

Nomination Form

Section Representative to the Board of Directors

Term 2023-2026

Please limit Nomination Information to 4 pages.

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

Pierre Grosdidier
Senior Assistant City Attorney
City of Houston
900 Bagby Street, 4th Floor
Houston, TX 77002

pierre.grosdidier@houstontx.gov
ccctxlaw@gmail.com (preferred)

Work: 832.393.6475

Cell: 832.419.9830

- 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.)
- 3) This candidate is a member of the following section(s), one of which is a **MEDIUM/LARGE** (circle one) Section:

Computer & Technology Section
Section Chair for 2022–23

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

Pierre has been a very active member of the Computer & Technology Section since his election as a Councilmember seven years ago. He was born French, grew up in Africa, and moved to the United States when he was 11 years old. He had a first career as an engineer (graduating from Caltech with a Ph.D.) and went to law school at the University of Texas in Austin. He was associate, then counsel at Haynes and Boone LLP in Houston before joining the City of Houston. He is a commercial litigator and is Board Certified in Construction Law.

Pierre is very active in the French community in Houston and regularly works with the French Consulate in Houston to address French community issues such as, for example, the organization of elections and the awarding of financial assistance to disadvantaged members of the community.

Pierre is one of the four elected Consular Advisors for the Houston consulate. Consular Advisors are elected by the French community in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. The position is time consuming and consists mostly in assisting people with personal issues that relate, one way or the other, to the French administration. Pierre is involved in most of the French community associations in Houston.

Pierre is also active in InfraGard's Houston Legal Cross-Sector Council, where he is Legal CSC Associate-Chair. InfraGard is a non-profit volunteer organization with the mission of promoting ongoing dialogue and timely communication between members and the FBI concerning security issues. The Legal Cross-Sector Council is a sub-group of attorneys interested in legal issues that deal with security and, by implication, privacy and technology law. Pierre and CSC Chair Lisa Angelo (former C&TS Councilmember) organize quarterly virtual educational webinars that address law and technology issues. These webinars, which are not CLEs, are attended by up to 100 InfraGard members throughout the United States.

Personally, Pierre is easygoing and a consensus builder. He shares credit generously and acknowledges and thanks people who contribute to the Section.

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

Pierre is a prolific legal writer having contributed many articles to the Texas Construction Law Journal, Circuits (the Computer & Technology Section's eJournal), and the Texas Bar Journal. As to the latter, Pierre is a regular contributor to the Technology Column where he reports on recent and interesting case law.

Pierre has been a very active member of the Computer & Technology Section. Once named to the position of Circuits Editor, Pierre brought up Circuits from two issues per year to four issues, each with about 80 pages of contributions. As Computer & Technology Section Chair, Pierre led our Section to develop a very strong CLE program. In addition to improving the Section's annual CLE program this year (5.5 hours of credit with speakers covering many technology law-related subjects), Pierre inaugurated a program of free quarterly virtual CLEs that has proved very popular with section members.

Pierre also delivers CLEs based on his legal research. He has recorded CLEs with UTLaw and has given CLEs at the Computer & Technology Section's annual Technology & Justice for All CLEs, among other forums.

Pierre is a leader and innovator. He brings ideas and challenges people to make things better. He was part of the first batch of Texas attorneys Board Certified in Construction Law.

6) Describe your nominee's participation in Bar-related entities and projects, including contributions to your Section.

See item 5 above.

I add that Pierre is not a "drive by" Section Chair. Pierre is a doer and not just a talker. He attended the October 7, 2022, Council of Chairs at the Texas Law Center and, typically, took the time to update the Section with a report, which I have attached to this Nomination Form.

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

Reginald A. Hirsch, 515 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 500, Houston, Tx 77027, 7139617800
reghir@hirschfamilylaw.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.
Yes
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Nominating Procedure

Nominations must include a completed Nomination Form and a resume. Resumes should be limited to two pages and the nomination form should be limited to four pages. Nominations/resumes that exceed a total of four pages will be reduced accordingly.

Nominations will be accepted by mail or email (*email is preferred*) and must be received no later than Friday, February 8 at 5:00pm.

