

THE WOMEN'S ADVOCATE

A CATALYST FOR 2002



Women and the Law Section Newsletter

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2001-2002 WAL OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

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COUNCIL TERMS EXPIRING 2002

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Council of the Women and the Law Section has been hard at work on the projects we undertake each year—our annual CLE institute, being planned this year by council members Patricia O. Alvarez, Nancy L. Farrer, Christy Drake-Adams, Mara Asya Blatt, and Sherry Wetsch; the State Bar Annual Meeting, led by Chair-Elect Misty M. Ventura and her team of Dallas attorneys Louise B. Raggio, D'Metria Benson, Irene Jackson, and Suzanne Duvall; and the Sarah T. Hughes and Ma'at Justice Awards, which Sherry Wetsch, Judy L. Ney, Teresa Oxford, and Nancy Farrer are vetting.

Chronologist Avo Stevens Butler continues the important work of chronicling the lives of the Texas women lawyers who have been pathfinders in this profession and Membership Vice-Chair Teresa Oxford is generating new ideas and brochures to maintain and increase section membership. Secretary Carolyn F. Moore records our every inspired word in the minutes of our council meetings and able Treasurer Judy L. Ney is managing the section's finances like a pro.

With her usual creative flair, council member Ronnie E.G. Harrison, with the help of Carolyn Moore, Patricia Alvarez, Judy Ney (and some good-natured husbands, I believe) has already completed a pro bono project that netted \$660.00 for the Women's Advocacy Project. Council member Ralph H. Brock is keeping watch over the bylaws and doing much more as you will read in this newsletter. Immediate Past President Irene Jackson steps in anywhere and everywhere she is needed from committees to gathering content for the newsletter.

And the Newsletter Vice-Chair, you ask? Who is the Newsletter Vice-Chair and what has the Vice-Chair been working on? Well, I must now confess to the membership that the Newsletter Vice-Chair position is vacant, which explains in part the delay in delivery of this newsletter edition. Why, you wonder, is the position vacant? Is it because the mere mention of ascending to the Newsletter Vice-Chair position made candidates shrink back in horror and proclaim with wavering voice and arm en garde, "No, ANYTHING but newsletter"? Face it. Your Chair this year is no good at twisting those arms, mostly because I see no point in forcing someone to do a job they dread. Because I happened to love producing the newsletter a few years ago, I foolishly (over)committed to doing this first edition and...well, enough said. We will be back on track with two more editions this year and....I have a plan.

The next Newsletter Vice-Chair (you can run, but you can't hide) will select reporters from the membership who will provide articles, case law updates, news of statewide events, and other content so the bulk of the work does not fall only on the Vice-Chair's shoulders. As an alternative, the Council is considering shifting to an editorial board to alleviate the time constraints inherent in assigning this task to one person. The Council has further voted to have the

State Bar typeset all future newsletters once the content has been selected. And the new color banner *is* splendid, isn't it?

Other than lacking that important officer, I am a lucky Chair. I am lucky because the Council this year is comprised of dynamic members new to council service, committed supporters with invaluable institutional knowledge, and several former section chairs. At each meeting, I have engaged the Council in a dialogue about the mission of this section—to encourage and facilitate the active and effective participation of women in the legal profession and to address the current needs of and issues affecting women—and have asked the Council to explore the adoption of a strategic plan for the future. As a statewide organization with an interest in many different substantive areas of the law, accomplishing multiple projects in our many areas of interest is a challenge for this or any section.

As the Council continues to discuss a strategic plan, one area I know we can enhance is the delivery of information to the section membership. I mean all kinds of information from local and national case law updates impacting women to current events and resources for mentoring and leadership. My goal for this Bar year is to amplify the content of our newsletter and to, yes, develop a website for the Women and the Law Section. Design plans are already in the works for the website and the new site should be operational by spring! I will announce the new website address in the next edition of the newsletter and I welcome your calls and e-mails about what type of information you would like to see on your website, so fire away.

As a final confession, I must tell you that I wanted to write something inspiring in this first message, but I have been a little uninspired. Not because there is nothing to say, but because there is so much. I will give you then some borrowed inspiration. I watched the film *The Contender* recently. You know, the one about the president who nominates a woman U.S. senator named Laine Hanson to fill the unexpired term of his deceased vice-president. She will, if confirmed, become the first woman ever to serve as vice-president. Don't read on if you don't want to know what happens. Suffice it to say the committee in charge of her confirmation digs up some sexual escapades Senator Hanson allegedly engaged in during college. Throughout the entire movie, she refuses to dignify the allegations with a response because she knows that if the nominee were a man, his college sexual escapades would not be an issue.

