

Texas Bar Journal Reader Survey

Prepared by
State Bar of Texas
Department of Research and Analysis
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Q1: Interest in Regular Sections of the *Texas Bar Journal*

Percentage and Mean Ratings

Section	Interest *					Mean
	Lowest				Highest	
	1	2	3	4	5	
Legal Articles (n=102)	6%	4%	13%	22%	56%	4.18
et cetera (n=96)	14%	8%	19%	17%	43%	3.67
Disciplinary Actions (n=100)	6%	15%	22%	33%	24%	3.54
Court Orders (n=95)	5%	19%	30%	24%	22%	3.39
Memorials (n=101)	9%	19%	27%	31%	15%	3.24
The Client Page (n=86)	14%	12%	33%	27%	15%	3.17
Feature Articles (n=100)	15%	13%	35%	24%	13%	3.07
Trends in the Profession (n=96)	9%	24%	31%	29%	6%	2.99
The Back Page (n=72)	22%	15%	36%	14%	13%	2.79
Spectrum (n=89)	21%	25%	32%	17%	14%	2.61
State Bar News Sections (n=85)	27%	28%	26%	16%	2%	2.37
Classified Advertising (n=95)	38%	23%	26%	10	3%	2.17

* Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Q1: Coverage Preferences for Regular Sections of the *Texas Bar Journal**

Section	“Expand”	“Reduce”	“Leave as Is”
Legal Articles (n=91)	59%	2%	39%
Trends in the Profession (n=83)	21%	25%	54%
Feature Articles (n=89)	17%	28%	55%
The Client Page (n=74)	14%	18%	69%
Spectrum (n=78)	13%	41%	46%
Disciplinary Actions (n=88)	13%	14%	74%
et cetera (n=89)	12%	21%	66%
Court Orders (n=83)	8%	16%	76%
Memorials (n=89)	8%	16%	76%
The Back Page (n=62)	5%	24%	71%
State Bar News Sections (n=85)	4%	49%	47%
Classified Advertising (n=79)	3%	32%	66%

* Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

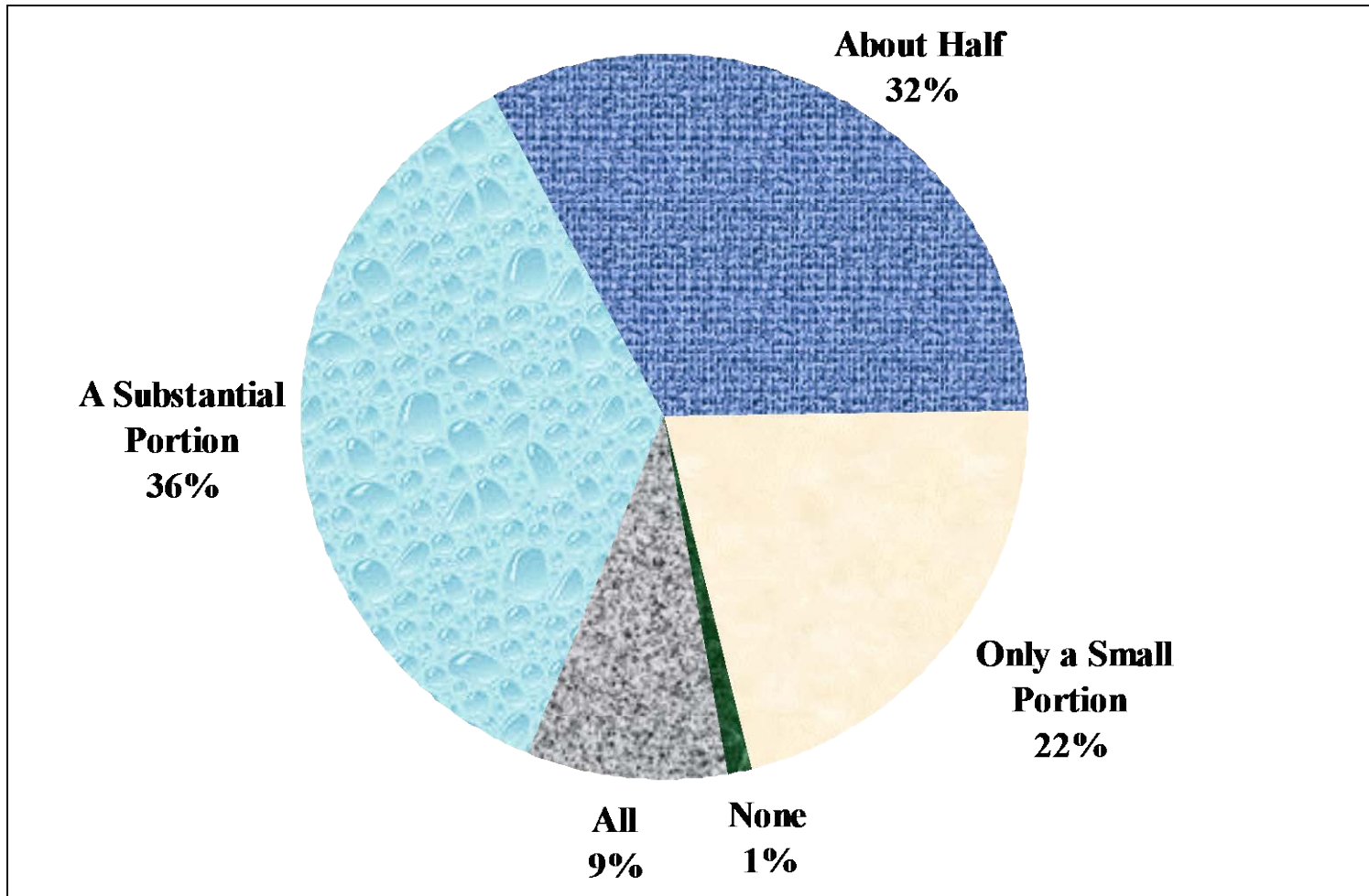
Q2: Evaluation of *Texas Bar Journal* Elements

