

THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS
AND THE TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

2009-2010
VOLUNTEER
AND
STAFF GUIDE



Guide

no entry

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
AMERICAN INDIAN LAW
ANIMAL LAW
APPELLATE LAW
ASIAN-PACIFIC INTEREST
BANKRUPTCY LAW
BUSINESS LAW
COLLABORATIVE LAW
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2009–2010 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.

2009–2010 SECTION REPORTS

REAL ESTATE, PROBATE & TRUST LAW

Harry W. Wolff, Jr., Chair

Over the past year, the Website Committee completed a thorough review of the section's website and is incorporating needed updates to the website to make it easier to navigate. The improvements should be complete by mid-June.

The section is moving forward with a project to fund a writing competition for students attending Texas law schools. This will be an annual competition covering both a real estate topic and a probate/trust topic. The author of the winning article in each area would receive a cash prize and the articles will be published in the section's *Reporter*.

In addition to work on the section's legislative package for the 2011 Legislative session, the probate and trust side of the section continues to work with the Texas Legislative Council on the codification of the Texas Probate Code into the new "Estates Code."

A committee from the real estate side of the section was given the task to examine the uniform assignment of rents act proposed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and draft a Texas version of the act. Over the past year, the drafting committee has distilled the national act into a proposed chapter for the Texas Property Code. The Texas Assignment of Rents act will clarify and confirm existing law and remove the necessity for a separate assignment of rents in real estate lending transactions. This proposal will be submitted to the State Bar in July for consideration in the 2011 Legislative session.



SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTIFICATION ISSUES

Christopher Walter, Chair

The Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues Section experienced record attendance at its annual CLE and

meeting held in conjunction with the 2009 State Bar Annual Meeting in Dallas. The section awarded its Judge Norman W. Black Award to the Hon. Steven E. Kirkland of the 215th District Court in Houston, for his significant contribution to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender legal issues.

Several members attended the National LGBT Bar Association's Annual Conference in New York, N.Y., bringing back valuable and cutting-edge 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.

Frederick Barrow, chair of Council of Chairs, appointed Christopher Walter to serve on the Council's Executive Committee, the first SOGII Section chair to serve on that committee.

The council listened to its members and determined that a new name would more readily identify the section and its purpose. The Council of Chairs and the Board of Directors conditionally approved the section changing its name to LGBT Law Section. As of the writing of this report, the council anticipates its members approving the name change at its 2010 annual CLE and meeting.

Members continue to enjoy their subscriptions to *Lesbian/Gay Law Notes* 11 times per year. It tracks significant LGBT and AIDS/HIV legal developments, legislation, new court and administrative decisions, and executive actions.

Learn more about the section and its resources at its new website, www.lgbtlawtx.com.



TAXATION

Tyree Collier, Chair

The Tax Section continued to be a very active section over the past year. One of our proudest accomplishments in recent years has been the implementation of a pro bono program for pro se litigants at the U.S. Tax Court, which has

been extremely popular with the judges and government attorneys who handle those cases. This year, in response to their requests, the program was expanded to cover all tax court calendar calls in Texas. The section's Committee on Government Submissions prepared and submitted two significant commentaries regarding proposed regulations or rules this year. The section also completed its first full fiscal year of providing its CLE webcast library that is completely free to Tax Section members. As of this writing, the library contains 44 webcasts with more than 35 CLE hours available. The section also continued several longstanding and highly acclaimed in-person CLE events, including the Texas Federal Tax Institute in June, its meeting with the Comptroller's Office in July, the Advanced Tax Law Course in August, the International Tax Symposium in November, and its Property Tax Conference in April. The Tax Section improved its electronically published newsletter, *The Texas Tax Lawyer*, by including more hyperlinks. Finally, the Tax Section selected retired Southern Methodist University professor and dean Charles O. Galvin as the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Texas Tax Lawyer award, the highest award our section gives, which recognizes and honors recipients for their outstanding reputation, expertise, and professionalism in the practice of tax law in Texas.



WOMEN AND THE LAW

Andrea M. Johnson, Chair

The Women and the Law Section worked on the development of two critical educational programs:

- (1) A State Bar webcast on *Current and Anticipated Changes in Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)*, which will focus on critical issues for all working women, who usually act as principal family caregivers as well. We hope to have the webcast scheduled for later