In the end of the film, the president, played by Jeff Bridges, delivers an address to Congress in which he chastises the committee members for *raising the stakes of hate...and [for being] patriots to their party, but traitors to the necessary end result...the concept of making the American dream blind to gender*. He then calls for an immediate vote of confirmation, saying: *I would like to make this a live roll call vote. I want to see the faces of those of you who would eliminate the possibility of greatness in American leadership because of half-truths, lies, and innuendos. I will not be deterred by partisanship. I will not be deterred by misogyny. I will not be deterred by hate...Confirm my nominee...* (Quote from the script for *The Contender*, written and directed by Rod Lurie, Dreamworks SKG, 2000.)

Making the American dream blind to gender has yet to move from conception to reality for many women. I look around and see the still constant reality of unequal pay for equal and even more experienced work. I hear about the unannounced abolition of the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and the White House's proposed budget, which cuts a pay equity initiative and ten local Labor Department Women's Bureaus established in the 1920's as a result of women's suffrage. I hear about the problem of encouraging women to go into better paying jobs, like those in high tech, math, and science, when in reality those jobs will likely lack the flexibility many women need to balance work and family—the very flexibility they find with low-paying, part-time jobs. And I read about the gender discrimination and sexual harassment cases in the high-tech and financial professions, the inexcusable details of which were reported in the New York Times just last year. But until the American employer stops looking at women as worth less than men and until American women demand to see the faces of those who would limit their possibilities because of their gender or their marital status or their parental responsibilities, making the American dream blind to gender will remain for many women exactly that—just a concept.

—Deborah L. Ingraham

WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION 2001 ANNUAL MEETING

The Section held its annual meeting on June 15, 2001, at the State Bar of Texas annual meeting. Irene Jackson, President of the Section presided. A reception held in conjunction with the meeting was sponsored, in part, by the Travis County Women's Bar Association.

President Jackson began the meeting by reporting on the Section's accomplishments for the year, which included publishing three newsletters, donating funds to the Women's Advocacy Project, encouraging Section members to run for the State Bar Board of Directors, and co-sponsoring a continuing legal education presentation of Texas Women Lawyers at the new Women's Museum in Dallas in March.

The Section voted on amendments to the bylaws, which included technical changes to conform to new State Bar guidelines, updating bylaws to provide for telephone conferences and other council communications by various electronic means, and changing the title of the head of the Section from President to Chair. Officers were elected, with Deborah L. Ingraham, Chair-Elect, succeeding to the place of Chair of the Section. The new Chair-Elect is Misty Ventura of Dallas.

President Jackson presented the Section's 2001 Ma'at Justice Award to Paula Weems Hinton of Houston for her work through the Women in the Profession Committee. Justice Barbara Rosenberg of Dallas was presented with the 2001 Sarah T. Hughes Award for her work on the original Supreme Court Gender Bias Task Force, the Gender Bias Implementation Committee, and her current work as Chair of the Supreme Court Task Force for Gender Fairness. Justice Rosenberg is a former President of the Women and the Law Section.

Ellen Elkins Grimes of Houston, the Chair of the Women in the Profession Committee then gave her CLE presentation as the keynote speaker. She spoke on *Pioneering Women In the Law*. She profiled 14 women lawyers beginning with Margaret Brent, the first woman lawyer in America, sharing slides and information about Brent and other women lawyers to the present day. These included the first woman formally admitted to practice in the United States, Arabella Babb Mansfield of Iowa; Hortense Ward, the first woman to practice in Texas and the first woman to serve on the state supreme court, although a temporary one that was constituted in the early 1900s due to a conflict of interest involving all the judges on the supreme court (being of course men).

The profiles also included Judge Sarah T. Hughes, the former U. S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas; Barbara Jordan, the first black woman in the Texas Senate; Anna Sanbow, the first woman graduate of the University of Texas School of Law; and Louise Raggio of Dallas, who has been practicing law for 47 years. Ms. Raggio, who was instrumental in the creation of the Texas Family Code, was a founding member of the Dallas Women Lawyer's Association, the first female director on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors, and is a member emeritus of the Women and the Law Section Council and constant supporter of the Section. Ms. Grimes concluded that women lawyers in Texas must continue to follow the example of the women she profiled until there are no more barriers to prevent women from obtaining their highest aspirations in the field of law.

