Insurance Council Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2025 • 3:00 p.m. Central

Texas Law Center / State Bar of Texas • Austin, TX

Council meeting began at 3:05 p.m. Bill Seward took roll.

<u>In Attendance:</u> *Christopher Avery, Christina Culver, Robert Cunningham, Blair Dancy, Rebecca DiMasi, Jennifer Johnson, Katherine Knight, Daniel Lockwood, Jason McLaurin, Henry Moore, Marjorie Nicol, Lauren Parker, Steve Schulwolf, James Willis, Young Lawyer Council Liaison William McMichael, and Assistant Director Bill Seward.*

<u>Chair's Report:</u> Rebecca DiMasi

Rebecca welcomed attendees and yielded the floor to Jennifer.

<u>Approval of Minutes:</u> Jennifer Johnson

Jennifer presented the minutes from the March 26, 2025 Council Meeting. No changes to the minutes were suggested. A motion was made to approve the minutes as presented. Motion seconded and approved.

<u>Budget Report & Overview:</u> Christopher Avery

Chris reviewed the current financial report and noted that there hasn't been much change in the financials since the late March meeting. The financials are still in good shape and tracking appropriately for this time of the year. Chris noted the sponsorship committee will look closer at possible changes to the sponsor categories and opportunities at the August Council retreat.

Blair Dancy noted the August Council retreat is being planned for Asheville, NC in the August 20-22 timeframe depending on availability at The Biltmore Resort. Blair will work with Donna Passons to prepare a budget for the retreat.

<u>Legends Award Committee Recommendations:</u> Rebecca DiMasi

Chris Avery confirmed to Rebecca that Christopher Martin has been informed he is receiving the 2025 Legends Award. Bill Chriss will be invited to present the award to Chris Martin prior to his presentation on Friday morning at the June Advanced Insurance Law Seminar.

<u>CLE Report:</u> Jennifer Johnson

101 Course & Advanced Seminar – Jennifer reported that TexasBarCLE is now in the driver's seat regarding the 101 Course and Advanced Seminar. They will be in contact with Jennifer for any needs or questions as the event approaches.

Webinars – Steve Schulwolf reported that the next Section webinar is scheduled for May 29th with Bill Jones, Jr. and Shannon O'Malley presenting. The event has been posted to the website and marketing efforts began earlier this week.

On-Demand Course – Christina Culver described the topics and presenters being organized for the next on-demand course. The plan is to offer access to the full course at a discounted $295 rate, and the individual sessions for $75 each. The launch of the new website will play a role in the timing, but the current plan is to tease this course as coming soon during the Advanced Seminar in June.

Bill Seward polled the meeting attendees on their receipt of various marketing blast emails sent this week by the State Bar, the Section, and the Right Off the Press team, along with the Council agenda packet email sent by Bill directly to the Council. A few individuals indicated they did not receive one or more of these emails. Bill will follow up with his State Bar contact regarding those who indicated they did not receive the State Bar blast emails and report back to them directly.

Publication Report: ***Jason McLaurin***
Journal – Jason reported that the late Spring issue of the Journal should be heading into the design phase in the next week using the current designer. At last report, Darin Brooks was still working on the possible transition to a new designer for future issues.

Website Rebuild Update: ***Katherine Knight***
Katherine provided a visual presentation of the website in its current stage of development. It was suggested that the past Council Meeting Minutes be added to the "Council-Only" area of the site. The goal is to launch the new site by the Advanced Seminar in June and mention at the membership meeting.

Nominations Committee Report: ***Robert Cunningham***
Bob presented the report of the Committee but noted a recent development regarding the Communications Officer position that will be discussed separately.

Bob reviewed the Committee's recommendations for the Council members whose terms are up for renewal. The consensus of the Council was to approve the recommendations for the Council members seeking to renew their terms.

Bob reviewed the Committee's recommendations for the Officer slate and noted the Committee's recommendation to leave the Communications Officer slot vacant this year to allow for further evaluation of the position at the upcoming August Council retreat, and to create staggered term expirations with the Publications Officer role if the Communications Officer position is continued. Bob reported that after the publication of the Committee's report, current Communications Officer Katherine Knight indicated she is reconsidering her plans to vacate the role and may wish to serve another term due to upcoming changes in her professional life. Katherine has indicated to Bob she will continue to consider it and will advise in the coming weeks in time for Bob to issue a revised Committee report or reconvene the Committee if needed. Discussion was held among the Council outlining the possible scenarios that may occur depending on Katherine's final decision. The Council agreed in consensus regarding the Committee's recommendations for the other remaining Officer roles.

Bob reviewed the Committee's recommendations for the new Council member slate, asked the Committee members who conducted the candidate interviews to provide a brief report on the recommended candidates and sought feedback from the Council as a whole.

Upon inquiry, additional discussion was held regarding the Young Lawyers Committee Council Liaison role and that role's official term expiration in relation to the new Council member slots currently being filled. Young Lawyer Council Liaison William McMichael left the room voluntarily to allow for further discussion.

It was officially brought to the attention of the Chair by the Secretary, per her duties under Bylaws Article III, Section 9, that Voting Council Member Carla Delpit has missed at least three Council meetings without an excused absence, including October 16, 2024, March 26, 2025, and today. The Chair acknowledged such absences without excuse. Per Article III, Section 9, the office held by Carla Delpit is automatically vacated without further action.

Given this development, the consensus of the Council is to fill the remaining year of Carla Delpit's vacated term with candidate Camille Johnson and add William McMichael to the recommendations of Daisy Khambatta and Hunter Klein for the two-year terms in the slate of new Council members for approval.

William McMichael was readmitted to the meeting. Bob summarized the options and potential candidates for the third Judicial Liaison slot and encouraged discussion among the Council on who might be best to approach and how and when to extend the invitation. Bob noted that no decision is required at this stage as Judicial Liaison candidates can be invited by the Nominating Committee at any point during the year. The consensus was to discuss the candidates further at the August Council retreat.

Bob will revise the Nominating Committee report to account for Katherine Knight's final decision and the Council's consensus on the various items discussed. The Committee's revised report will be reissued to the Council before the required notification deadline in May.

There being no new or additional business, Rebecca thanked the attendees and reminded them of the upcoming networking event at The Cloak Room.

A motion was made to adjourn. Motion seconded and approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:32pm Central.