

# Pablo Javier Almaguer Elected Chair of State Bar Board of Directors

By Ellen Carnes

**O**n April 16, **Pablo Javier Almaguer** of McAllen was elected chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. He is the first legal aid lawyer chosen to lead the Board.

"It's a great honor, personally," Almaguer said. "The more the news spreads locally, the more responsibility I feel, but the more honored I feel, too."

Almaguer works for Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA) in Edinburg as the private attorney involvement group coordinator. He previously served TRLA as branch manager of the Edinburg office and as domestic violence/family law practice team manager for the area.

A graduate of the University of Texas-Pan American and Chicago-Kent College of Law, Almaguer has been involved in numerous bar activities at the state and local levels. He is a past president of the Hidalgo County Bar Association and Hidalgo County Bar Foundation, a former vice chair of the State Bar Local Bar Services Committee, and has served on the council of the State Bar Hispanic Issues Section. Almaguer has also served as president and as a longtime board member of the Texas Civil Rights Project. He is a member of the Mexican-American Bar Association and a co-founder of the Hidalgo County Domestic Relations Office Advisory Board.

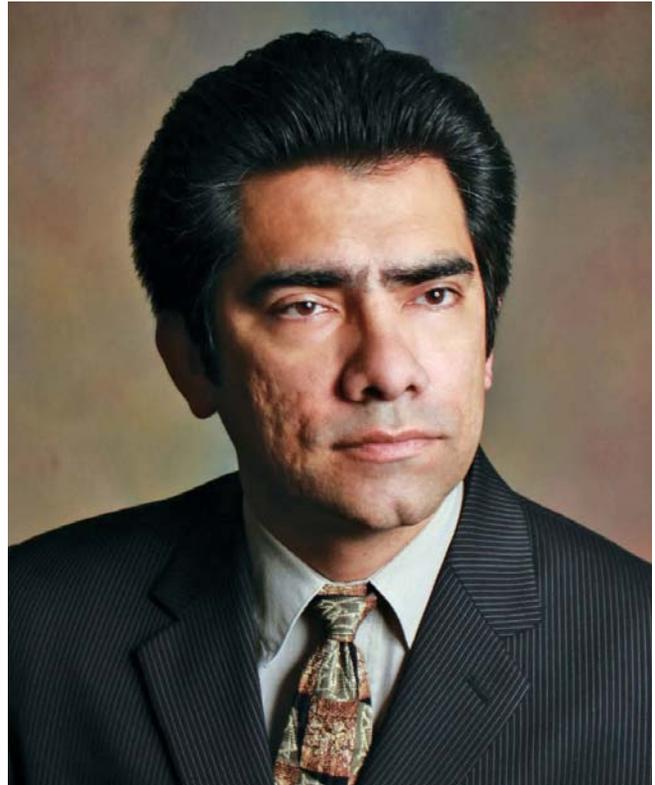
In 2008, Almaguer was selected for a Minority Director position on the State Bar Board. He is the first legal services attorney to serve on the Board. Almaguer is a member of the Board's Executive Committee. He has also served on numerous Board committees and subcommittees and as an adviser to several State Bar sections and committees.

"I give credit to Presidents Gib Walton and Harper Estes for appointing me and to Roland Johnson for making this possible," Almaguer said.

Almaguer's law practice has focused on domestic violence and employment discrimination cases. Although he is proud of his work for TRLA and the Texas Civil Rights Project, he is approaching his new responsibilities with a broad perspective on the Texas legal profession and the public it serves.

"I've chaired many different committees and been involved in many different initiatives," he said. "I want to be known as more than just a legal services lawyer. There are so many types of lawyers in Texas represented by the Bar."

Almaguer is eager to get to work for those Texas lawyers. He praises his immediate predecessors as chair — David Fisher of Silsbee and Joe Shannon of Fort Worth. "David and Joe have



done a fantastic job," Almaguer said. "Each has a great ability to facilitate the work the Board does. I'm ready to dive in."

He is also eager to work with State Bar President Terry Tottenham on his initiatives. "I'm especially excited to work with Terry on *Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans*, his project to provide legal services to veterans."

It's shaping up to be an eventful year for Almaguer. He and his wife, Linley Boone-Almaguer, a fellow TRLA lawyer, are expecting a baby in the fall.

"There's a Board meeting on Oct. 1 and the baby's due on Oct. 6," Almaguer said. "The Board has been very supportive of me, but that's definitely going to be a busy week!"

Almaguer will be sworn in as chair during the State Bar Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, June 10–11. He will serve a one-year term as chair. ❁

## ELLEN CARNES

is assistant editor of the *Texas Bar Journal*.

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