Percentage and Mean Ratings

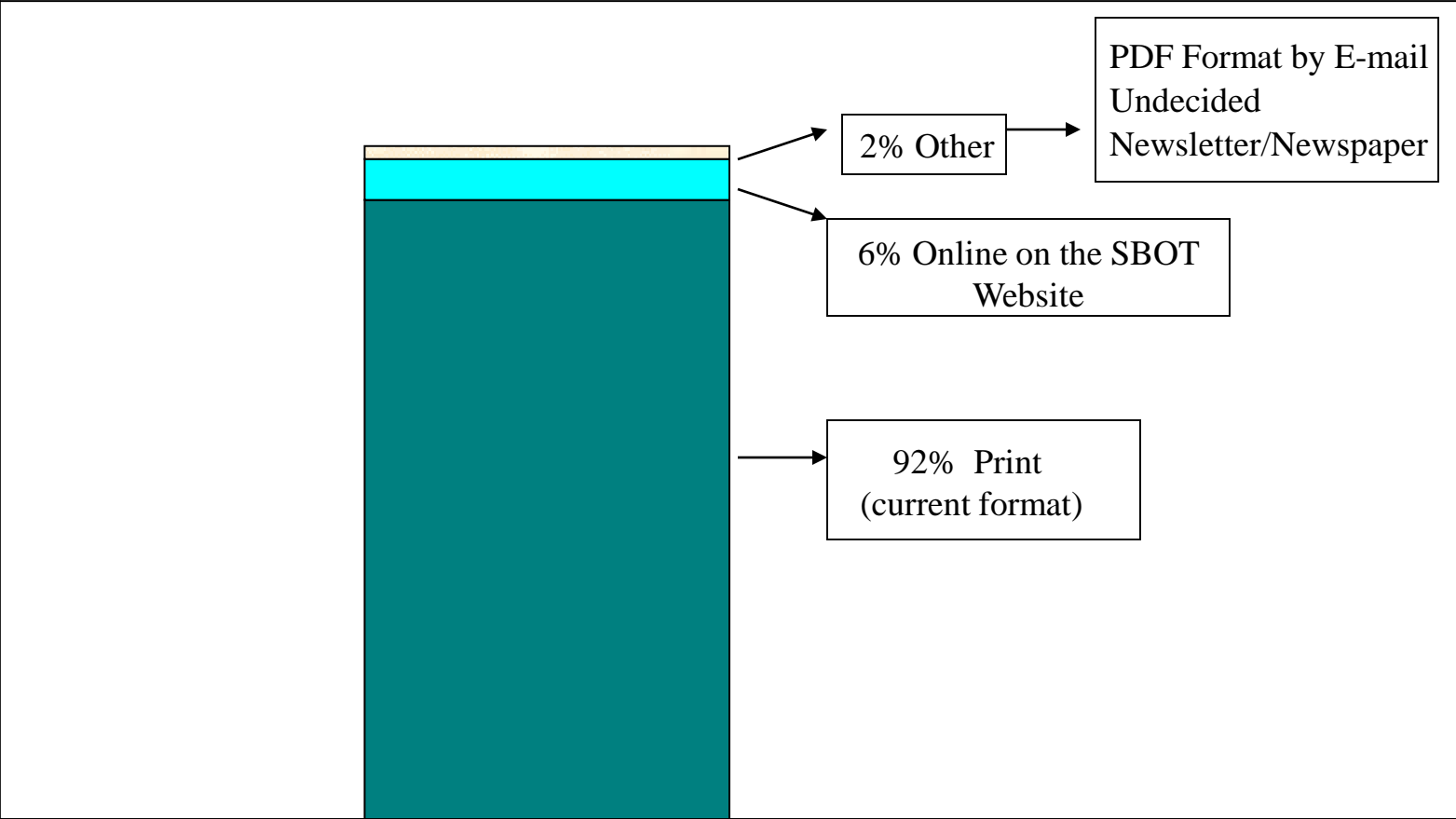
Section	Evaluation*					Mean
	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	
	1	2	3	4	5	
Editorial/Writing Quality (n=99)	1%	6%	17%	55%	21%	3.89
Overall Appearance (n=97)	6%	6%	20%	51%	18%	3.67
Graphics/Illustrations (n=97)	5%	8%	28%	43%	16%	3.56
Photography (n=98)	4%	11%	31%	42%	12%	3.47
Relevance (n=101)	6%	12%	28%	40%	14%	3.44
Usefulness of Information (n=101)	6%	13%	30%	41%	11%	3.38

