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September 24, 2018

Board of Directors and Liaisons
State Bar of Texas
1414 Colorado St.
Austin, Texas 78701
Via e-mail by state bar staff

Re: Legislative Proposals Tabs 17 and 16 -
Board and Section Violating Own Rules,
Withholding Notice From 95,000 Members,
Harming Best Interest Of Children

Dear Directors and Liaisons:

A member of the State Bar of Texas since 1982, I strongly object to the controversial policies proposed in Tabs 17 and 16 by the LGBT Law Section. Those proposals -

- ... violate the board's own rules by lacking required notice and being divisive, ideological and political,
- ... violate the section's own rules by advocating social and political policy,
- ... legislate new genderless categories of parent and mother,
- ... discard the best interest of children by authorizing a same-sex spouse to artificially create motherless and fatherless children for faux "families",
- ... legalize the high-risk venues of male sodomy that endanger the public health, and
- ... refuse to educate youth on the dangers of sodomy.

I. Policy Manual Bars Board From Supporting Tabs 17 and 16

It is not necessary to examine the board's statutory authority,¹ as the board's own Policy Manual² bars it from supporting proposed legislation if any one of three factors exist: (i) inadequate notice to members, (ii) potential for deep division among members, or (iii) construable as ideological position. All three disqualifying factors exist for Tabs 17 and 16.

1. Failure of notice by Executive Director. The Executive Director has a specific duty to "... *publish in the Texas Bar Journal or otherwise give to all members of the State Bar reasonable notice* of the time, date, and place that legislative proposals will be considered by the Board Legislative Policy Subcommittee together with a *reasonably itemized agenda, which shall include the caption for each such legislative proposal.*"³ (Italics added)

Members were promised such notice would appear in the July 2018 Texas Bar Journal. The April 2018 Texas Bar Journal contained the "2018-2019 State Bar of Texas Legislative Timetable Approved by the Board of Directors, January 2018", at pp. 228-229, which promised in July 2018:

"July: Notice published in the *Texas Bar Journal* setting out the time, date, and place that legislative proposals will be considered by the Legislative Policy Subcommittee together *with a brief summary for each proposal.* 8.01.08(B)." (italics added)

¹ Tex. Gov't Code §81.012 Purposes [Of State Bar]; Tex. Gov't Code §81.034 Restriction on Use of [State Bar] Funds.

² SBOT Board Of Directors Policy Manual ("Board Policy Manual"), June 20, 2018. Part VIII, 8.01.03 (B), (C), and (G).

³ Board Policy Manual, June 20, 2018. Part VIII, 8.01.08 (B) "The Executive Director shall publish in the *Texas Bar Journal* or otherwise give to all members of the State Bar reasonable notice of the time, date, and place that legislative proposals will be considered by the Board Legislative Policy Subcommittee together with a reasonably itemized agenda, which shall include the caption for each such legislative proposal."

This was not done, and is fatal to the entire legislative program. The notice in the July 2018 Texas Bar Journal, at p. 568 (exhibit at the end of this letter) was a small blurb in the back and contained *no itemized agenda, no captions of the proposals, and no brief summary of each proposal.*

Consequently, the bar's 95,000 plus members were NOT put on notice that, buried in the many legislative proposals, were two that proposed divisive, political, ideological social policies. **This defect disqualifies all 25 legislative proposals, including Tab 17 and 16.**

Putting the captions for the proposals on a page in the bar's website is not *giving reasonable notice*, since most of the 95,000 plus members will not, and cannot be expected to, randomly happen upon and view that particular webpage during the brief time period that this information would matter.

2. Inadequate notice by board of directors. The board has an independent duty to see that "adequate notice and opportunity [is] afforded for the presentation of opposing opinions and views"⁴ on legislative proposals. Since the blurb in the bar journal gave no notice of the substance of the proposals, no one even knew to form and present "opposing opinions and views". For this duty to go unfulfilled by lawyers, who invented notice and due process, is embarrassing.

It is even more embarrassing in the age of postage-free e-mail. While the state bar regularly e-mails insurance solicitations to its 95,000 plus members, it did not e-mail any notice to members about the caption or substance of this controversial legislation.

