

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

**VOLUNTEER  
AND  
STAFF GUIDE**

———— **2020–2021** ————



## JUVENILE LAW

juvenilelaw.org

Budget Code: 9344

Created: 1986

Dues: \$25

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## LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

laborlaw.org

Budget Code: 9345

Created: 1947

Dues: \$30

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Trang Q. Tran

Kathryn Julia Youker

## LAW STUDENT DIVISION

texasbar.com/lawstudentdivision

Budget Code: 4070

Created: 1979

Dues: \$15

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Dakota Mayr

Michael Wong

Brytania Delgado

Mikayla McIntyre

## LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW

legislativeandcampaignlaw.com

Budget Code: 9348

Created: 2014

Dues: \$20

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Eric Christopher Opiela

Linda Kelly Townsend

Thomas Trenton Townsend

### Term Expires 2023

Daniel Anthony Petalas

Paul Stuart Reed

Hon. Kirk P. Watson

### Term Expires 2022

Juliana Cruz Kerker

Rahul Chiyarath Sreenivasan

## LGBT LAW

lgblawtx.com

Budget Code: 9372

Created: 1998

Dues: \$20

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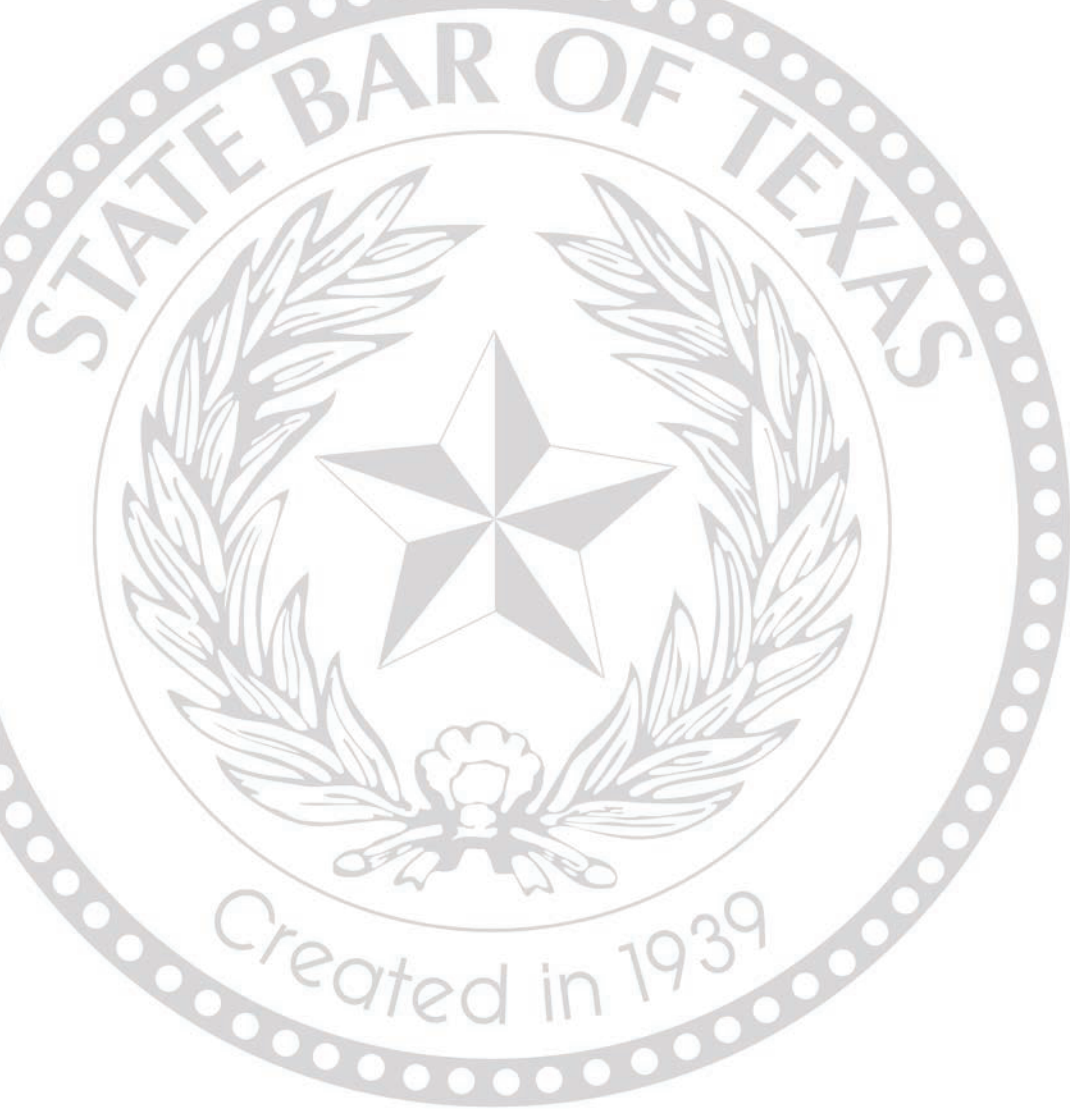
Michael James Ritter

### Term Expires 2022

Jesus Juan Castillon

Lindsey Caitlin Dionne

Steven Carlos Santayana



2020-2021 STATE BAR OF TEXAS

# SECTION REPORTS

Section reports are included in the July/August issue of the *Texas Bar Journal* to update Texas lawyers on State Bar section activities. Section membership and dues are voluntary. These 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](https://texasbar.com/sections) or call 800-204-2222, ext. 1420.

