

# WORTH YOUR WHILE



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**“THERE JUST IS NOT ENOUGH TIME IN THE DAY.”** Such a true statement often uttered by young lawyers. We work hard, often long hours every week, trying to climb the professional ladder. For many, after working too many hours, we return home to small children who are awesome and exhausting all wrapped into one lovely (yet often sticky) package. We are tired.

The hours in a lawyer’s day seem to race by. Funny how time changes things. As a child, I remember feeling like everything took so long: the three-hour drive to visit grandparents, the six-week stretch in between report cards, the months until Christmas. I really think time does fly as we get older and our responsibilities increase.

Given our limited amount of hours in the day, giving up even a precious minute has to be worth it. I know this. I get it. That is why you will not find me playing on a firm softball team. (No offense to anyone who loves the game!) Not only do I have embarrassingly poor hand-eye coordination and fear getting hit by a ball that is far from “soft,” I also don’t really enjoy it. For me, it is not worth it. But in my defense, I have tried playing.

For me, TYLA is worth it! I know many think of TYLA as student council for young lawyers. It is not. TYLA is the public service arm of the State Bar of Texas. Every year, TYLA creates and implements projects that benefit not only the citizens of Texas but also its members and law school students. For example, TYLA has created an award-winning project on the civil rights movement and the right to vote, as well as informational guides on subjects ranging from criminal law to tax law. The impact TYLA projects have made in Texas and across the United States is truly remarkable. For me, I have always been more fulfilled, both professionally and personally, when I have an opportunity to give back to my community. TYLA gives back to our legal community ... sounds worth it, right?

As we start the 2014-2015 bar year, several of TYLA’s projects are directed to benefit our members and address issues that are important to you, such as gaining employment and, once you find a job, achieving your desired level of work-life balance. We are also excited to create projects that address bullying, distracted driving, and guardianships.

We need your help. I’m not asking that you join a sports team (though I would love for you to join a committee). I know that your time is limited, and TYLA does not want to monopolize it. I do ask that you give TYLA a shot. Let TYLA show you with our level of service how we are worth it! I promise you don’t have to know how to field or make contact with a ball—we just want you to come to the game and be a fan. If you have an interest in any of the projects planned for this year, please let me or any other board member know. Your participation level is up to you. Simply showing your support by sending an email with a question can make a huge difference in the direction of a project or possibly the creation of one.

I am honored to step into the large shoes of those who have had the privilege of serving as TYLA president. I know the road ahead is going to be long, maybe a little rocky, and—I’m sure—pretty exhausting. However, I know that the view on this wonderful journey is going to be totally worth it.

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