

**STATE BAR OF TEXAS
COLLABORATIVE LAW SECTION NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2014**

Message from the Chair:

If you are new member of our Section, welcome! If you are a veteran member of our Section, welcome back!

Collaborative Law is increasingly recognized as a go-to process for resolving disputes cost-effectively and with an eye towards preserving relationships. One of our goals this year is to spread the word about Collaborative Law to every bar association in Texas by offering to provide speakers at no charge who can provide their members with an overview of Collaborative Law and its application to both family and civil disputes.

It would be ideal to have speakers available in all parts of Texas so that we can minimize travel expenses and the use of videoconferencing options. If you would like to join our Speakers' List, please let me know and we will contact you as opportunities arise.

We are also offering to provide other sections with speakers on collaborative law at their annual section courses. We will contact members with invitations to speak at such events as we receive them.

Your suggestions for section activities this year are welcome! Please contact any of your officers and council members with your ideas for how we can best serve our members and promote awareness of the Collaborative Law option for dispute resolution.

Best regards,

Anne Shuttee
Section Chair

Open Enrollment has begun on the State Bar's Private Health Insurance Exchange!

The Texas Bar Private Insurance Exchange, a multi-carrier private exchange designed for State Bar of Texas members and their staff and dependents, began open enrollment on November 15, 2014.

The exchange is available to both individuals and employer groups. More than 1500 plans are available! Get the full details [here](#).

Changes to the Rules of Evidence are under consideration – and they could benefit Collaborative Lawyers

Amendments to the Texas Rules of Evidence are being considered by the Administration of Rules Committee, and some of the rules at issue (actual or proposed) may be helpful in the practice of Collaborative Law.

For example, the Committee is considering possible amendments to the “common interest” privilege in Rule 501 to expand it to cover communications in non-litigation settings. Such an amendment could apply to communications in Collaborative Law (and Cooperative Law) matters involving multiple parties, so this change would be important to practitioners working on matters not currently covered by the Texas version of the Uniform Collaborative Law Act.

Your Section Council is monitoring developments and will keep you posted so that you can provide comment to the Committee.

Report your Pro Bono Service Hours and consider volunteering to help unaccompanied minors from Central America!

It is important that both the Texas Legislature and the public recognize that lawyers give back to the community through pro bono work. The State Bar wants to keep track of your volunteer contributions, and makes it easy for you to do so. Simply log into www.texasbar.com/mybarpage, using your bar number and password, and report your pro bono hours. Attorneys who report 75 hours or more of pro bono service a year will be invited to join the State Bar’s Pro Bono College, which is an honorary society for legal professionals committed to pro bono.

Speaking of pro bono service, many unaccompanied children from Central America still need legal assistance in family and immigration proceedings. If you are interested in volunteering or learning about training opportunities, check the State Bar’s [website](#).

Update on the Uniform Collaborative Law Act - Fall 2014

Collaborative Law Statutes - Enactments to date by Jurisdiction

Alabama: limited to family and probate
Ala. Code 1975 §§ 6-6-26.1 to 6-6-26.21 (2014)

District of Columbia: limited to family law
D.C. Code §§ 16-4001 to -4022 (2001).

Hawaii: no limit as to scope
Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 658G-1 to 658G-22 (2012).

Nevada: limited to family law
Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 38.400-38.575 (2013).

Ohio: limited to family law
Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 3105.41-3105.54 (2013).

Texas: limited to family law
Tex. Fam. Code Ann. §§ 15.001-15.116 (2011).

Utah: no limit as to scope
Utah Code Ann. §§ 78b-19-101 to -116 (2010).

Washington: no limit as to scope
Wash. Rev. Code §§ 7.77.010-7.77.902 (2013).

Maryland: limited to family law
S.B. 805, 2014 Leg., Reg. Sess. (2014).

New Jersey: limited to family law
NJSA § 2A:23D-1 – 2A:23D-18 (2014)

Michigan: limited to family law
MCL § 691.1331 - 691.1354 (2014)

For additional information on the enactments and introductions of the UCLA, **including the status of legislation in Texas**, visit the website of the [Uniform Law Commission](#), or contact [Peter Munson](#) of Sherman, who served as chair of the UCLA Drafting Committee, [Harry Tindall](#), who served as vice-chair of the UCLA Drafting Committee, or [Larry Maxwell](#), who served as an ABA Section Advisor to the UCLA Drafting Committee.

Report on the 10th Annual Civil Collaborative Law Practice Conference

The Conference was held at the Dallas Bar Association's Belo Mansion, and was jointly sponsored by the SMU Dedman School of Law, Texas Center for Legal Ethics, the Dallas Bar Association Collaborative Law Section, and the Global Collaborative Law Council. Presenters

included a number of experienced Texas collaborative practitioners, and nationally and internationally known collaborative attorneys.

Forrest "Woody" Mosten, an Adjunct Professor at UCLA Law School, is internationally recognized as the "Father of Unbundling" for his pioneering work in limited scope representation. His timely presentation on Limited Scope Representation and Unbundled Legal Service highlighted the opening day of the Conference.

The next two days of the conference involved an intensive training in civil collaborative law. Experienced collaborative lawyers covered a number of topics, including the participation agreement, interest-based negotiations, gathering information, developing and evaluating options, use of facilitators and experts, and ethical consideration in the collaborative process.

Over the two days, the participants worked through a case exercise involving an international employment dispute. The special guest luncheon speakers included a panel of prominent employment lawyers: Florence Gladel of Paris, France, Marc Sheridan of Mt. Kisco, New York, and Bill Lamoreaux of Dallas.

On the 10th Anniversary of the Civil Collaborative Law Conference, our Section Vice-Chair, Sherrie R. Abney, was recognized for her unselfish contributions over the past ten years of her time, talent, and treasure to the advancement of the civil collaborative law movement.

The 11th Annual Collaborative Law Practice Conference will be co-sponsored by our Section.

Save the Dates:

Collaborative Law Course: Sharpen Your Collaborative Skill Set – Leveraging Teamwork by Following the Collaborative Compass
February 12-13, 2015
Austin, Texas
For more information, visit the [website](#).

Annual Meeting of the Collaborative Law Section (during SBOT Annual Meeting to be held June 18-19, 2015)
1:15-4:15 pm
June 18, 2015
San Antonio, Texas

11th Annual Civil Collaborative Law Conference (co-sponsored by the SBOT Collaborative Law Section)
September 16-18, 2015
Dallas, Texas
For more information on training in the civil collaborative process, go to the [website](#) of the Global Collaborative Law Council.

Best wishes to all for a safe and happy Holiday Season and New Year!

From the Officers and Council Members of the State Bar of Texas Collaborative Law Section