

# Baptist Briefs: SBC ethics agency launches think tank

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Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's [Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission](#), announced the relaunch of a research institute to employ the denomination's top scholars in engaging complex contemporary moral issues. The list of 70 research fellows and associates includes individuals who served with Moore's predecessor, Richard Land, in a similar think tank established in 2000. New additions come from the six Southern Baptist seminaries, several Baptist colleges, private and public universities and institutions such as the Heritage Foundation and the American Center for Law & Justice. Barrett Duke, the ERLC vice president for public policy and research, directs the research institute, and Andrew Walker, the ERLC director of policy studies, serves as associate director.

**Two Texas Baptists named NABF officers.** Patty Lane, director of intercultural ministries with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Albert Reyes, chief executive officer of Buckner International, will serve as vice presidents of the [North American Baptist Fellowship](#) for 2014-2016. Members of the NABF Executive Committee unanimously confirmed a slate of officer nominees, with Jim Hill, executive director of Churchnet/ Baptist General Convention of Missouri, as president. The NABF is the regional fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance.