2025-2026 STATE BAR OF TEXAS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee reports are included in the July/August issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* to update Texas lawyers on State Bar activities. The 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 complete a Committee Volunteer Interest Form, go to texasbar.com/committees or call 800-204-2222 or 512-427-1516.

ADMINISTRATION OF RULES OF EVIDENCE

Justin Hinderliter, Chair

The Administration of Rules of Evidence Committee evaluates the Texas Rules of Evidence (TRE) to ensure it meets today's practice of law. The committee makes recommendations to the State Bar of Texas, Supreme Court Advisory Committee, and the Supreme Court of Texas. In addition to researching inquiries from Texas attorneys about rules, the committee monitors changes to the Federal Rules of Evidence and considers whether similar changes should be recommended to the TRE. This year, the committee is analyzing inquiries into several issues, including: (1) updating Rule 606 to permit juror testimony as to whether extraneous prejudicial information was improperly brought to the jury's attention in criminal matters, (2) whether Rule 614 should be amended to ensure a witness excluded from the courtroom during trial cannot gain access to trial testimony, (3) whether Texas should adopt a residual hearsay exception similar to Federal Rule of Evidence 807, (4) whether Texas should revise Rule 611 concerning illustrative aides, (5) whether the Texas rules have sufficient safeguards against "deepfake evidence," and (6) evidentiary issues arising from use of artificial intelligence. Questions about potential amendments to the TRE may be submitted to the State Bar or to any committee member for consideration.

ADVERTISING REVIEW

Ervin Cartwright, Chair

The Advertising Review Committee assists attorneys with proposed submissions to ensure compliance of advertisements and solicitation communications with Part VII of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. The staff and committee review approximately 3,200 submissions annually with a concentration of submissions being television and internet-based advertisements. While the overwhelming majority of submissions are from Texas, advertising review receives submissions from firms in California, Florida, Massachusetts, and Minnesota. As defined in the rules, the committee strongly encourages pre-review of all attorney advertising. This helps attorneys and law firms in reducing costs associated with possibly changing advertisements that have already started to be disseminated. Attorneys face a non-filer fine if they do not file their advertisement or solicitation communication through the advertising review portal, which is found on every attorney's My Bar Page. Ultimately, the advertising review staff is available to be consultive on any advertising issues with the goal of having attorneys disseminate advertising that is compliant with the disciplinary rules.

ANNUAL MEETING

Justice Eva M. Guzman (ret.) and Warren W. Harris, Co-chairs

The State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting took place at the Marriott Marquis Houston. The meeting included a varied selection of quality CLE and featured programs for everyone, from the first-year associate to the seasoned professional. State Bar sections provided practice-specific programs, including the Family Law Section, Litigation Section, Business Law Section, and Corporate Counsel Section. Friday's programming included parting remarks from 2025-2026 State Bar of Texas President Santos Vargas and 2025-2026 Texas Young Lawyers Association President Alyson A. Martinez and the swearing-in of 2026-2027 State Bar President G. David Smith and 2026-2027 Texas Young Lawyers Association President Armin Salek. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2027 Annual Meeting in Fort Worth on June 17-18.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Donna Thomisee, Chair

In May 2026, the Continuing Legal Education Committee met with the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors Professional Development Subcommittee and bar staff to propose topics for CLE programs and to discuss issues facing TexasBarCLE and Texas Bar Books. The committee continued its mission of providing cutting-edge CLE to hardworking Texas attorneys. TexasBarCLE continues to be the go-to source for CLE for Texas attorneys and is developing a new CLE product called "Practice Skills Short Takes," which the committee anticipates rolling out soon. TexasBarCLE and Texas Bar Books continue to offer a variety of discounts, scholarships, and important free programming to help Texas attorneys advise and represent their clients in the areas needed most. Texas Bar Books continues to expand its offerings on the texasbarpractice.com website, which serves as the platform for Texas Bar Books and the Law Practice Management Program. The website offers lawyers a single place to explore free practice management content such as the Succession Planning Toolkit and the AI Toolkit. Texasbarpractice.com is also where lawyers can go to shop for practice manuals, jury charges, desk books, and reference guides and where they can subscribe to online practice manuals with downloadable forms.

