



State Bar of Texas
 Texas Access to Justice Commission
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Save the Date!

Champions of Justice Gala - Benefitting Veterans
 April 23, 2013, in Austin, Texas



The Texas Access to Justice Foundation (TAJF) received over \$21,000 in donations from proceeds raised during the Texas General Counsel Forum Golf Tournament, which was co-hosted by the Texas Access to Justice Commission. Pictured above include: Texas Supreme Court Justices Medina, Lehrmann, Willett, Hecht, Chief Justice Jefferson, Justice Johnson, TAJF Board Member Lamont Jefferson, Texas Access to Justice Commissioner Scott Rozzell, and Jeff Carr, General Counsel & Secretary of FMC Technologies, Inc. and National Board Chair of the General Counsel Forum.

Commission Members and Staff

- Harry M. Reasoner, Chair, *Houston*
- Hon. Georgina M. Benavides, *Edinburg*
- Hon. Alfred H. Bennett, *Houston*
- Roy Brantley, *College Station*
- C. Kay Caballero, *Lubbock*
- Patricia "Pat" Chamblin, *Beaumont*
- Carlos Eduardo Cárdenas, *El Paso*
- Michelle Mei-Hsue Cheng, *Austin*
- Pedro "Pete" Fierro, *Midland*
- David Hall, *Weslaco*
- Clint A. Harbour, *Austin*
- Hon. Nathan L. Hecht, *Austin*
- Hon. Katherine "Katie" Kennedy, *Houston*
- Cristy Keul, *Tyler*
- Scott E. Rozzell, *Houston*
- Richard L. "Dick" Tate, *Richmond*
- Ike Vanden Eykel, *Dallas*
- Hon. Rodney Glenn Ellis, *Austin*
- David S. Morales, *Austin*
- James B. Sales, Chair Emeritus, *Houston*
- Trish McAllister, *Executive Director*

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Giving of Time and Talent

The Commission, Foundation, and State Bar of Texas joined the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service in the weeklong celebration of pro bono, October 21 – 27. The nationwide event showcased the impact pro bono attorneys have on a client's life, the community, and on the entire justice system.

Texas is fortunate to have so many attorneys donating their time and expertise to those in need. Attorneys volunteer in many different capacities to fill different needs, both for themselves and for the clients. Bob Devlin, a retired

attorney in Houston, volunteers with the Veterans Legal Advice clinic.

"When you talk to veterans, you realize they have no one to talk to regarding their legal problems," Devlin says. "It is crucial for them to be able to talk to an attorney. Ninety-five percent of the time, you can see the relief on their faces after they've talked to someone and gotten advice."

When Carolyn Wiedenfeld comes across a case she wants to take pro bono, she works with Jefferson County Bar Association Pro Bono Program to make sure the client qualifies. "I usually choose to help mothers with small children who have been abandoned by an abusive or controlling spouse with no means of support or help. Unfortunately, these situations are quite

common," Wiedenfeld says.

Other attorneys choose to offer their expertise to new attorneys taking on their first pro bono case through a mentoring role. Dallas mentor Barkley Miller advises attorneys who want to become involved in pro bono work to be curious, empathetic, and giving.

Volunteer attorneys generally feel a sense of duty to do pro bono. However, the feeling they get from helping someone who otherwise would not have had an

attorney is often far more rewarding than anticipated. "We owe it to our community and our profession to provide quality legal services to those who cannot afford it. While I am grateful for lawyers who donate money, nothing is more valuable than your time. I am honored to share my time with clients who genuinely deserve and appreciate what we do," said Mark Sparks, an active pro bono attorney in Beaumont.

While the national celebration puts pro bono on center stage for a week, these services are needed year-round. As part of your New Year's resolution, consider taking at least one pro bono case in 2013. To volunteer with your local program, visit www.texaslawyershelp.org. Thank you for your current and continued support.



Bob Devlin volunteering at a Veterans Legal Advice Clinic in Houston.

"We owe it to our community and our profession to provide quality legal services to those who cannot afford it."

- Mark Sparks, Beaumont attorney



Adriana Rodriguez, a TAJF Equal Justice Works Fellow, inspires the attendees of the Luncheon with the Supreme Court during Pro Bono Week with her stories of aiding domestic violence victims in Laredo through her work with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid.



The Austin Bar/Austin Young Lawyers Association Leadership Academy held a Pro Bono Prom with proceeds benefitting Texas RioGrande Legal Aid. Karin Crump, "Pro Bono King" Colin Newberry, "Pro Bono Queen" Mindy Montford and David Courreges.

Pro Bono Recognition

The Pro Bono College of the State Bar of Texas recognizes individuals that have performed 75 pro bono hours and also generously donate their time and talent to help change the lives of people in need. You can easily report your pro bono hours on your "My Bar Page". For information visit: www.texasbar.com, "Lawyers Giving Back."

