



WOMEN AND THE LAW
STATE BAR OF TEXAS

February 15, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Tracy Nuckols, Director
Sections Department
State Bar of Texas
1414 Colorado
Austin, TX 78701-1627
Email: tnuckols@texasbar.com

Re: Deborah Cordova, Nominee for Medium Section Representative to the State Bar of Texas
Board of Directors

Dear Ms. Nuckols:

On behalf of the State Bar of Texas Women and the Law Section, I am excited to nominate our chair, Deborah Cordova, as Medium Section Representative to the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors.

Enclosed please find our nomination form, along with Deborah's resumé.

Please feel free to call me with any questions at 254-776-5500.

Yours truly,

STATE BAR OF TEXAS WOMEN AND THE
LAW SECTION

By: 
Teresa Schiller, Council Member

Enclosures

Deborah Cordova

**Nomination for Medium Section Representative to the
State Bar of Texas Board of Directors**

- 1) *Provide your candidate's name, affiliation and full contact information, including email address and phone:*

Deborah Cordova
Walsh McGurk Cordova Nixon, PLLC
4900-B N. 10th St.
McAllen, TX 78504
Phone: 956-632-5010
Email: dcordova@wmcnlaw.com

- 2) *I am nominating this person as a MEDIUM/LARGE (circle one) Section Representative to the Board of Directors. (There is one medium section representative and one large section representative position open this year.)*

I am nominating Deborah as a MEDIUM Section Representative (“Section Representative”) to the State Bar of Texas (“SBOT”) Board of Directors (the “Board”).

- 3) *This candidate is a member of the following section, which is a MEDIUM Section:*

Deborah is a member of the following section, which is a MEDIUM Section: Women and the Law Section (the “Section”).

Deborah is an outstanding candidate for Section Representative. She has skills and experience that are essential for a Section Representative tasked with liaising and negotiating with the Board and Section leaders on important SBOT matters.

- 4) *Briefly describe your candidate's personal background, character and contributions to their community.*

Deborah's personal background, character, and contributions to her community demonstrate that she is well-suited for the demanding and rewarding position of Section Representative. Specifically, her potential for higher office within SBOT, her leadership, her strong work ethic, and her service to the community are key qualifications.

First, Deborah has potential for higher office within SBOT. She is working her way up through the SBOT ranks, and service as Section Representative is a logical – and mutually beneficial – next step. Deborah has demonstrated legal proficiency by building a successful practice and receiving statewide “Rising Star” recognition. She also has demonstrated bar association

leadership skills by serving as a county bar association president and Section chair. Finally, Deborah -- a well-established Latina in the Rio Grande Valley -- would bring culturally and geographically diverse perspectives to the Board.

Second, she is a leader. During my service with her on the Section Council, I have been impressed by Deborah's command of our group, creativity, diplomacy, and upbeat manner. Deborah ably has done the necessary preparatory work for our meetings -- identifying priorities, setting agendas, gathering necessary information to help us make decisions, and delegating assignments. She has created worthwhile initiatives, such as a law school writing competition. Deborah has used diplomacy and exhibited an upbeat manner to lead our meetings, communicate with us one-one-one, and serve as an important ambassador for the Section.

Third, Deborah has a strong work ethic. Deborah has leveraged her J.D. and M.B.A. degrees to build a successful practice in real estate, banking, business, and estate planning. On top of her "day job," she has led an impressive array of community and bar organizations. She also has educated members of the public and legal profession about complex legal issues through numerous presentations.

Fourth, she has served the community extensively. Her service has included the following: (1) chairwoman of Rio Grande Valley Partnership Chamber of Commerce and Foundation; (2) president of Rio Grande Valley Estate Planning Council; (3) president of Junior Service League of Mission; (4) president of Boys and Girls Club of Mission; and (5) president of The Foundation at Mission Regional Medical Center.

For these reasons, Deborah's personal background, character, and contributions to her community demonstrate her fitness for Section Representative.

5) *Describe your candidate's professional achievements and commitment to the legal profession.*

Deborah's professional achievements and commitment to the legal profession further exemplify her superior qualifications for Section Representative. She is an award winner, bar association leader, and experienced communicator.

First, Deborah is an award winner. For nine years running, she was named to the Texas Rising Star Super Lawyers© list by Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters service. She also has been honored extensively in the Rio Grande Valley. For example, the Citizens of the City of Mission, the City of Hidalgo, and the Hidalgo County Bar Association have sung her praises.

