

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

VOLUNTEER AND STAFF GUIDE

———— **2014–2015** ————



JUDICIAL

judicialsection.com

Budget Code: 9342

Created: 1941

Dues: \$30.00

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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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LEGISLATIVE & CAMPAIGN LAW

Budget Code: 9348

Created: 2014

Dues: \$20.00

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LGBT LAW

lgblawtx.com

Budget Code: 9372

Created: 1998

Dues: \$20.00

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2014-2015 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, go to texasbar.com/sections or call (800) 204-2222, ext. 1420.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW • INTERNATIONAL LAW • JUDICIAL • JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS • JUVENILE LAW
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW • LAW STUDENT DIVISION • LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW • LGBT LAW • LITIGATION
MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW • MUNICIPAL JUDGES • NATIVE AMERICAN LAW • OIL, GAS, AND ENERGY RESOURCES LAW
PARALEGAL DIVISION • POVERTY LAW • PUBLIC UTILITY LAW • REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, AND TRUST LAW • SCHOOL LAW
TAX • TEXAS ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS LAW • WOMEN AND THE LAW • WORKERS' COMPENSATION

campaign finance, lobby, and election law. The section distributed its inaugural e-newsletter in October, featuring analyses of recent court decisions, pending rulemaking, and ethics advisory opinions.

In December, the section sponsored a well-attended seminar covering legislative drafting, Texas legislative parliamentary procedure, and an insider's look at the 84th legislative session.

In February, Gov. Greg Abbott declared ethics reform legislation to be an emergency item, citing conflicts of interest, campaign finance disclosures, and contracting by state officials. The declaration focused attention on this important and quickly changing area of the law. In response, the section distributed its second e-newsletter, which covered the governor's emergency ethics declaration, changes to the House and Senate rules, challenges to the state's lobby law, and regulatory actions taken by the Texas Ethics Commission.

The section also debuted its website, legislativeandcampaignlaw.com, which includes its CLE course materials and e-newsletters. Finally, in conjunction with the 2015 State Bar Annual Meeting, the section sponsored a half-day seminar dealing with legislative changes to state ethics laws.

LGBT LAW

John V. Trevino Jr., Chair

The LGBT community saw monumental changes in 2014-2015 at both state and federal levels. As a result, significantly more Texas lawyers represent LGBT clients who are affected by these changes. Building on last year's efforts, we increased exposure of LGBT law issues to the full bar and emphasized the impact of these changes on various areas of law. We sponsored several CLE webcasts and live programs on data privacy, military and veterans issues, marriage equality, employment law, employee benefits, religious exemptions, family

law, and LGBT estate planning. The speakers included nationally recognized scholars and practitioners Gordon Tanner (general counsel of the U.S. Department of the Air Force), Shannon Minter, Professor Arthur Leonard, Hon. Phyllis Frye, Donna Wilson, and Jody Scheske. The section successfully partnered with the Computer and Technology, Military and Veterans Law, Individual Rights and Responsibilities, and Collaborative Law sections, stressing the expansiveness of LGBT law issues in different practice areas. We continued to take a more active role with the efforts of the Diversity in the Profession Committee, providing newsletter content and diversity CLE speakers. The section's proposed bill to repeal Texas's unconstitutional sodomy statute was again included in the State Bar's legislative package.

LITIGATION

Patricia Long Weaver, Chair

The Litigation Section is pleased that its new members-only website is fully functional and now provides access to current and past issues of the section's journal, the *Advocate*, as well as access to its quarterly newsletter *News for the Bar*. The website also now includes free CLE, currently offering six substantive hours and more than one hour of ethics. This CLE is in addition to the litigation update and CLE track offered at the Annual Meeting. This year the section continued its program of honoring Texas Legal Legends, inducting Robert Black and George Chandler. The section also awarded six internships for legal aid groups and is in the process of considering grant applications for other legal-directed charity projects. Having been a legislative session year, the *LS Snap* and the Legislative Committee worked hard monitoring bills, disseminating information to our members, and receiving permission to oppose the chancery court bill. Finally, the web-

site contains a membership directory as an additional benefit.

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

Linda K. Webster, Chair

The Military and Veterans Law Section held two CLEs, which provided excellent training regarding military and veterans law issues.

In October 2014, the MVLS held a joint-training CLE with the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel. Topics covered in the presentations included common issues in divorces involving military personnel, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, the military medical disability process, preparation of estate planning documents for military personnel, and Veterans Affairs rating procedures. Attendees included military attorneys, government civilian attorneys, and civilian attorneys in private practice.

The MVLS held a CLE at Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock in February 2015. Despite a snowstorm, the CLE was able to proceed. Topics covered included characterization of military discharges and how that affects VA benefits, a framework for evaluating changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, an update on the changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice from the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 and 2015, and the operation of veterans courts.

A business meeting for the section was held after each CLE. Next year will include the Biennial Institute, so expect another great year of CLEs from the MVLS.

MUNICIPAL JUDGES

Hon. Joyce Elaine Marshall-Augustine, Chair

This has been a year of development for the Municipal Judges Section. The trend throughout the state has been a focus on our youth and the continued education of judges.

The Municipal Courts Education