Chair's Report: A Season of Thanks and Giving

By Harry M. Reasoner, Commission Chair



As 2012 comes to a close, we want to thank all of the individuals who have helped increase access to justice for all Texans. As the year began, the

Commission prepared to launch the Texas Access to Justice (ATJ) Campaign. Attorneys from across the state were encouraged to make a \$150 ATJ Contribution on their State Bar of Texas dues statement. This year's campaign raised awareness by sending a personalized email and video to all Texas attorneys. ATJ contributions increased nearly 10 percent, raising almost \$1 million for Legal Aid. Numerous individuals gave above the suggested contribution.

Additionally, the Commission created a competition among law firms to encourage greater attorney participation. Attorney contributions within firms increased more than 40 percent. The Commission congratulated 17 law firms from Austin, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio as leaders in their respective cities. The inaugural Champions of Justice Law Firms were presented awards at the Supreme Court Luncheon on October 22 for raising the most dollars or having the highest percentage of employees who donated to the campaign.

Several firms across Texas had 100 percent participation in the ATJ Campaign. In 2013, we will encourage all firms to accept this 100 percent challenge as well as local bar associations across the

state. With only seven percent of Texas attorneys contributing to the ATJ Campaign there is much opportunity – and, there is no more important time than now for those in need of civil legal aid. If you have not yet contributed to the 2012 ATJ Campaign, a self-addressed postage paid envelope is included in this issue. You may make your gift in honor of someone or simply as a lawyer and citizen. As one of the four attorneys highlighted in this issue said about supporting legal aid and pro bono, “We owe it to our community and our profession.”

Together, we can make a life-changing difference for thousands of our fellow citizens across Texas. Thank you, again, and have a safe and happy holiday season.



Front: Michael Parker, Fulbright & Jaworski; Gary Lewis, George, Brothers, Kincaid & Horton; Marie Yeates, Vinson & Elkins; Beverly Reeves, Reeves & Brightwell; Dick Adams, Vinson & Elkins. Middle: Tom Rhodes, Tom Rhodes Law Firm; Tom Pollan, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta; Michael Whellan, Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody; Justice Hecht. Back: Patrick Cantilo, Cantilo & Bennett; Don Wood, Vinson & Elkins; Rex VanMiddlesworth, Andrews Kurth; Tim Gavin, Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal



\$151 - \$499

- William Lang Anderson
- Rene Francois Bell
- Winfred G. Boriack
- Richard Kent Bowersock - SHERRILL, CROSNOE & GOFF
- John P. Bowman - KING & SPALDING
- Clyde E. Bracken
- Christopher Alan Brown - WINSTEAD
- Richard M. Butler - BUTLER ATTORNEYS AT LAW
- Christie Lynne Cardon - KING & SPALDING
- Keith C. Carter
- Daniel Caudillo
- Michael Caywood
- Peter John Chassman - WINSTON & STRAWN
- Thomas Paul Clancy - JACKSON WALKER
- Kevin Michael Clark - BERG & ANDROPHY
- Susan G. Conway - GRAVES DOUGHERTY & HEARON MOODY
- C. Wade Cooper - JACKSON WALKER
- Ralph C. Crosnoe - SHERRILL CROSNOE & GOFF
- Mary Charlotte Decker
- Jeffrey R. Elkin - PORTER HEDGES
- Quinton Alan Farley
- Hulen L. Ford - HULEN FORD
- Julie Ryder Frey - GRAVES DOUGHERTY HEARON & MOODY

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE

- Beverly K. Goulet
- Jennifer Walker Gates
- Robert W. Goff, Jr.
- Celso M. Gonzalez
- Melanie Gray - WEIL GOTSHAL & MANGES
- Bob Royce Hanna - BOB HANNA LAW FIRM
- John Clifford Heath
- R. Ken Hines - SHERRILL, CROSNOE & GOFF
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- Kortney M. Kloppe-Orton - PIPKIN & OLIVER
- David Biggs Kultgen
- Dohn Stuart Larson
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- James E. Prince
- Richard D. Raymond
- Anne Collier Rice - ROBERT J. PIRO
- J. Scott Rose - JACKSON WALKER
- Ernest W. Rothfelder
- David Kirk Schumacher
- David Lester Schwan
- Joseph Newton Sherrill, Jr. - SHERRILL, CROSNOE & GOFF
- Susan Lea Smith
- Mack Ed Swindle - WHITAKER CHALK SWINDE & SCHWARTZ
- James Martin Truss - COX SMITH MATTHEWS
- Layne R. Turner
- Stonewall Van Wie, III
- Kevin Gerard Voelker
- Michael J. Wilson - COTTON BLEDSOE TIGHE & DAWSON
- Michelle Lee Wurster - SHERRILL CROSNOE & GOFF
- Nathan George Yates
- Randel Ray Young - JACKSON WALKER
- Angela C. Zambrano - WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES
- \$500 - \$999**
- Scott Robert Beckmen - BECKMAN, CHERKASSKY, DEAN & ASSOCIATES
- George L. Hags, Jr.

