YOUR BAR'S ROAD TO SUCCESS
STATE BAR of TEXAS
JUL 2026
LOCAL BAR LEADERS CONFERENCE
JULY 23-24, 2026
THE WESTIN GALLERIA HOUSTON
YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT YOUR DESTINATION

HOSTED BY

STATE BAR OF TEXAS
LOCAL BAR SERVICES
512-427-1514
localbars@texasbar.com
texasbar.com/localbars

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
512-427-1529
tyla@texasbar.com
tyla.org

TEXAS ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION
512-427-1839
atjmail@texasbar.com
texasatj.org

Hotel Information

The Westin Galleria Houston
5060 W. Alabama St.
Houston, TX 77056
713-585-4673

Check In: 3:00 p.m. **Check Out:** 12:00 p.m.
All guest rooms and public areas are 100% non-smoking.

Attendance Requirements

At-Large Delegates are required to attend and sign in to at least five breakouts during the conference to be reimbursed for travel expenses and hotel accommodations for up to two nights.

Access to Justice Delegates are required to attend and sign in to all four Access to Justice breakouts on Friday to be reimbursed for travel expenses and hotel accommodations for up to two nights.

TYLA Affiliate Delegates are required to attend and sign in to all TYLA breakouts to be reimbursed for travel expenses and hotel accommodations.

Travel Reimbursement

Reimbursement forms can be found at texasbar.com/lblc following the conference. The mileage rate is 72.5 cents per mile. **Travel reimbursements may not exceed capped amounts listed below (including airfare).** If attendance requirements are not met, delegates will not be eligible for travel reimbursement.

0-299 miles round trip $150
300-450 miles round trip $250
451-600 miles round trip $350
601-750 miles round trip $450
751+ miles round trip $550

Email or mail forms to the Local Bar Services Department. Be sure to include all receipts, including airline tickets, rideshare, and shuttle services. Please be sure to sign the reimbursement form!

Submit reimbursement form and receipts to:

localbars@texasbar.com

State Bar of Texas
Local Bar Services Department
P.O. Box 12487
Austin, TX 78711-2487

To receive reimbursement, forms must be received by August 31, 2026.

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Registration and Exhibits
GALLERIA FOYER
Visit with our sponsors to learn about the valuable resources available to your local bar association and law practice.

Relax and Recharge Room
SAGE
New this year — a quiet space to quickly reset and recharge whenever you (or your devices) need it. **No registration required.**

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Opening Luncheon
GALLERIA I & II

Welcome & Introduction
DWIGHT MCDONALD
Chair, Local Bar Services Committee

Leading from Anywhere
Leadership is not defined by a title, position, or corner office. Judge McClure explores how each of us can lead from wherever we are through humility, courage, and genuine care for others. Drawing on lessons about vulnerability, overcoming imposter syndrome, embracing failure, and building meaningful connections. Judge McClure offers a refreshing perspective on leadership as a daily choice rather than a formal role. Whether you supervise a team or simply want to make a greater impact on those around you, this conversation will inspire you to lead with authenticity, confidence, and heart.

JUDGE JESSE F. MCCLURE III
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Visit Our Sponsors**

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Choose one of the following:**

Local Bars – Future Forward: Trends Shaping the Bar

GALLERIA III

Join us for this lively presentation as we explore trends impacting bar associations, including demographics of the legal profession, membership best practices, continuing legal education trends, innovative meeting ideas, and more. Walk away with fresh insights and new ideas to help your bar thrive in this rapidly changing environment.

MOLLY KILMER FLOOD
Associate Director, ABA Center for Bar Leadership

What's Next: Pathways to State Bar Leadership for Local Bar Leaders

TANGLEWOOD

This interactive panel discussion is designed for local bar leaders ready to take the next step in their professional service and leadership journeys. "What's Next" explores practical pathways to meaningful involvement in the State Bar of Texas, offering insight into how attorneys can expand their impact beyond the local level.

Panelists will provide an inside look at the structure, opportunities, and expectations within the State Bar. Attendees will learn how to engage with substantive law sections, contribute to standing committees, and serve on local grievance panels—each playing a vital role in advancing the profession and supporting the public. The discussion will also demystify the process of pursuing leadership roles, including running for election or seeking appointment to the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

This session will equip participants with a clearer understanding of pathways to statewide leadership and actionable steps to expand their influence.

