

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH & ANALYSIS



2014 *TEXAS BAR JOURNAL* READERSHIP SURVEY

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2014 *Texas Bar Journal* Readership Survey

The 2014 *Texas Bar Journal* Readership Survey was conducted electronically from March 17 to March 31. The primary purpose of the survey was to help the *Texas Bar Journal* Board of Editors and the magazine's editorial staff plan future issues of the publication with content applicable to Texas attorneys.

The survey will also help the State Bar of Texas understand how Texas attorneys would like to receive *Texas Bar Journal* content and other messages and newsworthy items from the State Bar of Texas. In addition, the data collected will provide the State Bar of Texas with information on the resources Texas attorneys use to get news and law-related facts.

The population for the survey was active in-state Texas attorneys who total 84,800 as of December 31, 2013. Excluded from the survey were attorneys who have opted out of participating and those who had not reported the Texas county they practice in. There were a total of 74,364 attorneys who met the survey criteria.

In order to obtain a confidence level of 95 percent and a margin of error of less than 5 percent, the survey was sent to a stratified random sample of 12,000 active in-state attorneys. The sample population was stratified into 12 metropolitan and non-metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) as defined by the Federal Office of Management and Budget.

There were a total of 1,341 attorneys who participated in the survey. With 1,341 respondents, there is a margin of error of ± 2.7 percent. This means that if 40 percent of the respondents answered "yes" to a question, we can be 95 percent confident that the actual proportion of the population who would answer "yes" to the same question is 2.7 percentage points lower or higher than 40 percent (37.3 percent to 42.7 percent).

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	Populations			
	Active In-State Attorneys		Respondents	
	Attorneys	Percentage	Respondents	Percentage
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land MSA	23,836	32.1%	314	26.6%
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington MSA	22,759	30.6%	331	28.0%
Austin-Round Rock MSA	9,678	13.0%	175	14.8%
San Antonio-New Braunfels MSA	5,669	7.6%	101	8.5%
El Paso MSA	1,107	1.5%	18	1.5%
Corpus Christi MSA	956	1.3%	20	1.7%
Beaumont-Port Arthur MSA	722	1.0%	12	1.0%
Central Texas MSAs	904	1.2%	22	1.9%
East and Northeast Texas MSAs	1,954	2.6%	40	3.4%
South Texas MSAs	1,674	2.3%	28	2.4%
West Texas MSAs	2,193	2.9%	56	4.7%
Non-Metropolitan Counties	2,912	3.9%	65	5.5%
Total	74,364	100.0%	1,182	100.0%

Summary Findings

Demographics:

- Respondents were made up of an identical proportion of men and women attorneys compared to the overall Texas attorney population. Both groups have a population consisting of 66 percent men and 34 percent women.
- The median age of respondents was 52 years. This group was slightly older than the overall Texas attorney population which has a median age of 48 years.
- The three largest occupational groups in both the Texas attorney population and survey respondents are solo practitioners, attorneys in firms with 2 to 5 attorneys, and government attorneys.

Texas Bar Journal Readership:

- 60 percent of Texas attorneys are frequent readers of the *Texas Bar Journal* and 53 percent have read or looked through 4 of the last 4 issues. Frequent readers include respondents that reported they always or frequently read the journal.
- The median number of minutes spent on each issue by Texas attorneys is 28 minutes.
- The two columns with largest percent of frequent readers are Disciplinary Actions (69%) and Lawyers on the Move (51%).
- 74 percent of Texas attorneys agree that the *Texas Bar Journal* is credible/reliable. 67 percent agree that the *Texas Bar Journal* is well-written.
- The top two topics Texas attorneys are interested in reading about are important legal news issues (81%) and state trends in law and litigation (78%).

Texas Bar Journal Electronic Readership:

- 62 percent of Texas attorneys have not visited the *Texas Bar Journal* website. Of those who have, a majority found downloadable PDFs (67%) and archives of back issues (57%) to be the most useful features.
- 81 percent of Texas attorneys who have visited the *Texas Bar Journal* website are not familiar with the Search the Archives (HeinOnline) feature.
- 78 percent of Texas attorneys are not interested in reading their copy of the *Texas Bar Journal* solely electronically. However, 53 percent stated they would be interested in an app or mobile-formatted version.
- A majority of Texas attorneys are interested in *Texas Bar Journal* content from webcasts (65%) and videos (53%).
- The two pages on the State Bar of Texas website that are utilized by a majority of Texas attorneys are Texas Bar CLE (76%) and Find a Lawyer (58%).

Other Legal Publications and Resources:

- The two publications with the highest percent of frequent readers from Texas attorneys are *Texas Lawyer* (21%) and the *ABA Journal* (14%). 13 percent of Texas attorneys have read 4 of the last 4 issues of *Texas Lawyer* and 10 percent have read 4 of the last 4 issues of the *ABA Journal*.
- There is no dominant online source used by Texas attorneys for legal news. The ABA Journal news page (27%) and the Texas Tribune website (27%) received the most responses for online legal news sources of Texas attorneys.
- 87 percent of Texas attorneys use a computer (laptop/desktop) as the primary electronic device for reading online legal news.
- 38 percent of Texas attorneys use social media as a source for legal news. The percent of attorneys who use social media for legal news decreases by age group. 50 percent of attorneys who are 21 to 25 years old use social media for legal news, but only 10 percent of attorneys who are more than 65 years old use it.

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2014 Texas Bar Journal Readership Survey

Demographics

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide demographic information on sex, age, and their primary occupation. Not all respondents provided all of the information. The number of respondents to each category is in italics about each category. The active in-state attorney data is from a snapshot of the State Bar of Texas membership database as of December 31, 2013, and excludes those who have opted out of receiving surveys.

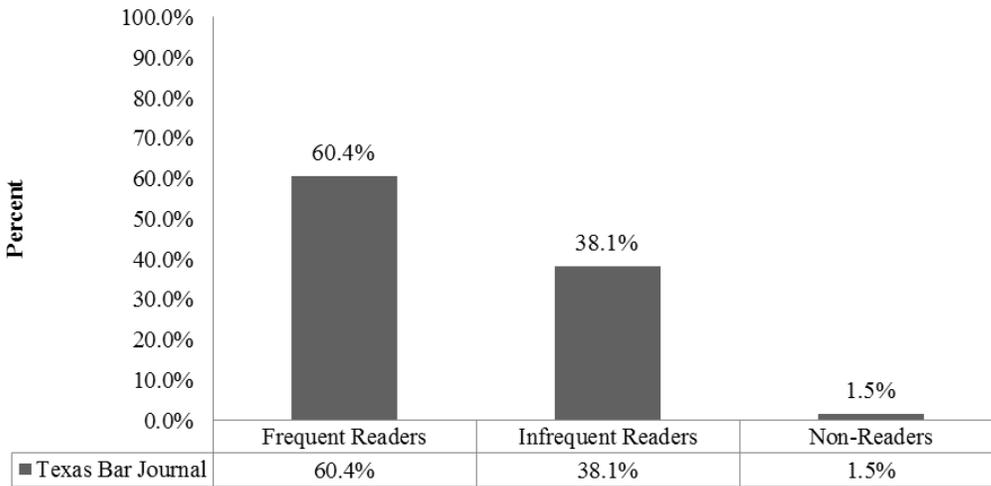
**Table 1
Demographics**

	Readership Survey 2014 N = 1,341		In-State Attorneys 2013-2014 N = 74,364	
Sex				
	<i>(N = 1,264)</i>		<i>(N = 73,841)</i>	
Male	838	66%	48,901	66%
Female	426	34%	24,940	34%
Age				
	<i>(N = 1,267)</i>		<i>(N = 74,361)</i>	
21 to 25 years	8	1%	101	<1%
26 to 30 years	122	10%	5,228	7%
31 to 35 years	117	9%	9,208	12%
36 to 40 years	107	8%	8,820	12%
41 to 45 years	117	9%	9,182	12%
46 to 50 years	135	11%	8,093	11%
51 to 55 years	155	12%	8,493	11%
56 to 60 years	147	12%	8,409	11%
61 to 65 years	152	12%	7,350	10%
More than 65 years	207	16%	9,477	13%
Median Age	52 Years		48 Years	
Primary Occupation				
	<i>(N = 1,262)</i>		<i>(N = 63,642)</i>	
Private Practitioners				
Solo Practitioners	357	28%	15,727	25%
2 to 5 attorneys	197	16%	10,677	17%
6 to 10 attorneys	63	5%	3,356	5%
11 to 24 attorneys	46	4%	3,647	6%
25 to 40 attorneys	23	2%	1,668	3%
41 to 60 attorneys	20	2%	883	1%
61 to 100 attorneys	15	1%	1,742	3%
101 to 200 attorneys	10	1%	841	1%
More than 200 attorneys	41	3%	4,237	7%
Government Attorney	159	13%	6,632	10%
Full-Time Judge	36	3%	1,361	2%
Law Faculty	7	1%	375	1%
Corporate/In-House Counsel	114	9%	6,537	10%
Other Law Related	51	4%	1,922	3%
Other Non-Law Related	28	2%	1,694	3%
Public Interest Lawyer	19	2%	560	1%
Retired-Not Working	53	4%	1,364	2%
Unemployed-Looking	23	2%	419	1%

Texas Bar Journal Readership

QUESTION: How often do you read the *Texas Bar Journal*?

