

2019 DBA COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Admissions and Membership – Committee members assist in the recruiting new members: reviews recruitment retention programs; conducts telethons, coordinates the New Member Reception in February. ***6 lunch hour meetings.***

Bar None Production Company – Committee members may serve as writers, fundraisers, marketers, musicians, backstage crew and more for Bar None, the annual show benefiting the Sarah T. Hughes Diversity Scholarship. ***Generally evening meetings, rehearsals January-June.***

Bench Bar Conference – Young lawyers are encouraged to join this Committee and meet seasoned attorneys and judges in a casual setting. Committee members assist in selecting program topics and panelists; and assist with the obtaining sponsorships for the Bench/Bar Conference, ***September 26- 28, 2018. Lunch hour meetings January-July.***

Community Involvement - Volunteers organize and participate in community projects and activities such as Habitat for Humanity, annual food, clothing, and school supply drives. ***Lunch hour meetings every other month.***

Continuing Legal Education – Volunteers select programs and speakers for Friday Clinics at Belo, North Dallas and South Dallas locations. Volunteers needed to introduce speakers. Committee may also plan special seminars. ***Monthly lunch hour meetings.***

Courthouse/Library – Volunteers provide input and recommendations on the utilization of the court facilities and consider improvements for the benefit of the public, the judiciary and the legal profession. ***Monthly lunch hour meetings.***

Criminal Justice – If you are a criminal law practitioner you are encouraged to join this Committee. Volunteers may organize special CLE programs geared for the criminal law practitioners. ***Lunch hour meetings every month.***

Entertainment – Young lawyers who enjoy planning social events and meeting other young lawyers should join this Committee. Members plan various social functions, including happy hours, Mother's Day Brunch, sports outings and other special events to encourage networking. ***Lunch hour meetings every other month.***

Fee Disputes - Arbitrates fee disputes between lawyers and clients through panels comprised of lawyers and lay persons in an attempt to amicably resolve disputes. ***Meets as needed.***

Golf Tournament – Volunteers plan and organize the Annual Pro Bono Golf Tournament that will take place on April 26, 2018, and assist in obtaining underwriters, vendors, prizes and sponsors. ***Monthly lunch hour meetings.***

Home Project - Partners with Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity to sponsor and build a new Habitat home each year.

Judiciary – Committee generally acts as a liaison with the judiciary, conducts CLE programs, judicial panels, assists with the Clerk Awards Luncheon and may hold occasional special seminars. ***Monthly lunch hour meetings.***

Juvenile Justice – Committee focuses on at-risk juveniles. Members may work on various projects and CLE programs, as well as provide direct services to youth and participate in other projects that focus on training and education regarding juvenile issues.

Law in the Schools and Community – Practice your presentation skills and volunteer to speak to students in Dallas ISD classrooms. Help coordinate the Law Day Art contests and the Education Symposium. ***Lunch hour meetings every other month.***

Lawyer Referral Service – Committee reviews the operation of DBA Lawyers Referral Service as needed; makes recommendations as needed. ***Quarterly lunch hour meetings.***

Legal Ethics – Committee plans and conducts an annual three-hour evening legal ethics seminar, plans various ethics related CLE programs generally on a monthly basis. ***Lunch hour meetings every month.***

LegalLine – Committee members volunteer to anonymously answer legal questions from the general public over the phone on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the DBA offices. Wine, beer and sandwiches served. ***Organizational meeting in January.***

Memorial and History - DBA members who enjoy writing and history are asked to write memorial resolutions honoring deceased DBA members. ***Organizational meeting in January.***

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Minority Participation – Committee members help coordinate programs that encourage minority lawyers to practice in Dallas and become active in the Dallas Bar. It hosts the minority clerkship luncheon and other programs to increase minority participation in the DBA.

Lunch hour meetings every month.

Mock Trial – Committee members help organize the Texas High School Mock Trial Competition; may serve as team advisors, tabulators, event organizers and also judge various mock trial competitions. ***Organizational meeting in the fall and as needed through May. Case writers meet in summer.***

Morris Harrell Professionalism – Committee implements programs to enhance professionalism.

Lunch hour meetings every other month.

Peer Assistance – Committee organizes CLE programs to assist lawyers who are stressed, depressed, alcoholic, chemically dependent, mentally ill, or unable to conduct their legal practices due to personal or health reasons.

Monthly lunch hour meetings.

Pro Bono Activities – Committee focuses on programs to improve the delivery of legal services to low income persons and provides assistance to legal service providers through volunteer lawyers who represent clients on a pro bono basis. ***Monthly lunch hour meetings.***

Public Forum/Media Relations – Committee coordinates programs that impact the public at large, through forums, debates, speaking engagements and discussions at the Belo Mansion. ***Monthly lunch hour meetings as needed.***

Publications – Committee members review and determine articles for each monthly issue of *Headnotes* and coordinates contributing writers. ***Monthly lunch hour meetings.***

Senior Lawyers – Committee members may determine CLE programs of interest to senior lawyers; matches senior lawyers with mentees; may on occasion host an annual luncheon and prepare oral histories of members. ***Lunch meetings every other month.***

Summer Law Intern Program – Young lawyers who enjoy working with students are encouraged to join this Committee. Committee members interview and place Dallas ISD students in law firms for the summer; determine field trips, serve as chaperones, and conduct orientations for parents and students. ***Generally monthly lunch meetings in the fall through May.***

Unauthorized Practice of Law - An agency of the Supreme Court of Texas whose members investigate complaints received against persons who may be involved in the unauthorized practice of law, and makes recommendations concerning their conduct to the State Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee. The names of those who list this committee among their preferences will be forwarded to the UPL Committee Chair for consideration.