

THANK YOU. YOU ARE WORTH IT.



All of the movement I make will continue to be with my best intentions and my best efforts, because we are worth it.

There is no great achievement that is not the result of patient working and waiting.

— J.G. Holland

THE HOLIDAY SEASON HAS PASSED AND THE NEW YEAR IS UNDERWAY. Many of us view the beginning of a new year as a new chapter full of new opportunities. For me, January 2014 marks the midpoint of my presidency of the State Bar of Texas. Consequently, I take this moment to thank you.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve and appreciate the congratulations and support many of you have shared with me along the way. I am most grateful for your candor. Attorneys have readily shared their perspectives with me. This began with the campaign and continues.

You are talented, focused, busy, and passionate. Your perspectives are as unique and as diverse as one might expect from a group of highly skilled and highly educated people who total nearly 95,000. You have shared some of your experiences. Your bar experiences have caused you to feel anger, joy, and relief and have been the source of frustration and contentment. Many of our colleagues have declared with mixed emotions their thoughts about the bar. Some are new to bar involvement, while others have been involved and then disengaged for a variety of reasons. Still, others dedicate countless hours to the efforts of the bar at various levels, ranging from practice-specific projects to pro bono services. While yet others have chosen to entrust their peers with the work and service of the bar.

Everyone I have encountered, including those who chose not to visit with me extensively, is passionate about some aspect of the bar. Everyone I encountered had something to say and something to share. I suppose that also is to be expected from a group of people called to advocate. Each of us endured the rite of passage—attending law school and sitting for the bar exam. Each of us is motivated by someone or something to act. I admire that about us, about lawyers.

A few have taken the time to reach out to me and remind me that I am just one and that there is insufficient time in the presidency to complete the work that needs to be accomplished. I *am* just one. There *is* far more that needs to be done than my tenure has time for. Their words of encouragement, empathy, and reality are deeply appreciated and heartfelt. After all, I, too, am a lawyer.

I will continue to advocate and will continue to work for our membership. I will make some headway. I will experience some setbacks. I will have some successes. All of the movement I make will continue to be with my best intentions and my best efforts, because we are worth it.

LISA TATUM

President, *State Bar of Texas*