COUNCIL MEMBER CAMPAIGNS FOR NO-SEX-WITH-CLIENT RULE

A member of the Section's Council and past chair of the Section has taken an active role supporting the adoption of a rule prohibiting lawyers from having sexual relations with their clients. Ralph H. Brock, who drafted a resolution that gained approval at the State Bar Annual Meeting in 2000, says that the legal profession is one of the few licensed professions that does not have a rule against sex with clients.

The resolution offered a per se prohibition against sexual relations with clients unless the lawyer and client were married or had a pre-existing sexual relationship. The State Bar Board of Directors, opposing the per se provision, tabled the proposed rule. Chair of the Board Dick Miller appointed an ad hoc committee to try to find an acceptable compromise. Mr. Brock proposed a version of the rule that prohibited sexual relations if the sexual relationship exploited the client's emotional dependency on the lawyer's professional character as a legal advisor, was reasonably likely to significantly impair the lawyer's ability to represent the client competently, or otherwise prejudiced or damaged the client or the client's interest. This was not an ideal solution, Mr. Brock says, but it was the only version that had any chance of passage by the Board.

In the meantime, Mr. Brock wrote an article for the March, 2001 issue of the *Texas Bar Journal*, entitled *Sex, Clients & Legal Ethics*, that discussed the problem, and the need for a rule against sex with clients. The Board of Directors approved the revised rule at its April 2001 meeting, and it will appear on the next referendum conducted by the State Bar.

Mr. Brock emphasizes that the effort to get the rule in place has only just begun. The referendum, when it occurs, will require much more effort than it did to get Board approval. He has already begun campaigning for the referendum by delivering the keynote address at the September 6th Judicial Reception sponsored by the Dallas Women Lawyers Association, and by addressing the November luncheon meeting of the Lubbock County Women Lawyers Association. Mr. Brock urges women to be ready to join the campaign when the referendum does come, and he warns that if the Bar misses this chance to join other disciplines in prohibiting sexual relations with clients, it will be a tremendous setback for the profession.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FROM THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Employment Law

Submitted by Irene Jackson and based on a presentation by Rick Levy, Austin, Texas.

H.B. 533 raised the state minimum wage to the federal minimum wage.

H.B. 482 expanded the categories of individuals protected by the Nursing Home Whistleblower Protection Act to include volunteers, family members and guardians of a nursing home resident.

H.B. 3473 increased certain job protections for pregnant workers employed by municipalities or counties.

H.B. 1127 changed the deadline for public institutions of higher learning to notify its faculty members if their contracts will not be renewed for the coming school year.

S.B. 12 codified case law that had developed making it clear that an employer cannot base employment decisions on information it has gained about an employee through genetic testing.

Texas Insurance Code

Submitted by Irene Jackson and excerpted from Recent Changes to the Texas Insurance Code by Daniel Kruger, Texas Bar Journal, Vol. 64, No. 64 (Sept. 2001, pp. 802-806).

Coverage under a group health insurance policy has been expanded to now include dependent grandchildren so long as the grandchild is less than 21 and living with the group health member. (TEX. INS. CODE § 3.51-6).

A group health policyholder also has coverage for any unmarried child if the child is under 25 years of age and is a dependent of the policyholder for federal income tax purposes at the time application for the coverage is made. (TEX. INS. CODE § 3.51-6).

A health benefit plan that provides benefits for prescription drugs or devices

may not exclude or limit benefits to enrollees for a prescription contraceptive drug or device approved by the U.S. FDA for outpatient contraceptive services. Further, an insurance company may not deny eligibility or renewal to an enrollee solely because of the applicant's or enrollee's use or potential use of a prescription contraceptive drug or device or an outpatient contraceptive service. Finally, an insurance company may not offer a monetary incentive to an applicant or enrollee to induce the applicant or enrollee to accept coverage that does not provide such benefit, or reduce or limit a payment to a health care professional or otherwise penalize the health care professional because the health care professional prescribes a contraceptive drug or device or provides outpatient service. However, an insurance company may limit all prescription drugs or devices or all services for which benefits are provided under a health benefit plan. (TEX. INS. CODE § 21.52L.)