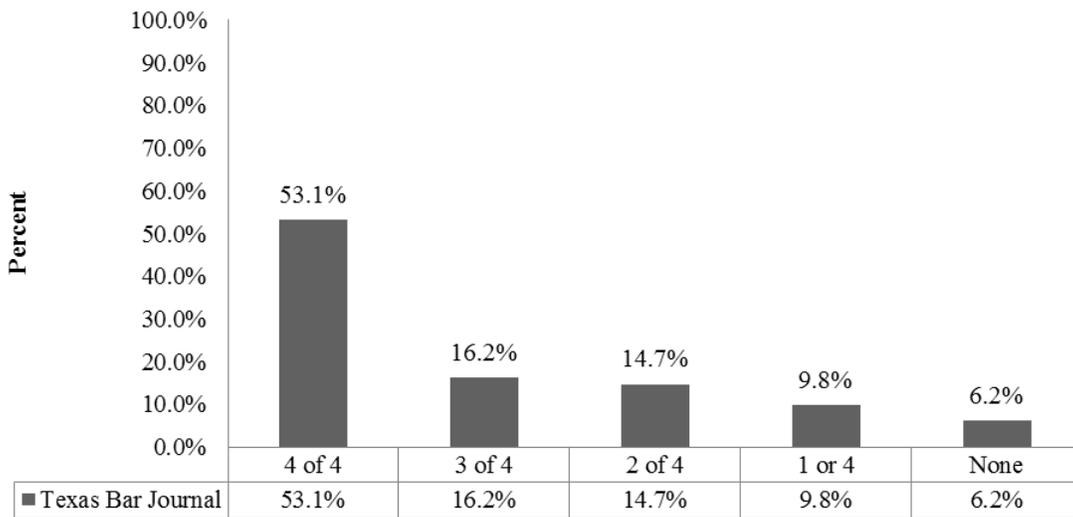
Figure 1
Texas Bar Journal Readership Frequency
 (N = 1,337)



Note: Frequent readers include respondents who reported they always or frequently read the *Journal*. Infrequent readers include respondents who reported they sometimes or never read the *Journal*. Non-readers are attorneys who reported they never read the *Journal*.

QUESTION: How many of the past 4 issues of the *Texas Bar Journal* have you read or looked through?

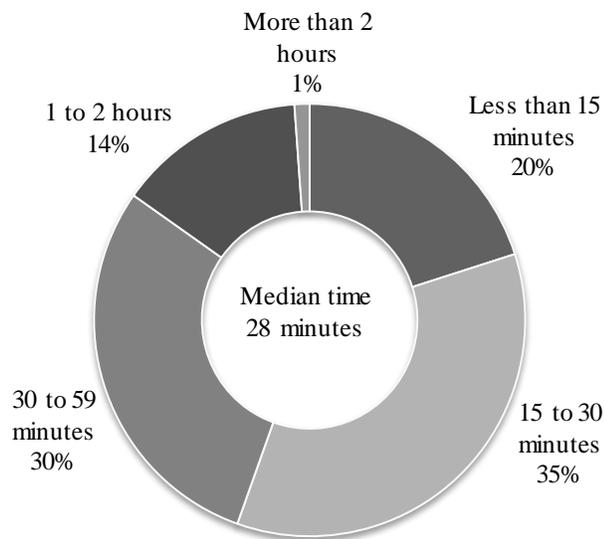
Figure 2
Past Four Issues
 (N = 1,337)



Texas Bar Journal Readership Continued

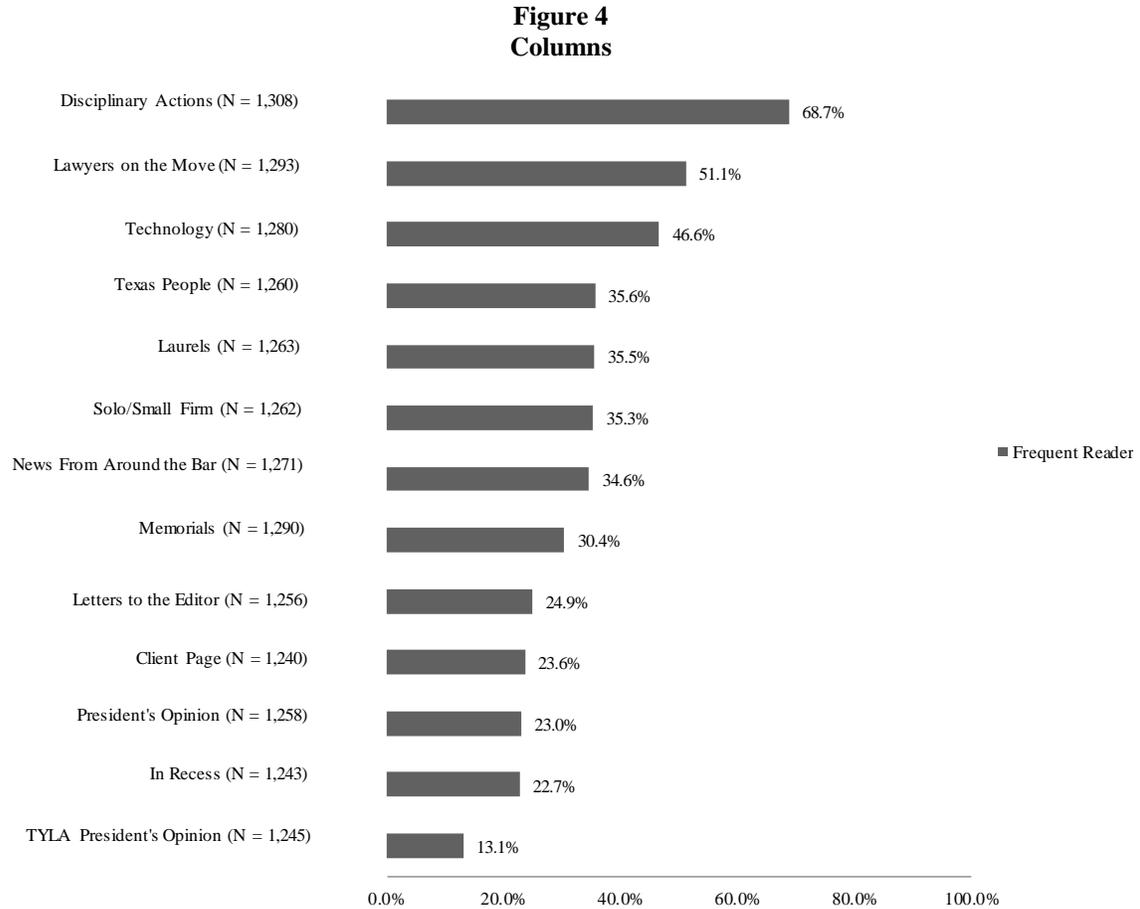
QUESTION: On average, how much time do you spend reading an issue of the *Texas Bar Journal*?

Figure 3
Time Spent Reading each Issue
(N = 1,337)



Texas Bar Journal Readership Continued

QUESTION: How often do you read the following columns?

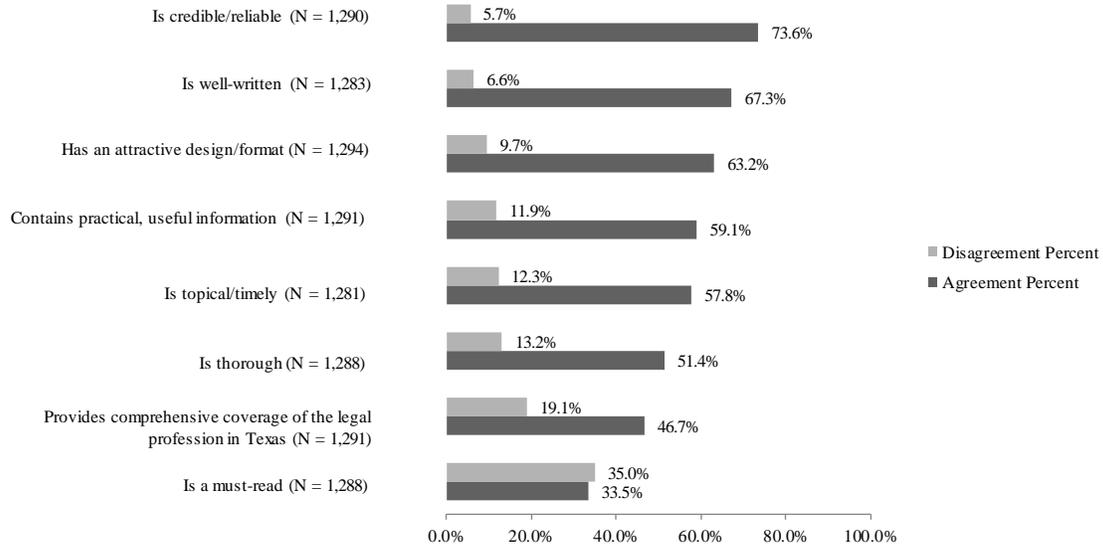


Note: Frequent readers include respondents who reported they always or frequently read the column.

