

ships in memory of Buck J. Wynne and eight summer internships with government agencies in Texas. The Pro Bono and Community Outreach Committee awarded grants to TreeFolks, Texas Trees Foundation, and Trees for Houston to support tree planting throughout Texas. The Education Committee sent Emily Rogers and Greg Ellis to speak on water law at the State Bar's Annual Meeting and is planning its annual Superconference. The Website and Technology Committee is working to bring online a new website soon. Finally, after several years of service, Lyn Clancy is stepping down as editor in chief of the *Texas Environmental Law Journal*, the primary publication overseen by the Publications Committee.

## FAMILY LAW

*Stephen J. Naylor, Chair*

For many years the Family Law Section's Pro Bono Committee has led the way pairing indigent litigants and attorneys via its "attend our CLE and take 2 cases" project. This year the section has seminars scheduled for Cleburne, Huntsville, Longview, McAllen, Victoria, and Wichita Falls. Membership in the Family Law Section is only \$40 a year, and you receive the *Family Lawyer's Essential Tool Kit*, a quarterly *Family Law Section Report*, and discounts on State Bar family law seminars. If you are already a member, thank you. If not, please join.

The Family Law Section continues to produce some of the best publications to aid its members in the practice of law: the *Family Law Checklists*, *Predicates Manual*, *Family Law At Your Fingertips*, the *Family Lawyer's Essential Toolkit*, and the *Client Handbook*. The section also sells DVDs that instruct clients regarding depositions, trials, mediation, and a social media presence. The Formbook Committee recently released a new update to the *Texas Family Law Practice Manual*, an essential tool every family law attorney should have in his or her office. If you are interested in purchasing any of these publications, please go to [shotfam.org](http://shotfam.org).

## GENERAL PRACTICE, SOLO, AND SMALL FIRM

*Kevin W. Mutscher, Chair*

In the past year the General Practice,

Solo, and Small Firm Section has undertaken several projects, one of which will soon arrive in print form for members. The *Solo and Small Firm Development* 2019 edition is an update of a 2007 edition. Members will find value in that publication.

The council is also in the development stages of producing an annotation to the *Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct*. It is intended that the annotation will cross-reference the rules with ethics opinions.

The section has continued to produce a half-day seminar at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting as well as co-sponsor the General Practice Institute at Baylor Law School. The institute is now in its 42nd year. Similarly, the *General Practice Digest* has continued to be published three times a year.

The section has continued to keep an eye on State Bar activities and inform members of those activities. In the past year those activities have included audits and the costs thereof, revisions to rules, and new mandatory methods by which bar dues must be paid—and upon whom the burden of compliance rests.

## GOVERNMENT LAW

*Enid Howard, Chair*

The Government Law Section continues to provide common ground, services, and resources for State Bar members dealing with the challenges of state and local government. The section promotes a better understanding of the law relating to municipal corporations and other public bodies through roadshows, meetings, and studying, analyzing, and disseminating current information concerning legislation and judicial decisions. Together with co-sponsorship from the Texas Young Lawyers Association and local bar associations, the section presents roadshows in Tyler, Texarkana, and Dallas, bringing dynamic speakers to government lawyers in communities that do not often receive "live" CLE.

In January 2019, the section held a two-day CLE centered on a historic outreach event by the Texas Supreme Court and Arkansas Supreme Court. The Government Law Section was part of the team that coordinated the CLE formed around the timing of the oral arguments.

The section will host the 2019 Advanced Government Law Seminar July 24-26 in Austin. Speakers will present topics useful for new government lawyers as well as material that will assist lawyers who have been practicing in government law for many years. The section also keeps updating its website to bring current resources and information to members.

## HEALTH LAW

*Hal Katz, Chair*

The Health Law Section continues to focus on creating better understanding and cooperation among attorneys and other professionals involved in the health care industry. It is currently planning the 32nd annual Texas Health Law Conference, which will be held October 6-8 in Austin and titled "Objective Clear, and Destination Uncertain." The conference is co-sponsored by the Texas Hospital Association and will be held at the AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, with an estimated 13.75 hours of CLE credit, including one hour of ethics.

Major initiatives of the section include recruiting and engaging young lawyers, increasing its presence and use of social media, and tracking proposed and adopted health law related rules in the *Texas Register*. The section was also active in monitoring and providing feedback on proposed Texas legislative changes dealing with a medical power of attorney.

## HISPANIC ISSUES

*Justice Gina Benavides, Chair*

An ongoing goal of the Hispanic Issues Section is to promote diversity in the legal profession. The section accomplished this goal by promoting diversity within the State Bar of Texas. The section has been actively promoting diversity on the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors by submitting qualified names for the at-large director. The sections also ensures that it is included in CLE programs, especially since bar meetings and programs have been in the Austin area, which can limit representation of minorities. The section has offset this by doing free CLE programs in Lubbock and Tyler.

