

# INVESTMENT + ENGAGEMENT = IMPACT



**Instead of merely talking about what we as attorneys would do if we had the resources, could do if we set our minds to it, and should do if we bothered, let us take action.**

All the Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas  
Layin' in the sun,  
Talkin' 'bout the things  
They woulda-coulda-shoulda done...  
But those Woulda-Coulda-Shouldas  
All ran away and hid  
From one little *did*.  
—Shel Silverstein

**ON THE EVE OF TAKING OFFICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE BAR, THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS I HAVE BEEN PONDERING.**

What can be accomplished in a year? What can begin this year that can be continued to effectuate improvements sought by members? What is already in progress that must continue to move forward through my tenure? Will issues arise that require attention and take away from those best-laid plans? There are many answers to these questions, but for me, the answer is to focus on a few of these issues and strive to do the best that we collectively can.

It is overwhelming to want to identify and address all that could be improved about our world. And a certain level of discontent is necessary if we are consistently looking for ways to progress. I have felt that way over the years about my involvement in the bar. When I talk to lawyers, many of them can quickly rattle off a list of things they find needing improvement. And most of them truly want to make our bar better.

I want to see every Texas lawyer working to move our bar forward. I invite every member in some way—collectively, in smaller working groups, and individually—to learn more about the bar, to identify aspects of the bar you believe could be improved, and to work to implement that improvement. I have seen this type of momentum throughout my involvement in this profession. To me, we are in a place where increased member investment and greater engagement can make a significant impact. It is up to each of us to know what the bar does, to participate, and to take responsibility for making our profession better.

My hope for this year is that all of us as members move this bar forward. Instead of merely talking about what we as attorneys would do if we had the resources, could do if we set our minds to it, and should do if we bothered, let us take action. That action may take place in small ways, in a deluge of energy and effort, or in progressive waves. The key for me is taking positive action.

How refreshing would it be for the 90,000-plus of us to reflect back upon the 2013-2014 year and rattle off a list of all the things we together accomplished to make our State Bar better? To be able to say, “We did.” For the bar in 2013-2014, what will be your “little *did*”?

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