

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JUDICIAL SECTION, STATE BAR OF TEXAS

LOCATION: Dallas, Texas

DATE: June 25, 2009

1. Meeting called to order by Chair Suzanne Stovall.
2. The roll was called and all members were present except George Hanks and Tom Price.
3. The minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2009, were approved as corrected.
4. The financial report was presented by Judge Bacus and was approved unanimously. A motion was made to pay Judge Bacus's Court Coordinator Sylvia Fancher a one time additional contract fee of \$1,000.00 for additional services provided to the Section in assisting with the collection of 2009-2010 dues, a service formerly provided by the Texas Center for the Judiciary. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Business of the Chair. Chair Stovall advised that she, Judge Garcia, and Judge Hervey of the Court of Criminal Appeals to discuss a proposal to have a split format for the annual conference. Judge Hervey indicated agreement to this method. The first \$90.00 of the registration fee will be used to fund the education conference. The auction for contributions to the Center will be OK if it finishes before the education program. Some of the CCA judges have offered to contribute items for the auction. The Court of Criminal Appeals auditor has sent a letter to the Chair on June 5, 2009, setting out the method for proceeding with the annual conference and approving the allocation of Fund 540 to cover the education expenses. Chair Stovall advised that the State Bar has helped us to save a huge amount by making their audio visual services available for the conference.

Judge Garcia advised that he has looked into creating an official pin to identify Judicial Section members. The State Bar has a graphics design artist that can design one for \$40.00 per hour cost. Tracy Nuckols furnished a price list to show the possible cost associated with various types and numbers of pins. A motion was made by Hal Gaither that the Chair appoint a special task force to design a lapel pin. Proposals are to be sent to the Board and a vote will be taken by e-mail. The motion carried. Chair Stovall appointed David Garcia and Penny Roberts to the new task force.
6. Reports from Judicial Section Committees.

Appellate. Justice Thomas reported that we had a cost of living adjustment until the last minute of the legislative session, but time ran out. She is sure that one will be in the next session.

Trial. Judge John Dietz advised that the pay raise legislation was not successful.

FARSA- Lamar McCorkle reported that total funds to presiding judges were

Increased. Sitting judges with over 16 years will get a percentage of their state salary, not a defined amount of money.

Ethics. Kelly Moore advised that most issues have been handled directly with the judges. They do have two opinions in the works.

Website. Mike Mays advised that the website now has county by county click reference capability.

County Courts at Law. Alfonso Charles prepared a report that was handed out, and it was discussed by David Garcia. He advised that he has talked to State Bar leaders about closer coordination with the judiciary on proposed legislation affecting the judiciary. Roland Johnson assured Judge Garcia that in the future the Bar would consider Judicial Section views before presenting a legislative package. The Chief Justice was also consulted to coordinate the Judicial Council priorities with the Section. It was pointed out that the judiciary needs to have more input into State Bar committee recommendations that impact the judiciary. It is anticipated that the Court Reorganization Bill will come back next session, so we will work with Senator Duncan and the Bar to try and see that all issues are adequately addressed.

Criminal Justice. No report at this time.

Nominations. The Chair handed out the report of the Committee. The Committee Has voted to recommend the following slate of persons for election to Board positions at the annual business meetings:

|                   |              |                                |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Judicial Section- | Chair-Elect: | Hon. Roger Towery, Henrietta   |
|                   | Place 1:     | Hon. John Cayce, Fort Worth    |
|                   | Place 5:     | Hon. Patrick Garcia, El Paso   |
|                   | Place 8:     | Hon. Penny Roberts, San Angelo |
|                   | Place 10:    | Hon Pat McDowell, Dallas       |

|               |              |                                 |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Texas Center- | Chair-Elect: | Hon. Roger Towery, Henrietta    |
|               | Place 4:     | Hon. David L. Evans, Fort Worth |
|               | Place 5:     | Hon. Craig Smith, Dallas        |
|               | Place 7:     | Hon. Kathleen Hamilton, Conroe  |

Juvenile Justice. No report at this time, but it will be e-mailed to members When received by the Chair.

Section Dues. This special committee is working on increasing the dues payments by judges. They are waiting on the results of the May letter to the judges before starting to work the membership lists. Tracy Nuckols of the Sections Department of the Bar said they will have a membership table at Annual conference registration and will have the most current list there to insure all members are properly accounted for. Judge Penny Roberts advised that they had met with Tracy on a conference call and they will have the ability to generate a separate statement to each judge when the SBOT dues notice comes out, and Section dues can be collected and credited at that time. Paid members will receive a ribbon on pin to indicate same.

8. New Business. The Chair reminded the members that the Judicial Section is

Co-sponsoring a reception from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. in the Primula Room on the 27<sup>th</sup> floor along with the Municipal Judges Association and the Litigation Section. The Judicial Breakfast program will be tomorrow morning. The next meeting of the Judicial Section Board will be on Monday, August 31, at the annual conference.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Tom Bacus  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Judicial Section,  
State Bar of Texas