

Sections Update

State Bar of Texas

Carlos Cardenas, Vice Chair
Section Representatives
to the Board of Directors Committee
Board of Directors Meeting
September 30, 2022

Sections are one of the most important ways we provide services and education to Texas Lawyers.

48 State Bar Sections

45,000 are members of one or more section

84,000 section memberships

Sections Department provides support

Volunteers do most of the work

Funded by voluntary dues

Sponsor CLE through
TexasBarCLE



Develop Books, Practice Manuals
and PJC's with Texas Bar Books



Partner with our Legal Access
Department to promote ATJ



Provide CLE, Publications,
Legislative Updates, Mentorship
Programs, Diversity Programs,
Pro Bono Programs, Leadership,
and other benefits to their
members.

**How do
Sections
help fulfill
the State
Bar Mission?**



Spotlight: Section Pro Bono Projects

Family Law Essentials Seminars

Since 2002, the Family Law Essentials Seminars have provided more than 9700 underserved Texans with legal representation in their family law cases.

Created in 1995 by David McClure, Chair

Approximately 6 rural seminars annually

Volunteer speakers absorb costs

One day FREE 'Essentials' CLE

Commit to TWO pro bono cases

Each year on Dia de Los Muertos, HIS and TAJTF host a virtual fundraiser based on the popular lotería game of chance played by Mexican families for decades.

The 'LAW TERIA' playing cards recognize notable Hispanic lawyers and figures throughout Texas history.

Last year, this event raised more than \$50k benefiting civil legal aid in Texas.

Hispanic Issues Section
Program founded in 2020



The Appellate Section Pro Bono Appeals Program matches parties seeking appellate assistance with volunteer attorneys throughout Texas.



More than 300 lawyers participate in the section's program.



Cases are screened and qualified for pro bono assistance



Section emails case to its volunteer attorney list



When a case is matched, the court is notified and the appeal proceeds.

The Appellate Section receives referrals from these courts:

Supreme Court of Texas
First (Houston)
Second (Fort Worth)
Third (Austin)
Fifth (Dallas)

Fifth (Dallas)
Seventh (Amarillo)
Eighth (El Paso)
Thirteenth (Corpus Christi/Edinburg)
Fourteenth (Houston)

Program Founded 2007

Pro Bono Projects

Litigation Section



Provides four annual scholarships for legal aid attorneys for travel and tuition to the Litigation Update Course.



Funds charitable projects for services and publications that improve and/or increase access to the civil justice system.



Awards seven paid internships to legal aid providers for 3rd year law student interns from accredited Texas law schools.

Tax Section Bono Programs

Tax Court Pro Bono Program:

The United States Tax Court holds approximately 20–25 trial sessions each year in Texas as well as another 10-20 Virtual Settlement days for tax courts throughout the country.

Section volunteers meet with pro se litigants to answer questions about legal issues and procedure, act as mediator with IRS Counsel, and advise how to present the case at trial. The volunteers generally do NOT enter an appearance before the United States Tax Court.

VITA Adopt-a-Base Training:

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) provides instruction to volunteers who help prepare tax returns. The instruction includes the basics of tax returns, how to properly reporting income and deduction items, and any new changes to the Affordable Care Act.

The section provides training to at military bases throughout Texas via its Adopt-A-Base program.

**Bankruptcy Section
Programs:**

**University of Texas
(2015)**

St. Mary's (2017)

Baylor (2018)

Texas Tech (2018)

SMU (2022)

Bankruptcy Pro Bono Project (BP2)

Partners with Texas Law
Schools and Legal Aid

Serves those seeking
Chapter 7 relief

Volunteer attorneys
supervise law students

Represent clients through
discharge of Chapter 7

Questions or Comments?

Section Representatives to the Board of Directors Committee

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