Send nominations to:

Tracy Nuckols, Director, Sections Department, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78756

Phone: (512) 427-1710, Email: tnuckols@texasbar.com

Elections will be held at the Council of Chairs Meeting on February 17, 2023, at the Texas Law Center in Austin. Only Section chairs (or the section's designated representative) are qualified to vote in this election and you must be present to cast your ballot. Only one vote per section, per position is allowed. Early or late votes will not be accepted. Nominees are encouraged to attend (via zoom) and briefly present their qualifications to the Council of Chairs Committee on February 17.

Pierre Grosdidier, Ph.D., J.D.

ccctxlaw@gmail.com

Cell: 832.419.9830

Education

- J.D., University of Texas at Austin School of Law, 2007
with honors
- Ph.D., Chemical Engineering, California Institute of Technology, 1986
- B.Eng., Chemical Engineering, McGill University, 1980
with distinction

Bar and Court Admissions

- State Bar of Texas, 2007
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas
- Board Certified – Construction Law
Texas Board of Legal Specialization
AAA Panelist

Languages

- English
- French

Executive Summary

Pierre Grosdidier is an experienced construction lawyer whose practice focuses on construction litigation. Pierre belongs to the first group of attorneys to be board certified in construction law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in 2017.

With an engineering Ph.D. from Caltech, Pierre is at ease litigating the most complex technical issues whether in the construction, energy, manufacturing, technology, or environmental industries. His practice also includes drafting and review of construction contracts for owners and general contractors.

Pierre represents the City of Houston in a broad swath of litigation matters, including matters related to construction, environmental, commercial, and constitutional claims. Pierre has also represented past private clients in construction disputes that arose under the Texas lien statute, the Residential Construction Liability Act, and the Products Liability Act (“Chapter 82”). He has litigated claims related to construction defects, industrial accidents, environmental contamination, oil and gas drilling operations, engineering services projects, and trade secret thefts. He was second chair in a two-week long trial in Harris County District Court and in a one-week long AAA arbitration. He participated in the City of Houston’s Municipal Court Program and prevailed in ten out of 11 trials.

Pierre is a prolific writer and a regular contributor to the Technology column of the Texas Bar Journal.

Professional Experience

- **City of Houston**, Houston, Texas Since 2019
Senior Assistant City Attorney II
- **Haynes and Boone, LLP**, Houston, Texas 2007–2019
Counsel, Commercial Litigation
- **Plant Automation Services, Inc.**, Houston, Texas 2003
Director of Engineering Services, Asset Optimization (2003)
- **Aspen Technology, Inc.**, Houston, Texas 1996–2002
Director (1998), Consultant and Project Manager (1996)
- **Setpoint, Inc.**, Houston, Texas 1986–1996
Director of Technology, Refining and Petrochemicals Division (1995); other project execution and management positions starting from Project Engineer (1986)
Honors: Setpoint Presidential Award, 1989

Memberships and community involvement

- Chair, State Bar of Texas Computer & Technology Section (2022–23)
- Past Section Treasurer (2020–2021); Secretary (2019–20), Webmaster and *Circuits* Co-Editor (2018–19), and Council Member (2015–18)
- State Bar of Texas
- Houston Bar Association
- Member, Texas Bar Foundation and Texas Bar College
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Texas Board of Professional Engineers no. 71673 (inactive)
- *Conseiller des Français de l'étranger* (elected position)

Selected publications and speeches

- “Consolidated Insurance Programs and the Exclusive Remedy Defense Under Texas Law,” *Construction Law Journal*, Summer 2018, Vol. 14, No. 2, p. 20.
- “Employer Liability for Independent Contractor Injury,” *Construction Law Journal*, Winter 2017, Vol. 14, No. 1, p. 7; and presenter, State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas, June 21, 2018.
- “The fragmented case law over gaining access to password-protected devices,” *Texas Bar Journal*, January 2020, p. 92.
- “Can authorities compel a suspect to use biometrics to unlock a digital device?,” *Texas Bar Journal*, December 2019, p. 840.