Texas Bar Journal Readership Continued

QUESTION: How strongly do you agree with each statement about the *Texas Bar Journal*?

**Figure 5
Agreement by Statement**

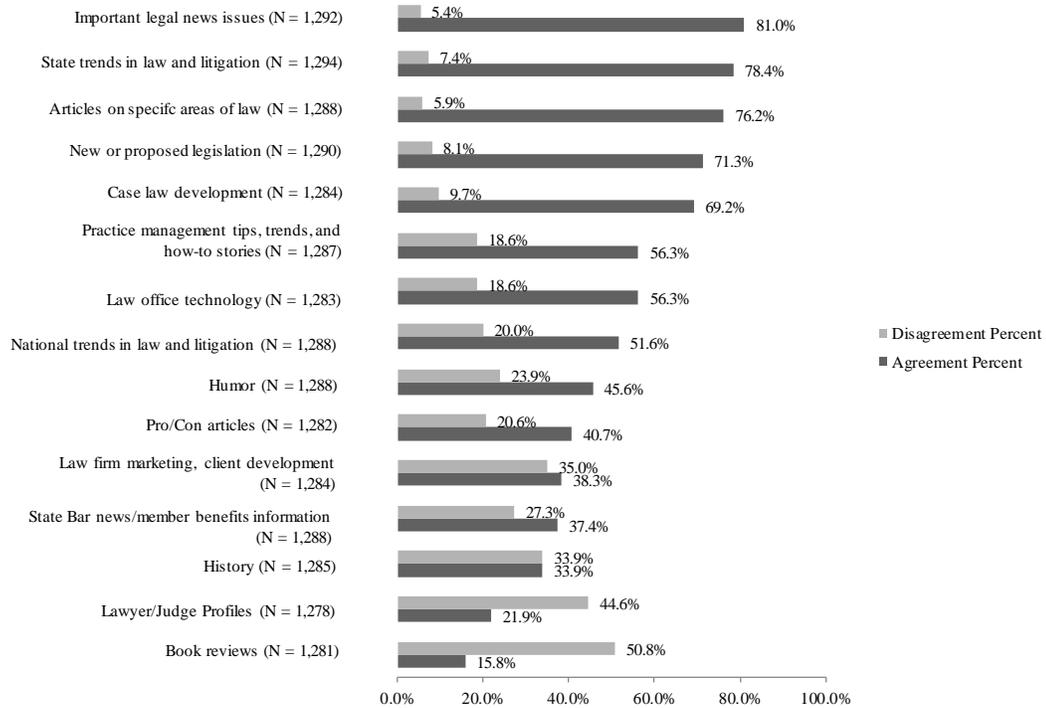


Note: The disagreement percent is based on responses of 1 or 2, and the agreement percent is based on responses of 4 or 5. Responses of 3 are considered as neither agree or disagree and therefore were not included in agreement and disagreement percent.

Texas Bar Journal Readership Continued

QUESTION: Rate your level of interest in reading about the following topics:

**Figure 6
Interest in Future Topics**

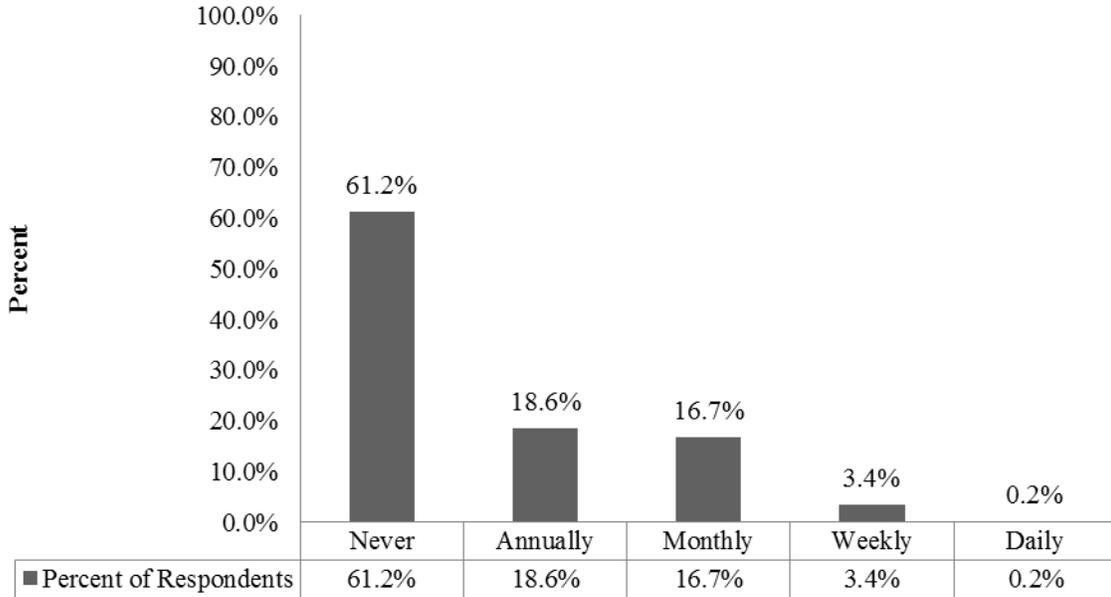


Note: The disagreement percent is based on responses of 1 or 2, and the agreement percent is based on responses of 4 or 5. Responses of 3 are considered as neither agree or disagree and therefore were not included in agreement and disagreement percent.

Texas Bar Journal Electronic Readership

QUESTION: How often do you access the *Texas Bar Journal* website?

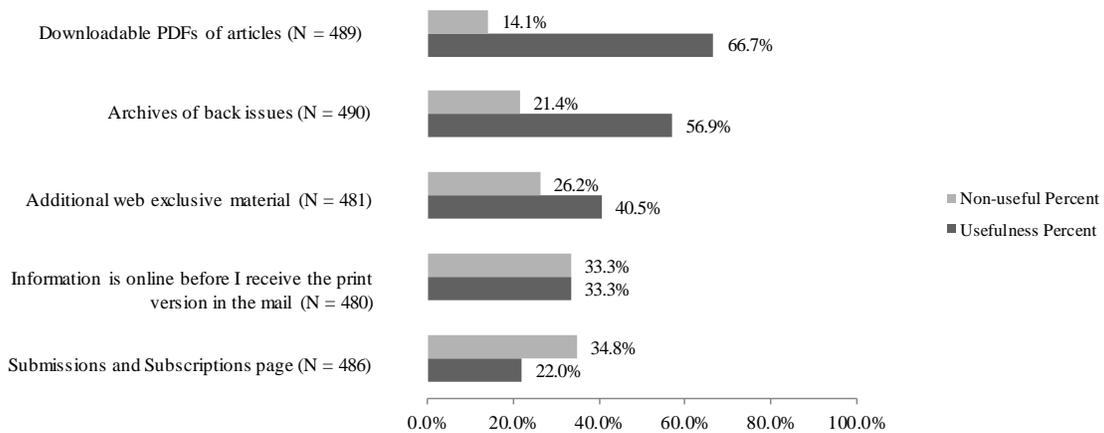
Figure 10
Website Visitation Frequency
(N = 1,282)



QUESTION: Please rate how useful the following features from the online version of the *Texas Bar Journal* are to you:

Does not include responses from those who reported they never visit the *Texas Bar Journal* website.

Figure 11
Website Feature Usefulness

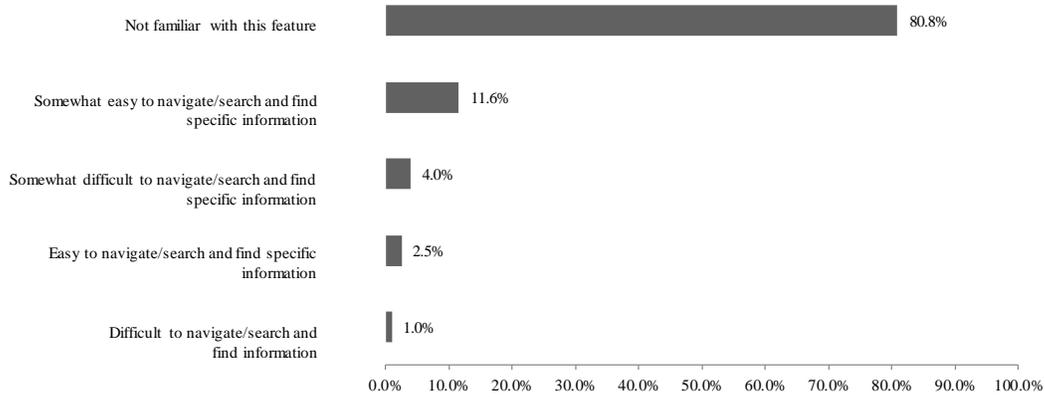


Note: The non-useful percent is based on responses of 1 or 2, and the usefulness percent is based on responses of 4 or 5. Responses of 3 are considered as neither useful or non-useful and therefore were not included in usefulness and non-useful percent.

