

THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS
AND THE TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

2008-2009
VOLUNTEER
AND
STAFF GUIDE



Guide

SCHOOL LAW

(www.schoollawsection.org)

Budget Code: 9370

Created: 1970

Dues: \$25.00

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Elizabeth "Joy" Surratt Baskin, Vice Chair

Elneita Hutchins-Taylor, Chair-elect

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Shellie Hoffman Crow, Immediate Past Chair

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Kyle R. Lewis, Alternate Board Advisor

Terms Expire 2009

Donna L. Derryberry

Sabre "Anthony" Safi

Terms Expire 2010

Michael J. Currie

James M. Whitton

Terms Expire 2011

Juan J. Cruz

Christopher B. Gilbert

SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER IDENTIFICATION ISSUES

(www.sogiitx.org)

Budget Code: 9372

Created: 1998

Dues: \$20.00

Patricia A. Cantu, Chair

Christopher K. Walter, Vice Chair

Janet L. "Jan" Jackson, Secretary

Phyllis R. Frye, Treasurer

Karen J. Langsley, Immediate Past Chair

Warren Cole, Board Advisor

Charles E. "Chad" Baruch, Alternate Board Advisor

Terms Expire 2009

Jose Luis Cuellar

Charles A. "Kin" Spain, Jr.

Terms Expire 2010

John P. Loza

Monica Fitzgerald Oathout

TAXATION

(www.texastaxsection.org)

Budget Code: 9375

Created: 1943

Dues: \$25.00

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Tyree C. Collier, Chair-elect

Patrick L. O'Daniel, Secretary

Mary A. McNulty, Treasurer

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Alyson Outenreath, Newsletter Editor

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E. Steve Bolden II, Alternate Board Advisor

Terms Expire 2009

Ronald W. Adzger

Bob Charles Griffo

H. James Howard II

Terms Expire 2011

David E. Colmenero

Mark R. Martin

J. Michael Threet

Terms Expire 2010

Lawrence Ray Jones, Jr.

Geoffrey R. Polma

Stephanie M. Schroepfer

WOMEN AND THE LAW

(www.txwomenlawsection.org)

Budget Code: 9394

Created: 1980

Dues: \$20.00

Teri L. Danish, Chair

Andrea M. Johnson, Chair-elect

Catherine "Chantel" Crews, Secretary

Ralph H. Brock, Treasurer

Tonya Denise Carter, Immediate Past Chair

Carol Jendrzey, Newsletter Editor

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Terms Expire 2009

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Hon. Deanie M. King

Carmen A. Samaniego

Terms Expire 2010

Patricia H. Blackshear

Alison W. Colvin

Carolyn F. Moore

Hon. Judy L. Ney

WORKERS' COMPENSATION *

Budget Code: 9397

Created: 2007

Dues: \$25.00

Stuart D. Colburn, Chair

Barbara L. Williamson, Vice Chair

Carolyn F. Moore, Secretary

Hon. Judy L. Ney, Treasurer

R. Patrick Wolter, Board Advisor

Pamela L. Gilbert, Alternate Board Advisor

() Denotes a tentative list.*

Terms Expire 2010

Oscar X. Garcia

Leeanna G. Mask

Jane L. Stone

Terms Expire 2011

David E. Garcia

Robert E. Lang

Michele Wong Krause

ADMINISTRATIVE & PUBLIC LAW
 ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
 AMERICAN INDIAN LAW
 ANIMAL LAW
 ANTITRUST AND BUSINESS LITIGATION
 APPELLATE
 ASIAN-PACIFIC INTEREST
 AVIATION LAW
 BANKRUPTCY LAW
 BUSINESS LAW
 COMPUTER & TECHNOLOGY
 CONSTRUCTION LAW
 CORPORATE COUNSEL
 CRIMINAL JUSTICE
 ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS LAW
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 AND NATURAL RESOURCES
 FAMILY LAW
 GENERAL PRACTICE,
 SOLO, AND SMALL FIRM
 GOVERNMENT LAWYERS
 HEALTH LAW
 HISPANIC ISSUES
 IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW
 INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES
 INSURANCE LAW
 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
 INTERNATIONAL LAW
 JUDICIAL SECTION
 JUVENILE LAW
 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW
 LITIGATION
 MILITARY LAW
 OIL, GAS & ENERGY RESOURCES LAW
 PARALEGAL DIVISION
 POVERTY LAW
 PUBLIC UTILITY LAW
 REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, AND TRUST
 SCHOOL LAW
 SEXUAL ORIENTATION
 AND GENDER IDENTIFICATION ISSUES
 TAXATION
 WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION
 WORKERS' COMPENSATION