COURT RULES

Emilio Longoria, Chair

This year, the Court Rules Committee continued to review proposed amendments to the rules of civil and appellate procedure to help improve civil litigation across Texas courts. Specifically, the committee evaluated a range of proposals like adding a sur-reply rule for motions for summary judgment under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 166a, determining whether a rule should be added allowing objections to definitions in discovery requests, and evaluating whether attorneys should still require court approval to withdraw from a case. Ultimately, the committee proposed a range of revisions such as updates to the 500 series of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure to optimize service of process as well as personal jurisdiction issues in justice of the peace courts; updates

to Texas Rule of Appellate Procedure 34.6, clarifying the rules relating to record keeping; and clarifying the notice procedure for judgments under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 306a. The committee continues to work on revisions to the Texas rules of civil and appellate procedure and welcomes any other suggestions from the bar or bench.

DISABILITY RIGHTS & ISSUES

Hannah Cramer, Chair

The Disability Rights & Issues Committee provides resources for attorneys and members of the public who are experiencing disabilities. The Event Subcommittee led by Sean Pevsner and Mary Allen Ramprasad is working with the State Bar of Texas Child Protection Law Section and the State Bar of Texas Juvenile Law Section to put on a CLE. If you have a story to share, contact the committee. The Mentorship Subcommittee, led by Hannah Cramer and Masha Pobedinsky, provided those experiencing disabilities in the legal field with a mentor, a one-on-one resource to answer questions regarding barriers they encounter, and recommendations on overcoming those barriers. If you would like to be a mentor or if you would like to have a mentee, contact the committee.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Juan Vasquez, Chair

The Emerging Technology Committee began its first year by organizing its efforts through multiple working groups focused on the impact of emerging technologies, especially artificial intelligence, on the practice of law and the justice system. During the 2025-2026 term, the committee completed a survey on AI in the practice of law and prepared a report for publication. The committee also collaborated with TexasBarCLE to present an all-day AI CLE program in April 2026. In addition, the committee began updating the AI Toolkit, which already offers instructional videos and other practical resources for Texas lawyers. The committee also developed proposed template AI policies for law firms and continued substantial work on an incident playbook intended to assist law firms and practitioners in responding to security incidents. The committee further began collaboration with Texas law schools to open lines of communication on emerging technology issues and also contributed to efforts to update the Texas Rules of Evidence to address AI-generated content. These efforts reflect the committee's commitment to helping the State Bar of Texas and Texas lawyers approach emerging technology in an informed, practical, and responsible manner.

LAW FOCUSED EDUCATION

Sara Giddings, Chair

The Law Focused Education Committee has updated the Attorneys in the Classroom website, now available at texaslre.org/attorney-resources/. The committee also reviewed and edited the Three Branches of Government videos. Additionally, the committee (1) provided a wide array of free professional development training opportunities for Texas teachers; (2) promoted the Texas Citizen Bee, a statewide civic education program, and served as support personnel for regional competitions; (3) provided free Texas Law-Related Education materials (texaslre.org) to school districts, private school networks, and community groups; (4) promoted LRE projects at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting; (5) continued to partner with attorneys and local bar associations to assist in the rollout of law-related education materials; and (6) presented the Nancy Garms Memorial and Leon Jaworski awards to deserving recipients.

LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Rebekah Brooker, Chair

This year, the Law Practice Management Committee conducted its work through five subcommittees. The Emerging Practice Trends Subcommittee held two live Ask A Human: A Q&A Session Exploring AI webinars solely to answer attorneys' questions about AI. These were supplemented by monthly recorded videos addressing questions not reached in the webinars. It also produced information on the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act (TRAIGA) and content on why clients should trust their lawyer over AI. The Starting a Practice Subcommittee produced five short videos for lawyers on marketing, securing clients, and appearing professional on a shoestring budget. The Sale of Practice Subcommittee continued its work to elucidate the ethics of selling a law practice. In December 2025, the Committee on Discplinary Rules and Referenda recommended that the Supreme Court of Texas add a comment to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct clarifying that the rules do not prohibit selling a law practice. The Succession Planning Outreach and Toolkit Subcommittee made several presentations encouraging lawyers to designate a custodian and to better address sudden cessations. The LPM CLE-Track Subcommittee created Annual Meeting presentations on scams targeting lawyers, law practice management software, learning from mistakes, technology privacy issues, how technology affects empathy in high-trauma work, and AI.

