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## STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Council of the General Practice, Solo, and Small Firm Section www.gpsolo.com

Dear Section Members:

I am happy to serve as Chair for the GPSolo Section this year. I practice in many counties, but mostly Bexar, Kendall, Kerr, and Guadalupe Counties. I love going to the old courthouses and feeling a great sense of pride to be a Texan. As we all know, there are days when we may not be so proud of our profession, but we overcome those feelings when we are reminded of the importance of our work.

This year I want to reach out to our members to find out what you need to improve your work-day. Personally, I need efiling to become more uniform, I need to find a cost-effective way to maintain my research tools, and I need to get my billing out. As we speak, the efile system is being re-examined and perhaps we will see needed improvements. I know the State Bar is continuing to expand free resources, after all every attorney in Texas should be able to quickly and efficiently look up a code or case law without entering into contracts that escalate every year. And as far as billing, well that is my problem. Let me know your solutions so we can add them on the Practice Tips page of our website.

Speaking of tips, I will tell you how I intend to use the General Practice Digest today. I am a speaker for an estate planning seminar and have an upcoming telephone conference to go over the subject matter. My time saving technique is that I will pull up the past two digests and pick topics from probate, civil procedure, and evidence. I will be current and have the case law ready. Voilà.

Stay in touch - we need your ideas and input to succeed.

Sincerely,

/s/ Carmen Samaníego

Carmen Samaniego, Chair