Also of interest to women is a new law known as the *Omnibus Women's Equal Health Care Act*. (S.B. 8; Tex. Ins. Code § 21.53N). The Act requires a health benefit plan, when paying for services provided to a woman, to reimburse health care providers at a rate not less than the average that would be paid for the same medical, surgical, hospital, pharmaceutical, nursing, or other similar resources in providing health care services exclusively to men or to the general population. If a court finds that a defendant knowingly violated this Act, it may impose a civil penalty of up to \$25,000. This Act applies only to insurance policies first issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2002.

Property Law

Submitted by Misty Ventura

S.B. 198 consolidates, amends and redesignates various Sections in Chapters D and E of chapter 5 of the Property Code, to provide that the consumer protections previously enacted to apply to colonias now apply to all con-

tracts for deeds (with a few exceptions). Author: Moncreif. Effective date: 9/1/01.

S.B. 507 adds Chapter 209, the *Residential Property Owners Protection Act*, to the Property Code. Section 209.006 of this chapter requires notice and an opportunity to cure before an owner's association may take enforcement action. Section 209.009 of this chapter prohibits foreclosure sales solely for fines or attorneys fees incurred solely for the collection of fines. Author: Carona. Effective date: 1/1/02.

H.B. 2033 adds Water Code Section 13.257 to require that a seller of unimproved real property inside a certified service area of a utility service provider notify a purchaser that the extension of water or sewer services may require additional expense on the individual's part and that there might be a delay in the utility's ability to provide the services to be provided and gives the purchaser the option to recover certain damages if the notice is not provided by the seller. The notice must be given both at the time of contracting and at closing and recorded. Author: Pitts. Effective date: 9/1/01.

Local Government

Submitted by Christy Drake-Adams

Purchasing Options were Significantly Broadened for Municipalities

H.B. 197 raises from \$15,000 to \$25,000 the threshold contract amount at which a city must seek a competitive bid.

S.B. 221 authorizes a city to use the reverse auction procedure to purchase goods and services.

H.B. 1981 relates to competitive bidding.

S.B. 510 relates to procurement methods/design-build.

Beneficial Legislation was Passed in the Area of Municipal Courts

H.B. 1739 increases fines for failing to use child restraints in a vehicle.

H.B. 2270 broadens the jurisdiction of municipal courts of record.

H.B. 2410 relates to waiver of municipal court fines where a defendant is indigent.

H.B. 3498 relates to improvement of collection of costs, fines and fees.

S.B. 1371 expands provisions of the Texas Transportation Code by allowing a city to contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety to deny renewal of a driver's license for a person who fails to pay or satisfy a judgment ordering payment of a fine or court cost in municipal court.

S.B. 1377 and S.B. 1421 relate to municipal court fees.

S.B. 1681 relates to payment of fines.

S.B. 1778 relates to court costs.

S.J.R. 49 relates to municipal court fees.

Workers' Compensation Law

Submitted by Judge Carolyn Moore

Attorneys who prevail in representing injured workers in district court after an insurance carrier appeals a dispute will now collect their attorney fees from the insurance carrier. This change was one of seventeen changes to the workers compensation system authorized by H.B. 2600. The new law, the Omnibus Workers' Compensation Bill, was passed by the Texas Legislature on May 28, 2001, and signed by Governor Rick Perry on June 17, 2001. The passage of this legislation was the first major reform of the Texas workers' compensation system since 1989.

H.B. 2600 authorized other changes to the workers' compensation system for

injured workers, for employers, and for insurance carriers. For example, Article 3 of the bill requires employers to report whether they have modified duty for injured workers and requires insurance carriers to provide return to work services to employers whose workers have suffered injuries while at work. Article 10 allows injured workers with multiple jobs to have their income benefits calculated on all of their wages, not just the wages of the job where the injury was sustained.

Also, under the new law, employers can no longer require an employee to waive his or her right to sue for injury on the job (prior to an injury) in exchange for certain medical and other benefits. Employers cannot force an employee to go to any certain doctor, but can offer the employee incentives to choose from a list of doctors. If an employee is forced to go to a certain doctor, or retaliated against for changing doctors or not going to a certain doctor, that employee has a private cause of action.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW TO HOST NATIONAL WOMEN LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (NWLSA) 2002 CONFERENCE

The mission of the National Women Law Students' Association (NWLSA) is to achieve full equality and to improve the status of women in the legal profession and throughout society. NWLSA is working toward this goal by establishing an effective coalition of law students from across the nation. This coalition meets on an annual basis at the NWLSA Annual Conference; the 2002 Conference will be held at Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock, Texas (<http://www.law.ttu.edu/>) on **February 28-March 2, 2002**.