Texas Bar Journal Electronic Readership Continued

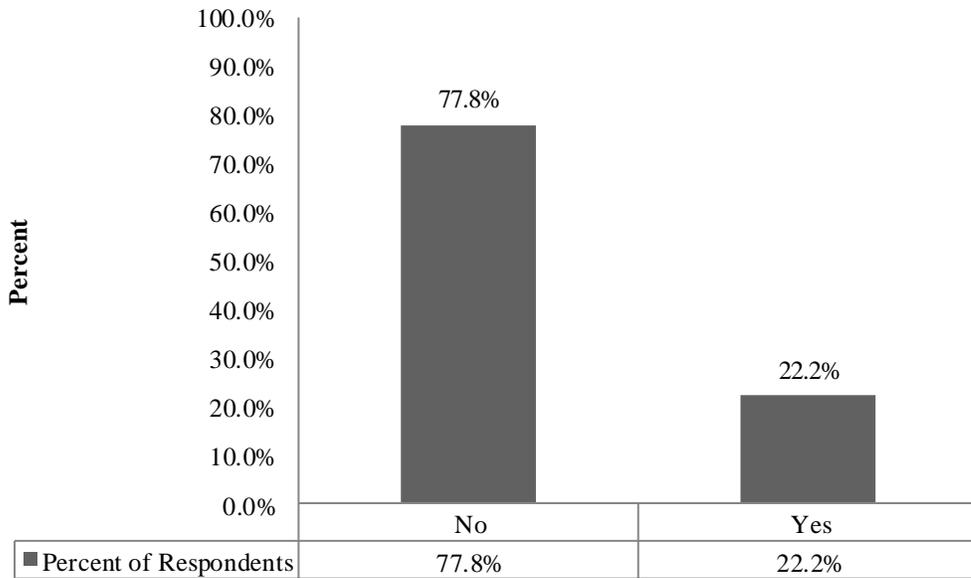
QUESTION: Which of the following statements is true regarding your experience with the Search the Archives (HeinOnline) feature of the *Texas Bar Journal* website?

Figure 12
HeinOnline
(N = 1,190)



QUESTION: Would you prefer to read your copy of the *Texas Bar Journal* solely electronically?

Figure 13
Interest in Solely Electronic Issues
(N = 1,283)

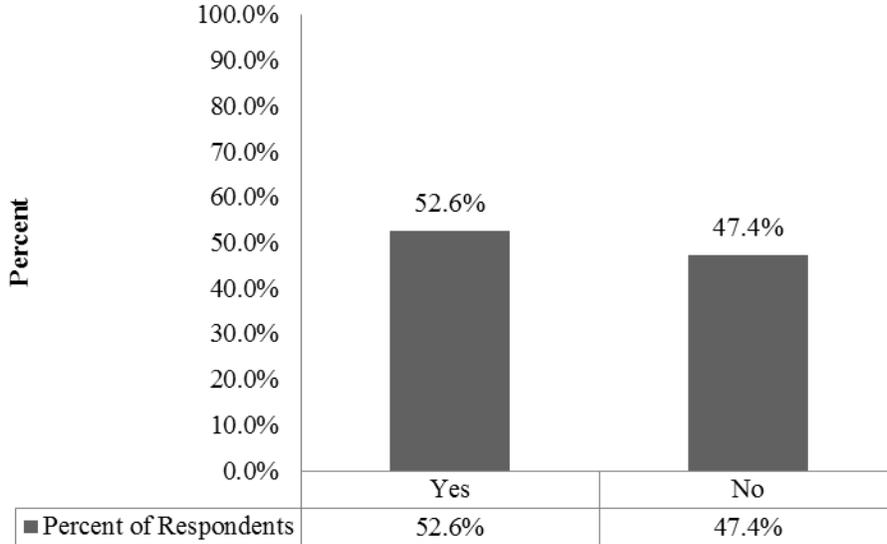


Note: Extrapolating the 22 percent who would prefer to read their copy electronically to the Texas attorney population could result in a cost savings by limiting the number of copies by more than 16,000 copies of the *Texas Bar Journal*.

Texas Bar Journal Electronic Readership Continued

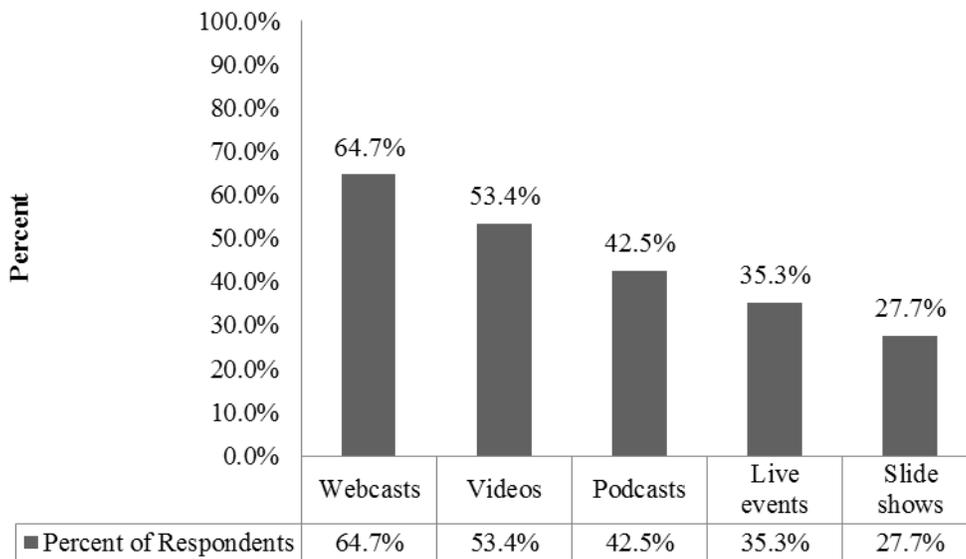
QUESTION: Would you be interested in receiving an app or mobile-formatted version of the *Texas Bar Journal* to read on a tablet, smartphone, or e-reader?

Figure 14
Interest in App or Mobile-Formatted Version
 (N = 1,284)



QUESTION: What content produced by the *Texas Bar Journal* would you be interested in?

Figure 15
Content Interest
 (N = 964)

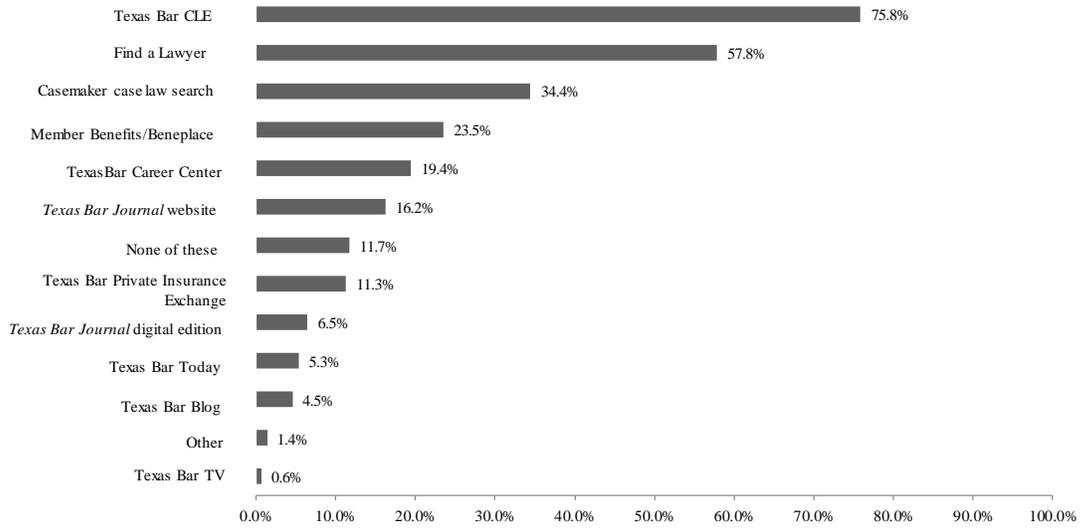


Note: Respondents could make multiple selections; therefore, the percents will not sum to 100 percent.

Texas Bar Journal Electronic Readership Continued

QUESTION: Which of the following State Bar of Texas online resources at texasbar.com have you accessed recently?

