



2021-2022 STATE BAR OF TEXAS

SECTION REPORTS

Section reports are included in the July/August issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* to update Texas lawyers on State Bar section activities. Section membership and dues are voluntary. These reports do not necessarily reflect the position or official policy of the State Bar of Texas, which is formulated by the State Bar Board of Directors or by the membership through referendum. For more information or to join a section, go to texasbar.com/sections or call 800-204-2222, ext. 1420.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW

Holly Ann Vandrovec, Chair

The Administrative and Public Law Section continued its mission to educate and support those engaged in government service and the practice of administrative law by holding its annual Advanced Texas Administrative Law Seminar, co-sponsored by the University of Texas School of Law Continuing Legal Education, virtually on September 9-10, 2021. The 2022 seminar is scheduled to take place both live at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center in Austin and via webcast on September 1-2, 2022, and is planned to include 12 hours of CLE credit, including 3.25 hours of ethics. Please check the UTCLE website for any updates and changes. The section conducted its annual Mack Kidd Administrative Law Moot Court Competition virtually on October 22-23, 2021. The moot court competition introduces students from Texas law schools to administrative law and provides experience in brief writing and oral argument before higher court justices and experienced administrative law practitioners. In 2021, nine teams participated with St. Mary's University School of Law providing the winning team in a championship round argued before Justices Darlene Byrne, Chari Kelly, and Thomas Baker, of the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin. The 2022 competition is scheduled for October 28-29.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LAWYERS

Paul K. Stafford, Chair

The African American Lawyers Section has served lawyers and the community since 1992. During its 30th anniversary, the AALS remained committed to programming and initiatives maintaining the organization's relevance, impact, and consistency. The "Join.Engage.Impact." campaign increased membership by approximately 20% (go to africanamericanlawyerssection.com). The Speaking Freely series (aals.speakingfreely@gmail.com) provided free monthly CLEs. Regional Meet & Greet networking events collaboratively engaged members. The

AALS Law School Committee (and the Equal Writes Law Student Writing Competition) mentored future members of the legal profession, facilitating a more diverse pipeline. Through the Voting Rights, Legislative, and Judiciary committees, the AALS also continued its tradition of service to the profession. On April 23, the 7th annual AALS Summit and Awards Luncheon provided informative CLEs and presented the Outstanding Achievement (U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson), Trailblazer (AALS Immediate Past Chair Rudy Metayer), and Distinguished Jurist (Judge Brenda Kennedy and Judge Lora Livingston) awards. The 30th anniversary commemoration continued during the AALS Annual Meeting on June 9 in Houston, where the inaugural AALS chair, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, was honored with the AALS Legacy Award. Thanks to all who serve.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

David Harrell, Chair

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section maintained its mission of educating the public about alternative forms of dispute resolution. During 2021-2022, the ADR Section: hosted its annual Advanced ADR CLE that included four hours of ethics, with topics including the toolkits for mediators and arbitrators, employment mediation, negotiation strategies, diversity in ADR, family law mediation, consumer and commercial bankruptcy ADR, and wellness; awarded the Justice Frank G. Evans Award, the section's highest award, to two recipients—Courtenay Bass, a 30-plus-year full-time mediator in Dallas and longtime member of the ADR Section Council, and Benjamin H. "Ben" Devries, a 20-plus-year volunteer and former interim executive director of the Dispute Resolution Center of Montgomery County; successfully participated in the State Bar of Texas' financial audit; and promoted a diverse group of ADR professionals for leadership positions on the ADR Section Council.

ANIMAL LAW

Eric Torbertson, Chair

The Animal Law Section was happy

to fulfill its purpose for the 2021-2022 years. The section continued Zoom one-hour lunchtime CLEs. Several attendees watched the CLEs live and others watched them later by registering on the website, animallawsection.org. The section looks forward to continuing its Zoom CLEs as well as live classes. We also continued using Listserv as a forum to discuss animal law topics this year. Animal law utilizes various areas of law. Common topics are animal cruelty, animal seizure, animal theft, animal ownership/custody, dangerous dog hearings, and personal injury. These topics overlap animal law with criminal law, family law, personal injury law, property law, and estate planning law—not to mention constitutional law discussions. The section presented CLE at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in June 2022.

APPELLATE

Dylan O. Drummond, Chair

This year, the section made ensuring the appellate bar better represents Texas litigants a priority by partnering with the American Bar Association's Judicial Internship Opportunity Program and the Appellate Project—each of which aim to increase access to appellate practice for underrepresented law students. In addition to continuing to work with its longstanding Texas Supreme Court liaison, the section also welcomed liaisons from the Court of Criminal Appeals and the chief justices of the intermediate courts of appeals. The section was pleased to sponsor the 2021 Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit held in Austin, which hosted state and federal appellate judges and justices from around the country. The section also hosted the induction ceremony of the 2020 and 2021 classes of honorees into the Texas Appellate Hall of Fame. Finally, the section provided benefits for its members—offering nearly a year's worth of free online CLE and hundreds of online CLE articles, as well as access to numerous appellate forms and dozens of online video interviews with former appellate justices—and nonmembers alike, hosting live CLE events throughout the year, maintaining

its statewide appellate pro bono program, and filing an amicus brief regarding appellate procedure issues.

ASIAN PACIFIC INTEREST

Amar Raval, Chair

Formed in 1995, the Asian Pacific Interest Section, or APIS, of the State Bar of Texas was created to be a statewide umbrella organization to promote the common professional interests of lawyers of and interested in Asian Pacific American heritage, community, and culture. Although the section was not able to hold its 27th annual APIS Conference in Austin, APIS was proud to be a part of the State Bar Annual Meeting in Houston in June. Every year, APIS recognizes leaders in the Asian Pacific American community for their contributions to the legal community, judiciary, diversity, mentorship, pro bono service, and rising legal stars. This year, APIS focused on reconnecting with its local chapters around the state, making sure to promote their activities and contributions. APIS also formed a partnership with the Asia Society Texas Center to co-host cultural events in 2021. The section appreciates the continued support of its sponsors and encourages its members to continue to stay active in the community at large and lead by example.