The conference theme is *Women: Reaching From Our Past...Building Our Future*. The conference will begin by high-

lighting women's history. Then the conference will address current issues facing women law students, women lawyers, and women in general. Judge Phyllis Kravitch from the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals is the keynote speaker (for more information on Judge Kravitch, see <http://www.atljewishtimes.com/archives/2000/112400cs.htm>). The conference will also feature workshops, seminars, panel discussions, and CLE credit. For more information, log on to <http://www.nwlsa.org> or contact Cailen L. Wevodau, Director of the Conference, at (806) 780-3768 or cwevodau@ttacs.ttu.edu.

UPDATE ON THE SUPREME COURT TASK FORCE FOR GENDER FAIRNESS

By Irene Jackson, Immediate Past President

The Texas Supreme Court Task Force for Gender Fairness met on June 15, 2001, at the State Bar Annual Meeting in Austin. Justice Barbara Rosenberg, Chair of the Task Force, presided. Professor Malinda Seymore of Texas Wesleyan Law School and Texas Supreme Court Justice Deborah Hankinson reported on gender fairness studies proposed for Texas law schools. Professor Seymore noted that a 1996 ABA study detected **gender bias in U. S. law schools** in course offerings, the status of professors, and the treatment of female law students. Justice Hankinson reported that she was in the process of drafting a letter to send to the deans of the law schools asking for their opinion about participating in a similar study of Texas law schools.

Justice Rosenberg then discussed the **proposed attorney disciplinary rule prohibiting sex with clients**. The Task Force was involved in persuading the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors to approve a rule prohibiting attorneys from having sex with their clients. **(The author notes that the Women and the Law Section also lobbied the State Bar Board earlier this year for such a rule.)** The next step, Justice Rosenberg indicated, would be a referendum so Texas lawyers could vote on the proposed disciplinary rule. If, however, the Bar is unable to conduct a successful referendum, the Bar should be concerned about how this problem may be addressed by the Texas

legislature. In the last state legislative session, the House passed a bill making sex with a client a sexual assault and a criminal offense. The bill did not get enough support to pass the Senate. The Task Force may want to consider more action on this issue.

Paula Hinton discussed evaluation of judges as a project for the Task Force. The evaluation of judges by major city bar associations is being reviewed to determine whether gender fairness is addressed in such evaluations. The Task Force is considering asking each bar association to incorporate a number of questions in their evaluations addressing gender fairness by judges. Ms. Hinton suggested that perhaps there should be questions addressing domestic violence issues as well.

The meeting ended with an invitation to the National Association of Women Judges' Conference to be held in New York in early October. The Conference schedule includes a nationwide meeting of all State Gender Bias and Fairness Task Forces.

The Women and the Law Section will continue to monitor the work and progress of the Gender Fairness Task Force and report this information to our members.

MA'AT JUSTICE AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Ma'at, the Egyptian goddess of justice, symbolizes truth, order, righteousness, and the emergence of order out of chaos. The Women and the Law Section established the Ma'at Justice Award in 1995 to recognize and celebrate individual attorneys or an association of attorneys who have contributed to the furtherance of justice in our society. Every year the Women and the Law Section awards the Ma'at Justice Award to an individual who is actively addressing the needs and issues affecting women both in the legal profession and in the community. Nominations are now being accepted for the 2002 award. Contact Teresa Oxford at (210) 308-1232 or taoxford@usfunds.com or Nancy Farrer at (210) 335-3976 or Nancy.Farrer@courts.state.tx.us for a nomination form.

SARAH T. HUGHES AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Given every year since 1992, the Sarah T. Hughes award honors the accomplishments of women who have achieved outstanding recognition in their professional area, and who by doing so, have paved the way for the success of other women attorneys.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2002 award. Please contact Judy Ney at (713) 723-1937 or judylneyjd@aol.com or Sherry Wetsch at (713) 974-2115 or swetsch@flash.net for a nomination form.



Former Women and the Law Section Chairs from left; top row: Ronnie E.G. Harrison, Terese M. Easter, Malinda Gaul, Suzanne M. Duvall, Carolyn F. Moore; bottom row: Ralph H. Brock, Iris J. Hefter Robinson



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 19, 2002: WAL Section Council Meeting, Texas Law Center, Room 208, Austin.

