

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

# **VOLUNTEER AND STAFF GUIDE**

———— **2015–2016** ————



## LAW STUDENT DIVISION

Budget Code: 4070

Created: 1979

Dues: \$15.00

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Belashia Wallace, Immediate Past Chair

Rebekah Steely Brooker, Board Advisor

Samuel Houston III, Alternate Board Advisor

## LEGISLATIVE & CAMPAIGN LAW

legislativeandcampaignlaw.com

Budget Code: 9348

Created: 2014

Cost: \$20

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J Pete Laney, Secretary

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### Term Ends 2016

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Donna Garcia Davidson

Thomas Allen Forbes

Christopher Jake Posey

## LGBT LAW

lgbtlawtx.com

Budget Code: 9372

Created: 1998

Dues: \$20.00

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### Term Ends 2016

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Arabia Vargas

Claire Marie Bow

Ernest Israel Herrera

## LITIGATION

litigationsection.com

Budget Code: 9347

Created: 1979

Dues: \$30.00

Sustaining: \$100.00

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### Term Ends 2016

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Hon. F. Alfonso Charles

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Hon. Xavier Rodriguez

### Term Ends 2018

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Mark A. Shank

Amy Marie Stewart

Raymond L. Thomas, Jr.

### Term Ends 2017

Cade Weston Browning

Steven Hayes

Hon. Robin Darr

Rebecca Simmons

George Parker Young

## MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

militarylawsection.com

Budget Code: 9350

Created: 1958

Dues: \$15.00

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Michael Carter Crow, Alternate Board Advisor

### Term Ends 2016

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Nicholas Alan Pritchett

Brian Keith Walker

## MUNICIPAL JUDGES

texasmunicipaljudges.com

Budget Code: 9363

Created: 1970

Dues: \$15.00

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Hon. David Fraga, Secretary/Treasurer

Barbara Bass, Board Advisor

Jose Escobedo, Jr., Alternate Board Advisor

### Term Ends 2016

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### Term Ends 2017

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COLLABORATIVE LAW • COMPUTER AND TECHNOLOGY • CONSTRUCTION LAW • CONSUMER AND COMMERCIAL LAW  
CORPORATE COUNSEL • ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS LAW • ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES LAW • FAMILY LAW  
GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO, AND SMALL FIRM • GOVERNMENT LAW • HEALTH LAW • HISPANIC ISSUES

## 2015-2016 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](http://texasbar.com/sections) or call (800) 204-2222, ext. 1420.

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW • INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES • INSURANCE LAW • 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 • POVERTY LAW • PUBLIC UTILITY LAW  
REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, AND TRUST LAW • SCHOOL LAW • TAX • WOMEN AND THE LAW • WORKERS' COMPENSATION

sides of the docket.

This year, through its governing council, the section funded several pro bono projects and provided various benefits to our diverse membership, including a regular newsletter, which is edited by Professor Richard R. Carlson of South Texas College of Law; reasonably priced, high-quality CLE opportunities; and our section website, through which members can access, among other things, jury charges that have been given in trials across the state.

### LAW STUDENT DIVISION

*Latoya Merida, Chair*

The Law Student Division had another outstanding year. Both Texas A&M University School of Law and St. Mary's University School of Law purchased memberships for their entire student bodies. The 2015-2016 school year produced the largest increase in membership for the division. For a \$15 annual division membership fee, law students become automatic members of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, obtain a student bar card that includes their lifetime bar card number upon passing the Texas Bar Exam, receive a free T-shirt, and get free registration to TexasBarCLE live and video replay seminars. New memberships and renewals can now be processed online. The student representatives continued to host informational programs for their respective schools, contributing to the success of the division. The Law Student Division will continue to flourish with the continued support and leadership of our project coordinator, Bree Trevino, and all student representatives.

### LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW

*Ross Fischer, Chair*

Throughout 2015 and 2016, the Legislative and Campaign Law Section continued its mission of educating members about the rapidly changing area of campaign finance, lobby, and election law. The section continued

to distribute electronic newsletters containing updates on caselaw developments, rules, and advisory opinions issued by the Texas Ethics Commission and interim legislative studies related to all things ethics.

In December, the section hosted a well-attended seminar providing an overview of legislative changes in the area of procurement and purchasing law. At the 2016 State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, the section hosted an afternoon of legal education, focusing on issues in judicial campaign finance and the developing legal landscape. Material for events can be found on the section's website at [legislativeandcampaignlaw.com](http://legislativeandcampaignlaw.com).

### LGBT LAW

*Frederick W. Sultan IV, Chair*

The 2015-2016 bar year was a historic time for legal issues affecting the LGBT community. The U.S. Supreme Court issued its landmark decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and—overnight—marriage equality became the law of the land. As a result, Texas lawyers faced numerous questions from LGBT clients, their families, and employers. To address these questions, the section sponsored a CLE webcast discussing the decision and its ramifications, and for the first time, the State Bar and the section produced a full-day live CLE at the Texas Law Center in Austin dedicated to LGBT legal issues and the effect of marriage equality on Texas law. In its CLE programming, the section again partnered with other bar sections, including the Individual Rights and Responsibilities; Family Law; and Real Estate, Probate, and Trust Law sections, and focused on constitutional, family, probate, employment, HIV, elder, and sports law, with a special focus on transgender legal issues and access to care. The section hosted networking mixers following its two live CLE programs at the State Bar Annual Meeting and brought a taste of Texas to the National LGBT Bar Association's Lavender Law Conference in Chicago, where we hosted a "Texas Meet and Greet."

### LITIGATION

*Paula W. Hinton, Chair*

The section council and its subcommittees have had an extremely active year on numerous projects. Particular focus has been on improving our publications to provide greater access to our membership. *News for the Bar* is now delivered with the ability to review and download specific articles and with hyperlinks to cited cases and statutes; these tools are also being implemented for *The Advocate*. Both of these publications and past issues can be found on the Litigation Section website at [litigationsection.com](http://litigationsection.com). The website continues to add free CLE offerings for our members. The Litigation Update Institute CLE program provides litigators with the latest updates in various areas relevant to their practices. The Texas Legal Legends program is thriving, and in this past year, Hon. Mary Lou Robinson and Hon. Ruby Kless Sondock were inducted. At this year's State Bar Annual Meeting in June, five legal legends conducted a panel discussion on the past, present, and future of our profession. Continuing to look forward and toward the future lawyers of our state, the section provides Texas law students the opportunity to work as summer interns for legal service agencies in Texas through the grants/internships pro bono program.

### MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

*Gary M. Manuele, Chair*

The Military and Veterans Law Section held two CLE programs, which provided excellent training and materials regarding issues impacting service members and veterans.

In October 2015, the section held the 22nd Biennial Institute on Texas Law for Attorneys Representing Service-Members and Veterans in San Antonio. Topics included estate planning and probate issues (including Texas firearms law and gun trusts); landlord and tenant law; changes in military law relating to sexual assault