When I appeared before the Legislative Policy subcommittee to oppose Tabs 17 and Tab 16, a director asked me how many lawyers agreed with my position. I told him I had no idea, because virtually no members of the bar know about these proposals. This legislative approval process and the content of the proposals is one of the board's least transparent activities.

⁴ Board Policy Manual, June 20, 2018. Part VIII, 8.01.03 (B).

Many lawyers are not aware of this legislative approval process at all, and most of the rest, who are vaguely aware, assume it deals with tweaking technicalities in the trust code, not controversial social policy. The Policy Manual entitles bar members to a notice that will inform them when proposals cover divisive, political, and ideological social policy, and without that notice the legislative timetable must stop in its tracks.

3. Potential for divisiveness. The board's rules forbid supporting legislation where there is "potential of deep philosophical or emotional division among a substantial segment of the membership".⁵ Had proper notice been given the 95,000 plus bar members by the executive director and the board, the proposals in Tabs 17 and 16 would have created major philosophical and emotional division.

The 76% of the voters who approved Texas' 2005 constitutional amendment on the sexual complementariness of marriage undoubtedly included lawyers. The Texas legislators who stopped the sodomy and homosexual parenting bills in 2017 included lawyers. Those same lawyers can be expected to hold traditional views disapproving of sodomy, opposing two women creating a fatherless child, opposing the concept of two mothers or two fathers for the same child, opposing the genderless (or trans-sexual) idea that an individual, not a woman, gives birth to a child, and opposing the idea that a lesbian with no genetic relationship or adjudicated parental fitness can circumvent adoption laws and acquire parental rights over a child.

The only reason there is no marked division now is that the board and the executive director have kept the 95,000 plus members in the dark by neglecting their duty to notify.

4. Construable as ideological position. The board's rules also forbid supporting legislation if it can "... be construed to advocate political or ideological positions."⁶ This disqualifies both Tab 17 and Tab 16.

⁵ Board Policy Manual, June 20, 2018. Part VIII, 8.01.03 (C).

⁶ Board Policy Manual, June 20, 2018. Part VIII, 8.01.03 (G).

The entire 76-page bill in Tab 17 presents ideological positions - lesbian, homosexual, bisexual, trans-sexual, transgender, genderless ideologies. The bill legalizes sodomy between men in all venues, not only private residential settings. It discontinues youth being educated on the dangers of sodomy. The bill stipulates that an “individual”, not a mother, gives birth to a child. It legislates that men are intended mothers who can use a surrogate. It allows a lesbian with no genetic relation to a child, and no court finding of adoptive parental fitness, to become the child’s parent merely by living with the child’s mother. Such a grotesque imitation of family, radiating sexual confusion, denying the child a daddy, and discarding the best interest of the child, shrieks ideology.

Tab 17 is also political, as it proposes to put into Texas statutes *Obergefell*, a controversial court decision with political impact that helped elect our sitting President. Thus, Tab 17 is independently disqualified because it advocates “political and ideological positions.”

Tab 16, which calls for deleting the Texas Constitution’s statement of the traditional concept of marriage, is political and ideological. It would reverse the political referendum decision of the citizens defining marriage in 2005, and, by erasing that verdict of the citizenry, promotes LGBT ideology.

II. By-laws Prohibit LGBT Law Section From Offering Tabs 17 and 16

1. Section rules bar social or political policy advocacy. The LGBT Law section’s own rules bar it from advocating social policy. Its by-laws⁷ state in Section 8.3, Miscellaneous Provisions:

No positions may be taken by the section or its membership in the name of the section that advocates or advances a *political or social policy* position.
(italics added.)

⁷ http://lgbtlawtx.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Bylaws-Final-2010.pdf?page_id=49
Last accessed on August 5, 2018.

As mentioned earlier, legalizing sodomy in commercial venues, no longer educating youth on the dangers of sodomy, legislating fatherless two-mother parenting and that men are intended mothers who may use a surrogate to intentionally create motherless children, letting a mother circumvent adoption law by unilaterally appointing her lesbian live-in as the child's second parent, legislating that a child is born from an individual, not a mother, are all social policy positions proposed in Tab 17 that disqualify it from consideration. Tab 16 is also social policy, as it would amend the Texas Constitution to delete the citizenry's social policy view of homosexual marriage. None of these proposals are mandated by federal courts, as is discussed below.