TREY APFFEL
Executive Director, State Bar of Texas
BRITNEY E. HARRISON
Immediate Past Chair of the Board
LYNDSAY JACKSON
Sections Director, State Bar of Texas
BEN WALTER
Committees Coordinator, State Bar of Texas
SEANA WILLING
Chief Disciplinary Counsel, State Bar of Texas

TYLA – Young Lawyer Affiliate Awards & Partnerships
PLAZA BALLROOM
Come celebrate the past year's accomplishments of young lawyers across Texas and find out how TYLA can support your local public service efforts through our Local Affiliate Partnerships.

CLAIRE HARBERT
President-elect, Texas Young Lawyers Association
ALYSON A. MARTINEZ
Immediate Past President, Texas Young Lawyers Association
ARMIN SALEK
President, Texas Young Lawyers Association

Law-Related Education – School Visits ... No Problem
POST OAK
Come see the latest programs which are ready to go into a classroom. Included in the presentation will be LRE resources to support the understanding of the legal profession and civic knowledge.

DAVID C. COURREGES
Chair, Law Focused Education Committee
DODIE KASPER
Coordinator, Law-Related Education, State Bar of Texas
JAN MILLER
Director, Law-Related Education, State Bar of Texas

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Visit Our Sponsors**

STOP BY THE FOYER FOR AN AFTERNOON TREAT.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Choose one of the following:**

Leading From Anywhere Q&A

TANGLEWOOD

Developed from the keynote luncheon, Judge McClure invites a smaller breakout group of participants to have a Q&A, taking a deeper dive into the ideas of "Leading from Anywhere".

JUDGE JESSE F. MCCLURE III
Texas Court of Criminal Appeals

Local Bars – Local Bar Leadership in the AI Era

GALLERIA III

A practical session for local bar leaders on using AI and simple digital workflows to strengthen member service, improve access-to-justice initiatives, and make bar operations more efficient. Attendees will leave with use cases, guardrails, and a starter checklist for responsible implementation.

JOSHUA WEAVER
Director, Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator (TOJI)
State Bar of Texas

TLAP – Leading By Example: How Bar Leaders Can Foster Well-Being and Community in the Legal Profession

POST OAK

This program will focus on how bar leaders can take care of themselves as well as build a legal community that watches out for each other's mental health. We will provide evidence-based tips and simple strategies for what to look for in our colleagues and how to help when you have concerns about a colleague's well-being.

MICHELLE FONTENOT, J.D., M.ED.
Director, Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program, State Bar of Texas
DIANE ST. YVES-BREWER
Owner and Partner, St. Yves Law

TYLA – Commit to Community with TYLA
BELLAIRE
Join us and bring your community service coordinators and plan a year's worth of public service projects in one hour with a showcase of impactful and accessible volunteer opportunities.

ALEXANDRA LAMBRING BILLMYRE
Director, Texas Young Lawyers Association
HANNA LEE
Secretary, Texas Young Lawyers Association
GRACEN MORENO
Director, Texas Young Lawyers Association
MARY RIOS
Director, Texas Young Lawyers Association
ARMIN SALEK
President, Texas Young Lawyers Association

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m **Visit Our Sponsors**

4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. **Leadership Roundtables**
Roundtable discussions give participants the opportunity to connect and brainstorm about common issues local bars and young lawyer affiliates face. Attendees will meet in assigned rooms according to the sticker on the back of their name badge, then break into huddles to take on a team-building activity designed to engage and inspire local bar leaders.

Association Membership Size	Room Location
1-99	San Felipe
100-250	Post Oak
251-800	Westchester
801 or more	Bellaire

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Dinner & Casino Party
GALLERIA I, II & III
Socialize, network, and get to know your fellow local bar leaders.

Door Prizes
Each year, each association and sponsor is invited to bring a door prize that highlights something special about your region. These prizes will be given away during the conference luncheons and the Dinner & Casino Party.

There is no minimum value required — this is simply a fun opportunity to showcase what makes your area unique. Think: locally "famous" items, hotel stays, tickets to local attractions, or anything else that represents your community.

Please clearly label your contribution with your association's name, and drop it off at the registration desk when you arrive.

Thank you for helping make this year's conference even more personal and memorable!

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Registration and Exhibits
GALLERIA FOYER

Visit with our sponsors to learn about the valuable resources available to your local bar association and law practice.

Relax and Recharge Room
SAGE

New this year — a quiet space to quickly reset and recharge whenever you (or your devices) need it. **No registration required.**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Grab & Go Breakfast
GALLERIA I & II

Come early and network with other attendees in **Galleria I** and **II** or grab breakfast and take it to-go and enjoy breakfast at your first Friday session.

