



STATE BAR UPDATE

July means summer is in full swing, another State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting is in the books, and a new bar year is under way. Here's a quick look at what's going on at the State Bar.

2019 Annual Meeting

Thank you to all of our attendees, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, and staff who made the 2019 Annual Meeting a success. Attorneys gathered June 13-14 in Austin for two days of networking events and CLE sessions produced by State Bar sections, including updates on the 86th Texas Legislature. I continue to believe that our Annual Meeting is the best place to reacquaint with old colleagues, compare notes, and share war stories while hearing some of the finest CLE on the market.

Milestones

During the Annual Meeting, we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the State Bar's creation in 1939 and honored a new class of 50-year lawyers for their service to our profession.

New Leadership

The Annual Meeting always includes a changing of the guard of State Bar leadership. Randy Sorrels, of Houston, was sworn in as president, and Jerry C. Alexander, of Dallas, became chair of the board of directors. Larry P. McDougal Sr., of Richmond, whom lawyers elected in April, was sworn in as president-elect and will serve in that role for a year before becoming president in June 2020.

Annual Meeting Coverage

Look for extensive Annual Meeting coverage in the September issue. In the meantime, you can get a taste of the conference by listening to the *State Bar of Texas Podcast* at texasbar.com/podcast. Host Rocky Dhir and the production crew from Legal Talk Network conducted on-site interviews with many of the speakers. I think you'll find these episodes informative and entertaining.

State Bar Lawsuit Update

On May 13, the State Bar of Texas laid out almost six decades of U.S. Supreme Court precedent, establishing the constitutionality of its structure in response to a lawsuit filed against the bar. The State Bar's filings explain that the bar, as an arm of the government, has a statutory obligation to regulate the legal profession and to improve the quality of legal services in Texas. We believe the State Bar is fulfilling all of its statutory and constitutional obligations and that the plaintiffs' efforts to change decades of law is without merit. You can read the bar's cross-motion for summary judgment and other filings in the case at texasbar.com/mcdonaldvlongley.

I hope you're finding time this summer for some relaxation and time away from the office with family and friends. If you have any questions about the State Bar, please let me know.

Sincerely,

TREY APFEL

Executive Director, State Bar of Texas
Editor-in-Chief, *Texas Bar Journal*
(512) 427-1500
@ApffelT on Twitter

GOVERNANCE INFORMATION

The State Bar is governed by a board of directors with 46 voting members including:

- 3 officers elected statewide by State Bar members (president, president-elect, and immediate past president),
- 30 attorneys elected from 17 geographical districts,
- 6 public (non-attorney) members appointed by the Supreme Court,
- 4 at-large directors appointed by the State Bar president, and
- 3 officers elected statewide by Texas Young Lawyers Association members (president, president-elect, and immediate past president).

Fourteen nonvoting, ex-officio members also serve on the board, including the immediate past board chair and liaisons representing the judiciary, State Bar sections, and out-of-state members.