



VOLUNTEER AND STAFF GUIDE

2013–2014

JUDICIAL

judicialsection.com

Budget Code: 9342

Created: 1941

Dues: \$30.00

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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Budget Code: 9343

Created: 1986

Dues: \$20.00

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JUVENILE LAW

juvenilelaw.org

Budget Code: 9344

Created: 1986

Dues: \$25.00

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LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

laborlaw.org

Budget Code: 9345

Created: 1947

Dues: \$30.00

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LAW STUDENT DIVISION

Budget Code: 4070

Created: 1979

Dues: \$15.00

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LGBT LAW

lgbtlawtx.com

Budget Code: 9372

Created: 1998

Dues: \$20.00

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2013-2014 State Bar of Texas

SECTION REPORTS

Section reports are included in the July issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* to update Texas lawyers on State Bar section activities. The reports do not necessarily reflect the position or official policy of the State Bar of Texas, which is formulated by the State Bar Board of Directors or by the membership through referendum. For more information or to join a section, visit texasbar.com/sections or call (800) 204-2222, ext. 1420.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

George F. Goolsby, Chair

Because international law plays an increasing role in the practices of Texas lawyers, the International Law Section is expanding its activities to respond to this growing need. Among other initiatives, the section has increased its outreach programs, rationalized its leadership structure, and is revitalizing its website.

The section partnered with the Texas Young Lawyers Association on two Nuts and Bolts seminars intended to provide basic legal education to newcomers to international law. In Dallas, additional sponsors of this event were the ILS of the Dallas Bar Association and the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. In Houston, an additional sponsor was the ILS of the Houston Bar Association. The section also held its 26th annual institute, where leading experts discussed recent developments in international law. In addition, the Law Student Outreach program provides students an opportunity to hear attorneys discuss their practices and offer tips on getting started.

The section welcomes those interested in leadership positions. In addition to officer and council roles, we have several committee positions. Our goal is to increase participation and diversity in our activities.

Lastly, the section is revamping its website to enhance usability and provide relevant content.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

Howard M. Bookstaff, Chair

Our section has been busy at work. After a relatively long dormant period, in July 2013 we had a "reorganizational meeting" to revive our section. We elected eight directors.

Since July, we have taken numerous steps to reorganize the section. We have undertaken a rewriting of our bylaws to reflect the current state of our section. Included in our

changes was a revision that will allow non-lawyer JPs to be members of our section.

We also changed the name of our section. The current name of Justice of the Peace Courts reflects the makeup of our section as more than just justices of the peace. Our section is geared toward lawyers who practice in justice courts, as well as the judges themselves.

We also had a CLE presentation at the Annual Meeting on June 26, 2014, and a social that evening.

JUVENILE LAW

Richard L. Ainsa, Chair

In February 2014, the section hosted its 27th Annual Robert O. Dawson Juvenile Law Institute in Corpus Christi. The conference was well received by attendees. During the conference, the section continued its long-standing tradition of raising funds for college scholarships and financial aid for deserving youth who were originally committed to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. This project allows young people of their choice that they would not otherwise be able to attend. The section hosts a silent auction and solicits donations. This project has grown as other bar associations have begun donating to the scholarship fund, with a total of \$9,000 from the Houston Bar Association in 2013-2014.

As always, the section is grateful for its continuing collaboration with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department. The section works with TJJD to provide training to attorneys, judges, probation officers, and law enforcement. The section will also be providing guest editors to update the Dawson juvenile manual used by practitioners statewide. TJJD provides invaluable assistance in planning and coordinating the section's annual conference and our upcoming Nuts and Bolts Conference that will take place Aug. 11-12, 2014, in

Austin.

Please visit juvenilelaw.org to learn more about the section.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Kathy D. Boutchee, Chair

This was another strong year for the Labor and Employment Law Section.

Continuing its tradition of offering high-quality CLE programs for employment lawyers, the section hosted its 24th Annual Labor Law Institute in October 2013. Attendees heard from the judiciary, practitioners, and in-house counsel on topical employment law issues. On Sept. 19-20, 2014, the annual program will be held at the JW Marriott in San Antonio. Additionally, attendees at the State Bar Annual Meeting heard a panel discussion on "Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Policies, Practices, and Future Legal Battlegrounds" between the EEOC's regional attorney in Dallas and attorneys representing management and employees.

The section strives to provide its membership with information that will assist them in their daily practice. It electronically distributes the *Labor & Employment Law Newsletter* summarizing recent federal and state employment law cases. Through its website, laborlaw.org, members can access a jury charge database of approved jury questions and instructions and receive highlights of the many other section activities.

