

STATE BAR *of* TEXAS

**VOLUNTEER
AND
STAFF GUIDE**

———— **2025–2026** ————



LAW STUDENT DIVISION

texasbar.com/lawstudentdivision

Budget Code: 4070

Created: 1979

Dues: \$15

Victoria Wells, Chair

Nickoli Benkert, Vice Chair

Hisham Masri, Board Advisor

Armin Salek, Alternate Board Advisor

LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW

legislativeandcampaignlaw.com

Budget Code: 9348

Created: 2014

Dues: \$20

Luis Soberon, Chair

Juliana Kerker, Chair-elect

Bobby Dale, Treasurer

Rahul Sreenivasan, Immediate Past Chair

Natalie Koehler Denbow, Board Advisor

Rudolph "Rudy" K. Metayer, Alternate Board Advisor

Full council roster not available at time of print.

Term Expires 2026

Hugh Brady

Paul Reed

Tyler Rudd

Term Expires 2027

Margaret Cardwell

Luis Figueroa

Steven "Wroe" Jackson

LGBTQ+ LAW

lgbtlawtx.com

Budget Code: 9372

Created: 1998

Dues: \$20

Charles Spain, Chair

Gary Schumann, Vice Chair

R. Elliott Beck, Secretary

Shelly Skeen, Treasurer

Derek Margele-Rust, Immediate Past Chair

Forrest L. Huddleston, Board Advisor

Kristina N. "Krisi" Kastl, Alternate Board Advisor

Michael Debnam, Ex-Officio

Brian Klosterboer, Ex-Officio

Full council roster not available at time of print.

Term Expires 2026

Callie Butcher

Hon. Beau Miller

Final council members:

Hon. Charles A. Spain, chair

Gary N. Schumann, vice-chair

R. Elliott Beck, secretary

Shelly L. Skeen, treasurer

Penny R. Robe, communications director

Callie C. Butcher, at-large position 1 (2024–2026)

Hon. Beau A. Miller, at-large position 2 (2024–2026)

Samuel M. Hodges, at-large position 3 (2026)

Karri L. Bertrand, at-large position 4 (2026)

Matias "Matt" E. Garcia, at-large position 5 (2026)

Brian Klosterboer, ex officio past chair (2022–2023)

