

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009



Giving Time.
Making a Difference.



BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®

The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) consists of roughly 24,000 Texas lawyers who are 36 years old or younger or in their first five years of licensure. As the “public service arm” of the State Bar of Texas, TYLA aims to facilitate the administration of justice, foster respect for the law, and advance the role of the legal profession in serving the public. Its programs are designed to assist Texas attorneys in their practice of law and to provide public legal education services to Texans.



www.tyla.org

TYLA Members Find Time to Make a Difference

Time is valuable. As lawyers, we are constantly searching for more time. Time to bill, time to take on new projects, time to chart our future paths. Most important, we search for time for family and friends. I have often been asked, “How do the young lawyers of Texas make so many things happen?” The short answer is that they are passionate about making a difference. In addition to continuing its existing programs, this year TYLA found new and meaningful ways to continue its long-standing tradition of serving both the public and its members.



Time for youth. TYLA produced *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right*, a video to educate young Americans about the power of voting. In the months leading up to the 2008 election, TYLA volunteers presented the project to more than 400 teachers and provided in-person presentations to roughly 10,000 Texas students. Through a partnership with the Georgia Young Lawyers Division, TYLA’s project reached an additional 35,000 students.

Time for community. Partnering with the State Bar Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section, TYLA helped to create two booklets to educate students and school administrators about case law regarding application of the Bill of Rights on public school campuses. TYLA also continued its partnership with the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) and helped create *Know Your Rights*, a video to educate unaccompanied children detained at the U.S. border. Finally, through a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, TYLA produced *Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System After Surviving Domestic Abuse*. TYLA distributed more than 1,500 copies of the video, which is being shown at battered women’s shelters, police departments, county and district attorney’s offices, and agencies that assist victims of domestic abuse.

Time for members. In addition to hosting CLE programs and enhancing its online resources, TYLA joined forces with the State Bar to create the State Bar’s first leadership academy, *Leadership SBOT*. Aimed at developing a new generation of bar leaders who reflect the diversity of this state, TYLA worked closely with State Bar President Harper Estes, the State Bar staff, and the 19 amazing members of the leadership class.

Time for law students. TYLA launched *Ten Minute Mentor Goes to Law School*. Like the original Ten Minute Mentor, TYLA’s new partnership with TexasBarCLE makes available at no cost a series of brief instructional videos. As its name suggests, the new batch focuses on law students and the issues they face. Topics range from what to expect on your first day of law school to the Socratic method to what classes to take if you want to practice specific types of law.

Young lawyers from across the state left their mark on our profession and made a difference in our communities because they found time to volunteer. It has been my great honor to serve as the 2008–09 president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. I thank you for the opportunity.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Cardona'.

Sylvia A. Cardona
President 2008–2009

Texas Young Lawyers Association

— Board of Directors —

The TYLA Board is made up of an Executive Committee, Directors, and Liaisons. The Executive Committee consists of the President, President-elect, Chair, Chair-elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past-President. The President-elect is elected by TYLA membership while the other officers are elected by the Board of Directors; all serve one-year terms. Each member of the Executive Committee acts as an advisor to at least one TYLA committee.

The 33 Directors represent 21 districts from around the state and serve as liaisons to the local affiliates in their districts. Directors serve as chairs or co-chairs of the various TYLA committees. Directors are nominated and elected by the TYLA members in their districts and serve two-year terms.

Liaisons include a Texas Supreme Court Justice, American Bar Association/Young Lawyer Division representatives, a law student, a law school dean, and a member of the Access to Justice Commission.

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Ian Pittman
Law Student



Time to Serve the Public.

TYLA in the Schools

Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right

Today, every adult American citizen regardless of race, gender, religion, or socio-economic background has the opportunity to vote. This was not always so. The dreams of our founding fathers, propounded by action, gave us the right to change, the right to be heard, and the right to vote. ***Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right*** educates students about heroic efforts of the past; the enactments of the Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution; and the struggles associated with the 1965 Voting Rights Act to encourage understanding of our necessary role in defending democracy today.

Vote America! exemplifies the Texas Young Lawyers Association's commitment to producing quality, law-focused education programming for the citizens of Texas and beyond. *Vote America!* truly is a project for every citizen. Young lawyers have presented the film since its debut to more than 50,000 students and teachers across the United States — approximately 12,000 of whom attended special presentations organized by members of the TYLA Board of Directors. Through a joint program with the Georgia Young Lawyers Division and its President, Josh Bell, *Vote America!* made an impact in Georgia.

**Winner of a 2009
National Association of
Bar Executives – LexisNexis
Community & Educational
Outreach Award!**





“Vote America! provides teachers with a meaningful way to motivate secondary students to vote.”

— **Jodi Kuhn**

Social Studies Specialist,
Region XIII Service Center

“A thought-provoking documentary that causes students to think critically about the question ‘why vote?’ ”

— **Betsy Gonzales**

Social Studies Teacher,
Cedar Park Middle School, Cedar Park

“An outstanding teaching tool.”