The section is proud of its ongoing contributions to promoting pro bono activities. This year, the section awarded a total of \$24,400 in grants and internships: three \$5,000 internships and \$9,400 in grants to pro bono organizations.

LGBT LAW

Shelly L. Skeen, Chair

2013-2014 saw sweeping changes in state and federal laws affecting the LGBT community. More practitioners are representing LGBT clients

who have been affected by these changes. To emphasize the importance of these changes and to educate all members of the State Bar of Texas, the section sponsored six CLE webcasts and live CLE programs on immigration, taxation, employment law, employee benefits, constitutional law, family law, and estate planning. The speakers included nationally recognized scholars, practitioners, and judges, including Shannon Minter, Pat Cain, Iowa Chief Justice Mark Cady, John Nechman, Ken Upton, Judge Tonya Parker, and Jody Scheske. The section redesigned its website to provide members with more value, including a "members only" area with access to the first membership directory with hyperlinks to members' websites. The section began a new newsletter containing member profiles and important legal developments in LGBT law. The section submitted a proposed bill for the State Bar's legislative package to repeal Texas's unconstitutional sodomy statute and received overwhelmingly favorable comments from all of the sections that responded to the submission.

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

Bob Goss, Chair

Wow—another tremendous year!

We changed our name to Military and Veterans Law and our bylaws to highlight MVLS's commitment to both military and veterans issues.

MVLS held two highly successful two-day CLEs and a CLE rebroadcast, providing excellent training on military and veterans law issues to interested attorneys.

The MVLS CLE titled "The Bienial Institute Presents: Texas Law for Attorneys Representing Service Members & Veterans in Texas Courts" was held in the historic Omni La Mansión del Rio hotel in San Antonio on Oct. 25-26, 2013. There were 75 attendees. Presentations included consumer law, family law, changes to

Texas rules, veterans law, SCRA, FTCA, criminal defense of service members in civilian courts, and a fascinating luncheon presentation by Judge Travis Bryan. As part of MVLS's outreach program, a video replay of the CLE for military and civilian attorneys was conducted on Fort Hood in March 2014.

Eighty-one people attended our CLE at Moody Gardens in Galveston on April 11-12, 2014, which included a presentation titled "Tips and Best Practices from Intake to Appeal."

MUNICIPAL JUDGES

Judge Robin Doyle Smith, Chair

It has been a year of renewal for the Municipal Judges Section, and the council has done a great job of serving section members and the public.

A few years back, the section sponsored a scholarship for law students. This year, the section renewed that commitment by sponsoring two scholarships. This year's winners are William Stephen Gribble, who will begin classes at Texas A&M University School of Law in the fall, and Michelle Hamlin, who is completing her first year at St. Mary's University School of Law.

The section also honored its own by bestowing the Judge Michael L. O'Neal Outstanding Jurist Award. This year's winner is Judge Bonnie Goldstein of Royse City, New Hope, and Cockrell Hill. Judge Goldstein was recognized for her judicial outreach activities as well as her abilities on the bench.

The Municipal Judges Section also began examining a commitment to educating judges. In 2012, the Municipal Courts Education Center began a program of flexible judicial education hours. With the renewed possibility of serving members, the section leadership once again began exploring providing seminars for members.

Efforts of the council and members have the Municipal Judges Section

well positioned for the future.

NATIVE AMERICAN LAW

Arnold S. Battise, Chair

The Native American Law Section of the State Bar of Texas had an active and productive year in 2013-2014. Our annual conference on March 19, 2014, celebrated the 20th anniversary of our organization. The original American Indian Law Section changed its name in 2013. Then-State Bar President Lisa M. Tatum spoke of women who were first in their respective fields. She noted that she has Native American heritage.

Discussion topics included an update on Indian law litigation, especially involving the Indian Child Welfare Act and the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Baby Veronica case. Section members Ray Torgeron and Ron Jackson appeared in a webcast with members of the Family Law Section, addressing the concerns involved in this litigation. Ruth H. Soucy chaired a panel addressing the Violence Against Women Act.

Jo Ann Battise, a citizen of the Alabama-Coushatta Indian Nation and a commissioner on the Texas Supreme Court Permanent Commission on Children, Youth, and Families, received the Tom Diamond Award of Excellence. She spoke of the activities of the commission concerning Native American children in Texas. Shannon Speed, of the Chickasaw Nation, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work on behalf of Indian Country.

OIL, GAS, AND ENERGY RESOURCES LAW

M.C. Cottingham "Cottie" Miles, Chair

Last year marked the 75th anniversary of the section, which was founded in 1938. To celebrate this milestone, section members enjoyed a wonderful anniversary gala in Houston in October 2013. Daniel Yergin, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power*, and