* Percentages may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

Q3: About how much of the *Texas Bar Journal* do you regularly read? (n=102)



Q4: Preferred Formats for the *Texas Bar Journal* (n=102)



Q5: Any Other Comments on the *Texas Bar Journal*?

- The Journal should return to time when more legal articles were presented. Do not care for social items such as some of editions in past. Focus editions good such as domestic violence - still should educate lawyers.
- Need more "How To" articles with graphics not merely generalized restatement of rules or holdings in cases.
- Get back to the "Nuts and Bolts"- please no more touchy feeling articles.
- Put the contents page immediately inside the front cover this is a professional and business publication, not an advertising. Footnote citations on the same page as the circular footnote reference in the article.
- We older readers don't need the TYLA section. TYLA is probably large enough to support its own journal, and the space it now receives could be used to expand existing features or add new ones.
- Would like to see an annual article dissecting the Bar's annual budget in more detail.
- Much better content and layout than other state journals I've seen.
- Why are the memorials a year behind the date of death? Sometimes I can't tell where an article begins- they start on the left side, advertising is on the right, and they look the same.
- None
- Great job-keep up the good work. I really miss those articles by Melinda Smith.
- [Q3: About how much of the Texas Bar Journal do you regularly read? Contd.] Advertising 0%, Classified 0%, Articles of Relevance Propaganda 0%. One hundred percent should play enhanced Professional Development Role!
- The Back Page, Client Page, and Spectrum are by far my favorites. Please expand these!
- subscription should be voluntary.
- I have little interest in pictures of Bar flys standing around drinking and honoring each other.

Q5: Any Other Comments on the *Texas Bar Journal*? (contd.)

- A very informative journal.
- Excellent Bar Journal.
- Memorials are way too out of date surely local bars can get obit info-local papers info *Texas Bar Journal* more timely than a year or more.
- It is fine publication, but in my work it rarely contains any material useful to me. I follow decisions from federal courts, not state courts, as a general rule.
- More practical articles.
- Thank you for offering this opportunity for feed back.
- It's helpful to me. I read, mark, tear out for notebooks, the TBJ while eating lunch or other times away from my desk- Please continue the print version.
- The magazine has too much superfluous material. I want a journal that helps me be a better lawyer. More and varied legal articles less sensitivity, ethics, multi cultural, bar and psychosocial material.
- Need to expand substantive information and reduce the "people" articles.
- Only read it for disciplinary actions & lawyers on the move.
- Do an article on "Who, What, When, Where, money cost, How to access" services of the bar.
- Overall, it's a good publication.
- As a matter of substance, it needs to remain the central source of info re the Bar- From legal articles, to court orders, to memorials. As a matter of appearance/design, I find it cluttered, busy, with little eye appeal. The font, layouts are not visually inviting.
- Too much promotion of the P.R. work of the Bar Association/TYLA. Let's have substantive articles about the profession and law-not promotion of Bar officers.
- Letters to the Editor help us to know how other attorneys feel about contend and substance.

