



IN THIS ISSUE: [Message from the President](#),
[Legislative News](#), & [Up-Coming Events](#)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tom Henson, Ramey & Flock, P.C.; Tyler



Your officers, committees and staff have been very busy pursuing TADC's best interests in the Legislature and elsewhere in recent days.

We are continuing our efforts to promote legislation which would improve or protect the civil justice system. As the 81st Legislature enters into the final four weeks of its regular session, the pace is expected to be hurried if not hectic. We will keep you advised.

Our Programs Committee has assisted in putting on two excellent recent programs...the Commercial Litigation Seminar was held in Houston on April 16, and the TADC Trial Academy was held in San Antonio on April 24 and 25.

The Membership Committee has been very active in seeking new members, including a free CLE seminar held in Houston at the offices of Beirne, Maynard & Parsons for members and prospective members.

And don't forget the **2009 TADC Summer Seminar at the Coeur d'Alene Resort and Spa in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on July 8-12**. Doug Rees of Cooper & Scully, Dallas is Program Chair and Joe and Betty Crawford, Wright & Greenhill, Austin, are Meeting Chairs. You won't want to miss this one! Details are below and [CLICK HERE](#) for the registration materials. *Be sure to secure your hotel accommodations as this is a popular seminar and space is filling fast!*

Please don't hesitate to contact me or the TADC office if we may be of service.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

With the House deadlines for consideration of bills fast approaching, the prospects for a number of bills affecting the civil justice system are becoming critical. Here is a quick rundown for major bills of interest to TADC members and their status in the legislative process:

SB 1119/HB 1956 (paid or incurred)--SB 1119 has been removed from the Senate Intent Calendar, indicating a lack of the two-thirds majority in the Senate necessary to bring the bill up for debate. HB 1956, the House companion, is still pending in House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee. The last day for a House committee to report a House bill is Monday, May 11.

SB 1123/HB 1811 (mesothelioma claims)--Both bills are pending in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee. The last day for House committees to report Senate bills isn't until May 23.

HB 1657/SB 2063 (Entergy v. Summers)--HB 1657 has been pending in the House Calendars Committee since April 20 however it is expected to be reported from Calendars and set for the House floor next week, possibly as early as Monday. The last day for the House to consider nonlocal House bills is Thursday, May 14. The Senate companion has not been heard in committee.

SB 445 (juror question and note-taking)--SB 445 passed the Senate in late March and has been awaiting hearing in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee. The last day for House committees to report Senate bills is Saturday, May 23. There is no House companion.

SB 992/HB 3763 (court reorganization)--SB 992 passed the Senate and has been referred to the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee. The House companion, HB 3763, was heard in that committee on April 27 and was left pending.

HB 4095 (Fortis)--HB 4095 has been reported from the House Insurance Committee and is pending in the House Calendars Committee.

HB 4097/SB 2160 (limiting multi-district litigation)--HB 4097 has been reported from the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee and is pending in the House Calendars Committee. SB 2160 has not yet been heard in the Senate State Affairs Committee.

HB 2696/SB 222 (arbitration)--HB 2696 has been heard in House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence and is pending in committee. Interested parties are working with Rep. Gattis on a committee substitute. SB 222 has not been heard in Senate Jurisprudence.

HB 2295, the sunset bill for the Texas Residential Construction Commission, was passed to third reading in the House on May 6 and is expected to pass the House today. The bill was heavily amended on the floor to improve consumer protections. Among the key amendments included a waiver of the \$250 fee paid by homeowners for requesting an inspection; requiring mediation and arbitration proceedings to be held in the county in which the home is located; and moving up the next sunset review of the agency to 2013. Another amendment requires the TRCC to develop a standard contract for the purchase of a new home. The bill now goes to the Senate, where the Senate companion, SB 1015, is awaiting hearing in the Senate Business & Commerce Committee.

SB 1007/HB 2203 (TDI sunset)--SB 1007 has passed the Senate and is pending in the House Insurance Committee, together with the House companion. This bill is widely viewed as a potential vehicle for changes to paid or incurred, Entergy, Fortis, and other amendments that may be offered in House debate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2009 TADC SUMMER SEMINAR

July 8-12, 2009 - Coeur d'Alene Resort & Spa - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Don't miss this Seminar ([program link below](#))

A **9.0 hr** (with 1.5 hrs ethics) CLE Program Featuring such topics as:

"From High Tech to Low Tech: Adding a WOW Factor to Your Case Economically"

"Facebook, Twitter and the World of Social Networking Sites: What Trial

Lawyers Need to Know"

"Deposition Testimony - Key Foundations to a Winning Defense"

"Damages: A Roadmap for the Trial Lawyer"

And many more!

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho is a wonderful summer destination with amazing activities for individuals, couples and families!

[CLICK HERE](#) for registration. [Sign up today, space is filling fast!](#)

July 8-12, 2009

TADC Summer Seminar

Coeur d'Alene Resort – Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Doug Rees, Program Chair

Joe & Betty Crawford, Meeting Chairs

[CLICK HERE](#) for meeting registration material

**August 7-8, 2009
Meeting**

TADC Budget & Nominating Committee

Hyatt Regency on Lady Bird Lake – Austin

Fred D. Raschke, Nominating Committee Chair

Sept. 30-October 4, 2009

TADC Annual Meeting

Hotel Intercontinental – Montreal, Quebec

Max E. Wright, Chair

October 9, 2009

West Texas Rookie Seminar

Texas Tech School of Law – Lanier Room

12:00pm-5pm

November 13-14, 2009

TADC Board of Directors Meeting
Ricks Grand Hotel – McKinney, Texas

January 15-16, 2010

TADC Board Of Directors Meeting
Elegante Hotel – Beaumont, Texas

January 27-31, 2010

TADC Winter Seminar
Vail Cascade Resort – Vail, Colorado

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