

THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS
AND THE TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

2001-2002
VOLUNTEER
AND
STAFF GUIDE



Guide

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SCHOOL LAW SECTION

(www.schoollawsection.org)

Members: 659

Year Created: 1970

Dues: \$25.00

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SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTIFICATION ISSUES SECTION

(www.sogitx.org)

Members: 289

Year Created: 1998

Dues: \$10.00

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(www.texastaxsection.org)

Members: 1,760

Year Created: 1943

Dues: \$25.00

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WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION

Members: 576

Year Created: 1980

Dues: \$20.00

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2001-2002

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

SECTION REPORTS

Section Reports are included in the July issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* 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.

Administrative and Public Law

Claire P. Arenson, Chair

The section sponsored the Fourth Annual Moot Court Competition on Oct. 12-13, 2001. South Texas College of Law won the competition, best oralist, and best brief. The Fifth Annual Moot Court Competition is scheduled for Oct. 18-19.

The section sponsors the *Texas Tech Administrative Law Journal* by providing four \$2,500 scholarships for the student editors of the *Journal*, helping recruit article writers, and paying for some of the costs of publishing and mailing the journal to the membership. The editors participate with the section in putting on the annual seminar.

The section's annual "Advanced Administrative Law" course was held on Oct. 25-26, 2001, in Austin, with approximately 500 practitioners attending. On March 20, the section offered a mini-seminar for the nominal fee of \$25; 160 practitioners attended.

The section continues to explore ways for state lawyers to participate in pro bono activities; e.g., this year the Attorney General agreed to make it easier for his lawyers to contribute their time.

The website, www.adminlaw.org, provides information about the section, including a directory of the membership (approximately 1,200 members) and helpful links.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Wayne I. Fagan, Chair

The section held its annual leadership retreat in August 2001. In response to Sept. 11 events, the section council decided to implement a Pro Bono Community ADR Project.

The section revised the website, www.texasadr.org, and added a members-only section. It undertook an initiative to

mittee on Energy & Air Quality, spoke about federal energy legislation which the committee was considering at the time.

The section is planning its 2002 CLE seminar, which will be held in October.

The website, www.txutilitylawsection.org, includes information on the section, along with an invitation to join the section; membership is \$10 per year.

Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law

Jerry Frank Jones, Chair

This has been an extraordinarily busy year for the section. The section's website, www.reptl.org, we believe, is the best available.

The section's newsletter, *The Reporter*, is the single-most important service the section provides to its members. The section is considering delivery of the *Reporter* by email.

The probate division, in addition to its regular legislative package, has spent the last two years reviewing the new Uniform Trust Code. After hundreds of hours and much debate, it was agreed that this sizable project was not ready for the 2003 package. However, the section will be proposing adoption of the slightly modified Uniform Prudent Investors Act and the Uniform Principal and Income Act.

The section has been very active in critiquing the Unauthorized Practice of Law proposals that came from the State Bar.

Sexual Orientation And Gender Identification Issues

Richard J. Clarkson, Chair

The goal of the section is to give greater emphasis to the educational needs of the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgendered (GLBT) community at large. Section members are contributing to a GLBT rights pamphlet, tentatively titled *Handbook on the Legal Rights of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered Texans*. For financial reasons, the section is establishing a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation — The SOGII Foundation, Inc.

Topics being considered are:

(1) Family and Property — including marriage; civil unions and domestic partnerships; adoption; second-parent adoption; safe schools; property and co-habitation agreements; federal taxes; death, incapacity, and illness (elder law); estate planning; and others.

(2) Civil Rights and Discrimination — including employment; military and veterans; immigration; representing transgendered clients; safe schools; housing; consumer goods, services and other accommodations; and others.

(3) Criminal Justice and Incarceration — including the criminality of being homosexual; how to survive an arrest; finding an attorney comfortable with a GLBT defendant; jury selection and trial; how to survive being imprisoned; concerns for probation and parole; and others.

(4) AIDS and HIV — including employment and AIDS; insurance and AIDS; AIDS/HIV in prisons; antibody testing; and others.

The annual meeting on June 14 included the business meeting and a CLE seminar.

Tax

William H. Hornberger, Chair

The section has 1,799 members and 14 committees. The committees have published articles in the section's periodical, *Texas Tax Lawyer*, sponsored seminars across the state, and kept members informed of new developments in the tax law.

The committees have planned the following conferences: the 18th Annual Federal Tax Institute at the Hyatt Hill Country on June 6-7; and the upcoming Advanced Tax Course with Tax Litigation Boot Camp in Houston, Sept. 19-20 and International Tax Symposium in November.

The section has added continuing legal education materials to its website, www.texastaxsection.org.

The section's council voted to present annually an "Outstanding Tax Lawyer" award to a Texas lawyer who has been licensed to practice law for at least 10 years and has devoted at least 75 percent of his or her practice to taxation law.

A group of tax lawyers who are members of the section formed a foundation this year through which tax practitioners (through an organized body) can comment upon pending and proposed legislative and regulatory initiatives (at the state and federal levels) affecting tax practitioners.

Women and the Law

Deborah Ingraham, Chair

The section invites those who search for ways to encourage and facilitate women's active and effective participation in the legal profession and the community, equal opportunity, equal pay, fairness toward both genders in law and its application, and attention to current issues affecting women in and out of the profession, to join the Women and the Law Section.

This year, the section conducted a successful fundraiser for the Women's Advocacy Project; retooled its newsletter with different content and a more efficient production schedule; presented the Sarah T. Hughes Award to Justice Barbara Rosenberg and the Ma'at Justice Award to Paula W. Hinton, sponsored two CLE programs — the first, a retrospective of important women trailblazers, and the second, "The Unfinished Agenda: Gender and Diversity in the Legal Profession," co-sponsored with Texas Bar CLE.

Building and bringing the new website online, at www.txwomenlawsection.org, was the section's biggest accomplishment. Next year's goal is to make it the "go to" site for everything from Texas legal resources to information addressing the unresolved gender issues still hindering the profession, justice system, and communities.