AVIATION LAW

Christa M. Hinckley, Chair

The section began the year with its Annual Meeting/CLE held via Zoom on June 24, 2021. Greg Reigel, then treasurer, gave a presentation on aircraft leasing, which is available at aviationlawtx.com/cle-video-library. The following officers and at-large members for 2021-2022 were elected: Christa Hinckley, chair; Bryan David, vice chair; Stella Dulanya, treasurer; Caitlyn Goodwin, secretary; Peter Busher, immediate past chair; Kerry Adams, membership director; Kristin Newman, newsletter editor; and at-large members Derrick Hahn, Kristin Newman, Dave Norton, Don Windle, James Biggers, and Andrea Seffens Turner. The section had an in-person CLE on December 3, 2021, in Dallas.

Various presentations were made by Norton, Adams, Jim Struble, and Jeff Gilmore. On May 11, 2022, via Zoom, the section sponsored a CLE program on regulation of unmanned aircraft by Mark McKinnon, of Fox Rothschild in Washington, D.C. Course materials are posted at texasbarsections.com/CourseMaterials/Aviation. In March, Norton announced that the proposed aviation law specific area requirements (standards) were being submitted by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization to the Texas Supreme Court for review. The section does not have a date as to when a final decision will be made.

BANKRUPTCY LAW

Timothy Million, Chair

The Bankruptcy Law Section has continued working to provide benefits to its section members with free webinars on topics of interest to consumer and business lawyers and a regularly published newsletter highlighting upcoming events, new judges to the bench, troop movements, and articles from members. The section continues to sponsor and organize the Elliott Cup moot court competition for law students and the MoneyWise program for high school students and supports pro bono clinics across Texas. Western, Eastern, Northern, and Southern districts are meeting this year for their local bench bar conferences, and attorneys are enjoying the chance to learn and mingle in person after such a long stretch of virtual conferences and court hearings.

BUSINESS LAW

Brent Benoit, Acting Chair

The State Bar of Texas Business Law Section has a broad reach into all aspects of commercial law in Texas. Through the involvement of its members and the leadership of its council and committee members, the section engages in robust discussion of the laws that affect business activity within our state. Through the active engagement of many members over the past year, the section provided invaluable resources in the fields of corporate, securities, commercial,

banking, and bankruptcy law for attorneys in Texas. Current committees include those that address general aspects of commercial law but also include dynamic new areas that discuss the laws on, and relating to, blockchain, virtual currencies, and social media. The section is also actively engaged in the review of the laws of other states which, like Texas, may have a significant impact on commerce. Members also organized and presented numerous continuing legal education programs on relevant topics that were, once again, considered among the highest quality in the country.

CHILD PROTECTION LAW

Judge Rhonda Hunter, Chair

The Child Protection Law Section celebrates four years as a section by going from a small section to a medium-size section with over 1,000 members. The section finished off the year with its in-person fourth annual Advanced Child Protection Law Course, where the section featured Richard Orsinger condensing 46 years of evidence knowledge into 45 minutes, a panel of former foster youth, and a conversation with Judge Peter Sakai. The year began remote, with monthly webinars including the trauma training series, the first on “Creating an Effective and Equitable Early Childhood System of Support” and the second titled “The ABCs of ACES-Adverse Childhood Experiences.” The section bids farewell to three founding council members, Lynn Chamberlin, Heidi Cox, and Karen Langsley, who will be honored at a meeting in August. The section celebrated in person at the Advanced Family Law Course with a reception in San Antonio in honor of Justice Debra Lehrmann, the founding chair, and with a successful child abuse and neglect track. A bylaw change at the annual meeting in March has put the section on track to begin the new year. For all in the section, it is an honor and privilege to serve.

CIVIL LIBERTIES & CIVIL RIGHTS

Matthew J. Kolodoski, Chair

The Civil Liberties & Civil Rights Section had another amazing year thanks

to the hard work of the section's members. The section continued its efforts to promote discussion regarding constitutional issues and civil liberties and civil rights, which are of ever-increasing importance in the nation. To that end, the section hosted several seminars throughout this bar year. First, the section launched a new program, "Privacy in 2021," on September 17, 2021. The program focused on current privacy issues. The section also co-sponsored the 16th annual Bill of Rights: Litigating the Constitution Course on May 13, 2022. The section also presented CLE at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting on June 10, 2022. The section also continued to support and provide members with the *Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights*. Furthermore, the section is pleased to announce that the 2022 recipient of the Patrick Wiseman Award for Civil Rights is Alex Bunin, who currently serves as chief public defender for Harris County. The section congratulates him and thanks him for all of his hard work on behalf of all Texans. As you can see, things are happening in the section. Don't miss out.

COLLABORATIVE LAW

Jill Lowe, Chair

What a great year to be a Collaborative Law Section member. Members benefited from newsletters and the webinar CLE program in December 2021. The section-sponsored Innovations Team started designing enhancements to the collaborative law/ADR models to make the processes more accessible, financially feasible, and attractive to a broader range of clients. The council appointed a committee to oversee the Ruth Rickard Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a law school student at South Texas College of Law Houston for attending the Collaborative Law Training Course. For the first time, the section created an observers list of collaboratively trained professionals to observe a collaborative case.

The section is excited for its CLE held at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting. This year, Ron Ousky presented "Purple Cows and Common

Sense: Inspiration and Ideas for Creating and Sustaining a Remarkable Collaborative Practice." His presentation addressed how to approach every new case with the opportunity to achieve a remarkable "purple cow" outcome for the clients in the collaborative process.