The board created and oversees the LGBT Law section and has a duty to see that the section obeys its bylaws.

2. 76-page bill is not mandated by *Lawrence*⁸ or *Obergefell*.⁹ You might hear an argument that the section is not pushing social or political policies but rather just seeing that federal mandates are codified. That is rubbish. When I appeared before the Legislative Policy subcommittee in August to oppose Tab 17, a director said that the LGBT Law section was contending¹⁰ that the entire 76-page bill was merely putting into law what the U.S. Supreme Court had ordered on same-sex marriage and sodomy, so that the bill did not change social policy. I replied that contention was plainly not true.

On its face, most of the 76-page bill in Tab 17 is not required by U.S. Supreme Court decisions. (Please note that, read closely, the LGBT Law section's written explanation of the bill never claims that all of the 76-page bill is *necessary*

⁸ *Lawrence v. Texas*, 539 U.S. 558 (2003).

⁹ *Obergefell v. Hodges*, 135 S. Ct. 2071 (2015).

¹⁰ The director explained that the LGBT Law section was claiming that the Legislative Council attorney who drafted the 76-page bill had opined that it merely implemented U.S. Supreme Court mandates. That alleged opinion, given to the legislator who requested the draft two years ago, would have been confidential, so the legislator would have to disclose the drafter's opinion to someone else, and now two years later, we must assume additional hearsay permutations, which makes the hearsay within hearsay within hearsay opinion useless.

to comply with federal courts.) The bill does far more than impose same-sex marriage and legalize sodomy in private residential settings. The bill:

... enables an *unmarried* woman to be legally presumed the second “mother” of a child by merely living in the child’s household for the child’s first two years and claiming to be the child’s parent.¹¹ This *unmarried* woman would be able to circumvent the adoption law and obtain a parent’s rights over the child even though she had no genetic relationship with the child and had not proven her parental fitness to an adoption court,

... enables two *unmarried* women, only one of whom will be genetically related to the child, to become parents by “reciprocal IVF” in which one donates her eggs to be fertilized in a lab and the resulting embryos are transferred to the other woman’s uterus,¹²

... includes a genderless (or trans-sexual) amendment that stipulates an “individual”, instead of a woman, gives birth to a child, and creates a genderless “parent-child relationship” instead of a mother-child relationship,¹³

... expands the definition of parents beyond “father” and “mother” to include a new genderless category called “parent”,¹⁴ which apparently is intended to cover a lesbian who lives with the mother,

... replaces the terms “husband” and “wife” with “male spouse” and “female spouse”¹⁵ perhaps to minimize the distinctive and valuable characteristics that a husband and wife bring to rearing their children, which same-sex couples lack, and to imply that spouses are fungible,

¹¹ 76-page bill, p. 21, ln 19-22, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.204 (a) (5).

¹² 76-page bill, p. 41, ln 24 to p. 42, ln 3, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.7031.

¹³ 76-page bill, p. 19, ln 26 to p. 20, ln 1, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.201 (1).

¹⁴ 76-page bill, p. 8, ln 24 to p. 9, ln 2, amending Tex. Fam. Code §101.024.

¹⁵ 76-page bill, p. 41, ln 17-20, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.703.

... removes schools' duty to educate young Texans on the risks of homosexual conduct and lifestyle,¹⁶ and

... legalizes sodomy in any venue, not just a private residential setting such as that in *Lawrence*.

The bill also gives married homosexual couples legal rights over non-consenting third parties - children, that were not litigated or adjudicated in *Obergefell* and are not mandated by that decision.

III. Opposition On The Merits to Tab 17, a 76-page bill¹⁷ Amending Parenting, Sodomy and Marriage Statutes

1. No prima facie justification given for bulk of bill. The LGBT Law Section's explanatory memo for Tab 17 and Tab 16 only addresses small portions of its 76-page bill. The memo discusses the portions on adult relationships of sodomy and homosexual marriage as explained in *Lawrence* and *Obergefell*, but does not substantively explain or justify the bulk of the 76 pages of changes, which mostly deal with third parties - children.

