

TERMS EXPIRE 2002

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Dick Watt	Houston	(713) 739-9905

PUBLIC UTILITY LAW

Budget Code: 9368 Year Created: 1976 Dues: \$10.00

Chair: Mary Ross McDonald, 1107 Arcadia Ave., Austin, 78757-3003, (512) 463-7008, FAX: (512) 463-8824, e-mail: polly.mcdonald@rrc.state.tx.us

Board Advisor: Elizabeth Lang-Miers, Dallas, (214) 740-8487, FAX: (214) 740-8800

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NOTE: At press time, complete information was not available. Further information is available by calling (800) 204-2222 or (512) 463-1463 ext. 1420

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	Dallas	
	Austin	(512) 936-7305

REAL ESTATE, PROBATE AND TRUST

Budget Code: 9365 Year Created: 1961 Dues: \$20.00

Chair: D. Diane Dillard, Bank One Center, 910 Travis Ste.1700, Houston, 77002, (713) 654-1300, FAX: (713) 654-1312, e-mail: dillard@dillardlaw.com

Chair-Elect: Jerry Frank Jones, 106 E. 6th St., Ste 500, Austin, 78701, (512) 476-2929, FAX: (512) 472-3669, e-mail: jfjunes@io.com

Secretary: Jerry Frank Jones, 106 E. 6th St., Ste. 500, Austin, 78701, (512) 476-2929, FAX: (512) 472-3669

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G. Timothy Hardin	Dallas	(214) 969-5300
Richard L. Spencer	Houston	(713) 652-0880

SCHOOL LAW

Budget Code: 9370 Year Created: 1970 Dues: \$25.00

Chair: Roger Dean Hepworth, 11401 Antler Ln., Austin, 78726, (512) 708-1804, FAX: (512) 708-9037

Vice-Chair: Lisa A. Brown, Bracewell & Patterson, 2900 South Tower, Pennzoil Pl., Houston, 77002-0000, (713) 223-2900, FAX: (713) 221-1212

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Wayne Douglas Haglund	Lufkin	(409) 634-8466

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John Blake Hansen	Odessa	(915) 367-7271	
Kevin F. Lungwitz	Austin	(512) 476-5355	

SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER INDENTIFICATION ISSUES

Budget Code: 9372 Year Created: 1998 Dues: \$10.00

Chair: Phyllis R. Frye, 5707 Firenza Dr., Houston, 77035-5515, (713) 723-8368, FAX: (713) 723-8368, e-mail: prfye@aol.com

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Matthew Paul Eastus	Houston	(713) 229-1234
Jana L. Gryder	Fort Worth	(817) 335-1994

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League City	(281) 332-8502
Austin	(512) 927-2226

TAXATION LAW

Budget Code: 9375	Year Created: 1943	Dues: \$25.00
Dudget Code. 3515	Tour Crouted, 1745	Ducs. \$25.0

Chair: Cindy Ohlenforst, 1717 Main St., Ste. 2800, Dallas, 75201-7342, (214) 939-5512, FAX: (214) 939-5849, e-mail: ohlenfc@hugheluce.com

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James F. Martens	Austin	(512) 346-5558
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Rosemary T. Shepard	Houston	(210) 293-1939

WOMEN AND THE LAW

Budget Code: 9394 Year Created: 1980 Dues: \$20.00

President: Irene Jackson, 613 N. O'Connor, Ste. 34, Irving, 75061, (972) 259-7517, FAX: (972) 259-7518, e-mail: ijatty@gte.net

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Secretary: Karen Gray Hughes, 516 S. Spring St., Tyler, 75702, (903) 593 2440, FAX: (903) 531-2566

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Joyce M. Taylor Phoenix	Missouri City	(281) 208-1982

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Dallas	(214) 361-0802
San Antonio	(210) 601-2659
Converse	(210) 733-8810
	Dallas San Antonio

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Annual Section Reports

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PUBLIC LAW

Shelia Bailey Taylor, chair

The section closed the bar year with approximately 1,300 members. The section council met monthly in Austin, and the following major events or activities transpired during the year.

The section's third annual Moot Court Competition was held Oct. 14-15, 2000. Thirteen teams from seven Texas law schools competed in the event. A team from Baylor University School of Law won the competition and a member of that team was named best oralist. A team from South Texas College of Law won the best brief award. Next year's competition is scheduled for Oct. 12-13.

The annual "Advanced Administration Law" course was held in Austin Oct. 26-27, providing MCLE credit of 12.25 hours, including 2.5 hours of ethics. This year's conference will be Oct. 25-26.