February 28-March 2, 2002: NWLSA Annual Conference, Texas Tech University School of Law, Lubbock

March 2002: WAL Section 2002 Institute.

June 12-15, 2002: State Bar Annual Meeting, Wyndham Anatole Hotel, Dallas.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS HELD BY TELECONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 15, 2001

Welcome and Introductions

Deborah L. Ingraham, Chair, convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. by teleconference. Other officers participating in the meeting were Misty Ventura, Chair-elect, of Dallas; Teresa Oxford, Vice-Chair for Membership, of San Antonio; Judy Ney, Treasurer, of Houston; Irene Jackson, Immediate Past Chair, of Irving; and Carolyn F. Moore, Secretary, of Lubbock. Council members participating were Nancy Farrer of San Antonio; Christy Drake-Adams of Austin; Mara Blatt of El Paso; Ronnie E.G. Harrison of Houston; Suzanne M. Duvall of Dallas; Ralph H. Brock of Lubbock; and Patricia O. Alvarez of Laredo.

D'Metria Benson of Dallas had an excused absence for the meeting because she was travelling on behalf of her employer. Avo Stevens Butler, Chronologist, of Sherman, and Sherry Wetsch, council member, of Houston, did not participate in the meeting.

Patricia Alvarez' absence at the August meeting was excused. She had been incorrectly informed that she could not serve on a State Bar Section Council and a State Bar Committee at the same time. The State Bar President, who this year is not allowing anyone to serve on more than two committees, appoints State Bar Committees. State Bar Section Council positions are elected by membership of the sections. The State Bar President does not have any control of elections to section councils.

Deborah L. Ingraham reminded officers and council members to send to her by e-mail any corrections to their addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses.

Secretary's Report

Carolyn F. Moore moved the approval of minutes of the August 18, 2001 meeting. After a second by Nancy Farrer, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Judy Ney said that the Section's balance as of 9-30-01 was \$7,415.25. Since then she has written a check for \$248.39, bringing the balance to \$7,166.86. She agreed to e-mail a copy of the Treasurer's Report to all Section officers and council members so the report can be approved at the next meeting.

Strategic Plan

Deborah L. Ingraham asked the officers and council members to continue their discussion from the previous meeting concerning the Section's mission, which is to encourage and facilitate the active and effective participation of women in the legal profession, and to address the current needs of and issues affecting women. She suggested that the Section undertake a strategic plan, or perhaps a two-year plan, to be carried out by a sitting chair and continued by the chair-elect the following year.

Misty Ventura said she would like a listing of what officers and council members are expected to do during their term, with the purpose of generating active council participation. Irene Jackson suggested that officers and council members keep files of what they do on various projects for the Section and pass those files to other officers and council members; Deborah L. Ingraham urged participants to retain notes of their activities and to pass the notes to officers and council members who would be taking their place in the next term.

State Bar Business

Teresa Oxford moved that the Section continue allowing new lawyer inductees to join the Section for the rest of the year without being charged dues. After a second by Suzanne Duvall, the motion carried.

Council of Chairs

Ralph H. Brock, who serves as a Section representative to the State Bar Board, said that the other five Section representatives believe that Section rep-

resentatives to the Board should not have voting rights. He disagrees and believes that the Section representatives should be allowed to vote. To allow voting, the State Bar Act would need to be amended by the Texas Legislature. The State Bar Board historically only proposes changes in the Act to the Legislature once every twelve years when the State Bar goes through Sunset Review. The next time the State Bar goes through Sunset is the 2003 Legislative Session. He said that the Council of Chairs has requested that each Section decide whether it wants Section representatives to be voting members of the State Bar Board.

Irene Jackson moved, with a second by Patricia Alvarez, that the Section support the move to make Section representatives voting members of the State Bar Board. The motion carried.

Newsletter

Deborah Ingraham said that she is working on the Section's newsletter and will take it to the State Bar soon. Christy Drake-Adams reported that the State Bar would charge the Section a standard rate of \$45.00 an hour to typeset the newsletter, estimating that a minimum of four hours would be needed for typesetting.

Suzanne Duvall moved, with a second from Ralph H. Brock, that the Section approve the expenditure of \$45.00 an hour for typesetting, in addition to expenses for copying and postage, for the Section's newsletter. After much discussion, the motion carried.

