

HISPANIC ISSUES

Judge Victor Villarreal, Chair

“Raising the Bar” was the aspirational goal for the Hispanic Issues Section, or HIS, last year. Knowing that challenges create opportunities, HIS undertook innovative programs and strategies for the benefit of section members and Hispanic communities in Texas. The results: The first statewide HIS fundraiser, “LAWteria,” that raised funds for access to justice organizations. Over \$40,000 was raised, and more importantly, access to justice was provided to people negatively impacted by COVID-19 who could not afford legal services. HIS initiated monthly CLEs via Zoom for its members. Over 1,200 people have attended, and HIS has provided just as many CLE hours. HIS has engaged with other minority State Bar of Texas sections—the “affinity groups”—including the LGBT Law Section, the Asian Pacific Interest Section, Diversity in the Profession Committee, Native American Law Section, Texas Minority Counsel Program, and Women and the Law Section. The joint collaboration resulted in focus by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors on diversity and inclusion issues. All HIS initiatives this year are possible because of engaged, united members and strong efforts by HIS council members who are dedicated to service and innovation. Count on HIS to continue “Raising the Bar.”

IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY LAW

Matthew Myers, Chair

The Immigration & Nationality Law Section was greatly impacted by the constant changes in immigration laws and practice associated with the government’s response to the pandemic, the restrictions on international travel, and the U.S. presidential election. The section met challenges and greatly exceeded expectations, creating new benefits for members, which may become staple benefits of section membership. Over the past year, the section has successfully implemented quarterly update bulletins, fourth Tuesday monthly lunch CLEs, and website updates to provide a CLE bank

and pro bono resources. The section partnered for the second straight year with the Family Law Section to present a joint CLE, free to members of both sections, titled “The Intersection of Immigration and Family Law.” The section welcomes the opportunity to partner with other sections and local bar associations on CLE events, and it continues to solicit opinions and guidance from members on how it can provide more value, in addition to existing writing, speaking, volunteer, and free CLE opportunities.

INSURANCE LAW

Pamella A. Hopper, Chair

The Insurance Law Section continues to improve the services it provides to members, even in the midst of the pandemic. The virtual format has allowed the council to hold more frequent meetings, along with mentoring and networking happy hours for lawyers across the state. The section continues to publish the *Journal of Texas Insurance Law*, the preeminent law journal dedicated to Texas insurance law, and the weekly “Right Off The Press” emails that provide summaries and links to the most recent Texas state and federal insurance law decisions and current listings of insurance-related employment opportunities. The section’s website, insurancelawsection.org, also continues to offer new content. The section remains dedicated to providing quality CLE through webinars on cutting-edge issues and looks forward to presenting its annual Advanced Insurance Law Course and Casino Night live at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio September 29-October 1. The section held its inaugural Texas Insurance Law Student Writing Competition, in which students from all 10 accredited Texas law schools were asked to submit articles on insurance-related topics. The section awarded scholarships to the winners of the competition, whom it will recognize at the Advanced Insurance Law Course this fall.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Leisa Talbert Peschel, Chair

This year the IP Law Section has continued to educate, connect, and serve

its members and the IP community in Texas through virtual meetings. The Advanced IP Litigation course was held October 15-16, 2020, and the Advanced IP course was held February 3-5, 2021. To celebrate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Lanham Act, the IP Law Section planned a number of events and commissioned a documentary and traveling exhibit in collaboration with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and Texas Intellectual Property Law Foundation. On June 17, 2021, the IP Law Section in collaboration with the USPTO presented a virtual version of its annual Trademark Bootcamp, *Nuts and Bolts of Trademark Law and TTAB Practice*. The two-part session was held virtually and featured live oral hearings and arguments before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. On June 18, the IP Law Section presented a blockbuster CLE program. Over lunch, the IP Law Section held its virtual Annual Meeting, where David Gooder, U.S. commissioner for trademarks, was the IP Law Section’s keynote speaker.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Karla Pascarella, Chair

The International Law Section more than met the challenges brought by the pandemic, sudden economic downturn, and a rapidly changing political landscape. Thanks to the engagement of a strong council and a team approach, the section completed the audit process, adopted updated standards for its recordkeeping, and quickly and successfully transitioned its benefits to the membership to a range of virtual education programs. Additionally, the International Human Rights Committee continues to provide guidance to lawyers regarding international human rights through a variety of CLE opportunities, taking advantage of virtual platforms. International Human Rights Day activities continue to draw participants from around the country and the world. This year, the section achieved a long-term goal of submitting suggestions for human rights considerations to be included in the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. The section continues to be a resource for