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## LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW

*Royce Poinsett, Chair*

In its seventh year, the Legislative and Campaign Law Section continues to be one of the fastest growing sections of the State Bar, now with about 450 members. Lawyers in this section practice at the intersection of law, policymaking, and politics. They guide their clients in navigating legal issues involving the operation of legislative institutions and governmental agencies, the regulation of professional lobbying, public integrity and government transparency, state agency appropriations and procurement, and elections and campaign finance. This year the section significantly updated its website, social media presence, newsletters, and publications. The section's LinkedIn page now has close to 200 followers. The section also celebrated the inaugural issue of *Legislative Lawyer*, the new journal of the section. The section's online CLE webinars covered topics such as "Texas Election Law 101," "the Texas Disaster Act," "Legislating During a Pandemic," "COVID and the Courts," and "Introduction to the Texas Legislative Process." The section continues to work with the Texas Board of Legal Specialization to further develop the new certification in legislative and campaign law.

## LGBT LAW

*Michael Debnam, Chair*

The LGBT Law Section began the year at the virtual Annual Meeting in June 2020. Like other organizations, the section had to alter its goals for the year due to COVID-19. The section has a council member sitting on the State Bar's Task Force on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which works to improve diversity through the bar and practice. The section has a section member and council member sitting on the 2021 Civil Rights Course Committee. The section worked with other affinity groups and has met multiple times throughout the year. Along with its sister affinity sections, the section

submitted three letters of recommendation for the open at-large board of director position. The affinity sections also formally responded and condemned State Bar of Texas President Larry McDougal's comments and asked for specific changes. The section co-hosted a free CLE titled "The Truth About Systemic Racism in Society and Understanding Our Personal and Professional Responsibility." The section worked to get its proposed legislation introduced, including House Bill 1037 and Senate Bill 129. The State Bar went through a financial audit this year, and the section's policies all passed. The section adopted the new bar-wide recommended changes to increase oversight and transparency.

## LITIGATION

*Xavier Rodriguez, Chair*

Despite COVID-19, the section continued to excel in its mission of empowering advocates, promoting justice, and preserving the rule of law. The section sponsored two CLE presentations on implicit bias and how it affects decision-making inside and outside the courtroom. The section co-sponsored the Litigation Update Institute, which featured nationally renowned Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, of the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, and the section provided hours of free CLE to members in July, in lieu of the usual Annual Meeting program. The award-winning publication *The Advocate* covered myriad ways the pandemic has changed how we practice and offered perspectives on how practice will evolve in the future. *News for the Bar* provided bimonthly news and short legal takeaways that could be immediately used by practitioners. The legislative committee kept members informed of bills filed that could potentially affect litigators. The section added a new member benefit—a substantial discount to Write.law, an education tool designed for lawyers on every aspect of litigation writing and technology. The section's grant and scholarships continued to assist pro bono providers with much needed funds to hire law student interns and staff to continue their good work.

## MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

*Jon Shelburne, Chair*

The Military and Veterans Law Section, or MVLS, hosted virtual CLEs and meetings. The response to the pandemic created challenges for all of us not only in how we practice law or try our cases but in how we meet as a section. While the virtual CLEs and meetings have allowed section members to stay connected, the section looks forward to holding its 2021 fall meeting in person—time and place still TBD. MVLS hosted CLEs on updates to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, challenges the Department of Defense faces with cybersecurity, the international legal response to combating terrorism, and the challenges to prosecuting or defending war crimes. At the Annual Meeting, the section's program covered the challenges with using National Guard troops in support of border security, providing VA representation during COVID-19, updates on anticipated or proposed changes in legislation affecting servicemembers and veterans, and an overview of how the U.S. Coast Guard responds to legal challenges in current operations. MVLS welcomes its new officers, Patrick McLain as chair-elect and Julie Glover as vice chair. The section extends special thanks to Bob Goss, its longtime secretary and treasurer, who was recently selected to serve as a section representative to the State Bar Board of Directors.

## MUNICIPAL JUDGES

*Alan Wayland, Chair*

COVID-19 continues to dominate the municipal judges landscape. Emergency orders from the president, governor, Texas Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals, county judges, and mayors have emphasized masking, social distancing, and personal hygiene. With guidance from the Office of Court Administration, all but essential proceedings have become virtual instead of in person. The section also looks to the Texas Municipal Courts Education Center, which has provided excellent guidance. With traditional seminars on hold, both agencies went into overdrive by setting up opportunities not only to