— **Robyn Hernandez**

Social Studies Teacher,
Judson High School, San Antonio

“Vote America! show students that they can make a difference.”

— **Wendy C. Abel-Braulick**

U.S. History/Street Law,
Crockett High School, Austin

“Vote America! went well beyond the normal impact of most educational videos ... a home run in every possible way!”

— **Chad Baruch, J.D.**

Assistant Principal,
Yavneh Academy of Dallas

TYLA in the Schools

They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement: An Emmy Award-winning project that educates 11th and 12th graders about the role that young people played in the Civil Rights Movement and encourages students that they too can make a difference. Available online at www.theyhadadreamtoo.org or on DVD upon request from the TYLA office.



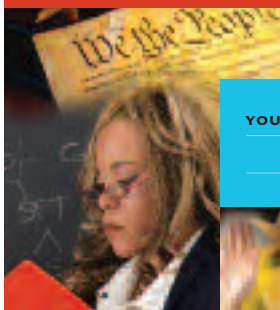
KNOWING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS ON YOUR FIRST JOB

You're Hired! Now What? Knowing Your Legal Rights on Your First Job: Educates new Texas workforce participants on issues they may encounter on the job, such as discrimination, on-the-job injuries, abusive treatment, and wages and overtime. Available online at www.tyla.org or on DVD upon request from the TYLA office.

Not in my Back Yard: Revised in 2009 to include recent changes to the relevant environmental laws. Several environmental law practitioners volunteered their expertise and revised several sections of the program. *Not in my Back Yard* is a great program to feature in combination with Earth Day.



Through a partnership with the Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section of the State Bar, TYLA helped to develop two pamphlets:



- *The Constitution at School: A Guide for Public High School Principals on the Constitutional Rights of Students on Campus*
- *Your Rights on Campus: A Guide for Public High School Students on Their Constitutional Rights at School*

These pamphlets summarize the often complex and confusing case law interpreting the application of the Bill of Rights on public school campuses. They also illustrate the difficult balance between a student's exercise of his or her constitutional liberties and the school's right to impose reasonable limitations on the exercise of those rights.

TYLA In The Schools

TYLA offers Texas educators several programs serving all grade levels, such as:

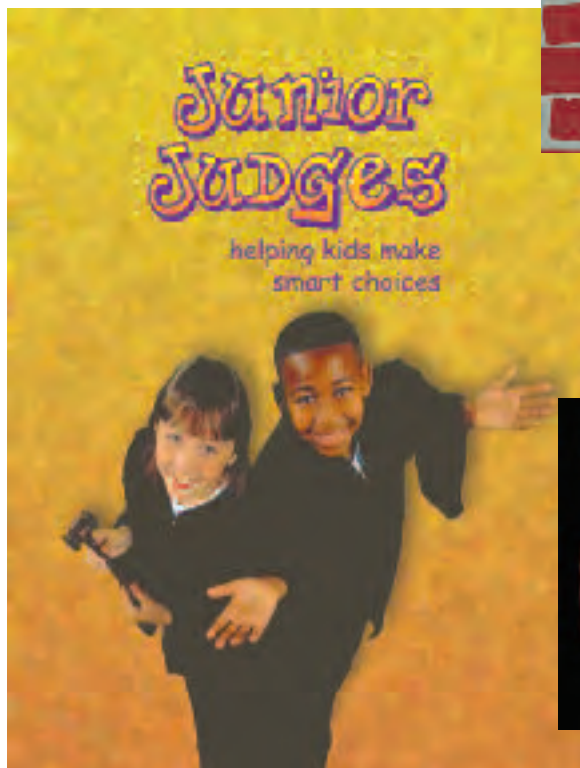
Junior Judges — A video and curriculum for elementary school students on making the right decisions in situations such as cheating, theft, bullying, drugs, and alcohol.

Crossing The Line — A video and book for junior high school students on recognizing and avoiding criminal conduct.

It Could Be You — A program for 7th through 10th graders encouraging the reporting of school crime and proper response to negative peer pressure.

We The Jury — A video and curriculum for junior high and high school students on jury service, including a mock trial that allows students to experience being a juror.

Supreme Team — An educational program for high school students about the U.S. Supreme Court, including interactive components such as mock confirmation hearings and oral arguments.