The section also addresses the ongoing immigration issues at the border by partnering with the American Bar Asso-

ciation Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights & Responsibilities and its chair, Richard Pena, to provide pro bono services in the Rio Grande Valley. Betty Balli Torres, a former section chair, spent a weekend assisting in the processing of asylum seekers and refugees. The section will continue to work on this endeavor.

The section hopes to continue to serve as the voice of Hispanic attorneys and its community to bring their concerns to the attention of the State Bar.

## IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY LAW

*Lisa Sotelo, Chair*

The Immigration and Nationality Law Section has focused its efforts on revamping its structure to ensure sustainability and guide the coming years' officers in providing more tangible and regular resources to its members. The section's bylaws have been revised, and its new website is set to launch by the second quarter of 2019. The new site will provide updates and resources to members, including volunteer/pro bono opportunities and options to obtain CLE or watch previously recorded, brief training, or informational videos related to immigration and nationality law.

The section reported more than 16,000 pro bono hours with over 17% of its members reporting. The section is also developing an annual pro bono project in collaboration with the State Bar's Legal Access Division and Family Law Section.

The section sponsored a networking social at the State Bar of Texas Advanced Immigration Law Conference in Houston and worked with the Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality Committee, or LRIN, to share information and updates. Section officers joined the LRIN Committee on its annual consulate tour in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico, and is looking to expand the consular tours to other posts along the border to invite more section member participation.

## INSURANCE LAW

*Lisa A. Songy, Chair*

The Insurance Law Section launched its new and improved website—please check it out. Additionally, the section continued its longstanding tradition of providing quality continuing legal

education, including informative webinars as well as quality in-person seminars. In March, the section presented “How to Try an Insurance Case” and followed it up with the Advanced Insurance Law Seminar and annual Casino Night, a top-notch seminar in San Antonio at which the Legends Award was presented to a very deserving individual. Thanks to all those who helped plan and speak at the events. Your hard work is appreciated.

The section continued its efforts at providing quality publications to membership. *Right Off the Press* continues to provide caselaw updates on important new decisions. The *Journal of Texas Insurance Law*, available in both print and digital format, published in-depth analysis of pressing legal issues unique to insurance practice. A new articles feature on the website published on-point, concise discussions of key insurance issues. Finally, in an attempt to bring back the collegiality of the practice of law, the section hosted networking happy hours around the state.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

*Kirby Drake, Chair*

The Intellectual Property Law Section continued its pro bono tour educating entrepreneurs on IP law in Waco this year.

In February, the section held the Advanced Intellectual Property Course in Dallas, including a presentation by U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Commissioner for Trademarks Mary Boney Denison.

The 2019 Annual Meeting in Austin included 6 hours of CLE as well as awards and a keynote presentation by Larry Hornbeck.

The Advanced Patent Litigation Course will be held in July in San Antonio.

This year also has been a year of firsts for the section.

The section introduced the IP Legends series, an initiative designed to capture the life and vitality of lawyers who have made their mark on IP law in Texas through written or recorded interviews. The first interviewee was Tom Morris, an Amarillo trial attorney who is well known in the IP community for having successfully argued the *Graham v. John Deere Co.* case at the U.S. Supreme Court. This is the seminal case on patent obviousness and continues to be regularly

cited over 40 years after it was first decided.

The section also held its first Trademark Boot Camp, educating attorneys, paralegals, and law students on trademark law.

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

*Tom Wilson, Chair*

The International Law Section focused on Mexico, culminating in a three-day trip to Mexico City, which featured two half-days of CLE presentations. The section held its 31st Annual Institute in cooperation with the Mexico Center of the Rice University Baker Institute. A highlight of the Annual Institute was a keynote address by Mexico's Supreme Court Justice Eduardo Medina Mora. The section also had programs in Austin (on international legal issues in the technology industry), San Antonio (on international legal issues in the health industry), Houston (on the international legal impact of the #MeToo movement), and Dallas (on the development of international lawyers and on immigration). New to the section was a quarterly newsletter of which three editions have been published and are available to all at [ilstexas.org/resources/ils-newsletter](http://ilstexas.org/resources/ils-newsletter). The section's International Human Rights Committee sent a letter to 95 in-house counsel in Texas on the impact of international human rights issues on Texas companies and conducted a poll of in-house counsel that showed all wanted more information on the topic. The committee also awarded its annual writing contest scholarship to Chantal Carriere, of the University of Houston Law Center.

## JUDICIAL

*Hon. Randy M. Clapp, Chair*

The section's focus this year was judicial compensation. Texas judges have received only two pay raises in the past 18 years. This is a topic of interest if Texas wants to continue to attract judicial candidates from among experienced and successful attorneys. The Judicial Compensation Commission has recommended a 15% increase in judicial compensation.

Past efforts have failed for reasons that seemingly have nothing to do with judicial compensation.