Second, she is a bar association leader. For example, Deborah has served as president of the Hidalgo County Bar Association and Foundation, and as president of the Hidalgo County Young Lawyer's Association. She has initiated bar association projects such as the following: (1) clinics for veterans and firefighters needing wills; and (2) clothing drives for low-income women served by Dress for Success.

Third, she is an experienced communicator. Deborah has spoken and presented papers on topics including effective communication and negotiation, estate planning, sexual harassment, and the professional advancement of women and minorities.

For these reasons, Deborah's professional achievements and commitment to the legal profession make her a wise choice for Section Representative.

6) *Describe your nominee's participation in State Bar projects, including contributions to your Section.*

Deborah's participation in State Bar projects, including her contributions to the Section, make her an ideal choice for Section Representative. Her involvement with the Section, the Law Focused Education program, and the Texas Minority Attorney Program are noteworthy.

First, Deborah has made substantial contributions to the Section. She has been involved for ten years with the Section -- serving currently as our chair. Current initiatives include the following: (1) a law student writing competition; (2) a CLE program entitled, "Identifying and Overcoming Obstacles and Stereotypes;" (3) outreach to local women's bar leaders in connection with Section council meetings throughout the state; and (4) collaboration with Texas Women Lawyers.

Second, she has been involved with the Law Focused Education program. Deborah helped develop materials on justice and civics for Texas grade-school teachers during her six years on the program's standing committee.

Third, Deborah has been involved with the Texas Minority Attorney Program. Paying forward what she has learned in developing a successful practice, she presented on local bar resources to solo and small firm practitioners.

For these reasons, Deborah's participation in State Bar projects, including her contributions to the Section, demonstrate that she should be selected for Section Representative.

7) *Provide your full contact information including email address and phone.*

My name is Teresa Schiller. I am a current Texas lawyer, current Women and the Law Section Council Member, and former president of the New York Women's Bar Association.

Teresa Schiller
Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson, PLLC
220 South Fourth Street
Waco, TX 76701
Phone: 254-776-5500
Email: schiller@thetexasfirm.com

- 8) *Please acknowledge that you have discussed the duties and purpose of this position with your candidate and verified they are willing to serve in this capacity, if elected.*

I have discussed the duties and purpose of this position with Deborah Cordova and verified she is willing to serve in this capacity, if elected.

DEBORAH LEE CORDOVA
1509 Merlin Dr.
Mission, Texas 78572
(956) 330-8436

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Born in McAllen, Texas; raised in Mission, Texas

LEADERSHIP:

State Bar of Texas

- College of the State Bar of Texas (2011-Current)
- Women in the Law 2018...*Forging Your Path to Success* Texas Bar CLE Planning Committee
- State Bar of Texas Women and the Law Council: Member (2009-Current); Chair (2018-2019); Chair-Elect (2017-2018); Chronologist (2014-2017); Vice-Chair/Membership (2012-2013)
- State Bar of Texas Law Focused Education: Standing Committee Member (2008-2014)
- Texas Minority Attorney Program Speaker on June 12, 2009-Local Bar Resources

Local and Independent Bar Associations

- Hidalgo County Bar Association and Foundation: Current Member; Past President (2010-2011); President (2009-2010); President-Elect (2008-2009); Treasurer (2007-2008); Director (2005-2007)
- Hidalgo County Young Lawyer's Association: (2002-2013) Member; Past President (2007-2008); President (2006-2007); President-Elect (2006-2005); Board of Director (2004-2005)
- Hidalgo County Bar Association Women's Bar Section: (2007-Current Member); Chair (2017-2018); Chair-Elect (2016-2017); Chair of the Community Service Committee (2015-2016); Past Co-Chair (2008-2009); Co-Chair (2007-2008), Co-Chair of the Community Service Committee (2007-2008)
- Texas Women Lawyers: Director (2008-Current)