The section anticipates this next bar year will contain opportunities to improve collaborative skills and spread the word about the collaborative process and its benefits. Make sure to renew your membership.

COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY

Elizabeth Rogers, Chair

Since the beginning of the bar year in June 2021, the Computer & Technology Section held four hybrid in-person/virtual council meetings and highlights included: (1) the passage of a new social media conduct and content policy; (2) a new requirement that all current and new council members must contribute to *Circuits*; (3) news that the section app was updated; and (4) subject matter experts reinforced the need to be knowledgeable of the risks and benefits of technology. The annual retreat is usually built around a theme that enlightens and educates all council members about a trending issue involving legal technology or legal technology resources that the council can, in turn, pass on to members and the greater bar membership. The retreat was held at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa, where 17 council members attended, and the agenda included some focused discussion at the Justice for All CLE. As the section has done in the past three hybrid meetings, the council hosted a guest, but this time, it was a surprise—Rod Ponton, otherwise known as "the Cat Lawyer," provided a stirring discussion that gave everyone pause about being filter savvy before a hearing.

CONSTRUCTION LAW

Stephanie O'Rourke, Chair

The Construction Law Section focuses on continuing education for its 2,700-plus members through its CLE programs and scholarly publications. In addition to serving as a joint sponsor of

two significant CLE programs, the section publishes the *Construction Law Journal* semi-annually, publishes a highly regarded monthly caselaw update titled *The Change Order*, and provides webinars on timely topics for its members. The section proudly supports the Texas Access to Justice Foundation and will donate again this year to provide much-needed funds for legal services to low-income Texans.

The annual Basic Course in Construction Law was held December 9-10, 2021, in Dallas. The 138 attendees learned about a variety of introductory topics and received updated materials. Another 900 attendees at the 35th annual Construction Law Conference held March 3-4 in San Antonio heard presentations on cutting-edge legal and industry topics. The section selected the Folds of Honor Foundation as the designated charity this year and will be donating to its effort to provide educational scholarships to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service members.

CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL LAW

R. Douglas Scott, Chair

The Consumer and Commercial Law Section continued working on upgrading its website at txconsumerlawyers.org this year for consumers and attorneys. The 17th annual Advanced Consumer and Commercial Law CLE Course was moved to a webcast in September 2021 due to the rise in COVID-19 cases. Amy Hargis gave the third annual Mark Kincaid Memorial Lecture on Insurance Law, and Richard Alderman won the Richard Alderman Award for CLE Excellence (there is a reason the award is named after him). The 18th annual Advanced Consumer and Commercial Law Course will be held in person (hopefully) September 22-23, 2022, in Austin. The section's council was finally able to meet again in person this year in San Antonio in late April, then the entire section at the State Bar Annual Meeting in Houston in June. Congratulations to this year's Craig Jordan Writing Competition winner, Cole Watson, of Texas A&M University School of Law, for his article "Protecting

Children in the Frontier of Surveillance Capitalism.” Finally, section members continue to receive their acclaimed *Journal of Consumer & Commercial Law*, edited by Richard Alderman and published by the University of Houston Law Center; the Lexology news feed; and discounted attendance at section CLE programs.

CORPORATE COUNSEL

T. Jason Smith, Chair

I’m proud to announce that the Corporate Counsel Section hit an all-time high in membership this year despite the uncertainty the world continues to offer us. The pandemic has given the council an opportunity to reevaluate priorities and readjust sails. The section continues to put an emphasis on pro bono and since 1997, has awarded more than \$850,000 in pro bono grants. The section is relaunching its Champions of Pro Bono program and encouraging law firms to join as the section partners with the State Bar Pro Bono Working Group to increase pro bono participation by in-house counsel. The section has delivered more editions of the *Corporate Counsel Review* and its newsletter *Currents*. Back issues of these can be found in the members-only section of the website. This year, the section made the difficult decision to withdraw from partnering in the Corporate Counsel Institute and will be replacing that benefit with alternative CLE offerings that cater to a broader audience throughout Texas, both in person and virtual. This section is led by a tremendous group of hard-working, dedicated council members, and I want to personally take this moment to thank them for their tireless efforts on behalf of this section.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Philip Mack Furlow, Chair

What a year it has been for the Criminal Justice Section. The year began on lockdown but the section resumed its functions by sponsoring a combined law-school outreach professionalism panel and diverse CLE curriculum at Texas A&M University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and Texas Tech University. Participants included Court of Criminal Appeals Judges Bert

Richardson, David Newell, Kevin Yeary, Michelle Slaughter, and Jesse McClure III; Court of Appeals Justice Melissa Goodwin; district court Judges Lisa Michalk and Diane Navarrete; Presiding Judge of County Criminal Court 3 Audrey Moorehead; District Attorneys Philip Mack Furlow, Kenda Culpepper, and Brian Middleton; defense attorneys Rusty Hardin, Chip Lewis, Mark Snodgrass, Wendell Odom, and James McDermott; Professor Dwight McDonald; State Prosecuting Attorney Stacey Soule; Assistant State Prosecuting Attorneys Emily Johnson-Liu and John Messinger; Assistant Harris County District Attorney Andrew Fletcher; and defense attorney Mehr Singh. Looking ahead, the section is on the cusp of launching the new CJS website and the first installments of “Survival Guide”—CJS’s quick legal reference guides exclusively for members. The inaugural guides will cover common evidentiary issues and consequences for sexual offenses. Thank you to the members for working extremely hard to make it a successful year.

