

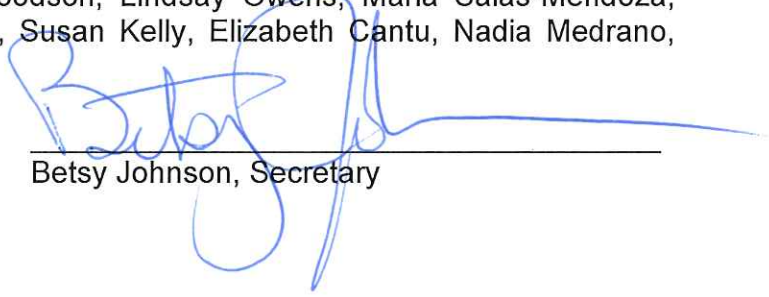


**WOMEN AND THE LAW**  
STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Minutes of Meeting of Women and the Law Section  
State Bar of Texas  
July 16, 2020 Via Email

On July 16, 2020, Teresa Schiller sent the proposed draft statement below to council members as the first order of business for the year. The council voted by email to sign onto the statement with other sections of the SBOT, and it was passed unanimously.

Council members in attendance via email were: Teresa Schiller, Betsy Johnson, Deborah Cordova, Deborah Race, Denise Alex, Ellis Iverson, Jessica Mendez, Judy Ney, Kirby Drake, Laura Kugler, Leigh Goodson, Lindsay Owens, Maria Salas-Mendoza, Natasha Martinez, Patricia Chapmen, Susan Kelly, Elizabeth Cantu, Nadia Medrano, Nikki Allen, and Summer Olmos.



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Betsy Johnson, Secretary

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PROPOSED DRAFT STATEMENT

Over the past week, members of the State Bar of Texas (SBOT) and the public have discovered that the new President of the SBOT, Larry McDougal, has made a pattern of inappropriate comments concerning race, women, drug addiction, and police brutality. The comments are shocking, misinformed, and, at best, display a severe level of ignorance and a lack of empathy.

The following sections of the State Bar of Texas stand in solidarity condemning President McDougal's comments and fully adopt the "Call to Action in Response to State Bar of Texas President Larry McDougal's Comments Concerning Black Lives Matter" by the African American Law Section (AALS).

We know and believe the following statements to be true and undeniable:

Black Lives Matter.

Police brutality is wrong in all instances; it is not justice.

The President's opinion of a female attorney's looks have no place in public discourse, and certainly do not speak to that attorney's merit.

Lawyers dealing with substance use and mental health issues need support and empathy from the SBOT and its leaders, not cast aside with a demeaning title.

The State Bar should be working to "support the administration of the legal system, assure all citizens equal access to justice, foster high standards of ethical conduct for lawyers, enable its members to better serve their clients and the public, educate the public about the rule of law, and promote diversity in the administration of justice and practice of law." Mr. McDougal's comments are directly at odds with this and therefore call into question his ability to lead.

We strongly call on the Board of Directors of the SBOT to implement the proposals made by the AALS. Further, we ask that general counsel, law firms, corporate legal departments, and law schools stand in solidarity with us, that we re-commit to education on implicit bias & micro-aggressions, and that we include the Law Schools in this commitment. #RaisetheBar

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