LAWS RELATING TO IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY

Teresa Coles-Davila, Chair

The Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality Committee continues its commitment to collaboration and information sharing to address critical community issues and improve the quality of legal services provided to those needing assistance. The committee held regular meetings while also organizing key events across Texas in El Paso, McAllen, Houston, and San Antonio, collaborating with the State Bar of Texas Immigration and Nationality Law Section Council, TexasBarCLE, and American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) TX. The committee also attended a U.S. Customs and Border Protection airport tour and presentation at George Bush

Intercontinental Airport. The committee had opportunities to meet with U.S. Magistrate Judge Miguel Torres, of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Nadia S. Medrano, of the Southern District of Texas, to observe hearings and make inquiries as to legal trends, current policies, and procedural challenges. Members also met with community leaders, nonprofit organizations providing legal and other necessary humanitarian services to the community, and with representatives from clinical immigration law programs. The committee will continue to monitor laws related to immigration and nationality with the continued goal of improving the quality and accessibility of legal services to those in need.

LAWYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

David Baker, Chair

Attorney well-being has long been a priority for the State Bar of Texas, and during the 2025-2026 year, the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) continued to advance this essential work. National data shows that the legal profession faces disproportionately high rates of mental health challenges due to the nature of the work, the way lawyers are trained, and how they process information. Helping attorneys understand these pressures—and develop healthy ways to respond—is central to TLAP's mission. By the end of 2025-2026, TLAP's dedicated committee and staff will have increased the number of CLE presentations to bar sections, local bar associations, law schools, and law firms by nearly 35%, including five sessions at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting. Engagement with Texas law schools also expanded, with both annual and midyear reviews of student needs and multiple live and online presentations delivered statewide. TLAP further strengthened its visibility by partnering with the State Bar Communications Division to rebrand its logo and contribute new content to the *Texas Bar Journal.* The committee remains committed to raising awareness of attorney well-being and ensuring that all members of the State Bar of Texas have access to the resources they need to thrive.

LEGAL SERVICES TO THE POOR IN CIVIL MATTERS

Michael Hofrichter, Chair

The Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters Committee was established to address civil legal issues affecting low-income individuals in Texas. The committee is dedicated to enhancing access to justice, through pro bono programs and services in collaboration with various stakeholders and legal services providers. Committee members include those who work at law firms, corporations, law schools, and legal aid organizations; judges; and solo practitioners. Its members are committed to doing work that helps ensure delivery of legal services to Texans who are unable to afford counsel to represent them in civil matters. Among the committee's 2025-2026 objectives were promoting program events that support access to justice and recognizing members of the legal profession who have been nominated for Pro Bono Excellence Awards for their commitment to providing pro bono assistance to others. The committee also selected three projects to undertake during this term including assisting the Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) in educating Texas attorneys regarding escheat funds and working with the Texas Access to Justice Commission (TAJC) to offer presentation topic recommendations for the annual Local Bar Leaders Conference, which is hosted by the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Young Lawyers Association, and the TAJC.

LEGAL SERVICES TO THE POOR IN CRIMINAL MATTERS

Paul Chambers, Chair

The Legal Services to the Poor in Criminal Matters Committee investigates areas of the indigent defense systems in Texas and develops recommendations to ensure the best representation for indigent persons in criminal matters. The committee includes members of many disciplines in different parts of the indigent systems across the state. The committee continued its work on guidelines for dealing with unrepresented people in criminal courts and continued to disseminate, offer guidance, and investigate noncompliance with the ability-to-pay guidance that was adopted by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. The committee has also started to develop a toolkit for teaching, connecting attorneys handling indigent defense cases to resources for mental health, quality of life, and effectiveness to address the legal desert in this area of practice. The committee also awards both the Michael K. Moore Award for exceptional research or writing that deals with indigent criminal defense, recognizing significant contributions to the knowledge and practices of the bench, bar, and scholarly communities, and the Warren Burnett Award, which recognizes an organization or attorney for their extraordinary contributions to improving the quality of criminal legal representation to indigent Texans.

LOCAL BAR SERVICES

Leslie Dippel, Chair

The Local Bar Services Committee promotes and enhances communication between State Bar of Texas leadership and local bar associations and specialty bar associations to assist local bar leaders in the development of their associations. Resources available from the State Bar Local Bar Services Department include speaker coordination, membership assistance, program coordination, and guidance on creating a new association. Yearly, the committee helps to plan and promote the annual Law Day contest, Stars of Texas Bars Awards, and the Local Bar Leaders Conference. The Stars of Texas Bars Awards recognize local bar associations for outstanding involvement and commitment to the legal profession and are presented at the Bar Leaders Recognition Luncheon at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting.