ENTERTAINMENT & SPORTS LAW

Tristan C. Robinson, Chair

The Entertainment & Sports Law Section, or TESLAW, had a robust 2021-2022. Website—Our website, teslaw.org, not only received a hefty makeover but also introduced a membership directory functionality as an additional perk of section membership. ELI—the section proudly welcomes Amy E. Mitchell as co-director of its annual Entertainment Law Institute, alongside Christian A. Castle, and encourages all members to attend in person for TESLAW’s biggest event of the year. Keep an eye on the section website for additional information regarding dates and venue. Lazzari Memorial Prize—in honor of the late Cindi Lazzari, an attorney who went beyond the call of duty to protect the rights of artists in the music industry, TESLAW introduced the Lazzari Memorial Prize, a writing contest for 2L and 3L law students boasting a \$1,000 cash prize and various member benefits for the best paper across a number of

preselected artist advocacy topics (for more information, see teslaw.org/awards/lazzariprize/). Annual Meeting—TESLAW held its section meeting in Houston at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting on June 9, 2022, where the section offered a great CLE lineup (<https://teslaw.org/events/annual-meeting/>) that covered emerging issues in entertainment and sports law.

ENVIRONMENTAL & NATURAL RESOURCES LAW

Nathan M. Block, Chair

The Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section, or ENRLS, has been diligently working on advancing and progressing its objectives and strategic vision. After hosting a virtual conference in 2020, ENRLS returned to an in-person event for the 33rd annual Texas Environmental Superconference in August 2021. The superconference was a success, bringing in high-quality speakers and sponsorships that fund the section’s Buck J. Wynne Memorial Scholarship and summer internships. ENRLS continued its tradition of working with Texas law schools to host environmental law career seminars. Although the seminars remained virtual this year, they were well attended. In 2022, ENRLS, in partnership with the *Texas Environmental Law Journal*, held its first Symposium on Legal System Changes to Address Climate Change and the Energy Transition. In conjunction with the symposium, the *Texas Environmental Law Journal* published a special edition focused on climate and energy transition issues, which featured five articles, including three authored by students. The symposium, which took place at the Bullock Texas State History Museum, brought together thought leaders from various backgrounds ranging from law students and government experts to practicing lawyers and academics. ENRLS hopes to leverage the success of this year’s symposium and make this a regular event.

FAMILY LAW

Jonathan J. Bates, Chair

The Family Law Section and its dedicated and tenacious volunteer workers remain focused on advancing the section mission statement: “to

promote the highest degree of professionalism, education, fellowship, and excellence in the practice of family law.” The section conducts pro bono CLE seminars across Texas. Attorneys may attend the seminars free of charge if they agree to take at least two pro bono cases. In 2021, the six seminars resulted in over 120 pro bono cases assigned to various family law attorneys. Six seminars are also scheduled for 2022. On the subject of CLE, despite another year of uncertainties, the CLE course directors continued the proud tradition of presenting the highest-quality educational content, which remains the best in the country. Further, the section’s team of authors and committees remain hard at work providing cutting-edge publications and resources. These helpful items are available at the online store on the recently updated section website: sbotfam.org/shop. The Family Law Section welcomes you to roll up your sleeves and join the work of the section.

GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO AND SMALL FIRM

Travis “Cho” Sherwood, Chair

This year has been filled with more ups and downs as we all continue to adjust our law practices and lives in a pandemic world. The section remains committed to assisting general practitioners, solos, and members of small firms (five attorneys or less) across the state in any way possible. The section encompasses many areas of the law and tries to stay up to date on State Bar activities while promoting policies that are helpful to solos and small firms. The section regularly publishes the *General Practice Digest*, sponsors the Annual General Practice Institute at Baylor Law School, and hosts a popular CLE event at the State Bar Annual Meeting. The section is focused on providing more CLE opportunities for its members this coming year as well as hosting live networking events in an effort to get people back together. Please let the section know how it can help you.

GOVERNMENT LAW

Kuruville Oommen, Chair

The Government Law Section

provides resources and services for its members who represent governmental entities across the state. The section provides e-blasts to its members with caselaw updates and a list of CLEs for government lawyers. The section is continuing to work on an initiative to establish legal specialization in local government law to recognize the distinct practice area and the breadth of knowledge required for practitioners. In the fall of 2021, the section hosted its first live event since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic—a Road Show CLE in Bryan for government lawyers. The section plans to co-host the annual Government Law 101 and Advanced Government Law courses on July 6-8, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio. Speakers are slated to present foundational topics for new government lawyers as well as updates and emerging issues for seasoned practitioners.

HEALTH LAW

Gregory N. Etzel, Chair

The Health Law Section’s mission is to provide quality educational and collaborative opportunities for a diverse array of attorneys and other legal professionals who represent a multitude of interests within an ever-evolving health care industry. The section’s signature event continues to be the annual Texas Health Law Conference, co-sponsored by the Texas Hospital Association, in which an estimated 13 hours of quality health law CLE is offered for those interested in maintaining their practice focus or specialization certification. After two years of virtual programming, the section is excited to host this year’s 35th annual conference in person at the AT&T Hotel and Conference Center in Austin on October 9-11, 2022. During the pandemic, the Health Law Section focused on virtual educational programming and outreach, including a significant upgrade to the section’s website. The weekly e-newsletters provided by the section tracking proposed and adopted Texas rules and regulations are easily accessible on the more user-friendly website along with other section information. In 2022, the

section will continue to use these virtual tools and platforms while returning focus to the in-person educational and outreach programs that have been central to the collegial and cooperative nature of members’ experiences.

HISPANIC ISSUES

Jaime Vasquez, Chair

The Hispanic Issues Section, or HIS, continued “raising the bar” this year. Starting with rebranding its newsletter to *HIStoric* and increasing the frequency of its newsletters and announcements, HIS continued to keep its members informed of the section’s activities and benefits. HIS repeated its successful statewide fundraising at the 2nd annual LawTeria, a virtual fundraiser based on the family game “Lotería.” HIS adapted the game, supplementing traditional pictures with those of Hispanic law “firsts” and other contemporary figures. HIS raised over \$56,000 and all of the proceeds went to the Texas Access to Justice Foundation to help Texans most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Combined with last year’s fundraiser, HIS has raised over \$100,000 to date toward this worthy cause. HIS also initiated a bar review scholarship program, which will assist law students across the state to afford bar review courses. HIS continues to provide timely, practical, and cutting-edge CLEs, including topics covering “COVID-19 and In-Person Trials,” “Navigating the Federal Court Appointment Process,” “Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence,” “Employment Law,” “Immigration Law,” “Campaign Finance,” “Criminal Law,” and “Legislative Updates.”

IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW

Beatriz Hernandez, Chair

The Immigration & Nationality Law Section continued to strive to provide valuable resources for its membership as we all navigate the constantly evolving U.S. immigration climate. The section continued with its commitment to membership to provide free CLEs on cutting-edge immigration topics through the fourth-Tuesday monthly lunch CLE. The section also worked on website updates, complete with a CLE bank and pro bono resources. The section’s

quarterly *Immigration Bulletin* delivered the latest trends in immigration practice. This year, as a new benefit to membership, the section collaborated with the Austin Bar Association on a writing workshop/CLE. It also collaborated with the Mexican American Bar Association of San Antonio on a “crimmigration” CLE. Additionally, for the third straight year, the section is partnering with the Family Law Section to present a joint CLE, free to both memberships. It is also partnering with the San Antonio Bar Association Immigration & Nationality Law Section on a first in-person social event, post pandemic. The section is always searching for new ways to connect with its membership. The section welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with other sections and local bar associations.

INSURANCE LAW

Douglas Skelley, Chair

The section council returned to in-person meetings and networking events across Texas and will be continuing to do so as the bar year closes out and a new one begins. The networking events have provided opportunities to involve new section members, provide mentoring, and promote the exchange of ideas among members. It also has continued to educate the section’s membership and the bar with the publication of the *Journal of Texas Insurance Law*, which remains the preeminent law review dedicated to Texas insurance law. Additionally, weekly “Right Off the Press” email updates provide summaries and links to the latest decisions from Texas state and federal courts on insurance law, as well as current listings of insurance-related employment opportunities. The section’s website, insurancelawsection.org, also continues to offer new content. The Texas Insurance Law Student Writing Competition, first held this past fall, is back in 2022. The competition allows students from all 10 accredited Texas law schools to submit articles on insurance-related topics and compete for scholarships. The annual Advanced Insurance Law Course returned to the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio for the more traditional summer slot—June 1-3, 2022.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Michael Gerard Locklar, Chair

This year, the Intellectual Property Law Section has continued to educate, connect, and serve its members and the IP community in Texas. The Advanced IP course was held February 16-18, 2022, and had some great content on e-commerce; copyrights; trademark; patents; licensing; NFTs; student athlete name, image, and likeness; and much more. Mark Curriden, the keynote speaker, described how two African American lawyers forever changed the justice system. On March 31 and April 1, the IP Law Section led a pro bono tour to Odessa and Alpine. These well-attended events provided a great opportunity to share IP knowledge with two communities that do not have ready access to IP professionals and were hungry for information on patents, copyrights, trademarks, and other IP subjects. On June 10, the IP Law Section presented a blockbuster CLE program with topics that included both a trademark and patent update, vaccine patent rights, and others. The IP Law Section also sponsors the work of the *Texas Intellectual Property Law Journal*. This year’s symposium examined the interaction of administrative and Article III courts in intellectual property, titled “Estop and Stay Awhile.”

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Juan M. Alcalá, Chair

During the 2021-2022 bar year, the International Law Section, or ILS, in collaboration with several of its affiliates, held several online programs on the following topics: Mexican energy reform, immigration, the war in Ukraine, human rights, and the popular Nuts & Bolts series (“International Treaties Every Lawyer Should Know” and “Conducting International Business in Texas (Transactional Focus)”). The ILS also published its eighth issue of its quarterly *International Newsletter*, awarded a \$1,500 scholarship as part of its annual Human Rights Essay Contest, and organized a series of online CLEs to commemorate Human Rights Day in partnership with the International Bar Association. The section also published a monthly e-newsletter and introduced the

ILS Podcast, whose mission is to provide short, topical podcasts related to international law. Finally, the ILS launched an initiative to establish an international arbitration center in Texas. To learn more about the section, go to ilstexas.org.

JUDICIAL

Judge Elisabeth Earle, Chair

At the Judicial Section spring council meeting, the Office of Court Administration, or OCA, outlined its support for the judiciary and its work making Zoom available to all courts. Jury trial numbers have continued to increase this year. According to OCA, in 2021, a total of 298,060 bench trials, 2,429 jury trials, and 60 virtual jury trials were held. Legislative Committee Chair Judge Alfonso Charles outlined plans for working with the Judicial Compensation Commission and lawmakers during the next session in efforts to continue to improve the functioning of the courts. Former Justice Lee Gabriel is leading the Ethics Committee; membership in the section allows judges access to the section’s searchable library of judicial ethics opinions and the ability to call or email for prompt ethics advice. The section proudly sponsored the Bench Bar Breakfast at the State Bar Annual Meeting in June. The section will welcome newly elected members of the judiciary at the Texas Center for the Judiciary Annual Meeting in September. The Judicial Section has risen to face the challenges of the COVID-19 crisis and helped navigate a return to more normal operations. I encourage all judges to help by becoming a part of the section.