Please note that this 76-page bill ("the bill") was drafted but NOT introduced in the 85th Legislature's regular session in 2017.

2. Sacrificing the best interest of the children. One of the bill's gravest efforts at human re-engineering is allowing married lesbians to create fatherless children and married homosexual men to create motherless children, which are acts of irreparable child abuse. A child's right to be born to a father and a mother is historical, traditional, fundamental and inalienable.

¹⁶ 76-page bill, p. 59, ln 9-10, amending Tex. Health and Safety Code §85.007 (b) (2), p. 63, ln 17-19, amending Tex. Health and Safety Code §163.002 (8).

¹⁷ The bill identifies itself at the bottom of each of 76 pages as "85R1060(1) KSD". The bill was drafted but never introduced in the 85th Legislature's Regular Session.

The bill lets lesbians use assisted reproduction,¹⁸ including a gestational agreement surrogate,¹⁹ to create fatherless children. The bill also allows men to use a gestational agreement surrogate to create motherless children by conferring on the men a “wildcard” status for same-sex spouses (see footnote 22 below) that lets the men qualify as “intended mothers” under Tex. Fam. Code §160.756 (b) (2).

The bill also injures children by subjecting a child to the legal control of a second “mother” who is not a genetic parent, is not an adoptive parent whose fitness was approved by a court, and lacks the attributes of a complementary parent (a father). The bill does this by:

... enabling an unmarried lesbian to be presumed a second mother of a fatherless child by living with the genetic mother for the child’s first two years and claiming to be the child’s parent,²⁰ and by

... enabling a married lesbian to have presumptively made herself a second mother of a fatherless child by (i) being married to the mother when the child was born or (ii) having married the mother after the child was born and placed her name on the birth certificate.²¹

The bill also:

... confers on a “same-sex spouse”, in the name of being “gender-neutral”, a bisexual wildcard status that lets the same-sex spouse claim the rights granted both fathers and mothers, and husbands and wives, throughout the Family

¹⁸ 76-page bill, p. 20, ln 15-16, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.201 (6); p. 42, ln 11-12, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.704 (a).

¹⁹ 76-page bill, p. 45, ln 19-20, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.756 (b) (2).

²⁰ 76-page bill, p. 21, ln 19-22, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.204 (a) (5).

²¹ 76-page bill, p. 20, ln 21-24, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.204 (a) (1). If not rebutted, the presumption establishes the parent-child relationship. 76-page bill, p. 20, ln 7-8, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.201 (3).

Code,²²

... expands the definition of parents beyond “father” and “mother” to include a new genderless category called “parent”,²³ apparently to cover a lesbian who lives with the child’s mother,

... renders a mother genderless, perhaps to promote trans-sexuality, by providing that an “individual”, instead of a woman, gives birth to a child, and that a “parent-child” relationship, instead of a mother-child relationship, results,²⁴

... contemplates *multiple* intended mothers for a surrogate-birthed child,²⁵

... contemplates a child having more than one mother-child relationship or father-child relationship,²⁶

... for gestational agreements, replaces “the father-child relationship” and “the mother-child relationship” with multiple generic “parent-child” relationships for two fathers or two mothers,²⁷ and

... contemplates a child having two mothers or two fathers who would

²² 76-page bill, p. 1, ln 10-14, adding a new Tex. Fam. Code §1.0015: “Construction Of Gender-Specific Terminology. When necessary to implement the rights and duties of spouses or parents in a marriage between persons of the same sex under the laws of this state, gender-specific terminology must be construed in a neutral manner to refer to a person of either gender.” Also at p. 7, ln 18-22, adding a new Tex. Fam. Code §51.015; and p. 8, ln 3-7, adding a new Tex. Fam. Code §101.0012.

²³ 76-page bill, p. 8, ln 24 to p. 9, ln 2, amending Tex. Fam. Code §101.024.

²⁴ 76-page bill, p. 19, ln 26 to p. 20, ln 1, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.201 (1).

