

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

VOLUNTEER AND STAFF GUIDE

———— **2016–2017** ————



LGBT LAW

lgblawtx.com

Budget Code: 9372

Created: 1998

Dues: \$20.00

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Wendy Burgower, Alternate Board Advisor

Term Ends 2017

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Matthew Heberlein

Term Ends 2018

Brett Christiansen

Ashlee Dunham

LITIGATION

litigationsection.com

Budget Code: 9347

Created: 1979

Dues: \$30.00

Sustaining: \$100.00

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Christy Amuny, Emeritus Member

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Term Ends 2017

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Hon. Robin Darr

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George Parker Young

Term Ends 2019

Mitchell C. Chaney

Hon. F. Alfonso Charles

Jason Paul Fulton

Geoff Gannaway

Rebecca Vela

Term Ends 2018

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Judson Paul Manning

Mark A. Shank

Amy M. Stewart

Raymond L. Thomas, Jr.

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

militarylawsection.com

Budget Code: 9350

Created: 1958

Dues: \$15.00

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C. Barrett Thomas, Alternate Board Advisor

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Term Ends 2017

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Jonathan Lee

Joseph Topinka

Term Ends 2018

Wade Faulkner

Derek Sherrill

Lisa Marie Windsor

MUNICIPAL JUDGES

texasmunicipaljudges.com

Budget Code: 9363

Created: 1970

Dues: \$15.00

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Hon. Laura Louise Anderson, Vice-chair

Hon. David Fraga, Secretary/Treasurer

Scott Sherwood, Board Advisor

C. Barrett Thomas, Alternate Board Advisor

Term Ends 2017

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Term Ends 2018

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

2016-2017 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.

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 • PARALEGAL DIVISION • POVERTY LAW • PUBLIC UTILITY LAW
REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, AND TRUST LAW • SCHOOL LAW • TAX • WOMEN AND THE LAW • WORKERS' COMPENSATION

and sponsored the annual Juvenile Law Conference, which was held in the scenic Texas Hill Country at the Horseshoe Bay Resort on Lake LBJ. Roughly 400 people attended, and the course curriculum and speakers were fantastic.

The section watched as the Texas Legislature worked on a number of juvenile justice issues, including juvenile records, records sealing, information sharing between entities having contact with children in the juvenile system, sex offender registration, regionalization, and local and state funding for juvenile services and supervision.

The section welcomed its new chair, Kameron Johnson, in June.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Dan C. Dargene, Chair

The Labor and Employment Law Section differs from other sections in that the majority of its members practice exclusively on one side of the docket. Because attorneys who exclusively represent employees with claims against their employers tend to see the law differently than attorneys who exclusively represent employers in complaints brought by their employees, the section typically does not, and did not this year, propose legislation or take a position on proposed legislation.

Additionally, to try to address the differences of opinion within the membership, the section's governing council is made up of an equal number of plaintiff's attorneys and defense attorneys, as are all council committees. The chair alternates between the two sides of the docket. This year, through its governing council, the section funded several pro bono projects and provided various benefits to the diverse membership, including a regular newsletter edited by Richard R. Carlson, a professor at South Texas College of Law Houston; reasonably priced, high-quality CLE opportunities; and the section's website, through which members can access, among

other things, jury charges given in trials across the state.

LAW STUDENT DIVISION

Cherika Edwards, Chair

The Law Student Division had another outstanding year. Texas A&M University School of Law continued its support by renewing and purchasing memberships for its entire student body. This year, many students took advantage of being able to join the division online. For a \$15 annual membership fee, law students receive all the great benefits that are available to licensed attorneys, including a monthly subscription to the *Texas Bar Journal* and *TYLA eNews*. Each student receives a student bar card, a free T-shirt, and free registration to TexasBarCLE live and video replay seminars and complimentary written materials.

Student representatives at each of the American Bar Association-accredited law schools continued to host informational programs for their respective schools, contributing to the success of the division. The Law Student Division also offers two scholarships for members each year.

LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW

Donna Garcia Davidson, Chair

The Legislative and Campaign Law Section's successes were numerous in this third year after having settled into a rhythm of conducting a continuing legal education event each December. The well-attended seminar covered legislative drafting and Texas legislative parliamentary procedure, as well as an insider's look at the 85th legislative session, and featured presentations from the Texas Legislative Counsel, the Office of the Governor of Texas, the Texas Legislative Reference Library, and others knowledgeable in the legislative arena.

The section now issues several online newsletters throughout the year featuring analyses of recent court decisions involving elections, redistricting, and campaign finance, in addition to updates on Texas Ethics Commission meetings, rulemakings, and opinions of interest to members. Moreover, the section has started the process to create a Texas Board of Legal Specialization certification in this practice area.

The section is also updating its website to maintain all CLE course materials and the electronic newsletters in a location convenient to all members. Finally, in conjunction with the 2017 State Bar Annual Meeting, the section sponsored a two-hour CLE.

LGBT LAW

Gary N. Schumann, Chair

The 2016-2017 bar year was another busy time for the LGBT Law Section, which worked closely with the State Bar to produce a full-day live CLE covering LGBT legal topics. The section also provided content for the 11th Annual Bill of Rights CLE Course and hosted the post-CLE social mixer after both events.

Given recent legislation impacting the transgender community, the section sponsored multiple programs educating the bar on transgender legal issues. Section Vice Chair Claire Bow presented a program to about 100 lawyers and judges in El Paso, sponsored a CLE in Austin, and presented a CLE in Midland focused on transgender issues. The section served as a statewide resource for lawyers representing transgender clients seeking name and gender-marker changes in courts. The section developed and submitted legislation to conform the Texas Constitution and state laws to the final judgment in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. The section co-sponsored a meeting of the LGBT Law Professionals of the Rio Grande Valley and hosted a Texas Meet-Up on August 4, 2016, at the Lavender Law Conference & Career Fair in Washington, D.C.