

# SARA DYSART

EXPERIENCE | EXCELLENCE | ENGAGEMENT



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For State Bar of Texas President-Elect

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# Let's Talk

... about You  
... about Us  
... about the Bar



## We are the State Bar of Texas.

We vote for our representatives and on disciplinary rules and membership dues. We expect transparency in government, fiscal responsibility, services benefitting our members, and the realization of our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Bar, the administration of justice, and the practice of law. In order to insure all of these, I advocate for mandatory bar membership, self-governance, and so much more.

That “so much more” begins with you. Thousands of Texas attorneys volunteer at the State and local levels on governing boards, commissions, sections, committees, grievance panels, pro bono clinics, and programs, such as TLAP, SOLACE, and CLE. The work of the Bar is greatly enhanced by public members who voluntarily serve with us.

If I am elected, my presidency will be about you. I will recruit all Texas attorneys to be actively engaged because our Bar needs you. I can also make the case that you need the Bar. Bar engagement has been invaluable in developing my law practice. Regardless of your type of practice, your engagement will enhance our profession and your career, enabling you to reach beyond your practice area, broaden your perspective, and create a network of friends across the state.

COVID is redefining how we practice law through the increased use of technology with clients, colleagues, and the courts. We are considering the use of office space and internet security, while seeking to maintain client interactions, collegiality, social connections, and the delivery of access to justice. The Bar should redefine and expand its programs throughout Texas to benefit you and the public. SBOT resources can be “scaled” to deliver Bar services and volunteer opportunities. My recent experience conducting a remote pro bono wills clinic and a law school mentoring circles program illustrates one benefit of technology —more engagement through “user friendly” opportunities.

I want to lead the Bar to involve and support all Texas lawyers. Please let me hear from you about the issues that are important to you and Bar opportunities that interest you.

I ask for your support and vote.

## Service to The Bar

### State Bar of Texas

- Board of Directors 2012 – 2015
- Annual Meeting Committee Co-Chair 2015
- Real Estate Forms Committee 2004 – present, Chair 2018 – 2021
- Real Estate, Probate & Trust Law Section Council Member 2011 – 2015
- Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Committee Chair 2009 – 2010
- District 10 PEP Grievance Committee Chair 1998 – 1999
- Annual Advanced Real Estate Course Director 2008, 2010, 2016, 2019
- CLE Planning Committee Member numerous times

### Texas Board of Legal Specialization

- Real Estate Law Advisory Commission 2015 – 2021
- Real Estate Law Exam Commission 2015 – 2021

### Texas Bar College Board of Directors 2019 – 2022

### Texas Bar Foundation Trustee 2015 – 2018

### San Antonio Bar Association

- Board of Directors, 2010 – 2012
- Treasurer 1991 – 1992; 1996 – 1997
- Real Estate Section Chair 2013 – present

### San Antonio Bar Foundation Chair 1998 – 1999

### American College of Real Estate Lawyers 2011 – present

### San Antonio Real Estate Discussion Group Chair 2005 – present

### Champion of Justice Society, Texas Access to Justice Commission

### St. Mary's University School of Law

- Board of Visitors 2016 – 2021
- President 2018 – 2021

### St. Mary's Law Alumni Association

- President 1991 – 1992

## Community Commitment

### St. Mary's University Board of Trustees 1992 – 1993; 2020

### Broadway Bank Board of Directors 2019 – present

### San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Awareness

- Board of Directors 2008-2019
- Advisory Board Chair

### University of Texas at San Antonio

- Real Estate Founders' Council 2010 – present

### San Antonio River Foundation Board of Directors 2016 – present

### Impact San Antonio 2012 – present

### United Way Women's Leadership Council (now Women United)



Co-Chair for 20 years of the Baked Oyster Booth at OysterBake, St. Mary's University scholarship fundraiser kicking off Fiesta

# SARA DYSART

## Prelude

Sara grew up on the southside of San Antonio. Although no one in her family had attended college, she wanted to be an attorney since sixth grade. She did not tell anyone about this aspiration until years later because it seemed so far out of reach. Her world opened up when she attended Incarnate Word High School, an hour's public bus ride from home. For the first time, she experienced a different San Antonio, one completely unknown before. Inspired by teachers who emphasized the value of a college degree, she resolved to seek higher education for one very important reason-- she would always be able to take care of herself. Working to support herself after high school, Sara earned three degrees. The dedication, drive and passion for excellence that mark her entire career were already apparent.

