

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

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**Misc. Docket No. 16-9104**

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## **ORDER ESTABLISHING TASK FORCE ON THE TEXAS BAR EXAMINATION**

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At the request of the ten law school deans of the law schools operating in Texas, the Supreme Court recognizes the need for study and recommendations regarding the content and administration of the Texas bar exam. Accordingly, the Court wishes to form a Task Force responsible for studying the Texas bar exam and making recommendations to the Court.

The Court **HEREBY ORDERS:**

The Task Force on the Texas Bar Exam is created.

The following are appointed members of the Task Force:

Darby Dickerson, Dean, Texas Tech University School of Law  
Ward Farnsworth, Dean, University of Texas School of Law  
Dannye K. Holley, Dean, Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law  
Stephen M. Sheppard, Dean, St. Mary's University School of Law  
Bradley J.B. Toben, Dean, Baylor Law School  
Honorable Jeff Rose, Chief Justice, Third Court of Appeals  
Harold "Al" Odom, Vice Chair, Texas Board of Law Examiners  
Augustin "Augie" Rivera, Jr., Member, Texas Board of Law Examiners  
C. Alfred Mackenzie, Member, Texas Board of Law Examiners  
Beverly B. Godbey, Attorney  
Rebekah Steely Brooker, Attorney

Dean Stephen M. Sheppard is appointed Chair of the Task Force. The Court's liaison to the Task Force is Justice Don Willett.

The Task Force shall focus on these questions:

1. Should Texas use the Uniform Bar Examination, and if so, under what circumstances?
2. Should Texas continue to use the Multistate Bar Examination, and if so, under what circumstances?
3. Should Texas alter the Texas bar exam essay questions, and if so, how?
4. Should Texas alter the manner in which the examination is scored, and if so, how?
5. Should Texas alter the scoring policies by which an exam is determined to pass or to fail, and if these policies should be altered, to what?
6. Should Texas change the procedures and timing for grading and reporting exam results to reduce the amount of time that it takes, and if so, how?
7. Should Texas adopt a “diploma privilege” for graduates of accredited Texas law schools, and if so, what standards should Texas require such graduates to meet?

The Task Force shall submit a report to the Court by **May 31, 2017**. The report shall summarize the results of the foregoing review and convey the Task Force’s recommendations for any changes, further study, or other action.

SIGNED this 24th day of June, 2016.



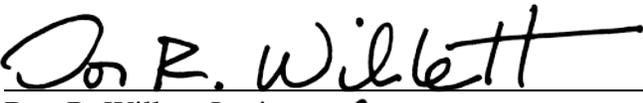
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



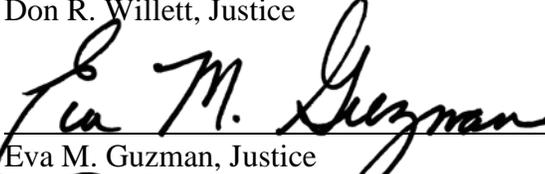
Paul W. Green, Justice



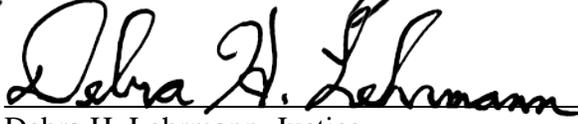
Phil Johnson, Justice



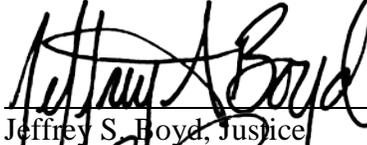
Don R. Willett, Justice



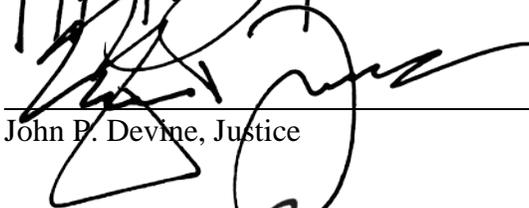
Eva M. Guzman, Justice



Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



Jeffrey V. Brown, Justice