

# STATE BAR OF TEXAS

**BOB BLACK**  
PRESIDENT



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Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson  
Supreme Court of Texas  
P.O. Box 12248  
Austin, TX 78711-2488

Dear Chief Justice Jefferson:

The Executive Committee of the State Bar of Texas met today and after much respectful discussion and consideration voted to request that the Supreme Court of Texas "suspend the work of its Uniform Forms Task Force and direct the State Bar of Texas to review the issue of indigent self-represented litigants in the State's courts, including collecting data demonstrating the numbers of these litigants, gathering information about how these cases are handled by Courts throughout the state, and reviewing possible solutions."

The State Bar of Texas is fully committed to access to justice for all Texans and applauds the efforts of all those who have worked on this issue over the past few months to do what is best. Unfortunately, at this point there is no consensus and, equally distressing, we are unaware of any available data on indigent self-represented litigants. A lack of data coupled with anecdotal reports has created a stalemate in the rhetoric being used to support what may be legitimate perspectives from all interested parties.

We believe we are at a critical juncture on this issue. Along with numerous individuals and groups – all with the best interest of access to justice and administration of justice as a motivating force – the State Bar of Texas Executive Committee believes that immediate action is required so that critical information can be gathered and considered in the development of any possible recommendations. It is imperative that all those who have expressed an opinion on this issue know the facts, be heard, and be part of any recommendation considered by the Court.

Thank you for your consideration. We are anxious to hear from the Court on this issue and look forward to working with all interested parties to best serve our Courts, the public, and the profession.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Black".

Bob Black