- Emily Marie Herbster - WINSTEAD
- Michelle Elizabeth Hunter - State Bar of Texas
- Karen Sue Neeley - COX SMITH MATTHEWS
- Jeanne Price
- James Oliver Sandlin
- P.M. Schenkan - GRAVES DOUGHERTY HEARON & MOODY
- Matthew R. Stammel - VINSON & ELKINS
- Lynette Tatum - MCMAHON, SUROVIK, SUTTLE
- Samuel Robert Whitehill
- Holloway Wooten
- \$1,000+**
- Martha Ann Kollmorgen
- Barrett Hall Moursund
- Andrew D. Sims - HARRIS FINLEY & BOGLE
- Ben F. Vaughan, III - Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody
- William Louis Wallander - VINSON & ELKINS

THANK YOU
FOR **MAKING A**
DIFFERENCE IN
THOUSANDS OF **LIVES**
ACROSS TEXAS.
YOU CAN DONATE BY VISITING
WWW.TEXASATJ.ORG/DONATE

The Legal Aid Delivery System Needs Us All

By Richard L. "Dick" Tate, Texas Access to Justice Foundation Chair



The Texas Access to Justice Foundation joins in thanking all the pro bono attorneys and those who contribute financially to the delivery of civil

legal services in Texas.

Texas lawyers provide approximately 2.5 million hours in free or indirect legal services to the poor – or the equivalent of \$500 million annually – according to the most recent pro bono survey. Coupled with the generous donations, like those of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section, Construction Law Section, students at Yavneh Academy, and many other donors, Foundation grantees annually close more than 100,000 legal aid cases impacting

more than 300,000 Texans each year.

These Texans are spouses and children of domestic abuse, seniors wrongly denied life-sustaining prescriptions, veterans wrongly denied critical medical care, disability and other benefits, and families whose homes were wrongly foreclosed upon.

It is the infrastructure of our state's nearly 40 non-profit legal aid organizations that support and coordinate the pro bono contributions of lawyers. And the funding for these programs remains in serious deficit. Our traditional funding sources for legal aid in Texas continue to decline:

- IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts) funding has plummeted more than 75% since 2007
- Federal funding from the Legal Services Corporation has lost an annualized \$6.1 million beginning in 2012

- Funding from the Texas Legislature of \$17.5 million for the biennium will run out this year if not added to the state budget in 2013.

The access to justice community will again be educating our legislators in the 83rd Texas Legislature about the impact funding civil legal services has on our economy and in maintaining the rule of law. If you would like to be involved in our legislative efforts, please email: txaccesstojustice@teajf.org.

Are you "Banking on Justice?"

Find a Texas IOLTA Prime Partner Bank at www.teajf.org to increase funding for legal aid.

**Texas IOLTA
Prime Partners**

Awarding Excellence in Access to Justice

The Texas Access to Justice Commission and Foundation commend all of the 2012 honorees. To read more about the awards visit, www.texasatj.org/awards.

ATJ CORPORATE COUNSEL PRO BONO AWARD – **Marc E. Vockell**

LAW SCHOOL COMMITMENT TO SERVICE AWARD – **South Texas College of Law**

LAW STUDENT PRO BONO AWARD – **Brittany Wray, Baylor Law School**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE COMMISSION SERVICE AWARD – **Marc E. Vockell, Beverly B. Godbey, Randall O. Sorrels**

STAR OF JUSTICE AWARD – **Texas Attorney General Gregory W. Abbott**

JAMES B. SALES BOOTS ON THE GROUND AWARD – **Charles R. Kimbrough, Bruce Bower, Terry Tottenham**

MAGNA STELLA PRO BONO AWARD – **Marathon Oil (runners up – Dell, Inc. and Halliburton)**

DEBORAH HANKINSON ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARDS – **Midland County Bar, Austin Bar Association, Midland County Young Lawyers Association, Austin Young Lawyers Association**

2012 PRO BONO SERVICE AWARDS – **El Paso Bar Association, Houston Bar Foundation – Veterans Legal Initiative, and Family Law Section – Family Law Essentials**

CHAMPION OF JUSTICE LAW FIRM AWARDS – **Andrews Kurth; Beirne Maynard & Parsons; Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta; Cantilo & Bennett; Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal; Curran Tomko Tarski; Fulbright & Jaworski; George, Brothers, Kincaid & Horton; Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody; Hornberger Sheehan Fuller Beiter Wittenberg & Garza; King & Spalding; Reeves & Brightwell, Tom Rhodes Law Firm P.C.; Vinson & Elkins; and Winstead**

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD – **Construction Law Section, GreenbergTraurig LLP, John M. O'Quinn Foundation**

PRIME PARTNERS IN JUSTICE AWARD - **First National Bank Southwest, Huntington State Bank, LegacyTexas Bank, Lindale State Bank, Lone Star National Bank, NewFirst National Bank, North Dallas Bank & Trust Co., Northstar Bank of Texas, PlainsCapital Bank, Preston State Bank, Security State Bank, Texas Brand Bank, Town North Bank**