

CHAIR



MICHAEL C. SMITH, of Siebman, Burg, Phillips & Smith in Marshall, specializes in complex commercial and intellectual property litigation. He is a former chair of the Eastern District of Texas’s Local Rules Advisory Committee; publishes EDTexweblog.com, a blog on practice in the Eastern District; and edits *O’Connor’s Federal Rules—Civil Trials*. He is a past chair of the State Bar Litigation Section and has served on the State Bar Board of Directors.

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RHONDA HUNTER, a partner in Farrow-Gillespie & Heath, is certified in family law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She is a past president of the Dallas Bar Association, the J.L. Turner Legal Association, and the Dallas Association of Black Women Attorneys. She serves in the American Bar Association House of Delegates and the American Bar Association Center for Racial and Ethnic Diversity and is a former member of the State Bar Board of Directors.



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TALMAGE BOSTON is a shareholder in the Dallas office of Winstead. He is a past director of the State Bar of Texas and has served as chair of the State Bar Litigation Section, State Bar Council of Chairs, and State Bar Annual Meeting Committee. He is certified in civil trial law and civil appellate law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Over the past six years, he has written five featured articles in the *Texas Bar Journal*.



REBEKAH STEELY BROOKER is an attorney with Passman & Jones in Dallas, where she manages the firm’s estate planning and administration and probate practices. Brooker is president-elect of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and has served as TYLA treasurer and as a director. She is an executive adviser to the Low Income Texans and Community Education committees. She also serves on the State Bar of

Texas Board of Directors and the board of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.



JOHN G. BROWNING is the administrative partner in Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith in Dallas, where he handles commercial litigation, employment, health care, and personal injury defense matters in state and federal courts. He is an award-winning legal journalist for his syndicated newspaper column, “Legally Speaking,” and the author of *The Lawyer’s Guide to Social Networking*. He is an adjunct professor at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law.



DIANE DEVASTO, of Potter Minton in Tyler, specializes in mediation for both patent and other civil cases. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors, American Law Institute, the Eastern District of Texas Bar Association, T. John Ward Inn of Court, and is a past president of the Smith County Bar Association. DeVasto retired in 2006 as a justice of the 12th Court of Appeals. She serves as the director, District 2, of the State Bar of Texas.



HARPER ESTES is a shareholder in Lynch, Chappell & Alsup in Midland. He is a past president of the State Bar of Texas and the Midland County Bar Association. Estes is certified in civil trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. His practice focuses on commercial litigation. He also frequently serves as a mediator and arbitrator.



STEVE FISCHER, of Rockport, serves on the State Bar Board of Directors. He has been a professor at the University of Texas—Permian Basin and worked on cases in Midland and Odessa. Before that, he was Willacy County district attorney. He has also practiced in El Paso, Denton, and Huntsville and has authored numerous articles on demographics and education. He has a B.A. with honors from the University of California Berkeley, a J.D. from Indiana University, an M.P.A. from the University of North Texas, and an M.A. in criminology from Sam Houston State University.



ALBERT GAVALDON is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Business and the University of Texas School of Law and is presently engaged in the private practice of criminal defense in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. He also serves as court-appointed attorney on the Dallas County Indigent Appointment Wheel. His public sector law career includes serving

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FRANK A. KING is an assistant attorney general with the General Litigation Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office. He is the chair of the Austin Bar Association Civil Litigation Section and serves on the Judicial Affairs Committee, the Legal Build Committee (in association with Habitat for Humanity), and the Austin Bar Mentoring Program. He is a barrister with the Lloyd Lochridge Inn of Court and volunteers with Meals on Wheels. King formerly served on the Austin Bar Association Board of Directors, where he received the Outstanding Director Award. He also received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Austin Young Lawyers Association.



MILES J. LeBLANC, a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School, is an assistant general counsel in the Legal Services Department of the Houston Independent School District. His public sector law career includes serving as an assistant district attorney in Taylor County; a federal district law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Jorge A. Solis, Northern District of Texas; an assistant attorney general in the General Litigation, Consumer Protection, and Administrative Law divisions of the Office of the Texas Attorney General; and in-house legal counsel at the University of Houston and Houston Community College.



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LILAN REN, of Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel of Austin, specializes in intellectual property law with an emphasis in patent prosecution and counseling. She has authored numerous articles on emerging issues in patent law and has been an active member of the American Inn of Courts in Washington, D.C., and Austin. Ren served on the board of directors of the Austin Young Lawyers Association as a liaison of the Austin Asian American Bar Association. She co-chaired the Minority Report Card Committee with leaders of other minority bar associations, and most recently, she was a member of the 2013 LeadershipSBOT class.



ANDREW SEFTZIK is an attorney with Strasburger & Price in Frisco, where he practices commercial litigation in state and federal courts. He is a member of the 2012 LeadershipSBOT class.



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