

INSURANCE LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS
Application for Position on Council of the Section – Term Expiring 2025

Minimum criteria:

1. Have practiced law for 5 years.
2. Have been in the Section for 2 years.
3. Devote at least 30% of practice to insurance matters.
4. Can commit to:
 - attending approximately eight in-person Council meetings a year, as well as several phone conferences as necessary ;
 - writing or soliciting an article for the Journal each year; and
 - active and substantive participation in at least one committee each year during your tenure (CLE, Publications, or Outreach).

Considerations, but not requirements:

1. Have demonstrated a willingness to make the time commitment to the Section (or to similar type involvements).
2. Have demonstrated leadership, whether in the Section or other similar activities. Consideration may also be given to the applicant having shown interest by applying in the past.
3. Contributes to the diversity of the Council, as to practice area (policy holder v. carrier practice), regional diversity, and/or traditional diversity considerations.
4. Possesses a working knowledge or interest in various forms of technology used to market the Section.
5. It is preferred that no more than one member of a firm be on the council at the same time.
6. **Please see our Frequently Asked Questions for additional criteria and expectations from Council members.**

The application deadline is March 24, 2023. Please return by email to Doug Skelley at doug@shidlofskylaw.com, with the subject line “Insurance Council Application.”

Name _____

Law Firm/Company Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City/State/Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Do You Meet the Minimum Criteria Listed, Above? _____

Please respond on a separate sheet to the following:

Describe how in the past you have demonstrated a willingness to make the necessary time commitments involved to productively serve in the section or other extracurricular commitments.

Describe how you have demonstrated leadership in the section or other activities.

Why are you applying for a position on the council and how do you plan to serve?

Is there anything else you think the nomination committee should consider about your application?

On which Insurance Law Section Committees would you have an interest in serving?

How can your knowledge of marketing or technology contribute to the Board's efforts to grow membership in the Section?

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the Insurance Section?

The Insurance Law Section is an official, sanctioned section of the State Bar of Texas consisting of approximately 2,300 members. Membership is open to all members of the State Bar of Texas.

What is the mission of the Insurance Section?

Promoting collegiality and educating the bench, bar, and public about Texas insurance law.

What is the Insurance Council?

The Section is governed by a Council selected from the Section membership. The Council exercises general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section, subject to the Charter and Bylaws of the State Bar. The Council is composed of 14 members who serve staggered 2-year terms renewable for no more than 6 years, plus officers who are selected from active Council membership who have served at least one term.

What is the time commitment to be a Council member?

There are anywhere from six to ten Council meetings during a typical year, all being in-person. The location of the meetings varies at the chair's discretion but are typically in easy-to-access cities around the state. Reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed by the Section for attendance at these meetings when requested. A Council member missing three meetings during a twelve-month period without reasonable excuse will be automatically removed from the Council.

In addition to the attendance at the Council meetings, members are expected to take on an active role each year in at least one committee and likely two. The time commitment for these activities is significant. Please review the description of the various committees and their activities below.

What do the committees do?

The committees are the working bodies of the Section and Council.

The Publications Committee handles the Insurance Section's main publications: The Texas Insurance Law Journal, Right Off the Press email alerts, and content for the website. The Journal is the academic jewel of the Section, published approximately three times a year. Articles are solicited and edited to ensure academic quality, and the Journal articles are made available through Westlaw and cited in published cases. Right Off the Press provides an invaluable service to Section members by identifying recent cases and indicating through key words the issues addressed in those cases. Content for the website can vary but will typically include summaries of key, recent case law important to insurance law.

The CLE Committee organizes and puts on at least two main continuing legal education offerings each year, with the assistance of the Section's administrators and the State Bar. The 101 and Advanced Insurance Law Seminar is a State Bar program planned and hosted by the Council and the State Bar, traditionally held in San Antonio's Hyatt Hill Country each June, over two-and-a-half days including our well-attended and popular Casino Night. The committee plans on four webinars each year to address trending and topical issues. The committee also puts on one stand-alone CLE each year that varies by topic and location, typically with a full day of CLE for attendees. Committee members work on identifying topics, speakers, and co-sponsors and facilitating the events.

The Outreach Committee includes membership, sponsorships, scholarships, and young lawyer engagement. The scholarship program seeks to award excellence in writing and course work among Texas law school students. The program coordinates an annual state-wide writing contest, and this year, began a scholarship award for the highest grade in insurance law classes. The Young Lawyer Subcommittee engages lawyers who are either licensed for ten years or less or under 40 years old to assist the Council on various projects, giving the young lawyers opportunities to network and learn about the Council's activities. Sponsorships give law firms and other interested businesses the opportunity to publicize their brands to the greater Section while supporting the Council's core functions.

The Nominations Committee consists of the Chair; the Immediate Past Chair; the Chair Elect; and two members of the 14 non-officer Council members who have completed at least one full 2-year term and whose terms are not set to expire in the current year. The Immediate Past Chair serves as the Chair and all members have a vote.

Special considerations for renewing and former Council members.

Renewing or past Council member applicants should focus more on their active participation in the Council (as opposed to outside affairs). The following signs of active involvement will be considered:

1. In addition to your time serving as a Council member and attending meetings, your application should show your *active* participation in meeting discussions and committee work. Include the committee leaders with whom you worked while on the Council.
2. List your leadership roles on the Council and the results you were able to achieve while in those roles.
3. Describe your other leadership roles in other organizations and whether you are able to be an active and productive member of the Council despite these other commitments.

What is the procedure for approving new and renewing Council members?

The Nominations Committee recommends a slate of candidates to the Council, which votes independently to approve those recommendations or reject them in favor of other applicants. The slate of candidates approved by the Council is presented to the general membership for vote at the annual meeting in June. Upon receiving a majority vote of the Section membership in attendance, new and renewing Council members serve for a 2-year term beginning with the close of the current Bar year (at the close of the State Bar of Texas annual meeting in June).