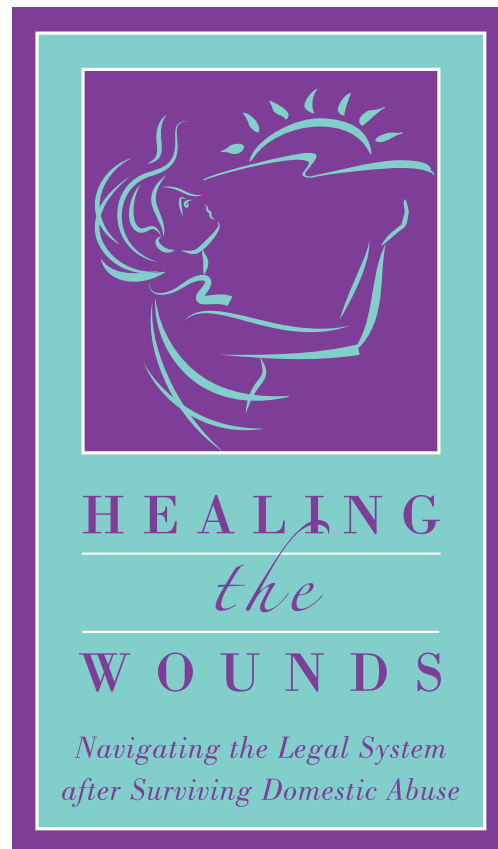


TYLA in the Community

Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System After Surviving Domestic Abuse

Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System After Surviving Domestic Abuse was made possible by a generous grant from the Texas Bar Foundation.

Healing the Wounds includes details on what victims of domestic violence can expect when using the courts to obtain a protective order, a temporary restraining order, or a divorce. The video portrays the story of “Melinda,” a domestic violence survivor, and her journey through the legal process. The goal of the program is to educate victims of family violence about their legal rights. Hopefully, after viewing this video, some of the victim’s fear and confusion about the legal system will be eliminated.



Winner of the 2009 Pro Bono Section Award



Healing the Wounds is designed to be shown at battered women's shelters, police departments, county and district attorney's offices, and other agencies that assist victims of domestic abuse. The video is available in English and Spanish and has been distributed across Texas. In less than three months, TYLA distributed more than 1,500 copies of the video. Several in-person presentations have been conducted throughout the state, either in shelters or to other support agencies for survivors of domestic violence.

- *Healing the Wounds* was presented in San Antonio, Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, and El Paso to both English- and Spanish-speaking audiences.
- The Texas Council on Family Violence provided each of its 150 members with a copy of *Healing the Wounds*.
- 342 copies of *Healing the Wounds* were distributed to prosecutors' offices with the assistance of the Texas District and County Attorney's Association.
- 500 copies of *Healing the Wounds* were distributed at the Conference on Prevention of Child Abuse.
- 700 copies of *Healing the Wounds* were distributed at the National Conference on Crimes Against Women.
- 150 Copies of *Healing the Wounds* will be distributed at the TRLA's Annual Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Conference in June, 2009.



TYLA in the Community

TYLA/ProBAR: Know Your Rights

Helping to Save the Lives of Children

Each year, hundreds of unaccompanied children reach the Texas border after fleeing abuse, neglect, or persecution in their home countries. Without adequate legal representation, these children remain in detention, unable to navigate the complicated immigration system and facing almost certain deportation.

South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) is a national effort to provide pro bono legal services to immigrants, including children, who are de-

tained in South Texas. ProBAR attorneys, along with dedicated staff members, represent unaccompanied immigrant children and also recruit, train, and coordinate the activities of volunteer attorneys, law students, and legal assistants.

In 2006, TYLA joined efforts with ProBAR to create the Unaccompanied Children's Project to provide a voice for the unaccompanied children detained in South Texas and seeking immigration relief. The video, **TYLA/ProBAR: Know Your Rights**, is a continuation of this joint project and can assist in saving the lives of detained minors by:

- Allowing attorneys and assistants to provide an immediate and concise outline of laws/regulations at initial intake sessions
- Providing information in a way the children will understand
- Allowing ProBAR attorneys and staff, along with volunteer attorneys and assistants, more one-on-one time to interview the children
- Being available for children to view multiple times, even after the departure of ProBAR and volunteer attorneys
- Serving as an additional training tool for volunteer attorneys and assistants



"Not only will the Know Your Rights video make an instant impact on the number of children we can help, it will also make a great training tool for future volunteers!"

— Violeta Discua-Salamanca
ProBAR Paralegal

TYLA in the Community

Law of the Land

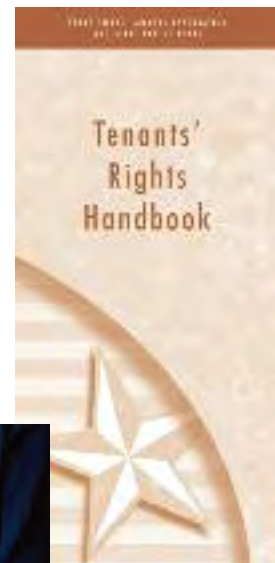
Law of the Land aims to help immigrants and low-income Texans understand their rights and responsibilities. TYLA updated the *Law of the Land* materials, originally published in 2003, to best serve the target audience. Revisions include translation of the materials into Spanish and Vietnamese.



