

Supreme Court of Texas

Misc. Docket No. 21-9137

Order Amending Article I of the State Bar Rules

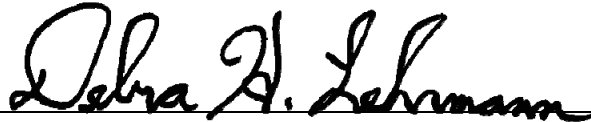
ORDERED that:

1. On November 1, 2021, the State Bar of Texas submitted a Petition for Order to Amend the State Bar Rules (“Petition”). The Petition is attached as Exhibit 1 to this Order.
2. Article I of the State Bar Rules is amended as set forth in this Order.
3. The amendments are effective January 1, 2022.
4. The State Bar of Texas is directed, on January 1, 2022, to adjust Texas Young Lawyers Association membership status under Article 1(15) for the remainder of the 2021-2022 fiscal year as if the amendment had been effective June 1, 2021.
5. The Clerk is directed to:
 - a. file a copy of this Order with the Secretary of State;
 - b. cause a copy of this Order to be mailed to each registered member of the State Bar of Texas by publication in the *Texas Bar Journal*;
 - c. send a copy of this Order to each elected member of the Legislature;
and
 - d. submit a copy of this Order for publication in the *Texas Register*.

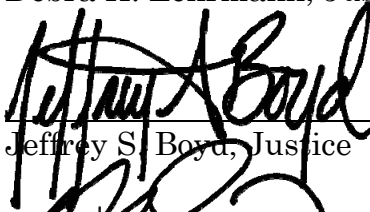
Dated: November 9, 2021.



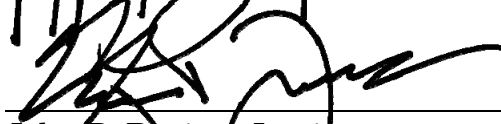
Nathan L. Hecht, Chief Justice



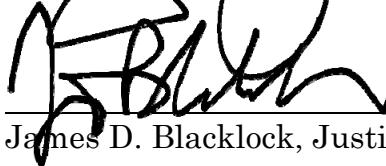
Debra H. Lehrmann, Justice



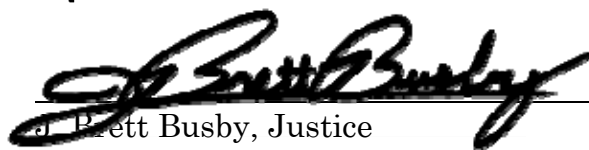
Jeffrey S. Boyd, Justice



John P. Devine, Justice



James D. Blacklock, Justice



Brett Busby, Justice



Jane N. Bland, Justice



Rebeca A. Huddle, Justice

ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS

The following words shall have the meaning set out below, unless a different meaning is apparent from the context:

15. “Texas Young Lawyers Association” means the division of the State Bar of Texas commonly referred to as its “public service arm” and whose regular membership is comprised of all members of the State Bar of Texas, irrespective of age, licensed twelve years or less at the beginning of each fiscal year beginning June 1.

EXHIBIT 1

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Misc. Docket No. 21-_____

**IN RE:
PETITION FOR ORDER
TO AMEND THE STATE BAR RULES**

**PETITION FOR ORDER
TO AMEND THE STATE BAR RULES REGARDING THE TEXAS YOUNG
LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

TO THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE AND JUSTICES OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW the State Bar of Texas (the “Petitioner”) and respectfully petitions this Court for an Order amending Article I of the State Bar Rules (“Rules”). In support thereof, Petitioner would show:

I.

The Texas Young Lawyers Association (“TYLA”) has long been recognized by the legislature as an important part of the State Bar of Texas.¹ Since 1939, TYLA (previously named “the State Junior Bar of Texas”) has been recognized as a division of the State Bar of Texas² and is commonly referred to as its “public service arm.”³

¹ See Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. §§ 81.020, 81.121.

² See James J. Hartnett, A Review: State Junior Bar of Texas, 25 Tex. B.J. 361 (1962).

³ See About Us, TYLA, <https://tyla.org/about/>.

