

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Fred Raschke, Mills Shirley, L.L.P., Galveston



As a new TADC year begins, there is no question that the "times are a changing." It is incumbent on each of us to stay in tune with those changes and, if at all possible, to stay a step ahead. In that light, we continue to re-evaluate our goals and ideals to aid our members in their professional and personal lives.

We will continue to be out front supporting those causes and goals as established by the TADC and its membership. We will continue to build on the momentum the previous Boards have created for us to succeed.

The "TADC show" will hit the road and come to a city near you this year. For example, as you read this message, last week, pursuant to the tremendous efforts of Carl Green, the TADC hosted a very successful Daubert/Robinson/Havner Seminar in El Paso. Due to the unique location of El Paso and its Bar, we were able to ask not only defense lawyers from the State of Texas and New Mexico to attend the seminar, but also plaintiffs lawyers which provided a very interesting and educational setting.

Your leadership will visit cities and towns throughout the State of Texas, that perhaps, normally, we would not visit. There will be "face time" with members both as to education and exchange of ideas. I ask you now not only to be present when the TADC show comes to a town near you, but to take part in the show. The TADC, with its planned programs and initiatives this year, could very well be the "greatest show in Texas."

While you're reading this message, you will want to know that your Board has met in El Paso and has planned out its year. When the Board members came to the Board meeting in El Paso, they were literally ready to hit the ground running. On Friday afternoon of the meeting the Board conducted a "boot camp". Presentations were made by Mike Hendryx, Hayes Fuller, Tom Ganucheau, Vance Ivy, Jay Old, as to the nuts and bolts of the programs committee, legislative committee, membership committee, publication committee and the special committees of member services, pro bono, and civil justice reform. After the nuts and bolts session, all of the standing committee vice presidents, as listed in this publication, along with the special committees' chairs, set forth their plans of action for this year. In other words, we're under way now and moving forward and continuing to gather momentum.

You will find listed in this publication the various TADC standing committees and special committees and the vice presidents and/or chairs in charge of those committees. I encourage you to either contact me or Bobby Walden or those vice presidents and chairs and get involved with those committees. The various committees and special committees' reports and plans of action for this new TADC year will be provided to you in later publications.

In this publication you will also note the 2007-2008 TADC Calendar of Events. I encourage you to try to attend as many events as possible. Not only will there be excellent CLE at all the programs, but you have an excellent chance for great networking and fellowship.

Some consider this year as the "off season" for legislative purposes. However, as you know, there no longer is an "off season" when it comes to legislative changes. In that regard, our members are working on a number of task forces in the "off season" as concerns court reorganization, arbitration, and in many other areas of the law that affect our every day practice.

Additionally, we continue to monitor the possible “sunset” of various commissions. I would encourage you to take this time to better acquaint yourself with your own state legislators as we continue to build the momentum that we gathered in the last legislative session. In advance I thank you for your past contributions to the TADC PAC and under the able leadership of president-elect Tom Henson, I look forward to your contributions to the TADC PAC this year.

I would encourage you to help your local TADC Board representative in the activities, programs and events in your area.

We have continued to see an upswing in membership for the TADC. I encourage you to help us recruit additional members as Rebecca Stevenson, the

TADC’s new Membership Coordinator, will be calling on you for help in bolstering our membership.

This will be an exciting year! Yes, the times are a changing, but the TADC will be out front, a step ahead, aiding you in both your professional and personal lives.

On behalf of the TADC Board, thank you so much for your commitment in the past and for your commitment in the future. Thank you for what you have done for the TADC in the past and for what I know you will do for the TADC in the future.



MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

The recent untimely death of a TADC Board member brought into sharp focus one of the very real dangers associated with the practice of law. The legal profession has the highest suicide rate of all professions, and members of the trial bar are at the highest risk in the profession for alcoholism, drug addiction, depression and suicide. To address these issues, TADC has created a new committee charged with setting up a support network to offer assistance to TADC members experiencing difficulties with depression, alcoholism, drug addiction and similar problems. The Member Services Committee is co-chaired by Stan Perry, Jo Ben Whittenberg and Max Wright.

We who have our own experiences with these problems know that men and women suffering from them frequently do not seek help because they do not know where to turn. They need someone they know and trust to hear them and to extend a helping hand. Recovery is most likely to begin when one person who has traveled the same road is willing to be available, to reach out when asked, and to share experience, strength and hope with the one who is suffering. Alcoholism and addiction are chronic, progressive and ultimately fatal diseases if left untreated; they are cunning, baffling, powerful and extremely patient. Depression shares many of the same characteristics

and is equally deadly, perhaps even more so because depression is frequently more difficult to detect or identify, even by the one who suffers. We want to put a face on these diseases so that any TADC member who may need help knows someone in our organization whom he or she trusts and can call. We also want to be available to TADC members whose lives are affected by someone else’s disease, whether that someone else be a spouse, child or law partner who may be suffering.

The committee is looking for members who are willing to serve as contacts for TADC members seeking help. We have not set any qualifications for committee membership, but we do ask those TADC members who are in recovery programs to give serious consideration to joining the committee. The sharing of one’s own journey and the exposing of one’s own wounds can be powerful tools in encouraging one who is suffering to seek and receive help. To join the committee, please contact one of the co-chairmen.

In addition to serving as available contacts for TADC members, the committee also plans to produce educational materials directed specifically to TADC members on the subjects of alcoholism, addiction and depression. An understanding of the disease may help one member decide whether he or she may have a problem that needs help while at the same time it help

another member respond to someone else's disease with more compassion and a better understanding of what may or may not be a helpful way to deal with the problems caused by alcoholism, addiction or depression.

The need is present in the TADC membership and we have accepted the challenge of offering help where it is needed; please join us in that endeavor. If our efforts pull one person back from the brink of suicide or cause one member to enter recovery from alcoholism, addiction or depression, our work will not have been in vain.

All calls to the committee will be handled under the auspices of the Texas Lawyers Assistance

Program (TLAP) to insure absolute confidentiality.

The following are the committee members as of September 22, 2007; names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are in the TADC membership directory and additional contact information will be forthcoming shortly:

Stan Perry - Houston
Jo Ben Wittenburg - Beaumont
Max Wright - Midland
Allen DuBois - San Antonio
Brad Douglas - Austin

VISITORS TO THE TADC OFFICE

David Chamberlain; Austin
Greg Curry; Dallas
James Dennis; San Antonio
Hayes Fuller; Waco
Tom Ganucheau; Houston
Jim Bo Guess; San Antonio

Tom Henson; Tyler
Don Kent; Tyler
Doug McSwane; Tyler
Keith O'Connell; San Antonio
Jay Old; Beaumont
Fred Raschke; Galveston

Ken Riney; Dallas
Tom Riney; Amarillo
Bill Wade; Lubbock
Michael Wallach; Fort Worth

MEMORIALS

Jack W. Flock, a long time TADC member of 44 years, passed away on Monday, October 15, 2007. Mr. Flock received his J.D. from the University of Texas in 1938. After serving in the U.S. Navy during WWII, Mr. Flock became a founding partner of the firm Ramey & Flock, L.L.P.

Ben G. Ramsey, also a TADC member of 44 years, passed away October 28, 2007. Mr. Ramsey served in the U.S. Airforce during WWII, after which he attended Southern Methodist University Law School. He and his partner of many years, John Murray, established and founded the law firm of Ramsey & Murray, which continues to this day.