Figure 16
State Bar of Texas Online Resources Utilization
(N = 1,253)

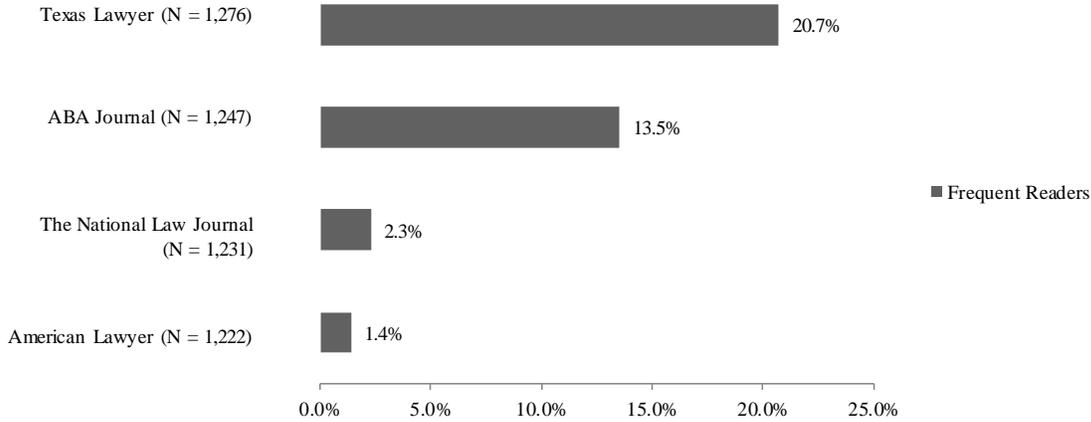


Note: Respondents could make multiple selections; therefore, the percents will not sum to 100 percent.

Other Legal Publications and Resources

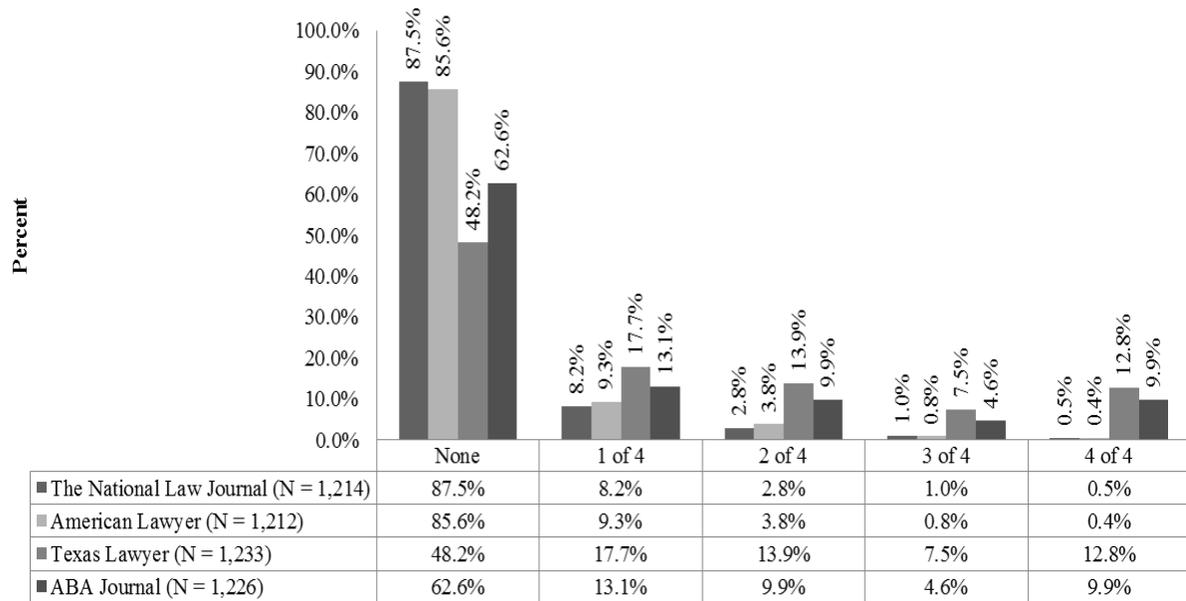
QUESTION: How often do you read the following publications?

**Figure 17
Reading Frequency**



QUESTION: How many of the past 4 issues of the following legal publications have you read?

**Figure 18
Past Four Issues**



Other Legal Publications and Resources Continued

QUESTION: Which online resources do you use regularly as a source of legal news?

Respondents were given the opportunity to select from 7 legal news sources. Many reported their source of legal news as other. In the table below the section title Other Legal News Sources includes the categories of the provided responses and notable sources where more than one respondent reported.

**Figure 19
Online Legal News Resources**

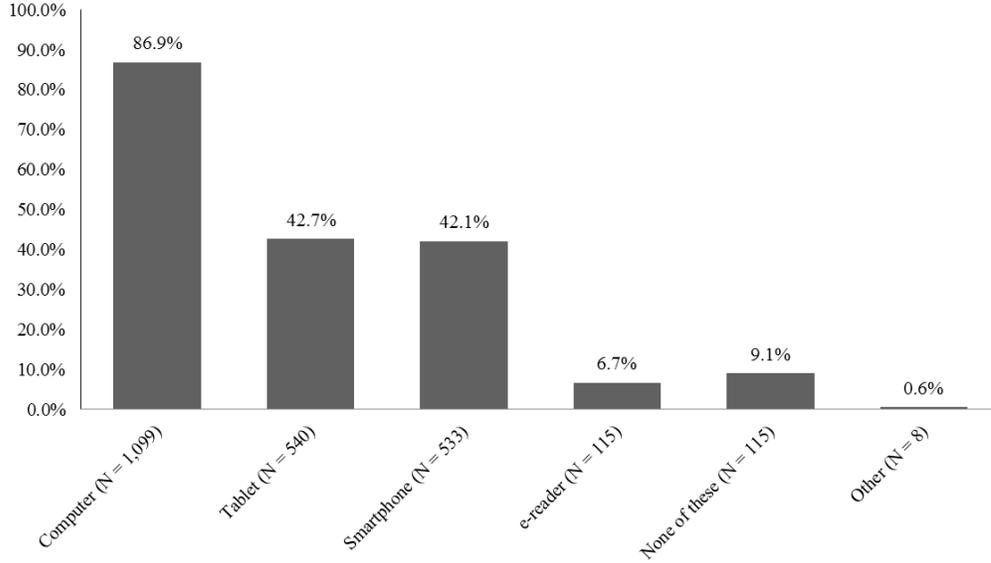
	Percent of Responses	
Legal News Source		
ABA Journal news page	219	27%
The Texas Tribune	219	27%
Wall Street Journal Law Blog	218	26%
Other	210	26%
Texas Bar Today	168	20%
Texas Bar Blog	167	20%
Technolawyer	61	7%
Other Legal News Sources		
Other - Legal Research/Resource Law 360 (N = 15) Above the Law (N = 8)	65	5%
Other - Blogs SCOTUSblog (N = 6) Grits for Breakfast (N = 5)	33	3%
Other - Association TDCAA (N = 8)	22	2%
Other - News Site	21	2%
Other - Newspaper New York Times (N = 7)	15	1%
Other - Email/Newsletter	14	1%
Other - Major Search Engine Google (N = 9)	11	1%
Other - Journal/Magazine Texas Lawyer (N = 5)	8	1%
Other - General	6	<1%
Other - Social Media Twitter (N = 3)	6	<1%
Other - State and Local Government	6	<1%
Other - SBOT Related Source	3	<1%

Note: Respondents could make multiple selections; therefore, the percents will not sum to 100 percent.

Other Legal Publications and Resources Continued

QUESTION: Which of the following electronic devices do you use for reading legal news?

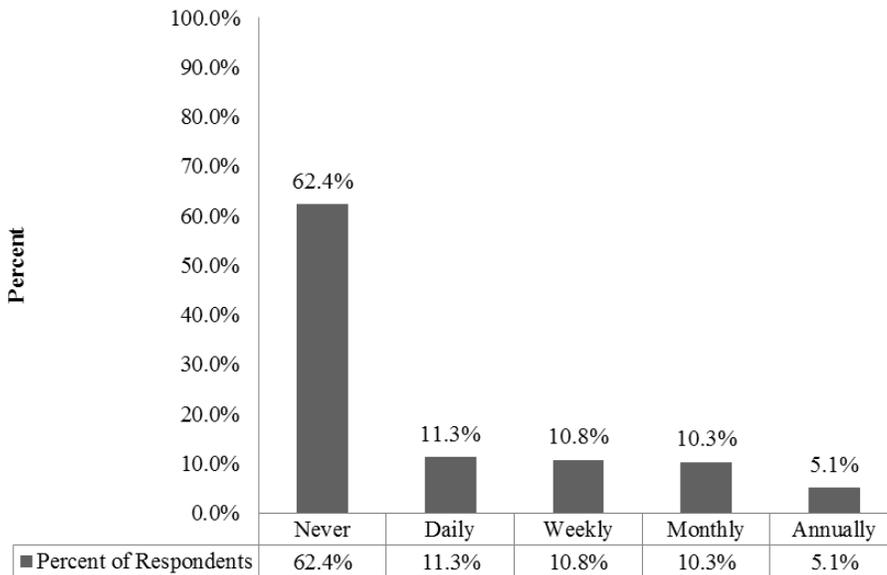
**Figure 20
Electronic Devices Used for Reading Legal News**



Note: Respondents could make multiple selections; therefore, the percents will not sum to 100 percent.

