



Newsletter  
January 10, 2020

### Message from the Chair

Happy New Year everyone! Here we are in our interim legislative year as we gear up for interim hearings to take place, and of course elections. Let us know if there are any topics you would like us to cover in the section e-news, and we hope to see you soon at upcoming events—stay tuned for spring dates for happy hours and another CLE.

Our news this month is brought to you by former section Chair, [Donna Garcia Davidson](#).



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### Higher Thresholds for Ethics Reports

“With the advent of this New Year, higher reporting threshold amounts will come into play when filing various ethics reports. If you or someone you know files campaign finance, lobby, or personal finance reports, among others, there are new thresholds that went into effect on January 1, 2020. The Texas Ethics Commission rule, § 18.31, and the applicable thresholds can be found [here](#). The semiannual reports being filed on January 15 are under the old rules. If you follow the old rules, you will still be in compliance, so don’t worry if it takes you a while to get used to the new thresholds. An example: Lobbyists are to report gifts to legislators and there are thresholds applicable to when that legislator’s name is detailed. Under Texas Government Code § 305.0061(c)(3), that threshold was \$50. It is now \$90. If you still file at the lower threshold, you are in compliance. For a complete set of the Texas Ethics Commission’s rules, [click here](#).\*\* Happy reporting!”

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## **FEC 2020 San Antonio Regional Conference**

The FEC will hold a [training event](#) in San Antonio on February 25 - 26. This will be the third and final stop of the 2019-2020 FEC Regional Conference Series. It is designed for those seeking an introduction to the law as well as those more experienced in campaign finance law. Topics include reporting, fundraising, communications and recent developments in the law.



Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or know someone who would like to join our section.

[Elizabeth Hadley](#), Chair  
[Legislative and Campaign Law Section](#)  
[State Bar of Texas](#)