

Roger A. Key Elected Chair of the State Bar Board of Directors

By Patricia Busa McConnico

Roger A. Key, a partner in Key & Terrell in Lubbock, will take office as chair of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors at the State Bar Annual Meeting on June 26-27, 2014, in Austin.

Key, who practices business and transactional law, said he is honored to be elected chair. “There is an incredible pride in being a member of the State Bar of Texas.”

Impressed by how conscientious both the staff and bar leadership are of directors’ time, Key said one of his objectives is to ensure that the meetings run efficiently. He is also dedicated to an open forum for discussion. “I want to make sure that every board member has an ability to express his or her opinion and view.” Key said he looks forward to working with incoming State Bar President Trey Appfel. “We have forged a very good friendship and cooperative relationship,” he explained. “He will be an incredibly articulate spokesman for the State Bar, and he is very much committed to communicating with our members.”

Key, who grew up in Lubbock, received a B.B.A. in finance from the University of Texas at Austin, but he always knew he wanted to be a lawyer. “My dad was an attorney and my grandfather, who was deceased by the time I was born, was an attorney,” he said. “Finance was something I was interested in, and I thought it would be a good fallback if I did not get into law school.” Key spent two summers clerking in Houston, so his plan was to eventually move there after graduation. “Then my dad wanted me to stay [in Lubbock] and practice with him, so I thought, ‘Well, I’ll give it a shot.’ And I’m still here.”

As a young lawyer, Key served as treasurer of the local bar association and that led to more bar involvement. From 1985 to 1987, he served as a director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, which proved an inspiration to become active at the State Bar level. “The TYLA Board was meeting in Austin, and we were invited to meet with the State Bar Board. I was thoroughly impressed with the people I met and their dedication. And I thought, ‘That is something I want to do someday.’”

Key says he finds it rewarding to be an attorney because of the many opportunities to assist people. He also enjoys working with other lawyers and judges. During his tenure as president of the Lubbock County Bar Association, the group hosted a dinner for the Texas Supreme Court. “It had one of the largest crowds we ever had at a bar function,” Key said. “Lubbock has a very courteous bar. We treat each other with a great deal of respect.” Throughout his career, Key has not only served his profession but also his community. From 2010 to 2011, Key served as president of the Texas Association of Bank Counsel. He also is president of the Texas Tech University School of Law Foundation Board and chair of the Lubbock National Bank Board.

When Key is not busy practicing law, he enjoys hunting, playing golf, and spending time with his wife, children, and son-in-law. **TBJ**



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