Houston young lawyers, Goran Krnaich and Evelyn Njuguna distribute *Law of the Land* booklets to new citizens at the Houston-area Naturalization Ceremony in November 2008.

Tenants' Rights Handbook

TYLA worked with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid to revise and update the **Tenants' Rights Handbook**. This pamphlet is one of the most requested materials offered by the State Bar of Texas and TYLA. The *Handbook* serves as a general guide for tenants when faced with issues arising from the landlord-tenant relationship. The update includes changes in the law regarding fees that may be charged by landlords, new parking and towing rules, and new information on renter's insurance.



Parents' Rights

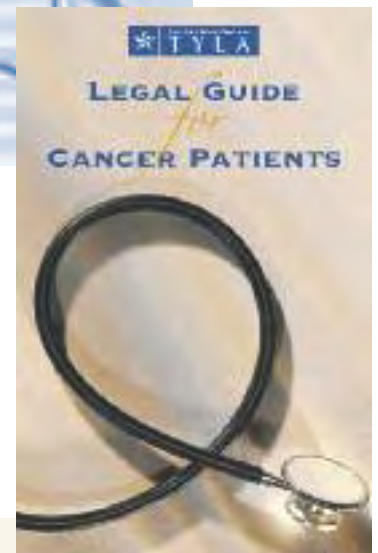
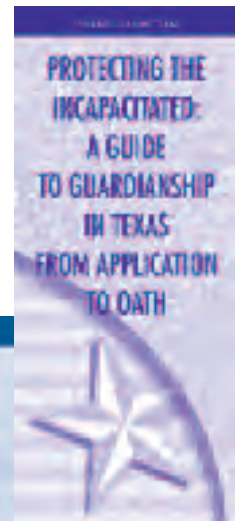
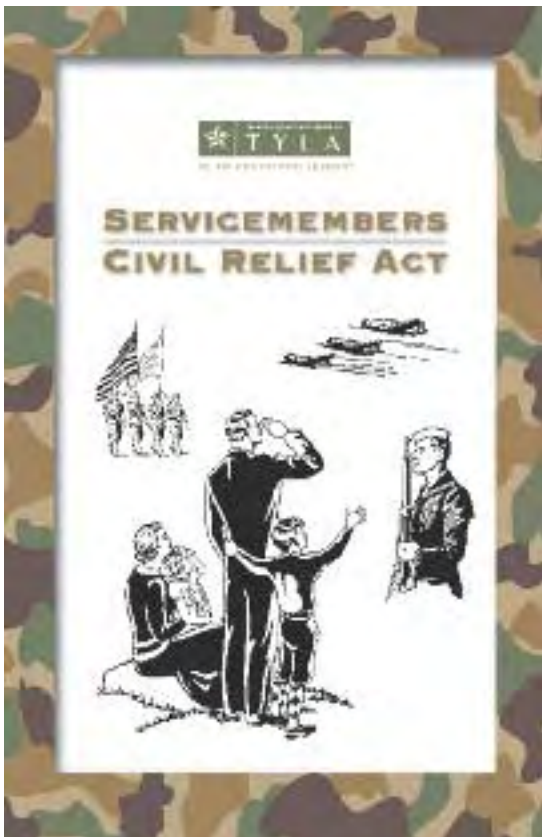
TYLA also worked to further develop existing projects such as the pamphlet, **Special Education Laws and the School Environment: A Guide to Understanding Your Rights as a Parent**. A plan was being developed for distributing this resource to parents across Texas who are looking for information but are unaware that such resources exist.



Tens of Thousands of Pamphlets, Books, and Videos Distributed in Hard Copy and Online!

- *Servicemembers Civil Relief Act*
- *Committed to Healing: Involuntary Commitment Procedures*
- *Protecting the Incapacitated: A Guide to Guardianship in Texas from Application to Oath*
- *Employer's Guide to General Employment Law*
- *American Juror*
- *Identity Theft*
- *Seniors & The Law: A Guide for Maturing Texans**
- *Just Hang Up! — Helping Seniors Avoid Telemarketing Fraud*
- *How to Sue in Small Claims Court*
- *To Will or Not to Will*
- *Legal Guide for Cancer Patients**

***Also available in Spanish**



“It is so great that an organization such as TYLA exists and provides these materials for our men and women in uniform. Members of the FWRW were able to distribute them at several bases and at the USO and we always received sincere gratitude.”