Q5: Any Other Comments on the *Texas Bar Journal*? (contd.)

- I really, really dislike it when an article starts on the left page and on the facing right page is a full -page of ad. Keep the article pages together.
- More practical, legal articles.
- The ABA Journal is more informative and easier to read. The *Texas Bar Journal* seems "out of date" by comparison. Another pretty good style would be the *Houston Bar Journal*.
- Not relevant to practice.
- Keep out the social commentary. A lot of what you print is useless.
- Deal with legal matters not P.C./ Social causes
- More emphasis on criminal law and justice needed.
- As a criminal defense attorney, I find that most of the info in the journal is irrelevant to my practice. As it now is, I could most comfortably rely solely on the TCDLA publication, "The Voice". In general the state bar does a poor job of providing useful information and services to the criminal defense bar.
- I strongly suggest consideration and adoption of the current format of the ABA Journal--a much more informative style with shorter articles thus allowing better time management.
- The Journal should have more information relevant to practitioners. There is far too much self-promotion by state bar officers and directors.
- A good, well-done magazine--given that there are some uninteresting matters you have to recount as the journal of a mandatory state bar. Re Disciplinary Action: We all read this to see if we know anybody. How about an article per month on an ethical breach or disciplinary rule
- based on a recent "action?" Would be good education for us.
- I find it useful.

Q5: Any Other Comments on the *Texas Bar Journal*? (contd.)

- More articles which help law practice. Less articles on organizations community work.
- Instead of "reduce" why don't you offer an option to "eliminate" & thereby substantially reduce my dues?
- Et cetera is no longer fresh and original - please drop it. Spectrum is unnecessary. Legal articles are very good and useful. Trends/future of the profession articles are good.
- Spend more time on content and less on advertising space.
- I especially like the web site listings in Spectrum. It has been a long time since I have read a useful legal article. Most issues are "special topics" issues it seems. I miss the old "Evidence," Practice Notes" features. I do try to read it (except for articles) but I can no longer tell if I have missed an issue where I used to anticipate each issue. I am more interested in the law as a discipline or field of study than the Bar as an agent of social change or organization.
- In my opinion this is not really a serious survey. I consider a regular Letters to the Editor department the most valuable and significant addition that could be made. This item is not
- even mentioned in question 1. Lawyers as a group are articulate and intelligent. I consider it obscene that all lawyers' letters are not regularly published.
- I would like to see more "letters to the editor" and more input from readers. I suspect that most attorneys do not agree with the general editorial direction of the publication.

Profile of Respondents

Q6: Primary Occupation

Primary Occupation	Respondents (n=103)	State Bar of Texas Membership (12/31/99) (n=53,697)
Private Law Practice	67%	67%
Government Attorney	15%	11%
Full-time Judge	3%	2%
Law Faculty	1%	0%
In House/Corporate Counsel	9%	10%
Retired/Not Working	3%	3%
Other	4%	7%

Q6: Years Licensed

Years Licensed	Respondents (n=103)	State Bar of Texas Membership (12/31/99) (n= 66,030)
2 or fewer years	6%	10%
3 to 6 years	8%	14%
7 to 10 years	6%	14%
11 to 15 years	11%	15%
16 to 20 years	20%	14%
21 to 25 years	18%	13%
More than 25 years	31%	21%
<i>Median years licensed</i>	<i>20 years</i>	<i>14 years</i>

Q6: Bar District

District	Respondents (n=103)	State Bar of Texas Membership (12/31/99) (n=66,030)
1 Northeast	3%	3%
2 East	6%	2%
3 Southeast	3%	2%
4 Harris County	15%	26%
5 Galveston Area	1%	3%
6 Dallas County	15%	20%
7 Tarrant County	7%	5%
8 Non-Metro Centex	6%	2%
9 Travis County	13%	10%
10 Bexar County	6%	6%
11 Southern Coastal	2%	2%
12 Borderlands	4%	2%
13 Panhandle	1%	1%
14 North	6%	2%
15 West Central	4%	2%
16 High Plain	4%	2%
17 West	3%	2%
18 Out-of -State	0%	9%