The winners of the annual Law Day awards are recognized on the State Bar website. The 2026 Local Bar Leaders Conference will take place July 23-24 in Houston.

MINIMUM CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Yolanda Cortes Mares, Chair

The Minimum Continuing Legal Education Committee administers the MCLE program established by State Bar Rules, Article XII, Texas MCLE Regulations, and Accreditation Standards for CLE Activities. The MCLE program requires active Texas attorneys to complete and report at least 15 hours of continuing legal education each year, including three hours of legal ethics and professional responsibility. On behalf of the MCLE Committee, MCLE staff monitors attorney compliance and reviews MCLE courses for accreditation in Texas. Each year, MCLE staff reviews approximately 40,000 course applications from accredited and non-accredited sponsors and from out-of-state attorneys seeking MCLE credit in Texas. Occasionally, CLE providers question staff decisions regarding CLE hours or course accreditation. Providers can appeal the decision and present their CLE program to the MCLE Committee for review. The committee must determine if the activity contains legal education and/or legal ethics and professional responsibility according to the Accreditation Standards for CLE Activities. The committee is proposing various changes to the MCLE regulations and accreditation standards in response to concerns from attorneys across Texas. The proposed changes will be presented to the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors for consideration.

OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Raymond Baeza, Chair

The purpose of the Outreach & Engagement Committee is to develop and promote strategies and best practices for outreach to and engagement of the membership of the State Bar of Texas. The committee identifies opportunities within the organization to create an environment conducive to involvement of attorneys of all backgrounds and locations across Texas, assists in the creation of measurable goals, and periodically reports on progress toward achieving the goals set by the State Bar Board of Directors. This year, the committee planned for another Law School Deans Roundtable to build upon the success of the last event. In addition, the committee continued coordination of the Bar Exam Prep Scholarship and the Texas Law Student Development Program.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—BUSINESS, CONSUMER, INSURANCE, AND EMPLOYMENT

Georgina Benavides, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—Business, Consumer, Insurance, and Employment Committee has met throughout the year to complete materials for the 2026 edition. The new edition, to be published late this year, will include updates to existing materials as well as new charges and commentary. Updates proposed for the upcoming edition include revisions to instructions and commentary addressing ratification and materiality in contracts, new instructions relating to fraudulent transfer and self-dealing in fiduciary duty cases, revisions to sample instructions on direct and incidental damages, a new question and instruction on compliance in construction contracts cases, and new commentary on privacy torts. The committee has worked with the other civil drafting committees to consider revisions to damages instructions and commentary included across multiple volumes. The committee continues to follow developments in caselaw relating to broad-form issues and will update commentary in collaboration with the other volumes when warranted. The committee has attended PJC—Oversight Committee meetings to present updates and has worked to incorporate the Oversight Committee's feedback on revised and new materials. The committee welcomes feedback and suggestions for future updates from practitioners and the judiciary. Comments and questions can be sent to books@texasbar.com.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—CRIMINAL

John Messinger, Chair

The *Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges Online* is an online-only publication, with updates provided approximately every four months. By publishing quarterly, the *Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges Online* provides practitioners with practice notes and jury charges. Practitioners are encouraged to view and comment on the committee's proposed drafts posted on the Texas Bar Practice Blog (texasbarpractice.com/updates/proposed-changes-texas-criminal-pattern-jury-charges/). The members of the committee strive to educate the bench and bar about the usefulness and quality of the new online Texas Criminal Pattern Jury Charges. The committee welcomes questions and comments about the online product as well as suggestions for future instructions, which may be sent to books@texasbar.com.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—FAMILY AND PROBATE

Anna McKim, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—Family and Probate Committee completed additions and revisions for the 2026 edition, including updated admonitory instructions for deposition testimony, instructions for multilingual jurors, revised instructions, and commentary on dissolution of marriage, revised valuation of property instructions and questions with added commentary clarifying how assets should be valued. For suits affecting the parent-child relationship, the committee revised definitions, instructions, questions, and commentary reflecting the statutory fit parent presumption, the right of a parent appointed as conservator to designate school and enroll a child, the definition of family violence, and commentary on modification of conservatorship. Further changes reflect revised instructions and questions

on involuntary commitment, added commentary on contingent appellate fees and attorney's fees, revised commentary on preserving charge error, and caselaw clarifying application of the *Casteel* doctrine. Materials under consideration for the 2028 edition include privacy torts, contempt charges, revision of charges for adult guardianships, and charges for actions involving beneficiary and survivorship designations. The committee continues to monitor caselaw and legislative developments to ensure the volume reflects current law. Comments, questions, and suggestions for new topics for inclusion in future editions may be sent to books@texasbar.com.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—GENERAL NEGLIGENCE, INTENTIONAL PERSONAL TORTS & WORKERS COMPENSATION