— Sharon Dale

President of the Fort Worth
Republican Women



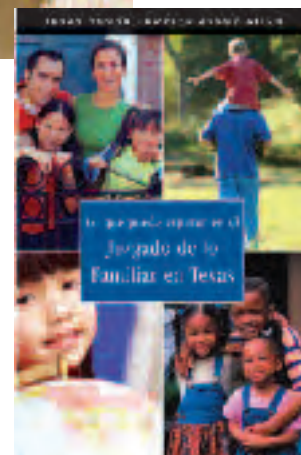
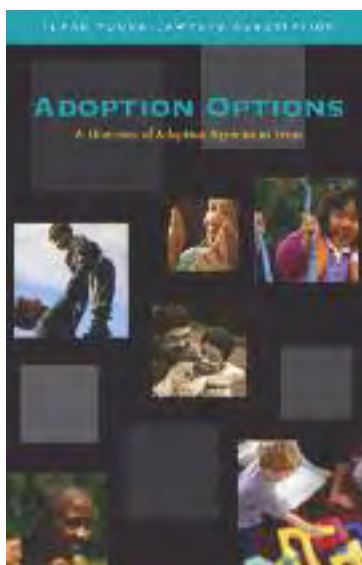
Other Family Law-Related Projects:

- **Ending the Violence: How to Obtain a Texas Protective Order** was presented to 50 women at the Family Abuse Center in Waco and to the Houston Area Legal Professionals.
- More than 100 copies of the **Guardianship Guide** and **Special Education and the Law** pamphlets were provided to the Highland Park United Methodist Church's Night OWLS program, a support group for parents with disabled children.
- **Safeguarding Our Seniors: Recognizing and Reporting Elder Abuse** was presented to the Bosque County Rotary Club and the Cranfills Gap Chamber of Commerce.

Other Resourceful Programs:

- *Kids in the Crossfire**
- *What to Expect in Texas Family Law Court**
- *Pro Se Divorce Handbook**
- *Adoption Options*

***Also available in Spanish.**





Time for TYLA Members.

LeadershipSBOT

LeadershipSBOT was conceived by 2008–09 State Bar President Harper Estes to provide leadership training to a diverse group of lawyers and to encourage program participants to develop further opportunities for leadership and service in their communities and through the bar. TYLA President Sylvia Cardona worked closely with Estes to establish guidelines for the inaugural class, and TYLA members have provided enthusiastic support to LeadershipSBOT participants, who met in October and March for interactive workshops and public service projects. Participants also were called on to develop community service projects, with funding assistance from the Texas Bar Foundation, to be presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Dallas.



At the March meeting in South Padre Island, LeadershipSBOT participants built rescue bears, which are given to children to help them deal with traumatic experiences.



Professional Development



Judicial Directory

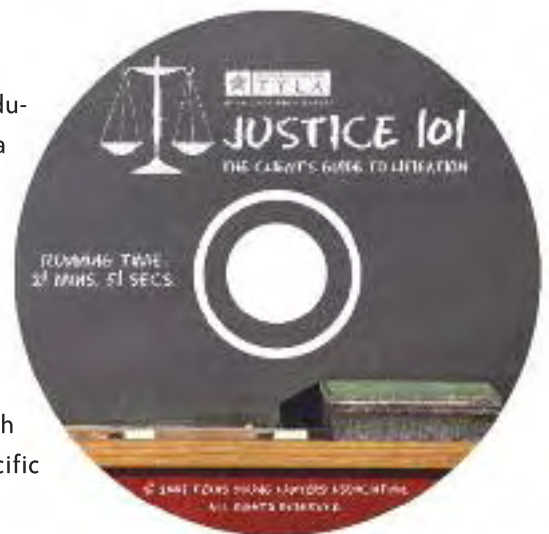
The Member Services Committee and the Technology Committee joined forces to update the online *Judicial Directory*. A free tool for all Texas lawyers, the *Judicial Directory* provides up-to-date court contact information, biographical information on all state court judges, plus additional information provided by the judges themselves.



Justice 101 (www.tyla.org/justice101)

Justice 101: The Client's Guide to Litigation is a tool for attorneys to educate clients who are new to the litigation process. Made possible by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, *Justice 101* is available in DVD format.

- *Justice 101* has been translated into Spanish.
- The video was rolled out in El Paso and Corpus Christi in 2008.



Ten Minute Mentor (www.tenminutementor.com)

More than 30 categories of topics are available for review online. Each video provides young lawyers with a brief introduction to a specific area of law or law practice management techniques.

- **36,616** videos viewed 2008-2009



eNews

This monthly electronic newsletter profiles young lawyer leaders, provides useful practice tips for young lawyers, and reports on state and local bar activities and opportunities for involvement.

- Distributed to 24,000 young lawyers monthly



Corporate Diversity Dinner

The 2009 Corporate Diversity Dinner was held in January at The Palm Restaurant in San Antonio. The dinner and ethics CLE event brought together attorneys from corporations, outside counsel, and local bar associations, while helping to raise awareness and explore diversity in the legal community. Former State Representative and current President and CEO of the San Antonio Water System Robert R. Puente spoke on the need for law firms and corporations to have a diverse workforce, while striving to hire the best and most qualified candidates. Puente also stated that it was important for attorneys looking to make the jump into the corporate world to begin to look at other areas of law such as energy, oil and gas, and corporate transactions. The dinner featured a targeted dialogue for guests focusing on unique hypothetical situations and incorporating real-life experiences. Law firm and corporate diversity policies were discussed, as well as what works and does not work in diverse legal environments.