²⁵ 76-page bill, p. 45, ln 19-20, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.756 (b) (2).

²⁶ 76-page bill, p. 9, ln 13-15, amending Tex. Fam. Code §101.025.

²⁷ 76-page bill, p. 43, ln 25 - p. 44, ln 7, amending Tex. Fam. Code §160.753.

alternate possession on mother's/father's day.²⁸

3. Sodomy laws should be amended, not repealed. Sodomy between two men in a private, residential setting was the fact situation in *Lawrence*. Texas need only amend Tex. Penal Code §21.06 to allow that limited class of sodomy, while continuing to ban the far more random, fleeting, promiscuous, and high-risk sodomitical behavior in commercial settings, such as bathhouses, bars, and sexually oriented businesses, and in public parks and other public places.

That latter behavior is what brought the HIV/AIDS epidemic to the US and maintains the largest reservoir of HIV in the country.²⁹ It is instructive to note that HIV did not inundate East Germany like it did the U.S. in the mid-1980s, because communist East Germany had not experienced “gay liberation” and did not allow bathhouses, bars, and sexually oriented businesses as sites for sodomitical activity.³⁰ Sodomy's damage to the U.S. public health includes dooming the CDC's national plan to eradicate syphilis from the nation. While the CDC came close to eradicating syphilis in other demographic groups, it ultimately admitted defeat in the face of skyrocketing syphilis infections among male sodomists.³¹

In the U.S. today the CDC reports that 70% of new HIV infections are from

²⁸ 76-page bill, p. 15, ln 4-5, adding a new Tex. Fam. Code §153.318.

²⁹ “More than 600,000 gay and bisexual men are living with HIV in the United States.” CDC, “HIV Among Gay And Bisexual Men”, Feb. 2018, last accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/msm/index.html> on August 7, 2018. “An estimated 1.1 million people in the United States were living with HIV at the end of 2015” CDC, “HIV Basics”, last accessed on August 7, 2018 at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/statistics.html>.

³⁰ “Why Did AIDS Ravage the U.S. More Than Any Other Developed Country? Solving an epidemiological mystery,” by Michael Hobbes May 12, 2014, <https://newrepublic.com/article/117691/aids-hit-united-states-harder-other-developed-countries-why>. Last accessed on August 15, 2018.

³¹ CDC, Report of Syphilis Elimination Effort Consultation, August 1-2, 2005; CDC, STD Prevention Conference, May 8, 2006; 315 Clement, M., Hicks, C., “Syphilis On The Rise What Went Wrong?”, J.A.M.A., No. 21, June 7, 2016.

men sodomizing men.³² Cellphone apps for sodomy hookups further aggravate the situation.³³ Retaining and enforcing a state law against sodomy in commercial settings, such as bathhouses, bars, and sexually oriented businesses, and in public parks and other public places, would satisfy *Lawrence*'s holding on its facts while protecting the public health and restraining the HIV/AIDS epidemic and syphilis transmission in Texas.

4. *Texas must continue teaching the clear-eyed truth about sodomy.* The bill would abolish educators' duty to warn youth of the perils of sodomitical lifestyle.³⁴ Schools must teach students about the dangers of sodomy *before* the students experiment. Sodomy easily becomes habitual, then compulsive, then addictive. Once the activity reaches the habitual stage, education loses its effectiveness.³⁵

Youth should understand that most people view sodomy between men as degrading, disgusting, disease-ridden and sometimes deadly. They should know that male sodomy, by spreading HIV/AIDS across the U.S., has killed more young Americans³⁶ than died in combat in World War II defeating the Third Reich and

³² CDC, "HIV Among Gay And Bisexual Men", Feb. 2018, last accessed at <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/group/msm/index.html> on August 5, 2018.

³³ "Relative to those who used only non-MSM-specific apps, MSM-specific app users reported more sex partners and condomless anal sex partners, greater perceived risk of HIV, more engagement in sexual health services, and greater odds of HIV testing. ... Use of MSM-specific apps was not uncommon among this sample of [adolescent] MSM. Patterns of risk behavior and HIV testing were similar to samples of adult MSM app users." Macapagal, K., et al., *Hookup App Use, Sexual Behavior, and Sexual Health Among Adolescent Men Who Have Sex With Men in the United States*, 62 *Journal of Adolescent Health* 708-715 (June 2018).