Henry Moore, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—General Negligence, Intentional Personal Torts & Workers Compensation Committee is tackling several issues this year, including a reconciliation of the wrongful death and gross negligence provisions between the workers' compensation statute (Labor Code) and the Civil Practices and Remedies Code (Sec. 41.004). Three committee members with deep workers' compensation experience—Judge Randy Johnson, Robert D. Stokes, and Michael Sprain—have spent considerable time examining the general requirement that exemplary damages be predicated on actual damages as required by the CPRC and a seeming lack of such requirement in the Labor Code. Some uncertainty remains in this area. The committee is also examining standard language on judicial notice instructions, res ipsa loquitur, and survival damages. In conjunction with the PJC—Oil and Gas Committee, the committee is reviewing the nuisance and trespass instructions and comments following the Supreme Court of Texas' decision in *Huynh v. Blanchard.* The committee is also working on a reconciliation of the definition of "fair market value" with the Malpractice, Premises & Products and Oil and Gas PJC volumes. Finally, to ensure that the caselaw and statutes cited in the volume's comments are current, the committee is "Shepardizing" all citations to authority.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—MALPRACTICE, PREMISES, AND PRODUCTS

Laura Sharp, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—Malpractice, Premises, and Products Committee continues to monitor new cases, and tackle new changes, comments, and caveats as they complete revisions for the 2026 edition. The committee welcomes practitioners alerting it with developments and suggestions. The committee is reviewing and revising key charges and comments across multiple chapters. Current projects include PJC 61.13, addressing the discovery rule and tolling in attorney malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, and fraud claims; revisions to premises liability charges, including PJC 66.4 (invitee), PJC 66.5 (licensee); and comprehensive updates to chapters 70-71 on products liability. The committee is also evaluating charges involving criminal conduct, including PJC 72.2 and PJC 85.5, as well as exemplary damages in chapter 85. Additional work includes updating informed consent charges (PJC 51.9–51.14), reviewing the Fifth Amendment privilege instruction (PJC 40.11), addressing non-medical malpractice claims, and refining survival damages for pain and mental anguish (PJC 82.3). The committee continues to examine wrongful death issues, including stillbirth claims under chapter 81. A significant ongoing task is "Shepardizing" the 2024 volume to ensure cited authorities remain current and relevant. Please contact the committee at books@texasbar.com with suggestions or comments.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—OIL AND GAS

Paul Simpson, Chair

The Pattern Jury Charges—Oil and Gas Committee has continued working on the upcoming 2026 volume. Among charges approved or in progress for that edition are: a new charge on the statutory bad faith washout cause of action; updated question and instructions on damages for breach of the implied covenant to develop; in collaboration with the PJC—Business, Consumer, Insurance & Employment Committee, revised charges on breach and materiality; an updated ratification instruction incorporating recent Supreme Court of Texas decisions; revised sample instructions on direct and incidental damages; and an updated specific performance predicate question. Working with the other civil PJC committees, the committee updated commentary on contingent appellate fees as well as the instruction on broad-form issues and the *Casteel* doctrine to reflect the Supreme Court's opinion in *Horton v. Kansas City Southern Railway Co.* In coordination with the PJC—General Negligence Committee, the committee is undertaking a comprehensive update of the nuisance charges to reflect recent Supreme Court holdings, especially *Huynh v. Blanchard.* As work continues on the 2026 volume, the committee welcomes comments, suggestions, and examples of actual jury questions from courts and practitioners at books@texasbar.com.

PATTERN JURY CHARGES—OVERSIGHT

LaDawn Nandrasy, Chair

This year, the Pattern Jury Charges—Oversight Committee facilitated the completion of updates and new materials for the 2026 pattern jury charge volumes. The Oversight Committee works closely with each of the drafting committees to ensure accuracy and clarity in all materials and consistency across the volumes. The committee reviewed materials on valuation, characterization, involuntary commitment, and fit parent presumption to be published in the PJC Family and Probate volume. New material on privacy torts and construction contracts was reviewed

for inclusion in the PJC Business volume. A new question on bad-faith washout and updates on failure to develop have also been reviewed for the PJC Oil and Gas volume. A new instruction on res ipsa loquitur was presented by the PJC General Negligence volume for inclusion in its next edition. Several cross-volume updates were also considered, including revisions to exemplary damages, updates to commentary on broad-form, revisions to nuisance, and updates on materiality and ratification in contracts. The committee worked with the PJC—Criminal Committee to finalize new materials relating to competency and prohibited items in a correctional facility, to be published as a future online update. The committee welcomes feedback, which can be sent to books@texasbar.com.

