



## State Bar Board Meets in El Paso

On Sept. 16, the State Bar Board of Directors met in El Paso for its quarterly meeting. The following are among the highlights from the meeting:

- Oyez, Oyez, Oh Yay! Civics Resources for Texas Students and Teachers** — State Bar President **Bob Black** reported on *Oyez, Oyez, Oh Yay!*, his civics education initiative. Black has been working with the State Bar Law-Related Education department to develop materials for teachers to use in preparing their students for the new Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards for social studies curriculum. The new standards require middle school and high school students in Texas to analyze various landmark court cases and be tested on the material. The Board viewed a video on *Marbury v. Madison*, one of the cases that Texas students will study. The video is part of a set of interactive, web-based curriculum materials and strategies for teachers that can be accessed at [texasbar.com/civics](http://texasbar.com/civics) or through the Law-Related Education website at [texaslre.org](http://texaslre.org).
- Making the Case for Texas Lawyers** — Black also reported on his initiative to improve the community's perception of lawyers. As part of this initiative, the Bar has created an online portal that contains resources to help members lead a conversation with community groups about the role of lawyers and the judicial system in society. To find ideas for speaking to community groups, tools to help with presentations and videos about trailblazing Texas lawyers, visit [texasbar.com/makingthecase](http://texasbar.com/makingthecase).
- Nominations and Elections** — The Board considered changes to State Bar policy governing candidates' campaign activities, particularly the rules regarding the candidates' use of social media. The overall purpose of the policy manual revisions concerning election guidelines is to reflect the concept that the Board's authority extends to a candidate's behavior during the campaign and not to the behavior of other entities or third parties. The revisions also provide some clarification regarding candidates' contacting individual attorneys, as well as which individuals are included in the definition of "professional acquaintance." Specific revisions that were approved at the Board meeting can be viewed in Part II of the Policy Manual: [texasbar.com/policymanual](http://texasbar.com/policymanual).
- Veterans' Initiative** — State Bar Immediate Past President **Terry Tottenham** reported on the continuing success of *Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans*, the State Bar's pro



State Bar President Bob Black, far right, presents a resolution honoring UTEP's Law School Preparation Institute to (from left) UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio, LSPI Director Dr. William Weaver, and LSPI student Amanda Escobar.

bono initiative to aid Texas veterans that began last year under his leadership. Tottenham reported that the success of the program in Texas has sparked interest in other states such as California and New York.

- Client Security Fund** — The Client Security Fund completed a record year during the last fiscal year. The Fund paid \$704,000 in claims for the year. The Client Security Fund provides financial relief to clients who have lost money or property as a result of an attorney's dishonest behavior.
- Resolution Honoring UTEP Law School Preparation Institute** — The Board approved a resolution honoring the University of Texas at El Paso's Law School Preparation Institute (LSPI), which was established in 1998 to educate and guide students about the benefits of legal training. About 60 percent of program graduates go to first-tier law schools. The program also partners with the Texas Young Lawyers Association to perform outreach to area high school students. Black presented the resolution to UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio, LSPI Director Dr. William Weaver, and LSPI student Amanda Escobar.
- Employee of the Quarter** — State Bar Executive Director **Michelle Hunter** presented the employee of the quarter award to Penny Carter of the State Bar Accounting Department. ✦