

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JUDICIAL SECTION, STATE BAR OF TEXAS  
LOCATION: GRAPEVINE, TEXAS  
DATE: 8-31-2009

1. Meeting called to order. All members were present except Pat Garcia, Penney Roberts, Alex Hernandez, Pat McDowell, and Tom Price.
2. The Chair introduced the new incoming Board members.
3. The minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2009, were approved as printed.
4. The Treasurer's report was received and approved. Judge Bacus advised that all dues are now being credited directly into the new Section account at the State Bar Depository Bank. All investment accounts are also being moved to the State Bar. Under State Bar rules, their depository bank is required to fully collateralize all accounts.
5. Tracy Nuckols of the State Bar of Texas Sections Department gave the Board a membership update report. She advised that 1,537 judges were eligible to join the Section and as of a month ago 937 had done so. As of today, the membership roll has increased to 1,019, with 82 people signing up today. The Bar will e-blast all those people who have not re-joined the Section and will distribute an updated list to the Board at the next meeting for any action they deem appropriate.
6. Chair Garcia advised that the lapel pins were handed out at registration, but approximately 550 have not picked them up. A motion was passed unanimously to mail the pins to those that did not pick them up, as well as those who sign up. in response to the membership drive. The approximate cost will be \$120.00.
7. The Chair advised that the following persons are being appointed to the Ethics Committee: Judge Elma Ender, Justice Sullivan of the 14<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals, and Judge Lee Gabriel.
8. Website report. The Chair advised that we are consulting with the State Bar the prospect of having them set up the Section website where we can use it as a convenient communication device. With their assistance, updates to the site will get on a lot faster. A motion was made and passed unanimously to have the State Bar staff assist the Section with the designing and updating the Section website.
9. Lifetime Achievement Award. The Chair advised that he would like to appoint a committee to establish criteria and recommend distinguished retired judges to receive lifetime achievement awards at the Annual Judicial Conference. A was made and passed unanimously to do so.

10. Chapter 56, Government Code – Legislative Priorities. The Chair advised that Section 56.003 provides for funding for judicial education. It allows judges to Receive training under Fund 540. The Criminal Defense Lawyers have applied for money to train judges. The Council for Family Violence has asked for fund 540 money.

The Chair has called Roland Johnson, Chair of the State Bar, to help us protect the integrity of the fund for judicial training to keep advocacy groups from getting it. The State Bar will do whatever the judges need in order to help protect the funds for judicial education. We will work to ensure that the language is changed to stop attempts to raid the fund. Judge Hervey says the Legislative Budget Board has interpreted the current language to mean that all judges are lumped under the same description; so, County Judges will get \$500,000 of our money. Of the \$1.9 million the Texas Center got this year, the loss would take it down to \$1.4 million. Chair Garcia advised that he would ask the Legislative Committees to address the issue for action.

We need to decide if we want to put it into the State Bar legislative package, or try to carry it alone. Chair Garcia asked the Board members to study it for the upcoming October meeting. A motion was made by Judge Ender and seconded by Judge Stovall to have the Legislative Committees study the problems with Chapter 56 and bring a recommendation to the State Bar of Texas and the Section Board of possible legislative changes to cure the problems. They will be presented to the State Bar Board in time to meet guidelines for approving an interim State Bar resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Committee on Board Division. No discussion was necessary at this time due to the vote at the business meeting to require separate elections for the Chairs-Elect of the Texas Center for the Judiciary and Judicial Section.
12. Future Meeting Dates and Locations were discussed. They are:

October 23, 2009, in Austin  
March 26, 2010, in Austin

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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