QUESTION: How often do you use social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, etc.) for legal news updates?

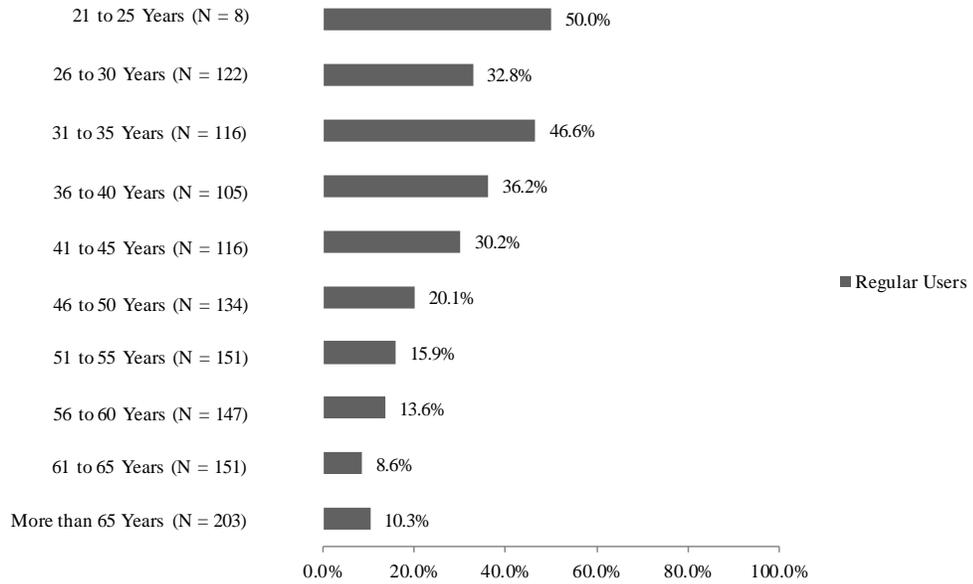
**Figure 21
Use of Social Media for Legal News
(N = 1,266)**



Other Legal Publications and Resources Continued

The figure below highlights the use of social media for legal news by age group. Only respondents who reported their age and reported how often they use social media for legal news are included.

Figure 22
Social Media for Legal News by Age Group
(N = 1,253)



Note: Regular users are respondents who reported they use social media for legal news daily or weekly.

Comments

If you have any suggestions or comments you would like to share with the *Texas Bar Journal* staff, please provide them below.

Note: Comments are presented exactly as they were provided by respondents.

A mobile-format site would be preferred to an app.
A SECTION ON CAPITAL LITIGATION TRENDS. EVEN CIVIL LAWYERS SOMETIMES BECOME INVOLVED IN DEATH PENALTY CASES.
Address more substantive legal issues, including high level primers on areas that attorneys should be familiar with even if they don't practice in those areas, such as the nuts and bolts of tax, probate, bankruptcy, family, and criminal law. Many civil lawyers don't have a clue about these subjects, but they invariably creep up.
Amazing that never have letters critical of the bar or bar journal. I am aware of friends who have written them with valid concerns but they never get published. As a result, I have little use for a journal that looks at the bar with rose colored glasses.
An App for smartphones and IPADS is a great idea. I would probably read more of it if it was accessible through my Iphone.
An electronic version would be beneficial
An ipad app would be great.
App for iPad
appreciate the articles and general information
Articles are way too formulaic. Get creative and put a higher premium on skilled writing.
As a prosecutor I find the publication and articles mostly irrelevant, the ads more so. But find disciplinary and lawyer on move and laurels to be a must read. Some of the entertainment stuff will catch my eye.
Be less liberal.
Be more small practice and solo oriented.
Better and more detailed articles. Better coverage of the problems faced for at least 65% of new graduates over the last many years.
Cartoons
Case law (especially Supreme Court decisions), proposed legislation, and final legislation are very important - how tos from experienced attorneys are also useful
Commend your work on the Bar Journal - I have been licensed for 42 years. Look forward to reading the journal each month.
Continue in house counsel coverage
Determine the purpose of the journal, and stick to it.
Diversity in your content would make the Journal more appealing to lawyers of all ages and backgrounds.
Do a disability related issue in October which is Disability Awareness Month in Texas
don't assume that the practice is all about litigation
Don't spend so much money producing, printing and distributing.

Comments Continued

Easy to use/read iPad app would be great and increase the usefulness of the Journal, but I also like my hard copy.

Efiling is not working smoothly and is difficult.

Eliminate the liberal slant of the Journal.

Every issue of the Journal should include at least ONE article which is USEFUL to the practitioner. The news stories should be more DIVERSIFIED and NOT focused on Bar Officials and/or a certain class or group of lawyers. Also the Journal should include a PERMANENTLY updated page informing lawyers of RESSOURCES available to them ON-LINE and OFF-LINE offered by the Bar and various COURTS. Ultimately, the success of the Journal, should be measured by how it BENEFITS the practitioner in his/her daily practice of law including trends in technology, legal blogs and articles of substance. The criteria should be, why should a Texas Lawyer buy the Journal if the cost was NOT included in the Bar dues.

Every so often, I really like the topic chosen for the edition's theme. Then I'll read all of the articles. Other times, it's a waste of time for me.

Focus more on small firm and solo issues. Tend to focus on large firm issues even though that is a small % of audience.

Generally a great publication compared to other state bar journals I have reviewed.

Get real.

Get rid of the bar politicians and their screeds.

Go paperless

Good pub, could use more practice management

Good publication.

Greater effort should be made to publish more letters from members.

guess that the move to electronic format would be good. I just have always liked receiving the written magazine...it is great for discussion with staff and judges. everyone seems to read it. really good to discuss the disciplinary actions with others. sad stories, but good to learn from!

I actually read and enjoy the TBJ, but always knowing that it presents the "party line", that is, what the bar establishment wants to put out. I wish it would give equal time to non-traditional and dissenting viewpoints. It is too staid, starched, and orthodox.

I am 80%retired doing a few mediations and arbitrations.

I am inundated by electronic crap--I enjoy picking up my Texas Bar Journal or ABA Journal and holding them in my hand while I read them--it's much more enjoyable and much more likely that I will actually read them. If I were limited to online access, it would be unlikely that I would read them.

I appreciate articles on law office management and technology.

I appreciate the legal forms that are sometimes included.

I became aware of some resources through taking this survey such as a website for member benefits or CLE information...I believe this would be incredibly helpful information if more people knew about it.

I believe that the TBJ would seem less marginal to me if it focused on history, humor, Bar benefits, law practice for different size firms, and legislation - things that affect lawyers regardless of their practice area. I already have access to so many other sources of timely topical information and updates about my practice area that I don't need another in the TBJ (although this might be different if I had a true general practice solo-type firm).

I certainly would like less of a liberal slant on the law and law practice in Texas

I completely enjoy and rely on the Legislative update that issued at the end of every session and updates during the session.

I did not know before today about the online availability of the Texas Bar Journal. I read a lot online and might really prefer that to print, but cannot yet make a judgment. I will try that out.

Comments Continued

I did not know I can access Texas Bar Journal on line. I will be doing so in the future.
I did not know you could access the Texas Bar Journal online. Thank you.
I do not believe our State Bar has our best interests in mind and would like to see more open discussion in the Bar Journal regarding how the Bar can help attorneys with the day to day practice of law rather than continuing to cater to tort reform and negative public perception. Where are the articles that discuss the lack of reasonably priced insurance for bar members, the erosion of our civil liberties and the catastrophic erosion of our right to trial by jury?
I do not care about the how great thou art articles. I think all the laurels are bullshit in particular all the crap about silk stockin' attys doing pro bono. Those of us who actually practice law do NOT have time to keep up with hours and hours of free work we do even for "paying" clients. Quite frankly the money spent on slick magazines and overated crap could be spent on health insurance pool. And, please stop bragging about legal aid. Legal aid attorneys drive up the costs of litigation. My money is better spent researching through lexis nexis. Again monies spent from our required dues should be put toward health insurance. The various law schools and TCDLA offer better and cheaper information. I do not see how the State Bar benefits the majority of working lawyers including the State Bar Journal. It would be nice if the state bar including the journal focused on working lawyers in true small firms 3 or less lawyers.
I enjoy receiving the magazine monthly. I like to suggestion of doing podcasts for lawyers.
I get extremely tired of all the large firm lawyers working in big cities seeming to think they're the saviors of our profession, especially when it comes to pro bono work. Give me a break...they're like the Kardashians of our profession...enough about them already.
I have considered the Texas Bar Journal as an official publication of the State Bar of Texas driven by the legal status of the Bar. Even before the type of access driven by electronic readers or similar tools, the publication had more of a regulatory flavor to it as contrasted to a Journal of timely and interesting insight. This may be as good a time as any to not only evaluate the best format for the publication but also what dimensions would make it a useful publication because of the electronic format, to access other material that would require a separate publication or appendices. I am certain that the allocation of resources to the TBJ can be enhanced and rendered more effective by a wholesale re-consideration of the function and purpose of the publication and its content because of the electronic access that is now possible.
I know it is hard work, but it is boring to read. Also, some of the "social" or club photos that sometimes appears in the Journal are old fashioned.
I know that the asbestosis, silicosis, etc cases have been a bonanza for both the plaintiffs and defense bars. If the Bar Journal has ever attempted to report on the scandalous practices of lawyers and doctors in those areas of practice denounced by Judge Jack and other Federal judges, I have not read them. Why have lawyers not been disciplined for these goings on? It's the blackest mark on the bar I know of since I was admitted in 1954. I understand that this is a hot potato for you, believe me. Arthur Blanchard
I look forward to receiving my bar journal in the mail each month. Please don't go digital/computer.
I love reading the Texas Bar Journal every month. However, it is highly unlikely that I would read it at all if it were only electronic. I have some online subscriptions to other magazines and I find that I do not read them on my iPad, but read only the paper copies. Please don't go to only electronic!!
I misstated the question on how often I read it. I read some of it each issue
I now have a masters in counseling psychology and I am trained as a parenting coordinator/facilitator. The integration and integration of law, mental health, psychology (not just limited to forensics) and family law are of interest to me; I have not seen content in the TBJ relevant to my practice--but I will search online as a result of taking this survey--so thank you.