Participants agreed to vote by e-mail on adding color to the newsletter, once Deborah Ingraham can distribute information about the cost. Participants agreed that we still need an editor for the newsletter. Deborah Ingraham asked participants to review the following list of suggestions for regular newsletter columns, rank items on the list, and send the rankings to Deborah Ingraham by e-mail. The list includes:

- Research and report on availability of Reserve JAG slots throughout Texas and identify some of the benefits of serving in these part-time positions;
- Feature website(s) of the Quarter
- Gender Fairness Task Force Update;
- Tips for solo/small firm lawyers;
- Women in the Profession Committee Update;
- History-Profile of a pioneer woman lawyer;
- Accomplishments of members;
- Judge's Column - reflections on good and bad practice, with tips on how to be effective in court;
- Updates from local women's specialty bars;
- Book report - women's issues, lifestyles, etc.;
- Column featuring different regions of Texas;
- Mentoring tips - what a new lawyer should know;
- Report on Texas Women Lawyers;
- Movie reviews on relevant issues; and
- Recent case decisions affecting Women and the Law Section
- Options for part-time/contract work for working attorney-mothers and impact of part-time work on partnership chances.

Membership Report

Teresa Oxford stated that the Section needs two people to visit with new lawyers at the Frank Erwin Center on November 13, 2001, from 9:30 until 11:30 am, following the New Lawyers Induction Ceremony. Our Section has in the past been at the ceremony to tell

new lawyers about the Section, give new lawyers a copy of the Section's brochure, and encourage membership in the Section. Christy Drake-Adams and Deborah L. Ingraham said they would be at the Frank Erwin Center to help. Patricia O. Alvarez said she would also try to help.

Teresa Oxford reported that she has one price quoted for a new brochure. She will try to get another quote next week. The quote she has is \$735 for 1000 brochures, which would have a full color picture of Ma'at and be on white paper. Ralph H. Brock agreed to e-mail to Teresa a copy of the picture of Ma'at on the current brochure.

Chronologist

Deborah L. Ingraham reported that The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) has closed UTSA's Archives for Research on Women and Gender and has transferred the documents maintained in the archives to the university's history department. The documents the Section submitted to the university about the Section's history will be maintained by the history department.

Special Member Recognition

Planned Parenthood will honor Louise Raggio, Emeritus Voting Member of the Section, in January in Dallas.

Ralph H. Brock recently gave the keynote address at the Dallas Women Lawyers' Judicial Reception. He agreed to send to Deborah Ingraham something about the topic of his speech for the newsletter.

Teresa Oxford was nominated for Outstanding Young Lawyer in San Antonio.

State Bar 2002 Annual Meeting

Misty Ventura is planning this meeting, which will be in Dallas at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel.

Annual CLE Planning Committee

Co-chairs will continue discussing ideas.

Ma'at Justice Award - An appropriate award needs to be located.

Pro Bono

Ronnie Harrison said that on October 16, the Section is co-sponsoring a program with the Women's Advocacy Project. Deborah Ingraham will attend the program on behalf of the Section.

Website Committee

Plans are progressing for the website.

Next Meeting

Deborah Ingraham said that the next meeting might be scheduled for December 1 or for December 8 in Austin. She will confirm the date as soon as possible.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn F. Moore
10-19-01
(Original signature on file)

JOB VACANCY

The U.S. Department of Justice has an opening for a Trial Attorney, GS-905-12/13/14/15, in Houston, Texas. The attorney will be responsible primarily for representing the United States Trustee in cases in Bankruptcy Court. Contact Peggy C. Taylor at (713)718-4660 about Announcement No. 2002-02-HOU. Application Deadline: March 31, 2002.

NOTES

FULL MEMBERSHIP: \$20.00
LICENSED LESS THAN 1 YEAR: FREE
LAW STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: \$5.00
(Membership Year: June 1 through May 31.)

NAME: _____

BUSINESS NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ FAX #: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ FAX #: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

STATES WHERE YOU ARE LICENSED: _____

YOUR AREAS OF PRACTICE: _____

LAW SCHOOL ATTENDED: _____

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOL ATTENDED: _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A LOCAL WOMEN’S BAR: _____

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF OTHER LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS: _____

Please designate one or more WAL Committees on which you would like to serve:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLE Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Pro Bono |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronology | <input type="checkbox"/> Website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ma’at Justice Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Columnist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sarah T. Hughes Award | |

Signature _____ Date _____

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