



State Bar College Helps Court Create a Worthy Home

When Justice Paul Green was appointed to the Supreme Court of Texas, he was surprised by the shabby condition of the Supreme Court building. Green researched the original Supreme Court Courtroom at the Capitol and other historic sites and looked for ways to honor the history of the court while updating its facilities to accommodate new technologies. With the help of a grant from the State Bar College, the Court has a newly renovated courtroom, robing room, and conference room. Pictured, from left, in the new conference room, are J. Morgan Broaddus of El Paso; Herman Segovia of San Antonio; Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson; Justice Green; and Tamara Kurtz of Austin. For more information about the State Bar College, visit www.texasbarcollege.com.

TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RULES ON CIVIL CASE REQUIREMENTS

Per House Bill 79, passed in the Special Legislative Session this summer, the State Bar of Texas has appointed a task force to develop rules to determine whether a civil case requires additional judicial management resources. The task force will post its draft rules on the State Bar's website (www.texasbar.com) by Oct. 1, 2011, and will solicit public comment through the website and through public hearings. The Supreme Court of Texas will review the recommendations and promulgate rules by May 1, 2012. For more information, contact Ray Cantu at (512) 427-1506.

LUBBOCK "JUNIOR BAR" TURNS 50

The Lubbock County Young Lawyers Association celebrates its 50th anniversary with a gala at the Merket Alumni Center on the Texas Tech University campus on Oct. 21. The program will reflect on the history and accomplishments of the organization through the years. For more information and reservations, email wendy.humphrey@ttu.edu.



SCAM ALERT

Texas attorneys should be extra vigilant regarding potential scams involving fraudulent checks or wire transfers. These scams are increasing in sophistication, sometimes involving innocent third parties who seek legal services at the request of a scam artist. The bottom line is this: Never issue a check from a trust account until deposited funds have been collected. Recent scam scenarios include:

- Unsolicited email requests for legal help collecting money or judgments, sometimes apparently coming from actual professionals whose identities have been stolen;
- A real estate transaction for an overseas client (whose identity was stolen by a scam artist) involving an innocent third-party realtor;
- Impersonation of law firms by scam artists who issue bogus checks and attempt to charge a fee for the checks to clear;
- A bogus check received by a law firm, purportedly for payment regarding representation of an inmate; or
- An impersonation of a lawyer and law firm by a scammer "collecting debts" under the attorney's name.

Again, be vigilant and do not disburse funds from your accounts until underlying funds have *cleared your bank* (and not simply been made "available"). Cases involving bank fraud are investigated by the Secret Service. If you are targeted, contact an office in your area. Internet fraud should be reported to the Internet Crime Complaint Center (www.ic3.gov).

TWITTER BRIEF COMPETITION

Have you ever yearned for shorter page limits on appellate briefs? The State Bar Appellate Section has the perfect competition for you! The section is holding the first annual Twitter Brief Competition, where participants are asked to draft an appellate brief consisting of no more than 140 characters (including spaces). The winning briefs will be announced at the Advanced Appellate Seminar in Austin, Sept. 8-9, and printed in the *Appellate Advocate*. Winners will also receive "special prizes." To enter, email your brief to anne.johnson@haynesboone.com or lmason@cooley.com by Sept. 5.