Comments Continued

I prefer reading online only where I can search topics when the topics come up instead of when we they are written.

I really enjoyed the Social Media issue. It was very well written and very informative. This is a rapidly changing area of the law. I prefer articles that are practical and useful as opposed to academic.

I receive the ABA Journal Weekly Newsletter. I receive it every Friday in my email box, and its a compilation of short news articles relating to the legal profession. It would be great to receive something similar to that from the Texas Bar.

I sense the TBJournal is improved in the last two or three years.

I skim through TBJ everytime I get it just to stay as current as possible and as a huge case load permits. Too busy for much else.

I suggest that the Texas Bar Journal work to become an unbiased publication that does not reflect the views of only some Texas lawyers. I request that equal time be given, every time you do your 10 page spread on "TLAP" that you give equal time, and space, to the views of lawyers in Texas who have found the answer to the stress of being a lawyer in Christ. I am wearied by all the messaging that the answer is AA. That is not the experience of many Texas lawyers, but our views are never allowed a voice. Why is that? I would be happy to coordinate that response. Just give me advance warning of the deadline.

I think I concentrate on the back pages of the Journal because I used to love the humor that was there and started with that. To date, I am always disappointed that it is missing, but I still read the Journal back-to-front because of it. I hope we get a column or cartoons or some other light & cheerful note in a predictable spot to draw us into the other articles in the future. Thank you.

I think it is a good product

I think it is an excellent publication and does the SBOT proud. It is always improving and should continue in the path it is currently traveling.

I want to send a letter disagreeing with the State Bar presidents comments. How do I send it? Bring back the 50 year lawyers recollection pages which has been discontinued for some time.

I wish we could get someone else to do a column like Judge Buchmeyer used to do. That was always the first thing I read!

I would appreciate more articles dealing with performing legal research online and getting started with Twitter. Thanks.

I would appreciate more articles on (1) client development, (2) multimedia marketing, (3) outsourcing: research, networking efforts, marketing efforts, and any tasks related to the practice of law that can be outsourced, (4) someone who is making effective use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and/or any social media platform to increase revenue, (5) what makes a good law firm website in terms of conversion and what must be done to have your law firm website comply with Texas rules and regs.

I would hate to see the Texas Bar Journal to fade away into the ether/electronic age.

i would like some focus on smaller community attorneys.

I would like the Bar to provide Access to each and every other state law. A lower level but competitive for occaisional use would be fine. I mean if someone asks about DWI in Oklahoma couldn't the SBOT help me find a resource better than google without paying Westlaw for all state access? Better tutorials for Texas legal research on the Bar web site would be appreciated to.

Comments Continued

I would like to see an issue devoted to latest trends in discovery.
I would like to see more articles on legal topics similar to the Young Lawyer's publications.
I would like to see more articles on the nuts and bolts practice like the oil and gas section publication.
I would like to see more practical, useful and topical content
I would more likely read articles using a mobile application. Although I prefer a hard-copy to reading articles on a computer, with a mobile device application I could read articles when I'm out and about and have a few extra minutes to read using my smart phone.
I would suggest not having entire editions dedicated to one primary topic. If I am not interested in that topic I will not pay as much attention to the edition as I would if it had several different topics each time. Look at women's magazines as an example-they are great for hooking someone in for one article .
If I was in private practice, I would use other forms of technology to keep up with legal news, but because I am pretty much tied to my computer all day, I don't use other types of technology. In my personal life, I rely heavily upon my iPad and iPhone.
If you go all electronic, maybe you can reduce bar fees. I know that would be helpful to a lot of recent graduates (I've been teaching as a law school adjunct in addition to my full time legal job for the last six years, and the price tag of becoming a lawyer is too high for many of these baby lawyers).
In its current form, I feel the Texas Bar Journal offers little but a forum for Bar insiders to congratulate and award themselves meaningless accolades.
In my opinion, the bar journal should have more articles applicable to the practice of law. The CLE articles from the State Bar and UT are much better than the articles you include in your magazine. The majority of the information included in your magazine does not apply to the practice of law.
In the September 2013 issue, the Texas Bar Journal published an article by a San Antonio Probate Judge on the issue of mental illness. After that issue, I resigned as a volunteer member of the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program and I stopped taking the Texas Bar Journal. I regret that you chose to publish such an offensive viewpoint and that the Texas Bar promotes such hatefulness as written by this San Antonio probate judge. Before September 2013, I had faithfully read the Texas Bar Journal for 25 years and had served on the standing committee of the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program for a number of years.
INCREASED COVERAGE OF VARIOUS PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS
It is a good, well prepared and very informative journal.
It takes too much time to read through the article descriptions in the Today email newsletter. can't you list the topics by speciality of law addressed?
It would be nice to see more articles/issues focusing on criminal law, both trial and appellate. There are an awful lot of us.
Keep doing what you are doing.
Keep print copy of Bar Journal
Keep up the brilliant, balanced work.
Keep up the good work
1) Fire you entire staff of advisors to the TBJ--when they printed 2 pages of their bios recently, it showed they were more interested in themselves than in the TBJ. (2) Resume posting of at least three professional articles on law, (3) Get rid of the People Magazine celebrity crap. I read the TBJ to learn about the law, not to learn the latest press release about a member of some big firm. The only items about fellow/sister lawyers I care about is disciplinary actions and memorials. And don't give me any more crappy articles about pro bono warriors who self-promote themselves. (4) Give me a professional journal, not a People Magazine issue about celebrities. TBJ has deteriorated tremendously and I suggest you fire the staff and get journalists of the caliber who produce the far superior Texas Lawyer newspaper.

Comments Continued

Keep up the good work!
Keep up the good work.
Keep up the great work!
Like the Texas Law Review and most law review publications, the Texas Bar Journal becomes more worthless every year.
Look at the DC Bar Journal - I find it much more interesting than the Texas Bar Journal Concentrate on content and don't worry about the delivery method (print, on-line, etc.)
Look at the unauthorized practice of law, especially in the JP Courts, and advocate for the members of the bar (& the unwitting public) as "agents" are fast becoming a simple subterfuge for UPL.
Make survey have a way to erase an answer. I am not in private practice, but I couldn't change the answer above.
More "how to" would be helpful--particularly in newer area of technology--for example e-file help.
more articles on new case law
More articles that would be of interest to Criminal Practitioners.
More Criminal articles and coverage would be nice.
More emphasis on paying attorneys for their time. Stop the constant pro bono pitches and free forms.
More lawyer profiles
More legal articles less social. The Bar journal should be the legal education for the Texas Bar.
More Nuys And Bolts
More office practice topics, rather than relying so much on litigation.
More publicity about what the Texas Bar Journal is; mail outs to attorneys at their offices.
More substance less fluff. Really don't care about party's and photographs of same spending bar dues money. That's the impression left by the frequent photo's. I'm sure they're for a good cause, but looks like the bar's focus is on social party's and not standing up for the bar members' interests. Pretty disgusting what does not appear in the bar journal in a state with so many political nuts. How about standing up for the profession for a change?
Not just giving lip service.
more substance needed
More substantive articles and technology articles, less people articles.
More well researched articles on specific topics that provide a survey of all legal authority on topic and future trending
Most of it is Rah-Rah drivel. The Bar is not very connected to the members, which is why that flake almost won the presidency without a runoff. The Grievance process is crummy. The Bar Journal does not vet its articles, so articles often contain bold misstatements and bias. I would enjoy receiving the Journal on line. if I could get rid of the Bar spam.
Most of the articles in Texas Burger or written by elite lawyers for elite lawyers. As a sole practitioner I find little useful information in the Bar journal. It would be far better if the bar journal would list changes in the law in the areas that are used by a greater number of lawyers.
My husband and I are both lawyers and receive two copies; I would prefer to just receive one copy.