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Choose one of the following:**

ATJ – Access to Justice in Texas
TANGLEWOOD

More than 5 million low-income Texans qualify for legal aid, but only a small percentage can access legal help when they need it. Join the Texas Access to Justice Commission and the Texas Access to Justice Foundation for a discussion of the spectrum of access to justice issues, the legal needs in Texas, rural access initiatives, and what bar associations can do to help low-income Texans with their civil justice problems.

BETTY BALLI TORRES
Texas Access to Justice Foundation
NINA HESS HSU
Texas Access to Justice Commission

Local Bars – At Your Service
SAN FELIPE

The State Bar of Texas Local Bar Services Department is here to serve you! Learn how our department can assist your bar with speaker coordination, Flash CLE, membership drives, and more. We will also discuss the cheat codes for your bar to gain recognition through Law Day and the Stars of Texas Bars Awards.

ANDREA BELANGER
Local Bar Services Coordinator, State Bar of Texas

TYLA – Handling a Crisis with TLAP
BELLAIRE

The legal profession can be challenging emotionally, mentally, and even physically. We all need help, not just our clients. And as an affiliate leader, your members may face mental health challenges or even a crisis. Come learn from TLAP about how to prepare for those critical moments.

MICHELLE FONTENOT, J.D., M.ED.
Director, Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program, State Bar of Texas
J. COLLIN SPRING
Director, Texas Young Lawyers Association

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Visit Our Sponsors**

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Choose one of the following:**

ATJ and TYLA – Technology Tips for Lawyers: Pro Bono and General Practice

GALLERIA III

This presentation provides an overview of the technology tools currently being used by legal aid organizations, along with practical tech tips for pro bono practitioners. The session will also explore technology recommendations for general legal practice and will separately focus on AI-powered tools that can enhance efficiency and accessibility. Whether you're involved in legal aid work or private practice, this session will offer actionable insights to help you leverage technology effectively in your day-to-day work. Join us to discover innovative solutions and best practices for integrating tech—including AI—into your legal services.

CHRIS KRUPA DOWNS
Krupa Downs Law, PLLC
JENISE J. JACKSON
Attorney at Law

Local Bars - Is Your Communication Strategy Up to Date?

POST OAK

Having a communication strategy is good, but one that constantly evolves is even better. Learn the latest tips, tricks, and trends to make sure your PR strategy and social media execution are up to date.

GEOFFREY HINKSON
Digital Content Specialist, State Bar of Texas
REBECCA JOHNSON
Public Affairs Director, State Bar of Texas

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Visit Our Sponsors**

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Conference Luncheon
GALLERIA I & II

Welcome & Introduction
DWIGHT MCDONALD
Chair, Local Bar Services Committee

Deborah G. Hankinson Awards Presentation
SENIOR JUSTICE DEBRA LEHRMANN
Supreme Court of Texas

State Bar of Texas
G. DAVID SMITH
President, State Bar of Texas

Texas Young Lawyers Association
ARMIN SALEK
President, Texas Young Lawyers Association

12:45 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Visit Our Sponsors**

1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Choose one of the following:**

ATJ and TYLA – Serve Our State with Texas Free Legal Answers
GALLERIA III
Join us as we spend an hour meeting the civil legal needs of our communities while answering questions on Texas Free Legal Answers, a web-based virtual legal advice clinic dedicated to providing pro bono civil legal advice at no cost to qualifying Texans.

MARY RIOS
Director, Texas Young Lawyers Association
ARMIN SALEK
President, Texas Young Lawyers Association

Local Bars – Document Preservation & Records Management for Small Organizations
SAN FELIPE
Join us for an informal talk on how to manage, protect, and preserve the records of your organization. This talk will touch on records management, preservation of documents and photographs, what to keep and what NOT to keep, and how to organize your material. Bring your questions and we'll do our best to answer them.

TRINA PURCELL
Director, Archives, State Bar of Texas

Mastering Texas MCLE: A Step-by-Step Guide
TANGLEWOOD
Navigating the Texas MCLE landscape does not have to be overwhelming. This educational session offers a step-by-step roadmap for working with the State Bar of Texas MCLE program. We will guide you through the process of becoming a sponsor and obtaining accredited sponsor status. Learn what qualifies a course for credit and how to approach the application process. Finally, we will provide useful tips to help your attendees with their compliance requirements.

KELLEY OWEN
MCLE Compliance Supervisor, State Bar of Texas

2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Visit Our Sponsors**

STOP BY THE FOYER FOR AN AFTERNOON TREAT.

