

# Board Approves Proposed Budget, ELECTS NEW CHAIR FOR 2023-2024

WRITTEN BY LOWELL BROWN



**ABOVE FROM LEFT:** Chair-elect Kennon Wooten; Judge Gary Coley, Susan I. Nelson, and Bradley J.B. Toben, who were honored with resolutions for their service. Photos by Patricia Busa McConnico

**THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS** held its quarterly meeting on April 28 in Waco. Highlights of the meeting appear below. Watch video of the meeting and read the agenda and meeting materials at [texasbar.com/board](https://texasbar.com/board).

## State Bar of Texas budget

The board voted to submit the proposed 2023-2024 fiscal year budget to the Supreme Court of Texas for consideration. The proposed budget is available at [texasbar.com/budget](https://texasbar.com/budget).

## New board chair-elect

The board elected Kennon Wooten chair of the board for the 2023-2024 bar year. Wooten, a partner in Scott Douglass & McConnico in Austin, was elected in 2021 to serve as a director on the State Bar board representing District 9, Place 3 (Travis County).

## New at-large director

The board approved President Laura Gibson's appointment of Noelle Hicks, of Houston, as an at-large director. Hicks, a shareholder in Roberts Markel Weinberg Butler Hailey, will serve a three-year term starting in June.

## Standing committee items

The board adopted the Committee Review Task Force's recommendations regarding standing committees, including term limits for committee chairs and vice chairs. The board also approved appointments to the bar's standing committees for 2023-2024.

## Legislative policy

The board ratified the Ad-hoc Emergency Legislative Response Committee's decision to oppose House Bill 5010/Senate Bill 2462 and HB 5101/SB 2461 before the Texas Legislature. The board also ratified the committee's decisions to deny requests from the Litigation and Business Law sections to take opposite positions on HB 19/SB 27.

## Recognitions

The board adopted resolutions honoring 74th District Court Judge Gary Coley, Waco immigration attorney Susan I. Nelson, and Baylor Law School Dean Bradley J.B. Toben for exceptional service to the legal profession. Executive Director Trey Apffel presented the quarterly Staff Excellence Award to Julia Rivera, team lead for the State Bar of Texas Lawyer Referral & Information Service.

## Looking ahead

The next board meetings are scheduled for June 21-22 in Austin. Comments can be emailed to [boardofdirectors@texasbar.com](mailto:boardofdirectors@texasbar.com). To find your district directors, go to [texasbar.com/board](https://texasbar.com/board) and click on "Board Members." **TBJ**