II.

On September 17, 2021, the TYLA Board of Directors passed a resolution in support of expanding its membership to all members of the State Bar of Texas, irrespective of age, licensed twelve years or less at the beginning of each fiscal year beginning June 1.⁴

Thereafter, during its regularly called meeting on September 24, 2021, at which meeting a quorum was present, the State Bar's Board of Directors voted to approve the recommended changes to the TYLA membership structure as reflected in the TYLA resolution.⁵

III.

For these reasons, Petitioner would propose that the following definition be added to the State Bar Rules under Article I:

15) "Texas Young Lawyers Association" means the division of the State Bar of Texas commonly referred to as its "public service arm" and whose regular membership⁶ is comprised of all members of the State Bar of Texas, irrespective of age, licensed twelve years or less at the beginning of each fiscal year beginning June 1.

⁴ See Resolution 2021-2, attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

⁵ See Video of September 24, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting at 5:45:53-5:55:14, YouTube (Sept. 24, 2021), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzVBsNXTZ8w>.

⁶ TYLA also has honorary memberships: "The Board of Directors may elect honorary members of the TYLA by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Honorary members shall neither vote nor hold office." See Bylaws of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, art. II, § 2 (2013), <http://bit.ly/2I49Wrw>. This footnote is included for explanatory purposes and is not intended to be part of the proposed definition.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests the Court adopt the proposed addition to Article I of the State Bar Rules as set out herein, effective January 1, 2022, and to further order that the amendments be published in the *Texas Bar Journal*. Petitioner further requests that the Court provide that any person who would have been a member of TYLA for the 2021-2022 fiscal year under the proposed addition to Article I if it had been in effect on June 1, 2021, shall be a member of TYLA as of the proposed addition's effective date of January 1, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



Trey Apffel
Executive Director
State Bar of Texas
State Bar No. 00000091
P.O. Box 12487
Austin, Texas 78711



Santos Vargas
Chair of the Board of Directors
State Bar of Texas
State Bar No. 24047026
P.O. Box 12487
Austin, Texas 78711

EXHIBIT A

RESOLUTION 2021 – 2

WHEREAS, the Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) membership has been comprised of all Texas attorneys new to the practice of law as defined in TYLA's Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined revisions to TYLA's membership definition are necessary to better ensure that all new attorneys are included, specifically, those practicing law as a second career; and

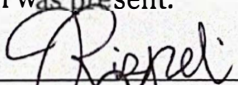
WHEREAS, TYLA Board of Directors met throughout the 2019-2020, the 2020-2021, and the 2021-2022 bar years and discussed removing any requirements that relate to age and expanding regular membership to those attorneys practicing up to fifteen (15) years or less; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the national and statewide shutdowns following the COVID-19 pandemic, TYLA has been unable to conduct and host an in-person Annual Meeting to ratify proposed changes to the bylaws; and

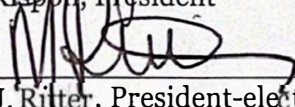
WHEREAS, the TYLA Board of Directors desires to recommend its commitment to expanding membership to all new attorneys, irrespective of age, to the SBOT for its consideration and approval at its next regular meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the TYLA Board of Directors, that the TYLA Board of Directors recommends to the SBOT Board of Directors that the TYLA membership requirements should be adopted as follows, "The following members of the State Bar of Texas are regular members of TYLA for the entire fiscal year beginning June 1: all lawyers initially licensed within twelve (12) years prior to June 1".

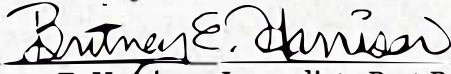
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the President and the TYLA Board of Directors, this 17th day of September, 2021 at a regular board meeting, at which a quorum was present.



Jeanine Rispoli, President

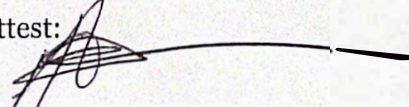


Michael J. Ritter, President-elect



Britney E. Harrison, Immediate Past President

Attest:



Hisham A. Masri, Secretary