Supporting Local Affiliates

Bar Leaders Conference: 90 young lawyer leaders attended the annual Bar Leaders Conference in The Woodlands and participated in sessions covering meeting management, funding, and project ideas.



Grants: TYLA supports its affiliated young lawyer bar associations by providing funding to support local programs. In 2008-2009 TYLA awarded \$20,000 to 13 local affiliates to fund creative and worthwhile projects at the local level.

Roadshows: Roadshows are designed to assist small -to medium-size bar associations in providing quality leadership and CLE programs to their members at no cost.



2008-2009 Local Affiliate Awards of Achievement Winners

The Awards of Achievement Program provides TYLA affiliates (young lawyer organizations across the state) the opportunity to submit their best projects for evaluation. This program is designed to encourage project development by recognizing the time, effort and skills expended by these affiliates in implementing public service and professional service projects in their communities. This year TYLA recognizes the following young lawyer organizations for finding time to make a difference!

LARGE CITY

Comprehensive

- 1st - Houston Young Lawyers Association
- 2nd - Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
- 3rd - Austin Young Lawyers Association

Service to the Bar

- 1st - Dallas Association of Young Lawyers – Jury Selection Tips and Tactics
- 2nd - Houston Young Lawyers Association – Child Abduction Prevention Initiative
- 3rd - Austin Young Lawyers Association – Take a Law Student to Work

Service to the Public

- 1st - Austin Young Lawyers Association – Women’s Resource Fair
- 2nd - Houston Young Lawyers Association – Teen Dating Violence Awareness Events (“It Shouldn’t Kill a Texas Teen to Date”) (DVD)
- 3rd - Ft. Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association – Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System after Abuse

Minority

- 1st - Dallas Association of Young Lawyers – What We Need to Succeed: Candid Conversations with Today’s Youth on Important Contemporary Issues
- 2nd - Houston Young Lawyers Association – The Big Read

Newsletter

- 1st - Houston Young Lawyers Association – Pocket Parts
- 2nd - Dallas Association of Young Lawyers – The Dicta

SMALL CITY

Comprehensive

- 1st - Texarkana Young Lawyers Association
- 2nd - Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association
- 3rd - Greater Denton County Young Lawyers Association

Single Project – Bar

- 1st - Texarkana Young Lawyers Association – Easter Egg Hunt Eggstravaganza
- 2nd - Hidalgo County Young Lawyers Association – Hidalgo County District Courts Judicial Intern Program
- 3rd - Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association – 10th Annual Las Vegas CLE

Single Project – Public

- 1st - Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association – Civil Rights Oral History Project
- 2nd - El Paso Young Lawyers Association – EPYLA Christmas of Hope
- 3rd - Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association – Wills for Heroes

Minority

No Applications

Newsletter

- 1st Texarkana Young Lawyers Association – The Footnote





Time for Mentoring Law Students.

Ten Minute Mentor Goes to Law School

In 2009, the Law Student Outreach and Online Services Committees launched **Ten Minute Mentor Goes to Law School** (“TMMGTL”) (www.tmmllawschool.com). Like Ten Minute Mentor, TMMGTL is a series of short instruction presentations, but these segments focus specifically on law school students and the issues they face. The videos are filmed by judges, attorneys, professors, school administrators, and, in some instances, other law students. Segments cover every aspect of law school from what to expect on your first day and the Socratic Method to what classes to take if you want to practice a certain type of law. In addition, there are tips for studying for the bar exam and hints for finding an internship or job. Here is a sample of the topics addressed:

Law School 101

- Law School 101 and Academic Support
- How to Brief a Case
- What is TYLA and How Can Law Students Benefit?

Taking the Bar Exam

- Tips for Taking the Bar Exam
- Should I Load Up on State Bar Courses?

Internships, Clerkships, and Jobs

- Five Things You Must Know Before your Clerkship
- Job Search in the Big City
- Not Practicing Law? Alternative Career Paths

Practice Areas

- What Should I Do to Practice Family Law?
- What Should I Do to Practice Employment Law?
- What Should I Do to Practice in General Litigation?

AND MANY MORE!!!

TMMGTL and TMM are both partnership programs with the State Bar of Texas CLE.



CONCISE. PRACTICAL. FREE.
**TEN MINUTE
MENTOR**
...GOES TO LAW SCHOOL!



www.tmmllawschool.com

Other Law Students Programs

At the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester, Minority Involvement Committee members attended student orientation programs at Texas law schools and disseminated scholarship applications and information to students.

