



Minutes of Meeting of Women and the Law Section
State Bar of Texas
September 16, 2020 Teleconference

Teresa Schiller, Chair, called the September board meeting of the Women and the Law Section to order at 12:00 P.M. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Council members in attendance via telephone or video: Teresa Schiller, Betsy Johnson, Nikki Chargois-Allen, Leigh Goodson, Denise Alex, Ellis Iverson, Lindsay Owens, Deborah Cordova, Kirby Drake, Judge Maria Salas-Mendoza, Susan Kelly, and Deborah Race.

Guests in attendance via telephone or video: Amy Welborn and Dori Kornfeld Goldman.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Natasha Martinez presented a report for June, the first month of the fiscal year.

CLE COMMITTEE REPORT

CLE Committee Co-Chairs Kirby Drake and Reagan Boyce reported that four (4) monthly CLE presentations are scheduled at 12:00 pm by teleconference.

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| 1. September 24, 2020 | Texas Supreme Court Update |
| 2. October 22, 2020 | Bankruptcy for Non-Practitioners |
| 3. November 19, 2020 | Housing and Urban Development: Family Housing and Reasonable Accommodations |
| 4. December 9, 2020 | HIPAA in times of COVID |

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Membership Committee Co-Chair Denise Alex and Dori Goldman were present. Dori Goldman reported that currently the section has 1,264 members with 401 non-renewals. Discussion was had regarding a “Womens’ Advocate” status to be awarded to law firms or organizations whose female attorneys are all section members.

STATE BAR’S ACTIONS REGARDING PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS -- UPDATE

Teresa Schiller updated the Board concerning comments made by SBOT President Larry McDougal. The SBOT Board of Directors held a September meeting to consider items pending from the special Board meeting concerning this issue. Six (6) items in particular were discussed and reported:

1. One of the SBOT Directors withdrew a motion to limit the president’s spokesperson’s duties, so no vote was taken.
2. The Board directed its Policy Manual Subcommittee to develop recommendations for SBOT policies or rules that could enable the board to take any of several actions against officers or directors (current rules only allow process for removal of Directors):
 - a. Impeach
 - b. Remove from office
 - c. Suspend
 - d. Other disciplinary action
3. The board directed the subcommittee to develop recommendations for a code of conduct for SBOT officers and directors.
4. The board directed its Discipline and Client Attorney Assistance Program Committee to develop recommendations regarding two rules:
 - a. An ABA model rule relating to misconduct, and
 - b. A Texas disciplinary rule relating to discrimination.
5. The board approved the roster of a new task force on diversity, equity and inclusion. The section’s chair-elect, Leigh Goodson, will represent the section on this task force.
6. The board approved the roster of a new justice in leadership work group that will consider comments submitted at the July board meeting concerning this issue.

An SBOT committee recently issued a statement in support of the press release that the section joined, and related statements. The chair of the Committee on Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters shared this statement with Teresa Schiller, who distributed it

to the council. The committee statement called for equal justice under the law, stating that “those who are most disenfranchised from our justice system are disproportionately people of color.”

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:42 pm, seconded and approved unanimously.



Betsy Johnson, Secretary