Community Organizations and Service Projects

- Pearson Elementary School Career Day Speaker (December 2018)
- Teach for America Week Speaker on Women's History Month at IDEA Academy (March 2018)
- Alton Memorial Jr. High Jr. Officers Advisor (March 2018)
- Mission Regional Medical Center Advisory Board Member (2017-Current)
- FemCity of Rio Grande Valley Business Member (2017-Current)
- Hispanic Women Network of Texas –Rio Grande Valley Chapter Member (2016-Current)
- The Foundation at Mission Regional Medical Center: Director (2014-2017); President (2015-2017); Vice-President (2014)
- Region 11 Texas Citizens Review Team (2013-Current) and Region 11 Texas Child Death Review Committee (2018-2019)
- Rio Grande Valley Estate Planning Council: Member (2012-Current); Director (2015-Current); President (2017-2018); Vice- President of Membership (2016-2017)
- Organization of Women Executives: Member (2013-2018); (2010-2011)
- Rio Grande Valley Partnership Chamber of Commerce and Rio Grande Valley Partnership Foundation: Director (2009-2017); Immediate Past Chairwoman (2015); Chairwoman (2014); Chair-Elect (2013); Secretary (2010-2012)
- Junior Service League of Mission: Member (2011-Current); Board Advisor (2014-2016); President (2013-2014); 2nd Vice-Chair (2012-2013); Provisional Member (2010-2011)
- Boys and Girls Club of Mission: Director (2007-Current); Board Advisor (2014-2016); President (2013-2014); Vice-President (2012-2013); Secretary (2011-2012)
- College Readiness Speaker for GT Students at Enrique Camarena Elementary (2015)
- Leadership McAllen Class XXVI (2006-2007)

Honors

- Rio Grande Valley Walk of Fame Recipient by the City of Hidalgo (2017)
- Woman of the Year for Outstanding Community Service Presented by the Progress Times on behalf of the Citizens of the City of Mission (2016)
- Hidalgo County Bar Association Outstanding Section Award – Women's Bar Section (2018 and 2016)
- Recognized as a Rising Star Lawyer as published in Texas Monthly and Super Lawyer (2007-2015)

DEBORAH LEE CORDOVA

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- Hidalgo County Bar Association and Hidalgo County Bar Foundation Member of the Year (2006-2007)
- St. Mary's University School of Law Pro Bono Achievement Award (2002)

Speaker Presentations

- *National Healthcare Decision Day* sponsored by Renaissance Hospice & Palliative Care (2013)
- *Let's Talk Seniors: Is Your Estate in Order?* Sponsored by Presidente Home Care, Inc. and Heritage Village (2014)
- *Let's Talk Power of Attorneys and Directives to Physicians* sponsored by Presidente Home Care (2014)
- *Planned Giving Basics* Hosted by The Foundation at Mission Regional Medical Center with BBVA Compass Financial Services and Deborah L. Cordova, Attorney at Law (2014)
- *Sexual Harassment: What Do I Need to Know?* Hosted by the McAllen Country Club (2014)
- *Planning Ahead: Estate Planning Basics and Beyond.* Women Wealth & Wisdom: A Financial and Life Planning Summit for Women of All Ages and in All Stages of Life hosted by The University of Texas Pan American Foundation (2015)
- *Planning Ahead: Estate Planning Basics and Beyond: What Every Woman Needs to Know.* Hosted by The Hispanic Women Network of Texas Annual Meeting (2016)
- *Planning Ahead: Estate Planning Basics and Beyond.* Hosted by the Kiwanis of McAllen (2016)
- *Planning Ahead: Estate Planning Basics and Beyond.* Breast Cancer Support Group. Hosted by The Foundation at Mission Regional Medical Center (2017)
- *The Basics of Estate Planning.* Latina Leadership Conference. Hosted by Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (2017)
- Organization of Women Executives Speaker: *Effective Communication, Negotiation & How to Deal with Personal and Workplace Confrontation* (December 2018)
- *Kick Some Glass – Professions that Historically Don't Have Women.* Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Latina Leadership Conference 2018 (Sept. 2018).
- *Effective Communication, Negotiation & How to Deal with Personal and Workplace Confrontation.* Organization of Women Executives (December 2018)

EXPERIENCE:

September 2017 to Present: **Walsh McGurk Cordova Nixon, PLLC, McAllen, TX**

Equity Partner

Practice in the areas of real estate, entities, foreclosures, collections, probate and governmental entity representation. Work includes: conducting real estate closings and foreclosures, representing financial institutions, formalizing business entities, dissolving business entities, representing individuals in partnership disputes, drafting buy-sell agreements and contracts, advising clients on general business practice and assisting clients with probate matters and estate planning.

July 2007 to August 2017: **Kittleman Thomas, P.L.L.C, McAllen, TX**

Equity Partner

Practiced in the areas of real estate, corporate law and estate planning.

September 2002 to July 2007: **Walker & Twenhafel, L.L.P., McAllen, TX**

Associate Attorney

Practiced in the areas of real estate, corporate law, collections, commercial litigation and estate planning.

EDUCATION:

JURIS DOCTOR - St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio, TX, May 2002

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - The University of Texas Pan American, Edinburg, TX, December 2003

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - *cum laude, Accounting*, St. Mary's University, San Antonio, TX, December 1998

ADMISSIONS:

- State of Texas (November 2002)