³⁴ 76-page bill, p. 59, ln 9-10, amending Tex. Health and Safety Code §85.007 (b) (2), p. 63, ln 17-19, amending Tex. Health and Safety Code §163.002 (8).

³⁵ Satinover, Dr. Jeffrey, M.D., *Homosexuality And The Politics Of Truth*, 1996, pp. 141-143.

³⁶ <http://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom/docs/CDC-MSM-508.pdf>
CDC Fact Sheet HIV Among Gay And Bisexual Men March 2015

the Empire of Japan.³⁷

They should learn that most of \$26 billion the federal government spends annually on HIV/AIDS is for HIV-suppressing drugs and other support for persons living with HIV,³⁸ that staying on a multi-drug HIV treatment plan can be difficult,³⁹ and that a lifetime sentence of juggling antiretroviral regimens can be challenging as HIV mutates to develop resistance against each regimen.⁴⁰

Students should learn that male sodomy carries not only the unforgiving risks of HIV/AIDS but also gay bowel syndrome, hepatitis, fecal incontinence, colon perforation, anal cancer, throat cancer, and syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia.⁴¹ Students should be informed that the risk of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia is so great among sodomists that the CDC recommends sodomists be screened for those diseases at least once every year and if they have more than one partner that they be screened every 3 to 6 months.⁴²

IV. Opposition On The Merits to Tab 16, a Joint Resolution regarding the Texas Constitution

1. Respecting the people's will. Tab 16's proposed Joint Resolution asks Texas voters to repeal their 2005 constitutional amendment that affirmed the historical understanding of marriage as sexually complementary. Voters in every

"Since the beginning of the epidemic, more than 360,000 MSM with AIDS have died."

³⁷ <http://www.shmoop.com/wwii/statistics.html> "Estimated number of U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines killed in battle during World War II: 292,000."

³⁸ <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/u-s-federal-funding-for-hivaids-trends-over-time/> Last accessed Sept. 21, 2018.

³⁹ <https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/livingwithhiv/treatment.html>

⁴⁰ <https://aidsinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv-aids/fact-sheets/21/56/drug-resistance>

⁴¹ Satinover, Dr. Jeffrey, *supra*, at 67-68.

⁴² <https://www.cdc.gov/std/sam/std-hiv-screening.htm>

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county in Texas approved that 2005 amendment, except in Travis County. Statewide voter approval was 76%.⁴³ Texans should be able to express and engrave their views on such fundamental questions, even if five judges in the District of Columbia won't allow the citizens' sovereign will to be enforced. There is no groundswell of public opinion to amend Texans' view of marriage.

2. Risk of misleading Texans. An endorsement by the State Bar board will likely mislead Texans, however inadvertently, into thinking that the law *requires* the Constitution to be amended and that citizens *must* approve the amendment. That is not the case as the State was merely "enjoined from enforcing Texas's laws prohibiting same-sex marriage".⁴⁴ Tex. Const. art. I, §32 is not being enforced and is not a practical impediment to homosexual marriages in Texas.

3. Avoiding serial amendments. Because the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell* reasoning was so vacuous, it cannot be reasonably relied on as even semi-permanent law. It might well be overturned, which would make hastily amending the Texas Constitution wasted effort.

Respectfully yours,



Mark Brown SBN 03153280

MB:mb

cc: Executive Director, SBOT
General Counsel, SBOT

⁴³ <https://www.politifact.com/texas/article/2015/jun/26/gay-marriage-ruling-texas-voters-agreed-marriage-b/>

⁴⁴ Final Judgment signed July 7, 2015, after remand in *De Leon v. Perry*, 975 F. Supp. 2d 632, 665 (W.D. Tex. 2014), *aff'd*, 791 F.3d 619 (5th Cir. 2015).

