

TYLA in Action



On July 27, lawyers from across the state gathered in Houston for TYLA's annual Diversity Dinner, which featured keynote speaker Diana Marshall, the first female partner in Baker Botts and the owner of Marshall & Associates, and centered on TYLA's *I Was the First. You Can Be a Lawyer Too!*, a video project highlighting first-generation lawyers who made significant contributions to the profession and the country.

Above, front row from left: Nicole Soussan Caplan, TYLA President-elect Sally Pretorius, Sara Anne Giddings, TYLA Immediate Past President Sam Houston, TYLA President Baili B. Rhodes, Louis Williams, Arthur L. Bryan II, and Lauren Renee Sepulveda. *Back row from left:* State Bar of Texas President Tom Vick, Raymond J. Baeza, Cheri Edwards, and Kimberly C. Clark.



TYLA directors, officers, and official affiliates attended the 2017 Bar Leaders Conference on July 28 & 29 in Houston, where local leaders learn about State Bar resources and programs available to strengthen and inspire their own organizations.

The Dallas Association of Young Lawyers received the TYLA Local Affiliate Awards of Achievement. *Above top from left:* Jennifer Larson Ryback, Justin Gobert, TYLA Immediate Past President Sam Houston, and Charlie Gearing.

The Austin Young Lawyers Association received the TYLA Local Affiliate Awards of Achievement. *Above from left:* Monica Stallings, Meagan T. Harding, Jorge Padilla, Sandy Bayne, and Sam Houston.

Never Stop Learning



New pencils. Crayons. Notebooks. He has a new backpack with a matching lunchbox and is so full of excitement over meeting his new teacher that he can hardly contain himself. My momma-of-a-kindergartner heart is about to explode. Perhaps it is my own fond memories of the first day of school, but I think I am as excited as he is. I cannot wait to hear about the friends he has made, and the things that he has learned. I have always loved learning, and I hope that I have engendered that same passion for scholarship in my children.

One of the things that drove me to a career in the law was my desire to find a profession that required me to continue learning. As attorneys, we are always learning something new, whether it is caselaw developments, updated rules or statutes, or trial strategy. We learn in continuing legal education courses, in the courtroom, and in our offices. When I was planning Texas Young Lawyers Association projects for the 2017-2018 year, I found myself looking for an opportunity to help attorneys learn a new skill. When I thought of skills I wish I had, one came quickly to mind—knowledge of the Spanish language. As I have said too many times, the five years of French I took in high school and college are not helping me much in my practice in Texas. My friends are going to tape my mouth shut if I keep using that joke, but it is true. As the demographics of our state change, so do the needs of our profession.

In recognition that I am not the only lawyer in the state who wishes she had some Spanish proficiency, TYLA will develop *Spanish for Lawyers*. TYLA will work with an instructor to develop curriculum geared toward attorneys. The lessons will be filmed and the videos will be made available through the TYLA website. *Spanish for Lawyers* will be a beginner level program focused on simple conversation and basic legal terminology. While I recognize that attorneys are unlikely to become fluent from one short course, my goal is that through this program, they will learn to conduct basic conversations in Spanish with clients and witnesses and develop a level of familiarity with written materials. For those who are already familiar with the language, the course will address legal terms that may not have been taught in traditional Spanish classes. We can all be better practitioners of the law if we continue to develop new skills, and I hope you will join me in learning (or improving) your Spanish. For more information about this and other TYLA projects, please go to tyla.org.

BAILI B. RHODES
President,
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