Additional activities for the year included:

- Sponsorship of the Texas Tech Journal of Texas Administrative Law;
- Publication of the Directory of State Attorneys;
- Co-sponsorship of public service announcements, prepared by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, regarding advance planning measures and living trust scams;
- Participation in the waiver of section membership dues

for new lawyers inducted during the current bar year (55 lawyers took advantage of this offer);

- Tracking legislation related to administrative practice and procedure;
- Exploration of ways to encourage development of opportunities for state lawyers to participate in pro bono activities; and
- Support of the Texas Association of Professional Administrative Adjudicators' 2001 National Association of Administrative Law Judges annual conference.

ANIMAL LAW

Joel Hailey, chair

Membership: Membership was offered at \$10 per year. Voting membership was open to lawyers licensed in Texas. Associate (non-voting) membership was open to lawyers licensed in other states, law students, paralegals, legal assistants, legal secretaries, law clerks, court clerks, assistant court clerks, court staff members, court reporters, law schools, and bar associations.

CLE: The section offered two CLE seminars:

 Animal Law Institute: At this first-time multi-state CLE seminar in animal law on March 29-30 at the Belo Mansion in Dallas, 125 persons attended, including attorneys from other states. The seminar was accredited for

Section Reports are included in the July issue of the <u>Texas Bar Journal</u> to keep Texas lawyers updated on State Bar section activities. The reports do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the State Bar of Texas. State Bar policy is formulated by the State Bar Board of Directors or by the membership through referendum. For more information about sections or about joining a section, call (800)204-2222, Ext. 1420.

ANNUAL SECTION REPORTS

cations Act of 1996, municipal rights of way, and electric restructuring under Senate Bill 7.

The section is currently planning its annual CLE seminar for the fall. To join the section (\$10/year) or obtain information about the fall CLE event, visit the section's website at http://www.txutilitylawsection.org/default.asp.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTIFICATION ISSUES

Phyllis Randolph Frye, chair

The State Bar Board of Directors lifted the section's provisional status on June 21, 2000. The section now has full status with the State Bar and has approximately 300 members. The section website, **http://sogiitx.org**, is linked to the Texas Bar website and to MyTexasBar.com.

In 2000-2001, the section worked to have the State Bar protect its own employees from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identification. While saying it does not so discriminate, the board of directors has resisted putting this employment protection in writing. Both the Women and Law Section and the Appellate Law Section joined the SOGII Section to place a resolution before the Resolutions Committee and the General Session to prohibit employment discrimination against State Bar employees on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identification.

At its annual meeting on June 16, the section presented the Honorable Debra Danburg and the Honorable Senfronia Thompson with Judge Norman W. Black Awards for their significant contributions to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and HIV legal issues. A three-hour CLE program followed. Speakers included Professor Elvia Arriola of the University of Texas School of Law ("Gender, Sexuality and the Law"); Professor Jeffrey Huber of Texas Women's University ("Information Resources for Lawyers for the GLBT Communities"); Maryland attorney Alyson Meiselman ("Fallout from 9 S.W.3d 223 and the Wicks' Marriage"); and Rhonda Rinehart of the Texas Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Reporting Division ("Collection of Hate Crime Statistics in Texas and for What Purpose").

TAXATION LAW

Cindy Ohlenforst, chair

Newsletter: The section's newsletter, *The Texas Tax Lawyer*, is published three times a year and continues to address income tax, state tax, property tax, and international tax issues, in articles ranging from overviews of new developments to detailed analyses of particular technical issues and planning ideas. The section and its committees also presented several seminars this year, including programs on international tax and e-commerce, and the Annual Texas Federal Tax Institute.

Two tasks on which the section worked most diligently this last year involve the website and membership.

Website: After the section's prior success in creating a website, the section chose this year to focus on improving the website — both its design and functionality. The goal is to update the website and make it a far more useful tool to tax practitioners. (Check it out at **www.texastaxsection.org**).

Membership: The section continues its efforts to increase membership, particularly among younger lawyers. One of the tools used to accomplish this goal is to extend a one-year free membership in the section to all who graduate from law school and join the Texas Bar this year.

Blatant Advertisement for Section: The section offers an oasis of friendly communication among individuals who can share ideas — and ideals. It's an opportunity to form both professional contacts and personal friendships, and to share insights, interpretations, and recommendations with respect to the ever-changing tax law.