2008–2009 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 or to join sections, visit **www.texasbar.com/sections** or call (800)204-2222, Ext. 1425.

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The division is working on the third edition of *The Paralegal Ethics Handbook*, authored by division members and published by West Legalworks.



POVERTY LAW

Roger L. Gette, Chair

The Poverty Law Section continued its monthly First Friday CLE, which provides a one-hour free CLE teleconference presentation on current topics of interest in poverty law by poverty law experts with an opportunity for questions and discussion.

The section produced the *Poverty Law Handbook*, which was written by poverty law experts in Texas on various areas of poverty law, such as subsidized housing, public benefits, and unfair debt collection. Each chapter covers a specific area of poverty law and includes sample pleadings and forms. The *Poverty Law Handbook* has been completed and will be distributed in hard copy to each legal services office and by flash drive to each legal services attorney in Texas. It also will be posted, updated, and expanded at TexasLawyersHelp.org, where legal services and pro bono attorneys will be able to access and update flash drives.

The section gave its second year of Poverty Law Awards to poverty law professionals: the Noble Award for lifetime achievements in poverty law and three Impact Awards for cases or other work having a significant impact on the legal rights of poor people.

The electronic newsletter, now in its second year, provides article on cases, issues, and developments in poverty law across the state and is available at www.povertylawsection.com.



PUBLIC UTILITY LAW

David F. Brown, Chair

The Public Utility Law Section will hold its annual meeting and seminar on Aug. 21 at the AT&T Executive Educa-

tion and Conference Center at the University of Texas at Austin.



REAL ESTATE, PROBATE & TRUST LAW

David W. Tomek, Chair

The Title Insurance Committee played an active role in the discussions and negotiations with industry, regulatory, and other interested parties regarding the development of a compromise resolution of the extent to which title companies in Texas afford coverage for claims related to the mineral estate.

The Real Estate Legislative Affairs Committee monitored and reported on legislative developments of interest to section members who practice real estate and commercial law, and the Title Examination Standards Committee continued its work developing and enhancing title examination standards.

The Water Rights Committee and the Property Owners Association Committee were reenergized with new leadership and smaller, rededicated committee rosters.

In addition to working on the section's legislative package as approved by the State Bar, the Probate and Trust members of the council have also been assisting the Texas Legislative Council on the nonsubstantive revision of the Texas Probate Code required by Section 323.007 of the Government Code. This process involves reclassifying and rearranging statutes in a more logical order; employing a numbering system and format that will accommodate future expansion of the law; eliminating repealed, invalid, duplicative, and other ineffective provisions; and improving draftsmanship of the law if practicable — all toward promoting the stated purpose of making the statutes "more accessible, understandable, and usable" without altering the sense, meaning, or effect of the law. More information on the Probate Code project is available at <http://www.tlc.state.tx.us/legal/code.html>.



SCHOOL LAW

Miles T. Bradshaw, Chair

The School Law Section started its year off with the School Law Retreat at the San Luis Resort and Conference Center in Galveston with more than 100 section members in attendance. The retreat was a success and proved a great CLE program and opportunity for networking among school lawyers. The section published an online newsletter for fall 2008, with a spring 2009 edition in the works. The section updated its website thanks to section webmaster, Michael Currie (www.schoollawsection.org). Several section members participated in the 2009 legislative session in various capacities to help legislators make sound decisions toward creating more effective and efficient public schools in Texas. The section looks forward to its 2009 school law retreat to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio. The section is excited to announce a new location for the 2011 and 2012 retreats — the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa in Bastrop.



SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTIFICATION ISSUES

Christopher Walter, Chair

The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues Section celebrated its 10th anniversary at the 2008 State Bar Annual Meeting. In recognition of its visionary founders, the section presented its Founders Award to Phyllis Randolph Frye, Mitchell Katine, Connie Moore, Anne M. Pike, and Charles A. Spain, Jr. These five lawyers were the primary force behind the 1996 proposed Gay and Lesbian Issues Section, which was rejected by the State Bar Board of Directors by a one-vote margin, and the subsequent and more inclusive Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues Section that was finally approved by the board in 1998.

The section also recognized the late J. Patrick Wiseman for suggesting that

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such a section be created separate from the Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section and recognized the strong moral support that the late U.S. District Judge Norman W. Black gave to the section's founders. The section presented its Judge Norman W. Black Award to Kenneth D. Upton, Jr., of Lambda Legal in Dallas, for his significant contribution to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender legal issues.

Several members attended the National LGBT Bar Association's Annual Conference in San Francisco, Calif., bringing back valuable and cutting-edge education and resources. Leadership roles and success are not new to the section's members. Several members led local bar associations, civic groups, and civil rights organizations and won civil rights victories.

The section is excited to announce its new website: txsogii.org. Look to it for LGBT and HIV legal resources, educational events, and networking opportunities.



TAXATION

Daniel J. Micciche, Chair

The Taxation Section launched a new website along with a free, 24/7, audio-video, CLE library containing 30 programs. The section also entered into alliances with the Dallas and Houston Bar Tax Sections to record most of their programs and make them available free to our members.

The section presented seven major live seminars: the Advanced Tax Law Course and Nuts and Bolts Workshop, the Texas Margin Tax, the International Tax Law Symposium, the Annual Property Tax Seminar, the Texas Federal Institute, the Annual Meeting Legends Program, and a state and local program for the Dallas CPA society. The section published three editions of the *Texas Tax Lawyer*, which contains excellent articles and forms. The section restructured its costs by transitioning the newsletter to electronic format and reducing staff

administrative costs and used the revenue saved to create the new website and the free, audio-video library.

The section increased its national prominence by providing practical comments to federal and state taxing authorities in eight different reports.

The section won a 2009 State Bar of Texas Pro Bono Award for its new Tax Court Pro Bono Program, which encourages tax lawyers to offer pro bono consultation services to pro se taxpayers at calendar calls. Section members also helped low-income taxpayers through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

The section also continued its outreach to law students, holding forums on the practice of tax law at most of the Texas law schools and instituting a writing competition.



WOMEN AND THE LAW

Teri Danish, Chair

The Women and the Law Section has been very active this year. The section continued to provide members with a periodic newsletter advising them of critical issues affecting women. The website was revamped to provide members with information about the section and its council, pending legislation, and upcoming events. The section also continued to sponsor a CLE Road Show dealing with the Top Five Medical Issues Affecting Women today.

This year, the section was a proud sponsor of the 25th anniversary gala benefiting the Texas Access to Justice Foundation. Finally, the section honored two outstanding female attorneys with the Ma'at Justice Award and Sarah T. Hughes Award at the State Bar Annual Meeting.



WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Stuart D. Colburn, Chair

The Workers' Compensation Section enjoyed a successful second year of existence. The section publishes three to four newsletters per year that provide balanced and up-to-date information to its members. The section partnered with LexisNexis and created a Workers' Compensation Insurance Law Center with information that is germane to Texas workers' compensation practitioners.

The section co-sponsored the State Bar's 2008 Advanced Workers' Compensation Seminar, considered the seminal event for workers' compensation lawyers. This year's seminar includes an inaugural charity golf tournament on Aug. 12.

Section members volunteered their time and blood platelets to benefit member Mike Sprain's four-year-old son, Matthew, who was diagnosed with aplastic anemia. Section members organized blood platelet donations in Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas. In a two-day drive in Austin, the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Blood Bank received a total of 53 blood platelet credits. ☺