



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Thomas E. Ganucheau, President
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The TADC has had a great year in 2011 and are looking forward to an even better 2012. Last year we began a three-year concerted effort focusing on membership, not only on securing new members for your organization to keep it the largest and strongest in the country, but also in meeting your needs as an organization. TADC offers some of the best member benefits in the country, including fantastic CLEs, meetings and events focused on the Texas defense lawyer, local meetings and get together, a robust legislative program and agenda, substantive law publications and e-Updates alerting you to the most important issues and new cases in a timely manner, an extensive expert witness library, and more. Most importantly the TADC offers a network of lawyers across the State of Texas who are happy to assist a fellow member. If there is a benefit we don't offer or a need that we are not fulfilling as an organization, please let us hear from you.

By the time you receive this, the TADC Board of Directors will have had their first Board meeting for the new year. The TADC Board is a working board. All board members are required to serve on a standing committee, including Programs, Legislative, Membership and Publications, in addition to serving on special committees which have included member services, pro bono, and civil justice. The standing committees' chairpersons set their plans and goals for the coming year and outlined a plan of action for achieving their goals. We are hitting the ground running and encourage you to get involved. If you would like to participate on any of these committees, assist with substantive law newsletters, work on

publications, review legislation, participate in our CLE events and local meetings, please let us hear from you. We strongly encourage you to get involved. The more the members are involved, the stronger your organization will be.

We had a busy year on the legislative front. Congratulations to Keith O'Connell for leading the TADC through a very trying 82nd Texas Legislative session and spearheading the TADC's success on that front. We solidified our reputation as an independent voice protecting the Texas Civil Justice System, and not only strengthened our legislative relationships but made many new friends in the legislature who reach out to the TADC for evaluation and input on issues affecting your practice. While 2012 is not technically a legislative year, the House Interim Charges are already out and work is already underway by your legislative committee. The TADC continuously monitors all legislative activity for any impact not only on your practice, but on the Texas Civil Justice System. The TADC continues to be a strong, effective voice on legislative matters and we encourage you to support our efforts, not only through volunteering your time, but also by contributing to the TADC PAC. Back the PAC!

We are very excited about our CLE programming for 2012. As always, the TADC programs will focus on practical topics, "hot button" substantive law issues impacting or likely to impact our practices, trial practice tips, insight from judges, and more.

- Our CLE year begins with the Winter Seminar to be held

February 1-5, 2012, at the Elevation Resort and Spa in Crested Butte, Colorado. Our program chairs are Max Wright and Mark Bennett. We are trying something new with our Winter Meeting. This ski-in, ski-out meeting will be co-hosted with the Alabama Defense Counsel, and will consist of both Texas only sessions, and joint sessions on issues of interest to all lawyers. Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet some lawyers from another state who have similar interests and practices.

- Our 2012 TADC Trial Academy will be held March 30-31, 2012, at the South Texas College of Law in Houston. Michele Smith and Chad Gerke will co-chair the Trial Academy. We encourage you to sign up your young lawyers early. If you would like to participate on the faculty, please let us know.
- Our Spring Meeting will be at the Inn & Spa at Loretto in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Our chairs are Sofia Ramon and Randy Grambling. Spring is a beautiful time of year in Santa Fe and we encourage you to not only attend the CLE, but enjoy the art and cuisine of Santa Fe.
- For our Summer Meeting, the TADC is going to The Grand Sandestin Resort in Sandestin, Florida. The meeting is chaired by Darin Brooks and Greg Binns. We encourage you to bring the family and enjoy the many activities that Sandestin has to offer, including white sandy beaches, sailing, fishing, golf (four courses on property), shopping and dining.

- We close the year out with our Annual Meeting hosted by Gayla Corley and Mike Hendryx at the Westin St. Francis, in San Francisco. Enjoy beautiful San Francisco while securing CLE hours focused on the Texas defense lawyer.

Aside from these fabulous meetings, we anticipate local luncheons, local seminars, and other opportunities for local members to get together. The friendship and camaraderie of the members of the TADC remain some of the most value member benefits of your organization, and we invite you to attend all of these meetings and not only renew old friendships, but make new ones as well.

The TADC is the largest state organization of defense attorneys in the country and is in a position to seriously impact public policy. TADC's message is credible and respected in the legal community and in the legislature. I encourage you to get involved in the TADC and help protect and preserve the civil justice system. Join a committee, attend a meeting or volunteer to review legislation. There are dozens of ways you can contribute. A small commitment of time and expertise can have a major impact. Recruit a new member. If partners, associates or colleagues are not members of the TADC, sign them up! The TADC is the only voice of the defense bar in Texas. We need your help to keep the TADC strong.

Finally, please contact me or the TADC office throughout the year if you have any questions or if we may be of service in any way. I look forward to serving as your President and look forward to an exciting 2012.