## Professional Excellence

Sara's career choice was shaped by her experience as a law student selling condominiums during the summer after her first year and as editor of the Symposium Issue of the St. Mary's Law Journal focusing on real estate finance. Her thriving legal practice began in an established firm where she became a partner before launching into uncharted territory, becoming San Antonio's first woman sole practitioner with a commercial real estate practice. With characteristic determination, Sara dug in. Drawing on her expertise, her natural gifts for connecting with others and an incredible capacity for hard work, she developed an enviable client base that values her judgement and is fiercely loyal. Her reputation as a consummate practitioner and a professional of the highest integrity is firmly rooted and widely acknowledged.

## Enabling Education

Lawyers throughout Texas attest to and benefit from Sara's expertise and passion for education. She is known for her legendary presentations and numerous complex papers. She has served as course director of a number of State Bar advanced CLE courses and is a frequent presenter at State Bar, law schools and other distinguished organizations. Her longstanding work and leadership on the Real Estate Forms committee contribute to the production of the Texas Real Estate Manual, the bible for real estate lawyers.

# DEDICATED LEADERSHIP

Many of her contributions have been noted and honored; others are done quietly, unremarked on except by those who benefit.

Sara is a generous mentor. A student who presents her with a question is likely to enjoy an extended session over coffee. St. Mary's University and especially its Law School are strengthened by Sara's loyalty and commitment to education and by her enduring support of women. She has endowed two scholarships for female students, one at the Law School and one at the School of Humanities. Honored as a Distinguished Alumna of the University, she recently worked with others to introduce a pilot program of mentoring circles at the Law School. Clearly, she absorbed the University's mission "to educate leaders for the common good".

## Connecting for Good

Sara is known for her work for the good of the bar and the community and described as a quiet and forceful leader. If you want to get something done, you call Sara. Underpinning her life and career is a remarkable desire and ability to connect people and different communities for mutual benefit. Patient and practical, she discerns opportunities and enables resolution of differences, using transaction and mediation skills to negotiate controversy and achieve constructive outcomes.

As a young lawyer Sara chaired the District 10 Professional Enhancement Program, a panel of the Grievance Committee. Her dedication as a volunteer/mentor in service to colleagues through Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers and TLAP earned her the Ralph Mock Memorial Award. Inspired by the joy of her own recovery, she has spent countless hours reaching out to attorneys struggling with addictions. She celebrates their recovery. Numerous community causes in her beloved San Antonio benefit from that same energy and engagement.

Sara is not all work all the time. Fun-loving and energetic, she nourishes new and lifelong friendships and creates opportunities to bring people together. A former marathoner, she is a devoted runner and cyclist, moderately good skier, lukewarm but enthusiastic golfer, and a doting exercise companion of Bear and Sophie.

It is no surprise that Sara's motto is "Everyday is a new opportunity to make a difference".



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to make a difference”

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## A RECORD OF DISTINCTION

- State Bar of Texas
  - President's Award
  - Presidential Citation
  - CLE "Standing Ovation Award"
  - Advanced Real Estate Weatherbie Workhorse Award
  - Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Ralph Mock Memorial Award
- Texas Bar Foundation
  - Terry Lee Grantham Memorial Award
- San Antonio Bar Association
  - President's Award - three time recipient
- San Antonio Bar Foundation
  - Peacemaker Award
- Association of Corporate Counsel South Texas Chapter
  - C. Lee Cusenbary Ethical Life Award
- Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation
  - Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award
- Texas Monthly Super Lawyer - since 2006
- Fourth Court of Appeals Briefing Attorney
- St. Mary's University Distinguished Alumna



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