



State Bar Board Conducts Public Hearings On Professional Liability Insurance Disclosure

In October and November, the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors held a series of seven public hearings around the state on whether lawyers should be required to disclose to clients whether or not they carry professional liability insurance. The hearings took place in San Antonio, Harlingen, Houston, El Paso, Dallas, Lubbock, and Austin.

The Supreme Court of Texas has asked the Board of Directors to make a formal recommendation to the Court. In recent years, a State Bar task force and Supreme Court committee independently studied the issue of insurance disclosure and reached different conclusions about whether disclosure should be required and, if so, how that information should be disclosed. (Copies of the task force and committee reports are available at www.texasbar.com/plidisclosure.)

The Board of Directors organized the public hearings as part of a multi-pronged approach to inform Texas lawyers and the public about issues related to insurance disclosure and to offer all Texans the opportunity to provide input.

The public hearings, which took place in settings ranging from courthouses to law schools to hotels, attracted primarily lawyers, many of whom chose to testify publicly. Attendees had the opportunity to testify, to express their position in writing, or simply to observe. Audio recordings of the hearings are available to download from the State Bar of Texas website at www.texasbar.com/plidisclosure. Written summaries of the public testimony from each of the hearings are also available.

The Board of Directors will accept comments up until the time it votes, on Friday, Jan. 29, 2010, during its quarterly meeting in San Antonio. Texas lawyers and members of the public are welcome to email President Roland Johnson at statebarpresident@texasbar.com; to post comments to the Texas Bar Blog (a link to the comments page is available through www.texasbar.com/plidisclosure); or to send written comments to State Bar of Texas Board of Directors, c/o Ray Cantu, P.O. Box 12487, Austin 78701. ★



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