

State Bar of Texas

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW SECTION CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

A LOOK AT ITS HISTORY AND FUTURE GOALS.

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THIS YEAR MARKS THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW SECTION. The current section is the product of the State Bar of Texas Administrative Law Committee, formed in 1938, and the Public Law Section, founded in 1974.¹

The Public Law Section was formed to “enhance the role and skills of members of the State Bar who are engaged in government service or who are engaged in the practice of law before the various governmental agencies, through study, continuing legal education projects and seminars, the dissemination of materials on matters of interest and concern of the membership, and the exchange of ideas among the membership of the Section.”²

The first section officers were Chair Mark White, secretary of state and future governor of Texas; Chair-elect John Odom; Vice Chair Bob Flowers; Treasurer Shiela Gerson; and Secretary Robert Oliver.³ Other early section leaders included future judges, state senators, mayors, noted law professors, and bar leaders, including Dudley McCalla and David Guinn.⁴ Over its history, the section has recognized three distinguished members for their lifetime achievement and service to administrative

law and the section: Judge Bob Shannon, Dudley McCalla, and Linda Secord.

The section has continued its original purposes by annually planning and sponsoring advanced administrative law seminars since 1988; at the most recent seminar, the section honored the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin for its support of the section over the years. Additionally, the section sponsored the publication of the *Texas Administrative Law Journal* for over 20 years (through spring 2019), and has held the Administrative Law Moot Court Competition for Texas law schools for over 25 years.⁵ The competition was renamed in memory of Justice Mack Kidd in 2005.⁶ Judges for the Mack Kidd competition are recruited from the private sector, state agencies, and the judiciary. Historically, justices from the 3rd Court of Appeals in Austin or the Supreme Court of Texas judge the final round.⁷ The section looks forward to continuing this tradition with the new 15th Court of Appeals.

Additionally, since 2022, the section has offered a scholarship to reimburse qualifying members for the cost of taking and passing the Texas Board of Legal Specialization exam to become certified in administrative law.

Section council officers for the 2024-2025 bar year include: Chair Sara Ferris, Chair-elect Natasha Martin, Vice Chair Kristen Worman, Treasurer Katherine Farrell, Secretary Leah Gillum, and Immediate Past Chair Karen Watkins.

Consistent with the section’s originally stated purposes, future goals include a new focus on encouraging student membership in the section and fostering careers in administrative law.

For more information on the section, go to adminlaw.org. **TBJ**

NOTES

- 1 TEX. B.J. 244, 260 (1938); *see also* 43 TEX. B.J. 649, 663 (1980).
- 43 TEX. B.J. 649, 663 (1980).
- SBOT Volunteer and Staff Guide, 1974-1975; *see also* 36 TEX. B.J. 1113, 1122 (1973); *see also* 38 TEX. B.J. 665, 696 (1975).
- See* 38 TEX. B.J. 665, 696 (1975); *see also* 43 TEX. B.J. 649, 664 (1980).
- See*, 1 Tex. Tech. Admin. L.J. 1 (2000); *see also* 20 Tex. Tech. Admin. L.J. 20:1 (Spring 2019); *see also* 68 TEX. B.J. 1006, 1009 (2005).
- 68 TEX. B.J. 1006, 1009 (2005).
- Id.*
- See* 40 TEX. B.J. 577, 591 (1977).
- See* 44 TEX. B.J. 505, 527 (1981).
- See* 49 TEX. B.J. 716, 746 (1986).
- <https://www.soah.texas.gov/history>.
- Acts 2023, 88th Leg., Ch. 459 (S.B. 1045), § 1.14, eff. Sept. 1, 2023.



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