miller  
**D. Federal Judicial Liaison**  
Judge Jeff Brown  
**E. Out of State Lawyer Liaison**  
Sundeep K. “Rob” Addy
23. **Discussion: Report from General Counsel**  
Ross Fischer
24. **Discussion: Report from Chief Legal Counsel**  
**A. Closed Session:** As authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding *Boudreaux v. Louisiana State Bar Association*, 86 F.4th 620 (5th Cir. 2023), *Turnbull v. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, et al.* (No. 1:23-cv-00314) (W.D. Tex.), *Washington v. State Bar of Texas et al.* (No. 1:23-cv-00526-RP) (W.D. Tex.), *Butler v. State Bar of Texas et al.* (No. 4:23-CV-01070) (E.D. Tex.), *Robins v. State Bar of Texas, et al.* (No. 202418660) (129<sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County), *Turnbull v. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, et al.* (No. D-1-GN-24-002025) (201<sup>st</sup>

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District Court, Travis County), *Alford v. State Bar of Texas, et. al.* (No. 4:24-CV-01679), legal matters related to 1415 Lavaca, and as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to deliberate regarding personnel matter(s)

## **B. End of Closed Session/Return to Open Session**

**C. Action**, if needed, on items discussed in closed session

- 25. **For Information Only: State Bar Committees Projects and Objectives Report** **(Materials)**
  
- 26. **SBOT Mission Statement** Radha Thiagarajan
  
- 27. **Adjourn** Paul K. Stafford

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, the Board should determine that a closed session of the Board should be held or is required in relation to any item included in this notice, then such closed session as authorized by Texas Open Meetings Act (Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 551) will be held by the Board at that date, hour and place given in this notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this notice as the Board may conveniently meet in such closed session concerning any and all subjects and for any and all purposes permitted by Sections 551.071–551.084, inclusive, of the Texas Open Meetings Act. The Board reserves the right to take action in open session on any item discussed in closed session.

Items on the agenda will not necessarily be discussed or considered in the order they are printed on the agenda above. Comments from the public may be taken throughout the Board meeting.

### **SBOT MISSION**

The mission of the State Bar of Texas is to support the administration of the legal system, assure all citizens equal access to justice, foster high standards of ethical conduct for lawyers, enable its members to better serve their clients and the public, educate the public about the rule of law and promote diversity in the administration of justice and the practice of law.