Comments Continued

Need an article (or several) on the new Estates Code along with new forms for Last Wills and Testaments and Powers of Attorney

Need more practical articles on commercial practice, e.g. commercial real estate, Texas Blue Sky laws, Texas noncompete law, Texas laws governing interest and usury, UCC and lien law & priorities, Texas trademark law, franchise agreements, and esp. developments in oil & gas law

Nice magazine. I don't practice much anymore...just filled out the survey for a shot at the iPad. Did I win?

No suggestions but I did want to say I wasn't aware of all that is available in the online addition of the Journal until I read the questions in this survey. I do plan on making use of those features now that I know they are available.

No. Thanks for a good product.

not a bad idea to go online and stop wasting paper

Overall it is a great publication.

PLEASE get rid of this publication. It is a terrible waste of resources and money and does nothing to serve the legal profession. I can't express strongly enough how this publication is an example of how self-serving organizations exist to feed off of the bar members and yet contribute NOTHING to the membership.

Please make the monthly CLE available to attorneys more accessible, with perhaps an email reminder feature when new lessons are available. Increase accessibility to CLE and other useful small business tools. Would love increased coverage on the business of law, technology, and marketing. Thanks!

Please produce more articles with practical application.

Please take note while I maintained my law license since acquiring it in 1994, I did NOT practice law in any way from 1997 to the present day. In 1997, I became an FBI Agent spending two thirds of my career in WDC working National Security Matters. Therefore, my answers are a little skewed because I've not practice law since 30 March 1997, when I took my Oath to the FBI. I maintained my license in the "inactive not practicing" status until 2013. My license is currently active & my CLE up to date; however health challenges currently impeded my ability to assist people needing competent representation. When I overcome these challenges my focus will be assisting our military veterans, risk assessment, crisis management & data privacy. Thank you for the opportunity to participate. Regards, RC

PLEASE WRITE HOW TO ARTICLES ABOUT E-FILING.

Practically speaking, the Bar Journal is almost worthless for criminal lawyers. I skim it for the social news.

Price of ads are too high and no limits on number of advertisers for a particular area.

Put some meat in the Journal

Quality publication with well-written articles on timely subjects. My best source for keeping abreast of movements by my colleagues across the state, as well as disciplinary matters.

Quit wasting money on flashy expensive printing. Just print the basics on cheap paper.

Run some opinion articles, pro and con, on the constitutionality of the Texas State Occupation Tax on lawyers. Seems to me it passes not the smell test. (By real lawyers, not SBOT skills).

Shorter articles. Articles letting us know about industry norms (benchmarks). Greater focus on solos, small firm attorneys, and prosecutors. Firm leadership and management issues and personal management and leadership issues.

Since so many attorneys enjoy flexing their creative muscles writing fiction, why not include a short story section.

Solicit articles. Feature small firms or solo firms other than the big firms. While not directly related to the Journal Staff, but to the Bar generally...is this organization only for the large, wealthy firms>

solicit more articles from solos and minority attorneys who are experts in their practices areas.

Solicit, research and include more minority input, issues and accomplishments. Advertise for more minority volunteer assistance.

Some of the feature articles are very interesting, such as "is this the new norm."

Comments Continued

Sounds like a separate fiefdom from the way questions are phrased. Please seek efficiency across the board to reduce the cost to the bar and lower the fees for CLE.
Stop saying good things about the Texas Supreme Court. They judge like politicians, not judges.
Stop spending so much money on glossy pages and color pictures
Stop tinkering with laws and rules.
Stop with all the politically correct articles about diversity, pro bono, substance abuse, etc. Stop with all the fluff articles about so-and-so getting some award. Stop with weekly articles from the State Bar President, Young Lawyers President, etc. Stick to practical how-to articles.
Texas Bar Journal is an excellent publication!
The Bar Journal is too slanted towards corporation and insurance defense. The Bar Journal needs to speak out against things like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce publishing a fake courthouse newspaper that they have for free outside the jury assembly room in Jefferson County. See www.southeasttexasrecord.com . Tort reform being pushed is a scam that is eroding the rights of citizens. Workers Compensation is a one-sided joke. We need the Bar Journal to do investigative journalism in these areas.
The Bar Journal website would be better as a stand alone, better designed web site.
The disciplinary pages are far too complex. A simple statement of the name, offense and outcome would do. I would like to see tech articles that show how to do things rather than a discussion in general. The library function of the Bar Journal is difficult. For Example, if you look up Indians you will never find the articles that were in the Journal about the various tribes and how they were handled in the 1890's, yet I distinctly remember reading those articles 30 years ago.
The humorous section by Judge Buchmeyer is gone. I read the bar journal when I go to child support court, because the Judge has it in the back where the lawyers gather, and also at the 49th, because the Judge has it on the coffee table for the lawyers to peruse in the offices, where they serve coffee for the lawyers.
The magazine reads like in-house cheerleading for some group of people who appear to have some sort of relationship to the practice of law.
The publication is a waste of that part off my bar dues that goes to support it. Just go on line when you want to say something and those who are interested can click on and those who are not can just delete.
The Staff is great; the writers are great. Turn them loose more.
The Texas Bar Journal is great - I really enjoy reading it every month. If it were to move to electronic only (and no hard magazine delivered through the mail), I probably would not read it. I like having the hard copy to read in my spare time, and already spend to much time at the computer. I wish that there was more information on the resources available through the Texas Bar. And definitely would like if there were an article or training on how to use the Texas Bar website and the information available through the website. I know there are alot of resources available that I either (1) don't even know they exist, or (2) don't know how to efficiently use the Texas Bar website to access or use them.
The Texas Bar Journal is probably a more useful tool for litigators. As a government attorney, I do not find it as useful.
There is little time to read journals unless the topic is pertinent to what I am working on.
There is not a lot of content to help an in house attorney. I would like the content to be more clearly categorized so I know what sections apply to me and what sections to not.
This is an excellent publication!

Comments Continued

To be completely honest, I do not find the content interesting or worth reading. Also, I think most lawyers have very little free time and don't have time to read it. I'd guess that less than .5% of bar members spend more than 3 minutes looking at it. As a profession, I think most of us keep up with legal news via various e-mailed alerts like Law360 that have short snippets you can skim over in less than 30 seconds, and then click on something if you want to read more. I think emailed content is also more timely than a magazine. I also prefer the content of something like Law360 which is focused on legal news and you can subscribe to specific niche areas of practice. I don't think the Bar Journal could possibly contain that kind of content because it has to serve the masses. I have very little time to read legal publications, and I'd rather read something like Law360 email alerts. I do not find the Bar Journal interesting or relevant to my practice. Also the articles are long and not something you can quickly scan over. I think most lawyers feel similarly. Many attorneys I know throw the Bar Journal directly in the trash. I at least thumb through it because I feel guilty for wasting the paper. I am aware that the Bar spends a significant amount of money on publishing the Bar Journal and mailing it out. I think most members would rather you eliminate the Bar Journal and lower dues. The Bar Journal served a purpose before the internet when mail was the only means of circulating information. Times have changed, and as a result, people are interested in a different type of content and a different form of delivery. It is not something I see the State Bar providing because there are already great legal news services that fill the need. To be clear, changing the Bar Journal to online distribution is not what I'm suggesting. I wouldn't be interested in reading it online either. What I'm suggesting is that you eliminate it, and maybe have a couple mailings a year with necessary info like rule changes.

Too much BS. We need case/law updates in a concise format--not stories about how great another attorney thinks he/she is

Unfortunately to say, but it is almost useless for attorneys working in smaller cities. I still read it to stay somewhat in tune with case law and legislative updates outside of my practice area of criminal law.

What is the link to the Journal? Is it free?

When I was in private practice, there were a couple of times I specifically pulled out a Journal and the local bar bulletin both -- just to find an Ad on a product I'd seen before.

Why are the Memoriams so untimely??

Why are the obituaries so late after the death of the person? I have seen some over a year after the person died, which is not helpful information at that point.

Why don't you ever list the names of the people who have become Board Certified? If there has been such a listing, I missed it.

Why not an article that is a call to action for the Bar leaders to introduce legislation outlawing Legalzoom and other bottomfeeding document mills that harm our profession and legal consumers?

Wld like to know how small firm lawyers adjust to technological changes and changing practice

Would greatly appreciate legally substantive articles and less fluff.

Would like to see more articles on specific legal issues

Would like to see pro / con columns about proposed legislation and especially about recent rulings from the Supreme Court - i.e. how the court's opinion is going to effect people and the law.

Would prefer a tablet journal and NO paper edition.

write about topics solo practitioners deal with in practice; I realize we are diverse, but at least write something some lawyers will find useful.

you enjoy your work, OK?

You have WAY TOO MANY articles, and issues, devoted to minority hiring, minority promotion, minority mentoring, minority this, minority that. TOO MUCH.

You never, ever run any taxation stories.

You're doing a great job - this is my favorite publication!