PROFESSIONALISM AND CIVILITY

Ruby Bolton, Chair

The Texas Day of Civility in the Law and the Texas Lawyer's Creed remain the focus of the committee. The committee discussed promoting professionalism between the bar and the judiciary, as well as between members of the bar. Committees were formed that focused on these aspects of professionalism. Large copies of the Texas Lawyer's Creed were distributed to judges, and the Texas Lawyer's Creed was promoted at judicial conferences. Through a partnership with the Texas Bar Foundation, large copies of the creed remain available to any judge who requests one. In recognition of the Texas Day of Civility in the Law, the committee obtained a joint proclamation from the Supreme Court of Texas and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals along with a related resolution from the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. Committee members participate in various CLEs and networking events where they provide free posters of the Texas Lawyer's Creed. To educate and encourage law student engagement in professionalism and civility, the committee sponsored the Professionalism Award to be presented at the National Trial Competition awards banquet. Efforts to promulgate the creed to newly licensed lawyers and judges are ongoing.

REAL ESTATE FORMS

Roland Love, Chair

The 2025-2026 Texas Real Estate Forms Manual includes new forms to address the last two state legislative sessions and federal rulemaking, including the emphasis on addressing foreign ownership, and brings an extensive new chapter entirely on easements. At the same time, energy and data related projects continue to grow, and the manual has adapted with new forms and commentary. Also, the business landscape has changed with expanded Texas Business courts and jurisdiction. Along with that change, the Texas Business Organizations Code has been expanded to include many business legal principles found in other states. Parties can draft to adopt these beneficial and flexible changes, and the manual helps with appropriate forms. Finally, many items were relaxed but are more focused and transparent, including notices, trustee identification, powers of attorney, and the use of powers of attorney. Forms for new property association requirements are also included. Users will find more references and commentary, along with links to papers and recent citations. The committee is a very hardworking group of bright folks, and the work product shows it.

TEXAS BAR JOURNAL BOARD OF EDITORS

Baili Rhodes, Chair

The *Texas Bar Journal* is the official publication of the State Bar of Texas. In print since 1938, the magazine serves as a publication of record for the Supreme Court of Texas, a scholarly legal journal, and the association magazine for the State Bar of Texas. Each month (except a combined July/August issue), the *Texas Bar Journal* is mailed to approximately 136,979 subscribers, is available in digital format, and is the only publication reaching every lawyer in Texas. The Texas Bar Journal Board of Editors reviews legal article submissions, develops issue topics, and helps set the general editorial direction for the magazine. In 2025-2026, *TBJ* examined a number of subjects of interest to Texas lawyers, including AI and the law; food and the law; the legislative update issue; the multigenerational intersection of practicing law; Native American legal issues; attorney's fees; immigration law; and IP law. The *Texas Bar Journal* also offered an informative "Year in Review" issue.

WOMEN IN THE PROFESSION

Ann Lebeck, Chair

The Women in the Profession Committee had a productive year. Law Practice Resources Division Director Sharon Sandle led the committee through comprehensive strategic planning that was extremely enlightening and helped to hone and identify the major action items that align with the committee's broad purpose and that members want to address. These action items include following up on past successful surveys with a post-pandemic survey addressing issues relevant to women lawyers and the committee's mandate, building toolkits for lawyers on parental leave issues, and strengthening the committee's outreach to other local bars and law schools. The committee also held its third annual virtual book club in October, featuring Melanie Bragg discussing her book, *Defining Moments: Insights into the Lawyer's Soul,* and how certain Texas lawyers have used personal pivotal moments in their own lives to identify and develop leadership skills to drive their law practice to success. In April, the committee presented a free, two-part CLE titled "Oh Baby!: Navigating Pregnancy and Adoption as an Attorney" that provided practical guidance on pregnancy and parental leave within a law firm setting; strategies for transitioning clients and caseloads, managing deadlines, and filing appropriate leave notices; and other related topics. **TBJ**