TYLA Minority Scholarship Program

Annually, a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to one minority student at each Texas law school. The scholarship promotes diversity in the legal profession by assisting members of minority populations within the bar to: (1) enter the legal profession; and (2) participate in the programs and activities of TYLA and the State Bar of Texas. Following are the winners for 2008:



Cheryl Blount
Baylor University



Zinzi Bonilla
Texas Wesleyan University



Katherlene Carraway
Thurgood Marshall School of Law, TSU



Rachael Casey
University of Houston Law Center



Jamie Sorley
Southern Methodist University

No Photos Available

Karleana Lahens, *South Texas College of Law*
Anjela Nicole Jenkins, *University of Texas*
Nishma Shah, *St. Mary's University*

Minority Pre-Law Symposium

In February 2009, TYLA cosponsored St. Mary's University School of Law's annual **Minority Pre-Law Symposium**. The symposium targets high school and college minority students who are interested in pursuing a career as an attorney. This event draws more than 200 students from across the state, as well as representatives from local colleges and universities in addition to all nine Texas law schools.

TYLA Mentoring Law Students

National Trial Competition

The National Trial Competition (NTC) is one of the oldest and most prestigious mock trial competitions in the United States. NTC was established in 1975 to encourage and strengthen students' advocacy skills through quality competition and invaluable interaction with members of the bench and bar. NTC is co-sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and is designed to expose law students to the nature of trial practice and to serve as a supplement to their education. This year 304 teams participated from 156 schools. Twenty-eight teams advanced to the Nationals in San Antonio, where Baylor Law School was crowned champion.



Sylvia Cardona, TYLA President, Joel Bailey and Eric Policastro, NTC Winning Team of Baylor Law School and John J. Dalton, ACTL President



Regan Merkel and Chris Schaefer, second place winners from the University of Kentucky during the Final Round. Chris received the Best Oral Advocate Award



NTC Committee

State Moot Court Competition

TYLA conducted its annual **State Moot Court** competition at the 2008 State Bar Annual Meeting in Houston. The problem, which centered on a slip-and-fall accident at a law school, was drafted by 3rd Court of Appeals briefing attorney Zachary Hall of Austin. Many justices judging the competition commented that this was the best problem written in several years.

Seven Texas law schools participated in the three-day event: Baylor Law School, University of Houston, St. Mary's University, South Texas College of Law, Southern Methodist University, Texas Tech University, and Texas Wesleyan University. Texas Tech University School of Law won the competition and South Texas College of Law was a semi-finalist.

The 2009 Moot Court Competition was to be held in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Meeting in Dallas in June.



*South Texas
College of Law
Michael Long,
Katie McFarland*



*Texas Tech University School of Law Graigory
Fancher, Matthew Luensmann, Erin Welch*



Texas Tech Winners with Justices of the Supreme Court of Texas



TYLA Wins Awards ...

2008 American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Awards Of Achievement:

- Most Outstanding Public Service Project, *Safeguarding Our Seniors*
- First Place, Comprehensive Application
- First Place, Single Project – Service to the Public, *Safeguarding Our Seniors*
- First Place, Newsletter Project, TYLA eNews
- Special Recognition, Single Project – Service to the Bar, *Justice 101 – The Clients Guide To Litigation*

2009 National Association of Bar Executives

- *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right* – winner of a 2009 LexisNexis Community & Educational Outreach Award!

2009 State Bar of Texas

- *Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System After Surviving Domestic Abuse* – Winner of the 2009 Pro Bono Section Award

TYLA Recognizes Others Making a Difference . . .



Outstanding Young Lawyer — Stephanie Bourland Daley

Bourland, Wall & Wenzel, P.C. of Fort Worth

The Outstanding Young Lawyer Award is presented to a young lawyer with qualities including but not limited to exemplified professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community. Stephanie was selected as the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas because of her selfless contributions made to the profession, to the community and because of her outstanding qualities as a lawyer.



Outstanding Mentor — Professor Joseph A. Vail

Houston

The Outstanding Mentor Award recognizes one attorney who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers in his or her legal community. Joe Vail ran the immigration clinic at the University of Houston Law Center for several years. In 1994, Vail was recognized by the State Bar of Texas for the free legal services he provided to indigent clients. Before his untimely death in 2008, Joe Vail touched the lives and inspired the career of thousands of future attorneys.




TYLA Liberty Bell Award — Anne Yeakel


Executive Director, Texas Bar Foundation, Austin

The Liberty Bell Award recognizes one outstanding non-lawyer in Texas who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of Justice by instilling better understanding and appreciation of the law. Anne Yeakel has tirelessly worked as Executive Director of the Texas Bar Foundation for the last eleven years. “Through Anne’s leadership, the Texas Bar Foundation has become the best run bar foundation in the nation.”


TYLA Promotes Access to Justice







And Justice for All

I have always felt that of the United States of America and its people, the words "one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty AND JUSTICE FOR ALL" are the most important words in our country.

The promise of equal justice for all is one of the basic principles of our democracy. Texas alone has the most widely varied and complex legal system in the world. The Texas Young Lawyers Association, Texas Access to Justice Foundation, and Texas Access to Justice Foundation are proud to provide legal services to low-income Texans, and work to fund these programs to increase the number of legal services provided.