JUVENILE LAW

William Cox, Chair

In 2022, the section adopted its equity statement: The State Bar of Texas Juvenile Law Section affirms that diversity, equity, and inclusion are core components of furthering our purpose and the objectives of the State Bar of Texas, which include assuring all persons equal access to justice, promoting diversity in the administration of justice and the practice of law, and enabling State Bar members to better serve their

clients and the public. We hold that diversity embraces power and that equity and inclusion unleash it. We believe that combating systemic and implicit biases strengthens our section and our profession. The primary pillars of an equitable and inclusive environment are recognizing and respecting the diversity of persons, life experiences, beliefs, and viewpoints. By recognizing the power of diversity, we create an environment that treats all individuals with dignity and respect and strengthens our profession. In furtherance of improving the quality of legal services to clients and the public, we are committed to fostering diversity and inclusion in our membership and to promoting equitable treatment within the vulnerable population we serve. This ultimately will build and maintain the public's trust in the legal profession and the judicial process as a whole.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

John A. Wenke, Chair

The Labor and Employment Law Section, with more than 3,200 members, comprises worker-side, management-side, labor union, government, public interest, and in-house attorneys. In September 2021, the section held its annual fall seminar in San Antonio after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19. The live event was a big success. The section updated its website, laborlaw.org, providing members with a database of jury charges and verdicts and past CLE materials. The section also has an exciting new Instagram page, [@laborlawtexasbar](https://www.instagram.com/laborlawtexasbar), increasing its online presence. Section members continue to receive federal and state caselaw updates in the quarterly newsletter, edited by law professors Richard Carlson (South Texas College of Law Houston) and Jarod Gonzalez (Texas Tech University School of Law). Finally, the section is always excited to talk about how members give back. The section has restarted its law school outreach in 2022, with members traveling to Texas law schools to encourage future lawyers to consider a career in employment law. It also continues to sponsor the annual award of pro bono and internship grants to Texas nonprofits that assist workers in

non-litigation employment law matters. If you are not a section member, please join.

LAW STUDENT DIVISION

Darby Gibbins-Branch, Chair

The Law Student Division worked to meet its goal of increasing law students' access to resources in different ways during the 2021-2022 academic year. Law Student Division representatives from Texas law schools hosted a variety of free programs for students at their respective schools, including student outreach events, educational and legal career related seminars, and practical skills workshops. The Law Student Division also awarded over \$4,000 in scholarships to Texas law students. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact Texas law students this year, underscoring the importance of connecting students with the resources they need and with practicing attorneys, mentors, and fellow law students. For a \$15 annual membership fee, the Law Student Division provides many benefits to its student members, including exclusive scholarship opportunities, free membership in select State Bar of Texas sections, a monthly subscription to the *Texas Bar Journal*, member discounts, and free registration for TexasBarCLE live seminars. Recently, Law Student Division representatives from several Texas law schools have proposed that their law school administrations begin to cover the cost of first-year law students' annual Law Student Division membership. Texas Tech University School of Law is leading the way in providing this benefit to its students.

LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW

Hugh L. Brady, Chair

The past year presented the Legislative and Campaign Law Section with the twin challenges of COVID-19 surges and multiple legislative sessions that involved major election law legislation, including redistricting. Despite these challenges, the section remains one of the fastest growing sections with members practicing law at the intersection of politics in a variety of

settings: government, academia, trade associations, nonprofits, corporations, and private practices. The section was founded not only to provide a professional home for Texas lawyers who practice in this area, but also to provide a forum for demonstrating its commitment to the practice of law. A signature success this past year was the administration of the first specialization exam in legislative and campaign law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization—an initiative spearheaded by the section. Five Texas lawyers passed the exam and became the first certified lawyers in the country in this practice area. The section also built connections with colleagues nationally by committing to a continuing sponsorship of the International Conference on Legislation and Law Reform. *Legislative Lawyer*, a twice-yearly report, resumes publication this year, as does the section's robust CLE programming—laying the groundwork for building on past successes in the coming year.

LGBT LAW

Michael Debnam, Chair

The LGBT Law Section hosted its biannual full-day CLE programming in December. It was the first in-person CLE since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The section also hosted a dinner for the speakers, which Perkins Coie generously sponsored. The section also hosted its first in-person happy hour at the Stephen F. Austin Lounge. The section passed a resolution requesting the State Bar to begin allowing attorneys to self-identify as LGBTQ+ and to include voluntarily self-reported demographic information in future surveys and statistical profiles. The section put on its annual, full-day CLE programming at the State Bar Annual Meeting in Houston and had two joint happy hours. The first was on Thursday, June 9, at Hearsay on The Green with Texas Latinx judges. The second was on Friday, June 10, with the Texas Young Lawyers Association. The section's annual meeting was sponsored by Jessica Rodriguez-Wahlquist. The section looks forward to returning to live, in-person programming in the fall.

LITIGATION

Cade Browning, Chair

Through the COVID-19 pandemic, litigation has adapted and litigators are finding a new normal. The Litigation Section visited El Paso and inducted state Rep. Lina Ortega at University of Texas at El Paso's pre-law program. In January, the section emerged back into live CLE in San Antonio with the Litigation Update Institute, which featured a variety of amazing speakers. At the June 9-10 State Bar Annual Meeting in Houston, the litigation track had another top-notch lineup of informative and entertaining speaker topics. The quarterly produced *Advocate* released three amazing issues this year, including "Technology and Litigation Practice," "Threshold Issues in Litigation," and the recent fascinating spring edition, "The Changing Civil Jury," a must-read for litigators in this post-COVID-19 world. Members, please visit the section website (litigationsection.com) to explore further member benefits, such as a membership directory, free online CLE, past issues of the *Advocate* and *News for the Bar*, and a quick access point to all State Bar coupon codes for those benefits most used by litigators. Thank you for your membership as the section works hard to empower advocates, promote justice, and preserve the rule of law.

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

Patrick J. McLain, Chair

The Military and Veterans Law Section, or MVLS, hosted its last virtual CLE on October 29, 2021, as the response to the COVID-19 pandemic was at its height. Michael Hoversten, chief legal adviser for the U.S. Space Force, spoke at the "The United States Space Force and International Law Applicable to Military Space Operations" CLE. Chair-elect Julie Lee Glover and her team taught "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the VA Benefits Galaxy and Navigating the Prime Directive of Obtaining Benefits for Veterans," and Mark Zaid, executive director of the James Madison Legacy Project, taught "Legal Issues in the U.S. Military's Mandatory Vaccination Program." The MVLS also co-sponsored with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association a

seminar on representing military personnel in criminal courts. Past Chair Terri Zimmermann led that program in Austin on February 3, 2022. At the State Bar Annual Meeting in Houston in June, McLain taught military law for the non-military attorney and the battle for unanimous verdicts in courts-martial (the issue now in the appellate courts from one of his U.S. Army cases), and Glover led a team teaching on veterans law matters including compensation for burn pit exposure.

