



Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2019

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Public Information Officer

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation

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Gerald R. Callas, MD, FASA



Joel S. Garza Jr.

Senate approves two appointments to Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation

AUSTIN – The Texas Senate voted 31-0 on Wednesday to approve the appointments of Joel Garza, Jr. of Pearland and Gerald R. Callas, MD, FASA of Beaumont to the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation.

Commissioner Callas was appointed by Governor Abbott in 2018 during the legislative interim. Callas is a physician anesthesiologist and partner with Anesthesia Associates in Beaumont. He received his Bachelor of Science in microbiology from Teas A&M University, and his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Texas Medical Branch. Callas is a member of the Texas Medical Association Board of Trustees and President of the Texas Society of Anesthesiologists. In November 2018, the American Medical Association honored Callas with the AMA Medal of Valor for his work on behalf of patients and his Beaumont community in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The award recognizes physicians who demonstrate courage under extraordinary circumstances in non-wartime situations.

Commissioner Garza was nominated for appointment by Governor Greg Abbott on February 28, 2019. Garza is an Associate Attorney with Lee & Desenberg, PLLC in Houston and a graduate of Houston Baptist University (B.B.A., magna cum laude, 2010) where he also received his Master's degree in Accounting. He received his J.D from the University of Texas School of Law in 2017. Garza is a Certified Public Accountant

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(admitted 2013); a member of the State Bar of Texas (admitted 2017); a member of the American Bar Association; and a member of the Houston Bar Association.

The next Commission meeting is at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 22, at the [TDLR North Austin campus](#) (first-floor meeting room, 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 125E) or watch it live: <https://youtu.be/JnE-zSaLW-A>.

About TDLR

TDLR provides regulatory oversight for a broad range of occupations, businesses, facilities, and equipment in Texas. The agency protects the health and safety of Texans by ensuring they are served by qualified, licensed professionals. Inspections of individuals, businesses, and equipment are done on a regular basis to safeguard the public. Currently, the agency regulates 39 business and occupational licensing programs with more than 800,000 licensees across the state.

Visit TDLR's [website](#) for more information and resources. You can search the [TDLR licensee database](#), and also find [past violations](#) in which a final order was issued against companies or individuals. TDLR's Customer Service line is available anytime between 7 a.m. until 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-803-9202. TDLR representatives are fluent in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and Chinese.

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