Ms. Moore, one of the thousands of indigent Texans who are abandoned by her husband and forced to care for three children alone, has no money, no job, and no help. She needs a legal services organization to help her with her children and support her children. Sadly, all poor Texans need this vital help. It is estimated that 75-77 percent of all Texans in poverty who need legal help do not receive it. In fact, Texas currently ranks 42nd in the nation in funding for legal services for the poor.

Support for people of "Justice for All" and advance your belief in its value by purchasing a quantity license plate. All proceeds from license plate sales are deposited into a special account supporting legal services for the poor. These services range from representing a disaster victim to obtaining protection from abusive relationships, to drafting wills or hospital orders for terminally ill persons. Your support will allow more Texans like Ms. Moore to get the help they need, and will keep the plate alive.

*You cannot have both a license plate and a quantity license plate.

Resolution Supporting Civil Legal Aid In Texas

WHEREAS, the Texas Young Lawyers Association embraces the principle that justice is to be accorded equally to everyone in our nation without regard to their ability to afford legal services; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Young Lawyers Association subscribes to the values Judge Learned Hand espoused when he said "If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: Thou shalt not ration justice"; and

WHEREAS, the preamble to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct states that "...a lawyer should be mindful of deficiencies in the administration of justice and of the fact that the poor, and sometimes persons who are not poor, cannot afford adequate legal assistance" and further states that every lawyer, "regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, should find time to participate in or otherwise support the provision of legal services to the disadvantaged. The provision of free legal services to those unable to pay reasonable fees is a moral obligation of each lawyer as well as the profession generally"; and

WHEREAS, the most recent U.S. Census reports that 3.9 million people in Texas live below the poverty level, and that more than 5.1 million people in Texas qualify for civil legal aid to the poor; and

WHEREAS, Texas currently ranks 43rd in the nation in overall funding for legal services; and

WHEREAS, low income Texans are more often the most vulnerable individuals in our communities - the elderly, persons with disabilities and victims of domestic abuse; and

WHEREAS, for many poor Texans, access to legal help is all that stands between them and homelessness, personal safety, and the ability to put food on their table and provide shelter for their children; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Access to Justice Foundation was created by Supreme Court Order in 1984 to administer the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program to fund nonprofit organizations that provide free civil legal aid to low-income Texans and is the state's leading source of funding for civil legal aid; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there is one civil legal aid attorney for every 11,500 low income Texans; and

WHEREAS, the drop in interest rates has dramatically reduced the amount of IOLTA funding available for distribution by the Texas Access to Justice Foundation from \$20.1M in FY 2007 to \$12.2M in FY 2008 and now to an estimated \$1.5M in FY 2010 and FY 2011; and

WHEREAS, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Jefferson has made a request to the Texas Legislature for \$37M from general revenue needed to offset the loss of IOLTA funds; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Young Lawyers Association President Sylvia Cardona has called upon all lawyers in Texas to increase the number of pro bono cases they handle each year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Texas Young Lawyers Association supports increased funding for legal services to the poor in Texas, and calls upon all Texas attorneys to take action to increase the availability of equal justice for all.

SIGNED this 1st day of May, 2009



TYLA Board of Directors, 2008-2009

What's on TYLA's horizon?

In the 2009–10 Bar year, TYLA will continue to educate Texans about the rule of law and their rights and responsibilities. TYLA will expand the services offered to its membership, continue educating Texas children, and focus on Access to Justice for *all* Texas citizens. Some of the new projects and programs on the horizon include:

- TYLA's completely redesigned, user-friendly website, which will highlight TYLA's award-winning projects and provide many new benefits to its members;
- A Cyber Crimes Awareness education project aimed at teaching children about cyber-bullying, cyber predators, and other online dangers;
- An expansion of TYLA's award-winning *Healing the Wounds* project to include information related to the awareness and prevention of teen dating violence;
- A "Going Green" project to promote environmental initiatives in schools, courthouses, and offices;
- A Small Business Toolbox aimed at providing basic information about starting and maintaining a small business;
- The creation of *A Guide to Caring for Aging and Elderly Parents*, as well as an informational booklet on legal issues related to Alzheimer's Disease;
- Updated CLE programs targeted specifically to young lawyers; and
- Expansion of Access to Justice initiatives to include online Ad Litem training and joint projects with legal aid providers.



I hope that you will join TYLA in these efforts. Please visit **www.TYLA.org** to sign up for a committee (or two!) today. TYLA provides a unique opportunity to not only enhance your skills as an attorney and network with attorneys from around the state, but also to serve others and truly make a difference in the lives of our fellow Texans. I look forward to serving and I hope you will join me!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cori".

Cori A. Harbour
President 2009–2010
Texas Young Lawyers Association



BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®

Texas Young Lawyers Association

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