

**AGENDA  
STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Thursday, January 9, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. CST**

**Texas Law Center – Stewart Morris Board Room  
1414 Colorado St.  
Austin, TX 78701**

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 3.**

Those who wish to address the Executive Committee in-person during this meeting 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. CST on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Please provide the agenda item number you wish to speak on.

Written comments regarding agenda items must be received by 5 p.m. CST on Monday, January 6, 2025, for timely distribution to the Executive Committee members 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 January 9, 2025, Executive Committee 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>  | Steve Benesh     |                    |
| 2. <b>Roll Call</b>  | Trey Apffel      |                    |
| 3. <b>Remarks from the General Public*</b><br><i>(Members of the public will have an opportunity to comment during the meeting.)</i> |                  |                    |
| 4. <b>Report from Executive Director</b><br><b>Discussion:</b> General Report  | Trey Apffel      | <b>(Materials)</b> |
| 5. <b>Report from President</b><br><b>A. Discussion:</b> General Report  | Steve Benesh     | <b>(Materials)</b> |
| <b>B. Action:</b> Consider and discuss approval of minutes of the September 5, 2024, Executive Committee meeting                     |                  |                    |
| 6. <b>Report from Chair of the Board</b><br><b>Discussion:</b> General Report  | Paul K. Stafford |                    |

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7. **Report from President-elect** Santos Vargas **(Materials)**
  - A. **Discussion:** General Report
  - B. **Budget Committee**

**Action:** Consider and discuss recommendation of Board approval of SBOT 2025-26 proposed budget for publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*
8. **Report from Immediate Past President** Cindy Tisdale  
**Discussion:** General Report
9. **Executive Committee**
  - A. **Nominations & Elections Subcommittee** Cindy Tisdale/Kennon Lily Wooten **(Materials)**
    - 1) **Discussion:** General Report
    - 2) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of the recommendation of nominees for 2025-26 SBOT president-elect candidacy:  
Deborah L. Cordova (Edinburg)  
G. David Smith (Rockwall)
  - B. **Policy Manual Subcommittee** Matthew J. Hill **(Materials)**
    - 1) **Discussion:** General Report
    - 2) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of increasing the CLE speaker meal reimbursement maximum in section 7.03.08(c)(3) from \$40 to \$60
10. **Audit & Finance Committee** Forrest Huddleston **(Materials)**
  - A. Financial Reports and General Review of Financial Statements
  - B. Update on Internal Audits
  - C. Financial Audit for Fiscal Year ending May 31, 2024
11. **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 attorneys participating in arbitration, alternative dispute resolution, mediation, transactional, client counseling and negotiation competitions
  - 3) **Action:** Consider and discuss approval of the MCLE Committee’s recommendation to amend Section 1.3 of the Texas MCLE Regulations to change the title of the Texas Center for Legal Ethics required course from “The Guide to the Basics of Law Practice,” to the current title of “The Justice James A. Baker Guide to Ethics and Professionalism”

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| 12. <b>Ad Hoc Committee to Select At-Large Directors</b><br><b>Discussion:</b> General Report  | Elizabeth Sandoval Cantu      |                    |
| 13. <b>Section Representatives to the Board</b><br><b>Discussion:</b> General Report   | Judge Jerry Bullard           |                    |
| 14. <b>Discussion:</b> Supreme Court Liaison   | Senior Justice Debra Lehrmann |                    |
| 15. <b>Discussion:</b> Texas Young Lawyers Association   | Hisham Masri                  | <b>(Materials)</b> |
| 16. <b>Discussion:</b> Report from General Counsel   | Ross Fischer                  |                    |
| 17. <b>Discussion:</b> Report from Chief Legal Counsel   | Chris Ritter                  |                    |
| <b>A. Closed Session:</b> As authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.071 for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding <i>Boudreaux v. Louisiana State Bar Association</i> , 86 F.4th 620 (5th Cir. 2023), <i>Alford v. State Bar of Texas</i> (No. 4:24-cv-01679) (S.D. Tex.); <i>Turnbull v. Commission for Lawyer Discipline, et al.</i> (No. 24-50260) (5th Cir.) and (No. 15-24-00095-CV) (15 <sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals); <i>Robins v. State Bar of Texas, et al.</i> (No. 202418660) (129 <sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County); <i>Philip Ireland v. State Bar of Texas et al.</i> (No CV22279) (Freestone County, Tex.); <i>Winningham v. SBOT, et al.</i> (No. 4:24-cv-881-O-BP)(N.D. Tex.); and <i>Jacob Barreras v. State Bar of Texas</i> (No. 3:24-cv-00302-MJT) (W.D. Tex.), and legal matters related to 1415 Lavaca; and as authorized by Texas Government Code Section 551.074 to deliberate regarding personnel matter(s) |                               |                    |
| <b>B. End of Closed Session/Return to Open Session</b>   |                               |                    |
| <b>C. Action</b> , if needed, on items discussed in closed session   |                               |                    |
| 18. <b>Adjourn</b>   | Steve Benesh                  |                    |

If, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, the Executive Committee should determine that a closed session of the Executive Committee 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 Executive Committee 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 Executive Committee 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 Executive Committee 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 Executive Committee 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.