TLAP DIRECTOR SPEAKS ON WELLNESS AND WELL-BEING

Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program Director Bree Buchanan gave a presentation on well-being at a Texas Board of Law Examiners luncheon on May 14 in Austin. Buchanan is co-chair of the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, co-authored the task force's report, "The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change," and recently received the Excellence in Community Leadership Award from the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation Legal Professionals Program.

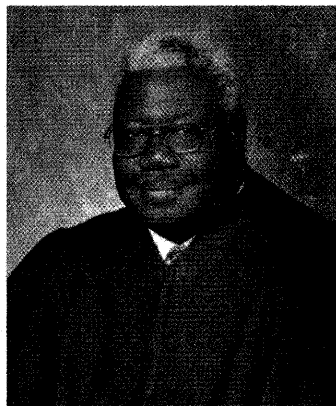


PHOTO BY LOWELL BROWN

Above: TLAP Director Bree Buchanan spoke about well-being at the Texas Board of Law Examiners luncheon on May 14 in Austin.

U.S. 5TH CIRCUIT CHIEF JUDGE TO KEYNOTE HEMPHILL DINNER

Hon. Carl E. Stewart, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, will be the keynote speaker at the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society's 23rd Annual John Hemphill Dinner on September 7 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin. Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Dale Wainwright, 2017-2018 society president, will preside over the evening program, which includes a presentation of the 10th annual Chief Justice Jack Pope Professionalism Award by the Texas Center for Legal Ethics. The award recognizes a Texas appellate lawyer or judge who demonstrates the highest level of professionalism and integrity. Proceeds from the dinner support the society's archival and educational programs, including its journal and book publishing projects. For ticket information, go to texascourthistory.org/hemphill or email tschs@sbcglobal.net.



HOUSTON LAWYER RIDES IN THE BP MS 150

This April marked the 15th year that Curtis W. Martin, the co-managing partner of Peckar & Abramson's Texas offices, rode in the BP MS 150, a bicycle ride from the Houston area to Austin that aims to raise awareness and seek funding for research and support for multiple sclerosis patients and their families. Since 2001, Martin has raised more than \$17,500. The ride has become one of the largest events of its kind in North America.

Right: Curtis W. Martin rode in the BP MS 150 this past April.



Legislative subcommittee to meet

The State Bar Legislative Policy Subcommittee is tentatively scheduled to meet August 16-17 to discuss all legislative proposals that have been properly submitted for consideration by the committee. To request a copy of the proposals or for questions regarding the August meeting, contact the State Bar Governmental Relations Department at govt.relations@texasbar.com or (800) 204-2222, ext. 6826.

Dallas attorneys raise money to support Mary Kay Foundation

Sawyer Neely and Sam Acker, attorneys with Dallas-based trial law firm Sayles Werbner, played in the 7th annual Mary Kay Charity Golf Classic on May 14 to support the Mary Kay Foundation's mission of raising funds and awareness for organizations fighting cancer and violence against women. The firm was a sponsor of the event, which was held at the Stonebriar Country Club in Frisco.

Warren Harris is new HBA president

Warren W. Harris, a partner in Bracewell, is the new president of the Houston Bar Association. Harris succeeds Alistair B. Dawson, who will serve on the HBA Board of Directors as immediate past president. Other new HBA officers are President-elect Benny Agosto Jr., of Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Aziz; First Vice President Jennifer A. Hasley, of Hasley Scarano; Second Vice President Chris Popov, of Vinson & Elkins; Secretary David Harrell, of Locke Lord; and Treasurer Bill Kroger, of Baker Botts. New directors for 2018-2020 are Diana Gomez, of Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry; Greg Moore, of Norton Rose Fulbright; Robert Painter, of Painter Law Firm; and Greg Ulmer, of BakerHostetler.

Adam T. Schramek is new Austin Bar president

Adam T. Schramek, a litigation partner in Norton Rose Fulbright, took office as the new president of the Austin Bar Association on June 1. As president, his mission is to increase participation by Austin lawyers in pro bono projects, such as Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans, which provides pro bono civil legal assistance to veterans and their families who otherwise could not afford legal services. Schramek has been a member of the Austin Bar's Board of Directors since 2013, previously served as president of the Austin Young Lawyers Association, and is a fellow of the Austin Bar Foundation.