Forrest L. Huddleston, board advisor

Kristina N. "Krisi" Kastl, alternate board advisor

LITIGATION

litigationsection.com

Budget Code: 9347

Created: 1979

Dues: \$30

Sustaining: \$100

Raymond L. Thomas, Chair

Jason Fulton, Chair-elect

Sofia Ramon, Vice Chair

Hon. Christine Stetson, Treasurer

Karen S. Precella, Secretary

Hon. Rebecca Simmons, Immediate Past Chair

Brandy Wingate Voss, Board Advisor

Scott Lindsey, Alternate Board Advisor

Term Expires 2026

Raymond Baeza

Eugene "Chip" Brooker

Andrew Kerr

Mia Lorick

Jackie Robinson

Term Expires 2028

Hon. Jeff Brown

Darby Doan

Hon. Sue Kurita

Blayre Pena

Laura Pratt

Term Expires 2027

Nadia Bettac

Lara Brock

Sylvia Cardona

Robert Ford

Andrew Jones

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

militarylawsection.com

Budget Code: 9350

Created: 1958

Dues: \$25

Christine Herron, Chair

Bradley Hennings, Chair-elect

Christine K. Clemens, Vice Chair

James Stephenson, Secretary/Treasurer

Gary Manuele, Historian

Jon Shelburne, Immediate Past Chair

Hon. C. Michael Davis, Board Advisor

Patricia "Patty" Rouse Vargas, Alternate Board Advisor

Term Expires 2026

Benton Baker

Benjamin Gifford

Linda Webster

Term Expires 2027

Julie Glover

Kay Perry

Terri Zimmermann

MUNICIPAL JUDGES

texasmunicipaljudges.com

Budget Code: 9363

Created: 1970

Dues: \$15

Hon. James Huggler, Chair

Hon. Polly Gilligan, Vice Chair

Hon. Janikka Bratton, Secretary

Hon. David Fraga, Treasurer

Hon. Joyce Marshall-Augustine, Immediate Past Chair

Jason Charbonnet, Board Advisor

Amy Rod, Alternate Board Advisor

Term Expires 2026

Hon. Laura Anderson

Hon. Janikka Bratton

Hon. Roberto de la Garza

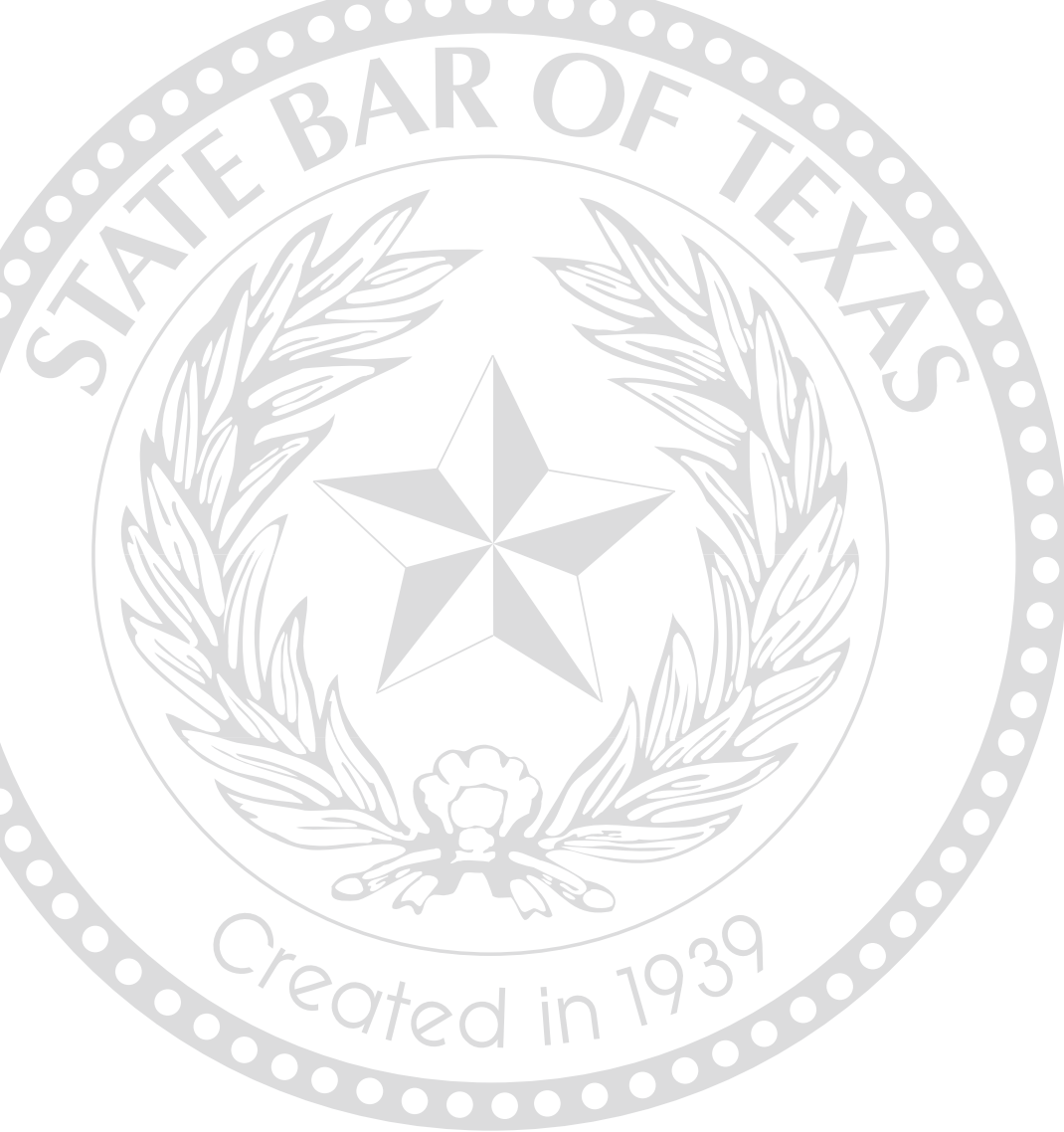
Hon. Shaw-Boutte

Term Expires 2027

Hon. Grantham Coleman

Hon. Mark Goodner

Hon. Cori Harbour



2025-2026 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 or call 512-427-1420.

Dallas with the State Bar of Texas. The section hosted a free CLE regarding new U.S. Department of Labor policies via webinar in March 2026. Each year, the section organizes the Labor and Employment Law Institute, offering discounted CLE programs for members. This year's institute will be held August 28-29, 2026, at the JW Marriott in San Antonio. The section continuously improves its website (laborlaw.org), now featuring a searchable format for jury verdicts and charges. It also publishes a quarterly newsletter on recent cases and developments in labor and employment law. The section engages in student outreach by visiting law schools to encourage careers in employment law and invites nonprofit organizations to apply for pro bono grants to hire law students for summer internships focused on labor and employment causes. If interested in labor and employment law, consider joining the section. Memberships are free for law students and newly licensed attorneys.

