

Carney elected chairman of Disciplinary Committee

Special to the Democrat

The State Bar of Texas has selected Parker County attorney Dan Carney as chairman of the grievance committee assigned to discipline attorneys in the surrounding 10-county region. At the annual organizational meeting held May 21, Carney was elected by unanimous vote of the grievance committee members attending from across that region. He will be chairman over two different panels that hear complaints against attorneys in the area. One panel is located in Denton County and the other panel will conduct its investigatory hearings in Fort Worth. Carney will now also serve as presiding officer of the Fort Worth panel in the grievance hearings. Two-thirds of the committee members are attorneys and one-third are non-attorney public



Dan Carney

members.

The 10 counties included in the region are Denton, Hood, Cooke, Wise, Palo Pinto, Erath, Somervell, Comanche, Jack and Parker counties. The grievance committee hears complaints

alleging misconduct from residents against attorneys in those counties, takes evidence, issues findings, and if appropriate, enters sanctions against attorneys who have violated the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. The degree of sanctions which can be imposed include private or public reprimands, suspension from the practice of law for a stated time, or even disbarment altogether from practicing law. In addition, the committee can require restitution to be paid, drug or alcohol rehabilitation, or further educational training. This will be Carney's second elected term as chairman.

Carney is a graduate of Weatherford High School (1971), Weatherford College (1973), University of North Texas

(B.B.A. Cum Laude 1975), Texas Tech University Law School (Doctorate, 1978) and served as felony prosecutor in Parker County from 1978 to 1984. He then became a partner in Vick, Chrestman & Carney until the passing of Gabe Vick in 2000 and the subsequent election of Don Chrestman as district judge for Parker County.

He now practices as a principal in Vick, Carney & Smith, L.L.P. with former Weatherford Mayor Tom Vick and Mac Smith, district attorney from 1977 to 1986. Carney's practice is primarily as a defense attorney and personal injury lawyer. He holds an "A-V" rating, the highest an attorney can achieve under national peer reporting systems.