MUNICIPAL JUDGES

Judge J. Elaine Marshall, Chair

Since the last publication and meeting, municipal court judges across the state have ensured the safety of the public and employees due to COVID-19. Municipal court judges have followed the Texas Supreme Court's emergency orders, which gave municipal court judges the authority to mandate compliance with the minimum standard health protocols to adopt for courtrooms and the public areas of court buildings. Many utilized Zoom hearings to proceed with court procedures and some opened back up last April with live hearings. Municipal court judges also followed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations and utilized the Office of Court Administration's best practices to address COVID-related backlogs. Municipal court judges are also preparing for the necessary training and requirements for Senate Bill 6, which includes the procedures for setting the amount of bail, duties of officers and magistrates who set bail, and the reporting of information that pertains to bail bonds. Judges enrolled in training on how to use the Public Safety Report System, or PSRS, through the vendor AutoMon and reviewed the PSRS Checklist to assist the judges and ensure completion of everything needed prior to the PSRS launch date of April 1, 2022.

NATIVE AMERICAN LAW

Lisa Tatum, Chair

The Native American Law Section continues to share, monitor, and discuss significant legal cases and changes in the law that impact Native Americans in

Texas. The section held its annual business meeting virtually on November 29, 2021. The 2021-2022 elected officers are Lisa Tatum, chair; Stephen Jon Moss, vice chair; Ruth H. Soucy, secretary; and Sandy McCorquodale, treasurer. This year, Chante Westmoreland led the section in its work with the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society on the fall 2021 issue detailing the history of the Native American Law Section in its continued commitment to the common professional interest of all those who share an interest in Native American law in Texas. The fall 2021 issue is a special focus on Native American legal history in Texas and celebrates Native American Heritage Month. Selected to serve on State Bar President Sylvia Borunda Firth's Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the section completed its service working on the production of a report to the bar's board of directors. The section invites its members and anyone else to share substantive articles on Native American law they have written with the section for publication through the NALS newsletter and website.

OIL, GAS AND ENERGY RESOURCES LAW

Carroll Martin, Chair

The Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law, or OGERL, Section, established in 1938, is the oldest section of the State Bar of Texas. The section sponsors numerous CLE events annually, in collaboration with the State Bar or the University of Texas, including the Advanced Oil & Gas Law Course; Oil & Gas Disputes; the Renewable Energy Law Institute; the Ernest E. Smith Oil, Gas, and Mineral Law Institute and Fundamentals courses, and the Oil, Gas and Mineral Title Examination Course. Three times a year, the section publishes a journal of legal articles that also includes a recent caselaw update in each edition. In 2020, the section published its first journal focused solely on renewable energy issues and plans to continue this publication bi-annually. OGERL also funds awards and internship opportunities for law students. For summer 2022, the section will fund law student internships at six state agencies. During

each academic semester, OGERL grants cash awards to the law students who achieve the highest grade in a basic oil, gas, and energy law course at any law school within Texas. Learn more about OGERL at oilgas.org, and please join if you are not yet a member.

PARALEGAL DIVISION

Susi Boss, President

“Paralegal presence” is a concept the division has used in 2021-2022 for paralegals and legal professionals to get to know what the Paralegal Division is, what it does, and what paralegals do. The 2021 Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar was held in San Antonio September 22-23, 2021. The division celebrated 40 years during the PD Annual Meeting, featuring speaker Justice Beth Watkins. TAPS 2022 will be held on September 28-30 in Fort Worth. Division directors have accomplished so much with CLE events across the state. The division has two great publications—the *Texas Paralegal Journal* (published quarterly) and the *Paralegal Pulse* (published monthly). The *Paralegal Ethics Handbook* is another resource. There is also the TBLS Helpful Hints Guide for the Texas Board of Legal Specialization exam. Other sources to assist paralegals and legal professionals: the Mentor-Protégé Program, the Texas Bar Career Center for finding and posting jobs, and the State Bar Member Benefits and Services. The section encourages all attorneys who take the time to learn more about the Paralegal Division to reach out and discover what the section can do to be more present with your firm’s paralegal(s) and in doing so what benefits this will be to your firm.

POVERTY LAW

Katherine Saldaña, Chair

The Poverty Law Section continues serving low-income Texans during the pandemic. The section supports its members’ interests by offering free monthly First Friday CLEs in housing, family, benefits, consumer, and voting rights as well as other areas of law that affect impoverished Texans. At the 2021 Annual Meeting, the section honored outstanding attorneys for their accomplishments in significant poverty law cases that impacted the lives of low-

income Texans. Debra Anne Wray received the Noble Award for her 31 years of public service and her expertise in fair housing litigation. Brettney Moore received her Impact Award for developing and implementing the Driver’s License Restoration Project, which eliminates fines and costs from traffic offenses, allowing low-income persons to obtain Texas driver licenses or state IDs. Raul Noriega received the Impact Award for his work vindicating mobile homeowners defrauded by manufactured-housing scams. Guadalupe Canales and Israel Reyna received the Impact Award for a hard-fought appellate victory for a public housing tenant evicted in violation of her First Amendment rights after speaking up against the Housing Authority. Finally, at this year’s State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, the section presented a CLE titled “Lessons Learned: Creative Pro Bono Programs for Disaster-Related Legal Needs.”