LAW STUDENT DIVISION

Victoria Wells, Chair

The Law Student Division continues to work hard increasing Texas law students' access to and knowledge about the State Bar of Texas resources available to them. This year, representatives from Texas law schools hosted various free programs for students at their respective schools, including student outreach, practice skills, networking, civility, and wellness. For a \$15 annual membership fee, the Law Student Division provides many benefits to its student members, including exclusive scholarship opportunities totaling \$4,000; free membership in select State Bar of Texas sections; a monthly subscription to the *Texas Bar Journal*; member discounts; free registration for TexasBarCLE live seminars; and continuing this year, a BetterHelp discount to give Texas law students access to mental health resources to support their professional performance.

LEGISLATIVE AND CAMPAIGN LAW

Luis Soberon, Chair

The Legislative and Campaign Law Section comprises attorneys who

work in and around the Legislature, state agencies, elections, and campaigns. Marking the first decade as a section, members continue to promote integrity, professional excellence, and civility in the contentious and politically charged legislative and electoral arenas. In December, the section held a successful CLE day in Austin, which featured leadership from the Texas Ethics Commission, the Sunset Advisory Commission, and the Texas Legislative Counsel. Other presentations included former Legislative Budget Board Director Ursula Parks on the state budget and a lively discussion on the use of AI in the legislative context. The section is grateful to all the speakers who participated and shared their insights and knowledge with attendees. In 2026, the section is building out its online CLE library for members with free monthly Lunch and Learn webinars. The topics cover campaign finance, legislative drafting, lobbying rules for tax-exempt organizations, and more. Other opportunities for learning and networking are in the works. If you are interested in legislative processes, election law, campaign law, and related issues, please consider joining the section. You can learn more by visiting the LinkedIn page or legislativeandcampaignlaw.com.

LGBTQ+ LAW

Hon. Charles Spain, Chair

This has been a year of rebuilding. The LGBTQ+ Law Section website was updated and moved to a new domain: lgbtqpluslawtx.org. The December and May CLEs were held, visits to local bar associations made, and a day of CLE at the 2026 State Bar Annual Meeting was planned. Your 2025-2026 section council made it so. The section reviewed its past award winners and presented awards for years in which none was given. This year the Judge Norman W. Black Award was presented to Chief Judge Orlando L. Garcia and Presiding Judge Barbara E. Hartle (2021), Wm. Richard Thompson II and J. Patrick Wiseman (posthumous) (2023), Debra E. Hunt (posthumous) and Arabia Vargas (2024), and Justice Diane M. Henson and Eduardo Juárez (2025). The 2026 Judge Norman W. Black Award is presented to Hon. Robert L. Pitman, and an award of merit is

presented to Timothy A. Hootman for his contribution to *Lawrence v. Texas*. Their service honors the section. As lawyers we are called to face and overcome adversity. We have a place at the table at the State Bar. The work continues. I am so proud of the section's leadership.

LITIGATION

Ray Thomas, Chair

With a special focus on the formation and development of young lawyers, the Litigation Section conceived, developed, and launched its inaugural Trial Academy, an immersive trial skills CLE program designed to provide young lawyers with hands-on training and skills development with some of the best trial lawyers. Headlining the program was Jennifer Doan, national president of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Held at the Hidalgo County Courthouse in October, the academy offered separate tracks for plaintiff counsel and defense counsel. Attendees had the opportunity to present an opening, direct, cross, and closing in real courtrooms with feedback from faculty. The section replaced its long-running Litigation Update CLE with Conquering the Courtroom, a new CLE program targeting younger lawyers with tips and strategies not taught in law schools. Faculty presentations from the academy and Conquering the Courtroom were recorded and will be adapted for the online Trial Notebook series. This year, the section inducted two lawyers into the Texas Legal Legends program who have made huge impacts on the legal profession: Luther "Luke" Soules III and Alistair Dawson. The section continues to publish the *Advocate*, an acclaimed scholarly publication bringing cutting-edge legal topics to members. Learn more at litigationsection.com.

MILITARY AND VETERANS LAW

Christine Herron, Chair

The Military and Veterans Law Section conducted three CLE programs in conjunction with the annual, fall, and spring section meetings and co-sponsored a CLE with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association in February. Each program featured speakers and topics of interest to those who represent or work