



The Supreme Court of Texas

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July 28, 2008

Re: State Bar of Texas Court Rules Committee-Local Rules Initiative

Judges of the District, County, and Probate Courts of Texas:

I am writing to request your help with an initiative that the Texas Supreme Court has undertaken with the State Bar of Texas Court Rules Committee and the Office of Court Administration. The two-fold goal of the initiative is to (1) compile a comprehensive, up-to-date collection of local rules adopted by Texas state courts under Texas Rule of Civil Procedure 3a, and (2) make the local rules available through the Texas Supreme Court's website (<http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/rules/rules.asp>), with links to the State Bar's website (<http://www.texasbar.com/>) and other websites that serve Texas practitioners.

Some local rules are available online, but many are not. Because attorneys increasingly rely on the speed and convenience of web-based legal resources, the inconsistent availability of local rules is a source of frustration for attorneys and parties preparing to appear in unfamiliar courts or attempting to compare local rules across the State. This initiative seeks to address these issues by providing free electronic access to all approved local rules by the end of 2008.

I am asking each court with local rules that this Court has approved under Rule 3a to submit a complete, current copy of those rules in both searchable PDF format and Word or Word Perfect format. If only a paper version exists and you do not have access to a scanner that can create an electronic copy in searchable format, then you may submit a paper copy. The electronic or paper copy should include the signatures of the local trial judges who approved the rules, as well as a copy of the Texas Supreme Court's order approving the rules, if available. For local rules that are already available online, you can simply provide a link or links to those rules.

The Presiding Judges of the State's nine Administrative Regions have offered to help oversee the collection of local rules. To assist them, the State Bar Rules Committee—currently chaired by Ann Diamond, who succeeded J. Hamilton Rial III as Chair effective earlier this month—will work with one or more volunteer entities within each Administrative Region to collect local rules from the courts within their respective regions. Upon receiving the local rules, the State Bar Rules

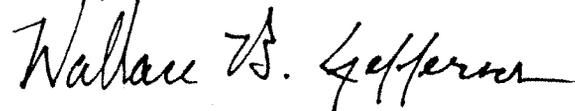
Committee will ensure that the rules are posted on the appropriate websites. You will soon receive correspondence from the State Bar Rules Committee with additional information, including contact information for the volunteer entity or entities designated to assist the Presiding Judge of your Administrative Region.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important initiative designed to benefit Texas practitioners, judges, and members of the general public. Your cooperation is vital and greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact Russ Meyer, the State Bar Rules Committee Vice-Chair who is overseeing this project. His contact information appears below.

Russ Meyer
Jackson Walker L.L.P.
901 Main Street, Suite 6000
Dallas, TX 75202
Direct: 214-953-6134
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wallace B. Jefferson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W".

Wallace B. Jefferson
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Texas