

SUMMARY

A persistent and untiring champion of the business of architecture, Debra Dockery has fought for equitable legislation and regulation, engaged peers in effective advocacy, and mentored emerging and future professionals in practice management and entrepreneurship.

Debra Dockery's passion for a fair and inclusive business environment for architects has made her an unparalleled champion of the business of architecture. **She has written, improved or advocated for every major legislative and regulatory initiative affecting Texas' more than 8,500 registered architects in the past decade.** A committed and diplomatic, but focused negotiator, Debra is a singular influence on legislative issues and a driving force behind the most successful government affairs agenda in Texas in the past 30 years.

A long-time member and subsequent **Chair of the Texas Society of Architects Government Affairs Steering Committee**, she chaired the organizing of the **first Architect's Advocacy Day** at the Texas State Capitol in 2011, which brought 200 architects from around the state to the capitol in Austin to advocate directly for the profession cohesively and effectively. In the same year she created the **first TxA Advocacy Plan** a written five-year vision for the political agenda for all Texas architects that was in line with TxA's overall strategic plan. She was a key negotiator, representing AIA members' interests in the **development of landmark legislation** that put to an end once and for all the 20 year of licensing conflicts between architects and engineers in the state. **It also established a definition of architecture that has been widely used by other states.**

Perhaps her most important contribution to the practice climate in Texas is her **outspoken and tireless advocacy against proposed sweeping tax changes**—instigated by the legislature to shift school funding sources in the state—that would have had detrimental effects on practitioners. Over the course of three years, she gathered information, researched the proposals' potential effects on every organizational structure common to architectural practice, and met personally with state agencies and legislators to educate them on the unintended consequences of the legislation. Her work caught the **attention of AIA national**, which asked her to defend against a proposed federal tax change, making Debra a **recognized expert on taxation issues.**

She **critically analyzes proposed legislative language**, reviewing and monitoring 25 to 50 bills every legislative session for any potential impact to the profession. As chair, co-chair, and member of numerous committees and task force groups, she has also provided leadership on such issues as **adoption of the International Green Construction Code and specialization certification.**

She has served on the **Texas Board of Architectural Examiners** since 2011, and was **named Chair in January 2016, making her the first woman to serve in that role.** At TBAE she was a key player in implementing the rules laid out by the landmark 2011 legislation, making recommendations on lingering overlap issues and reviewing documents from engineers who had been exempted. She is active at **NCARB**, where she developed test specifications and writes questions for the new Practice Management portion of the ARE 5.0, as well as for the updates to the graphics section of ARE 4.0. She is similarly active in the Institute at the local and state levels, currently serving on the **Texas Architectural Foundation Board**, and as former TxA Vice President and Chair of the Honor Awards Committee. She served as **AIA San Antonio** President in 1993, leading the chapter's search and hiring of its now long-time and award winning executive director.

Debra's nearly 30-year old firm **supports young architects' and interns' development and their participation in AIA**, and Debra is often invited to speak to emerging professionals on issues of licensure and practice. She has **mentored architectural students, interns and emerging professionals** with a focus on the business of architecture and the development of practice and project management skills. She **promotes architecture as a career choice** to young people, providing realistic insight and a real-world picture of the business and economic aspects of the profession. She also provides training for teachers to integrate architecture into the everyday curriculum. She shares her **knowledge of practice and legislative issues with her peers through presentations at the TxA Annual Convention and at AIA San Antonio**, and is often invited to speak on issues of architecture, professional development and technical topics. In recognition of her exemplary work in mentoring, Debra was awarded the **Texas Society of Architects Mentorship Award in 2015.**