PUBLIC UTILITY LAW

Carrie Collier-Brown, Chair

The Public Utility Law Section provides opportunities for practitioners from all segments of the utility law bar to interact, learn from each other, and keep abreast of developments in relevant laws, government regulations, and court decisions. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the section had a terrific year thanks to the hard work of its council. The section hosted its 2021 Annual Conference in person with a virtual option featuring presentations and panel discussions from key individuals involved in electric, gas, telecommunications, and water utility law. For 2022, the section is planning free happy hour socials featuring speakers from key state agencies and resuming publication of the member newsletters. The section is also busy planning a stellar program for its Annual Conference on August 19, 2022.

REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, AND TRUST LAW

Craig Hopper, Chair

The Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law Section, or REPTL, remains the largest practice section of the State Bar and has been busy this fiscal year. REPTL prepared and released reports of the prior legislative session and REPTL

members gave numerous CLE presentations to educate bar members about the changes. In addition to several online CLEs necessitated by COVID-19, REPTL was able to sponsor one of the first CLEs returning in person at the Estate Planning and Drafting Course in October 2021. REPTL members continue to enjoy discounts on select TexasBarCLE events that more than pay for the cost of membership. REPTL honored two lawyers with Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Awards—congratulations to Michael V. Bourland, of Fort Worth (Probate), and Sara E. Dysart, of San Antonio (Real Estate). REPTL maintains its impressive members-only online CLE library, and REPTL continues to publish the *REPTL Reporter*, edited by Gerry Beyer. REPTL strives to support the growth of practitioners in its area through the REPTL Leadership Academy. Information about the graduates of the Leadership Academy can be found on the REPTL website, and the section is looking forward to the next class, for which REPTL has already received a record-breaking number of applicants.

SCHOOL LAW

Chris Gilbert, Chair

The School Law Section, or SLS, is dedicated to providing information related to legal issues arising in Texas public schools, junior colleges, and universities to a variety of education law-related practitioners. SLS membership includes individuals representing the interests of parents, students, employees and employee organizations, educational institutions and their governing bodies, and education-related agencies and associations. Schools have obviously been one of the focuses of COVID-19-related issues, and section members have benefited from being able to work collaboratively with each other to make sure that children continue to receive the best education possible. The SLS has also launched its “School Law 101” initiative, which is a cross-disciplinary effort by the section to educate law schools and law students on the unique practice and the myriad employment opportunities that exist in the world of education law. The SLS will host the 36th annual School Law Section Retreat on July 22-23,

2022, at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa. This family friendly retreat is an excellent opportunity to receive high-quality CLE and get to know fellow school law practitioners in a non-adversarial setting. The section encourages all interested attorneys to join this outstanding group.

TAX

Dan G. Baucum, Chair

This year, the Tax Section introduced a new initiative to educate its members in federal, state, and local tax laws through numerous live online webinars and in-person programs. The section's committees provide several free webinars each month for members on recent developments and significant tax issues that are timely and accessible via the internet. Additional section CLE benefits include the free 24/7 CLE library accessible anytime on the Tax Section's website, taxastaxsection.org. Copies of recent online webinars are posted in the 24/7 library within days after the presentations, adding to the collection of CLE programs. Tax Section pro bono

volunteers assist taxpayers across the country in Tax Court hearings and docket calls on a regular basis. Members also serve as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, or VITA, volunteers training military service members to prepare individual tax returns for their colleagues at military bases throughout the state. Each year, Tax Section members visit each of the Texas law schools, where they interact with students interested in tax law as a career. And the Tax Section awards up to four scholarships to law students each year showing an interest and ability in taxation reflected through prior class work and written tax articles.

WOMEN AND THE LAW

Leigh Hunt Goodson, Chair

The Women and the Law Section had a very busy year of continuing to pivot through COVID-19 issues and preparing for the in-person Annual Meeting at which it presented the CLE panel titled "The New World of Addressing Sexual Harassment in the Workplace." Other accomplishments included: (1) publication of quarterly

newsletters; (2) monthly CLE programs; (3) utilization of members-only CLE video library; (4) incentivizing Texas law school students to tackle legal and societal challenges through an annual writing competition in honor of Harriet E. Miers; (5) collaborating with local bar associations to co-host member socials to increase WAL membership on the local level; (6) sponsorship of Hispanic Issues Section "LawTeria" fundraiser; (7) recommendation of a section leader as a representative to the State Bar Board of Directors (medium-sized sections); (8) hosting annual competitions to recognize lifetime achievement and ongoing contributions to women in memory of Sarah T. Hughes, Louise B. Raggio, and Barbara Culver Clack; (9) section leader served on State Bar's Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with other affinity section leaders; (10) adoption of internal financial controls policy; and (11) development of manuals and templates for future section leaders.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Amber Morgan, Chair

The Workers' Compensation Section enjoyed another year of transition and growth. At the administrative level, informal resolution (benefit review conferences) continued to be held virtually following a successful legislative change. Contested case hearings transitioned from the virtual realm back to in person in August. The section continued to strongly support Kids' Chance, a charity dedicated to providing educational opportunities and scholarships for the children of workers seriously or fatally injured on the job. As practitioners who work exclusively with work injury claims, this is a cause universally supported by the section's members. The Barbed Wire Award, the section's lifetime achievement award, was presented to Administrative Law Judge Thomas Hight in 2021 and Judge Judy Ney in 2020. This is the highest honor bestowed by the section, and it is proud of their careers of service. The 2022 recipient will be announced during the Advanced Workers' Compensation course in August. The section looks forward to reconnecting in person during the Advanced Workers' Compensation course, annual meeting, and section social August 25-26, 2022, in Austin. **TBJ**

NOTICE

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

Case No.: 2:22-CV-00393

WFG National Title Insurance Company, Plaintiff

v.

Paradise Settlement Services, LCC, Defendant.

To: Christopher J. McLucas, President

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice or any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP. THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

THE DALLAS BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE

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