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Choose one of the following:**

ATJ and TYLA – Reimagining Legal Access: Expanding Survivor Pathways Through Alternative Legal Models

GALLERIA III

Survivors of abuse often face overwhelming barriers to securing full legal representation, leaving many without the protection they urgently need. This session highlights how Texas Advocacy Project is reimagining survivor access to justice through a range of innovative approaches, including our Assisted Pro Se program and pro bono partnerships. Presenters will share lessons from Texas Advocacy Project's statewide initiatives such as protective order assistance, coerced debt relief, and legal navigation in family violence cases, and connect these to national trends in bridging the justice gap. By showcasing practical models that reduce re-traumatization and expand safety options, this session will provide attendees with replicable strategies to strengthen survivor-centered responses in their own communities.

BRONWYN BLAKE
Chief Legal Officer, Texas Advocacy Project

Local Bars – Succession Planning

POST OAK

Who are the stakeholders when lawyers fall from practice or unexpectedly die? In emergency situations, local bar leaders can be a force for good. This breakout session covers cessation of practice, succession planning, and the interplay between local bars and the State Bar in protecting the public and improving our profession.

DEAN SCHAFFER
Succession Planning Program Administrator, State Bar of Texas

NOTES

SAVE THE DATE
STATE BAR of TEXAS
JUL 2027
LOCAL BAR LEADERS CONFERENCE
JULY 22-23, 2027
texasbar.com/lblc

2026-2027 LEADERSHIP
STATE BAR OF TEXAS

G. David Smith, President
Sarah Clower Keathley, President-elect
Santos Vargas, Immediate Past President
Steve Chiscano, Chair of the Board
Trey Apffel, Executive Director

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Armin Salek, President
Chase Newsom, Chair
Garrett S. Brawley, Vice President
Hanna Lee, Secretary
Bailey Bridges, Treasurer
Claire Harbert, President-elect
Timothy Adams, Chair-elect
Alyson A. Martinez, Immediate Past President

LOCAL BAR SERVICES COMMITTEE

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Megan Cooley – Vice Chair
Taylor Beaver
Travis Biggs
Arthur Bryan III
Charles Davis
Christina Davis
Natalie Koehler Denbow
Sandra Falcon
Lorinda Holloway
Wendy Humphrey
Evan Johnson
Adriana Leal
Gracen Moreno
Mahrosh Nawaz
Marissa Olsen
Sharonda Roberson
Sean Wallis

TYLA MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Alex Lambring Billmyre, Chair
Gracen Moreno
Mary Rios
J. Collin Spring
Emily Wilkinson

THANK YOU TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS!

Enstep Technology

Heirloom Innovations

Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism (TCLE)

Texas Legal

Texasbar.com

Texas Lawyers' Insurance (TLI)

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA)

TexasBarCLE

Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program

State Bar of Texas Pro Bono Working Group

Houston Bar Association

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Visit the Local Bar Leaders Conference website to download conference materials:

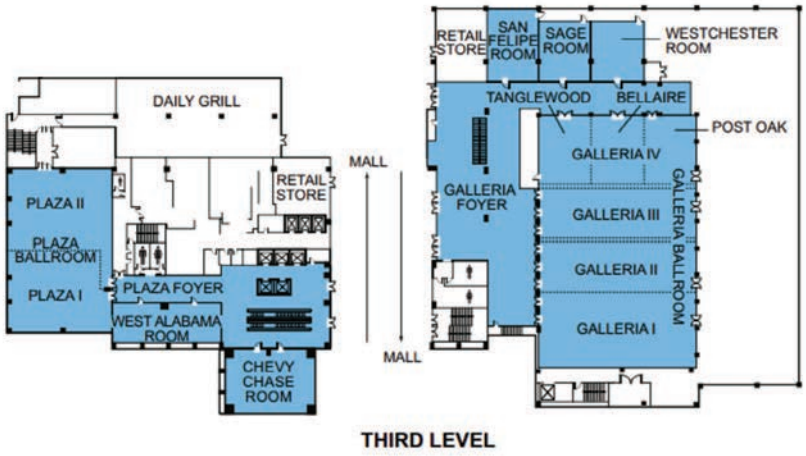
texasbar.com/lblc

Connect through our sponsored WiFi:

Westin Meeting Rooms
Password: **Enstep**

Follow the 2026 Local Bar Leaders Conference on social media by using hashtag:
#LBLC26

THE WESTIN GALLERIA HOUSTON



THIRD LEVEL

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

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