



Dear Section Chairs and Vice-Chairs,

For the first time in a decade, Texas attorneys will be called on to put their self-governance to work by voting on proposed disciplinary rule changes. The State Bar of Texas needs your help educating them on the importance of voting on the proposed changes.

The rules vote will be conducted February 2 through March 4, 2021. Attorneys may vote using paper or electronic ballots.

Attorneys will vote on proposed amendments to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure. The proposals were developed in accordance with the new process required by the State Bar Act, which maximizes transparency and provides attorneys and the public with multiple opportunities for comment.

The Committee on Disciplinary Rules and Referenda was responsible for drafting and proposing the changes. The proposals were published in the Texas Bar Journal and Texas Register and were subject to at least one public hearing before being approved by the State Bar Board of Directors. The committee made many revisions in response to public comments.

Eight ballot items are included in the rules vote. Detailed information can be found at texasbar.com/rulesvote, including:

- Redlined and clean versions of the proposals
- Summary of proposed rules
- Schedule of public forums
- Other helpful background information

Attorneys are unique among professionals in Texas because our system of self-governance gives all bar members the right to vote on the people who represent us, the

rules that regulate us, and the dues we pay for the right and privilege to practice law. This system depends on making sure members engage in the work of bar governance and exercise their right to vote.

How You Can Help

Here are some ways you can help encourage Texas attorneys to vote:

- Ask your colleagues to review the proposals and information about the rules vote at texasbar.com/rulesvote.
- Remind attorneys when voting takes place: February 2 to March 4, 2021
- Look for opportunities to provide information to constituent groups for inclusion in eblasts, newsletters, social media, and other communications.
- Help identify opportunities to provide speakers at bar functions, events, or meetings. The State Bar can provide speakers who can give presentations on the proposed rules and answer questions via Zoom.
- Encourage attorneys to attend CLE Zoom seminars conducted by the State Bar. The schedule will be posted on texasbar.com/rulesvote.
- Give updates about the rules vote at section meetings and events.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact rulesvote@texasbar.com.