WOMEN AND THE LAW

Irene Jackson, chair

Newsletter — The *Women's Advocate* is published three times yearly, featuring a president's report, news about section activities, and information about pending legislation and case law affecting women's rights. One newsletter each year contains information about the State Bar Board of Directors election, urging women to run.

Public Service — The section continued its longstanding relationship with the Women's Advocacy Project (WAP), which operates a family violence hotline and a general legal hotline, and provides other services for victims of family violence. The section made donations to two WAP fundraisers and publicized its work in one of the section's newsletters.

The section supported a proposal to amend the disciplinary rules of conduct to prohibit a lawyer from having sex with a client (with certain exceptions). A resolution to this effect was passed by the delegates to the 2000 Annual Meeting of the State Bar. This year, a State Bar committee, after much discussion and negotiation, approved a disciplinary rule which will be included on the next statewide referendum.

Member Services — The section sponsored a CLE presentation by Ellen Grimes, chair of the Women and the Profession Committee, at its annual meeting. It presented its annual Sarah T. Hughes Award to Dallasite Justice Barbara Rosenberg. The section also co-sponsored a CLE program in March by Texas Women Lawyers at the Women's Museum.

Website — A website is under development. It is expected to be operational in 2001-2002. It will be linked to the State Bar web page.

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DELIBERATIONS

Letters to the Editor

email: tbj@texasbar.com

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SERVICE TESTIMONIAL

To Dawn Miller's reasons why lawyers should serve on grievance committees, I add this practical purpose: it makes the committee member a better lawyer. Sitting as "judge" while lawyers and non-lawyers argue their cases gives the grievance committee member a front-row view of presentations made poorly or well. Improvement of the grievance committee member's own advocacy skills necessarily results.

> JAMES S. FROST (former chair, Dist. 11 Grievance Committee) Seguin

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT THE SBOT

Too often I hear folks complain that they feel they have no real place within the structure of the State Bar, or its sections, or its board, or its annual meeting.

Bunk!

During the past four years, my colleagues who represent lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV (LGBT-HIV) clients have fought to create our own section, have taken the section from provisional status to full section status, have presented section meetings and CLE at each annual meeting, and have moved the Bar Board of Directors to amend the State Bar of Texas employment policy to protect its LGBT employees from discrimination. And as you can imagine, we did not begin by winning any popularity awards.

In our experience, the Bar, its board, the sections, and the annual meeting are responsive. Now, I will admit that sometimes we had to push harder than should have been necessary, and other times we made folks very uncomfortable, but the system was, in fact, responsive to its members — us. We have done a lot in just four short years with a lawyer group that has a reputation of being ultra-conservative. If we can do that — then you really have no excuse for complaining.

So get active! I encourage all lawyers in Texas to make the Bar work for them, their colleagues, and their clients. Because it will, if you don't give up!

PHYLLIS RANDOLPH FRYE
(Immediate Past Chair, SOGII Section)
Houston

Letters to the editor should be mailed to: Kelley Jones King, Managing Editor, *Texas Bar Journal*, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711-2487; faxed: (512)463-3802; or e-mailed tbj@texasbar.com.

50-YEAR-LAWYERS DESERVE EDITORIAL SPACE

Several days ago I talked with a member of the Journal's editorial staff about the Journal's puzzling failure to publish any "reflections" of 50-year lawyers in recent issues and its equally puzzling tardiness in publishing "memorials" concerning deceased lawyers. The response I received was even more puzzling — the explanation with respect to reflections being that the Journal simply does not have room for them because there are so many lawyers of the "World War II/G.I. Bill generation" who are reaching the 50-year mark and the "explanation with respect to the tardiness of memorials being that the Journal simply does not have room for them because there are so many lawyers who are dying off.

Having concluded that the above noted "explanations" pose a Catch 22 situation for those of us in the WWII/G.I. Bill generation in that we are to be ignored whether we live or die, I suggest that ample room can be found in the Journal for current reflections and current memorials if the *Journal* simply eliminates or shortens some of the numerous "puff" articles about personalities who capture the attention of its editorial staff and some of the even more numerous do-gooder articles about such idiocy as the purported need for lawyers to give two-weeks per year of unpaid time in pro bono assistance to the downtrodden and illegal.

In my opinion, the real tragedy of this short-sighted editorial policy on the part of the *Journal* is that the World War II/G.I. Bill generation of lawyers are thus being ignored and cast into oblivion is probably the last generation of our profession not looked upon by the public as complete charlatans.

OLIVER J. BUTLER, JR.

Houston