

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

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# ANNUAL REPORT

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2015 - 2016

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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.

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[www.tyla.org](http://www.tyla.org)



# SEEKING JUSTICE THROUGH EDUCATION

The 2015-2016 TYLA bar year has been a busy but rewarding year! As the public service arm of the State Bar of Texas, TYLA created new and outstanding public and member service projects that continue to benefit the citizens of Texas—and even the nation.

This year TYLA was committed to furthering the State Bar of Texas's mission by "*Seeking Justice through Education*." TYLA has rolled out projects far and wide intended to address those places and instances where opportunities for justice have been missed.

TYLA's board and members are impressive from top to bottom. Although some of our members might be new to the practice of law, their ideas, skills, and dedication have made a long-lasting impact on our bar and the communities our members serve. With the help of the Board of Directors and local affiliates, TYLA created projects addressing community concerns on topics ranging from minority group and law enforcement interaction to bike safety and from fighting wrongful convictions to assisting foster kids transition into adulthood. We also addressed access to justice by creating a pro se litigators guide to help pro se litigants know how to enter evidence and respond to objections.

Likewise, our members voiced concerns about work-life balance challenges, so TYLA worked with 2015-2016 State Bar President Allan K. DuBois on his campaign to raise awareness of the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program and funding for the Sheeran-Crowley Memorial Trust which provides financial help to attorneys who need treatment for substance abuse or mental health issues. We also created guides to assist women in the workplace with knowing their rights with regard to pregnancy and their job, taught new lawyers how to file a clemency application and try their first misdemeanor case, hosted several joint CLEs with members of other professions in order to teach young lawyers how to develop business, and for young lawyers, we drafted a guide on what big firm life is like.

More details about these and other great projects are summarized in this Annual Report, but even with the discussion on these projects, it cannot fully reflect how much of a resource TYLA is for our members. Our projects have enhanced the legal skills of both new and seasoned attorneys and made a meaningful difference in their careers and legal practices.

It has been a true honor and privilege to serve our profession and the community as TYLA's president and chair this year. And even though our time at the forefront is ending, we remain committed to continuing our service, and we remain inspired by the magnitude of what the legal profession can accomplish together.

Sincerely,



C. Barrett Thomas, M.C.J., J.D.  
President 2015-2016  
Texas Young Lawyers Association



Priscilla D. Camacho, J.D.  
Chair 2015-2016  
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 adviser to at least one TYLA committee.

The 34 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 school student, a law school dean, and a member of the Access to Justice Commission.

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**Rusty O'Kane**  
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**Latoya Merida**  
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# TYLA SERVING MEMBERS



## And Justice for All...

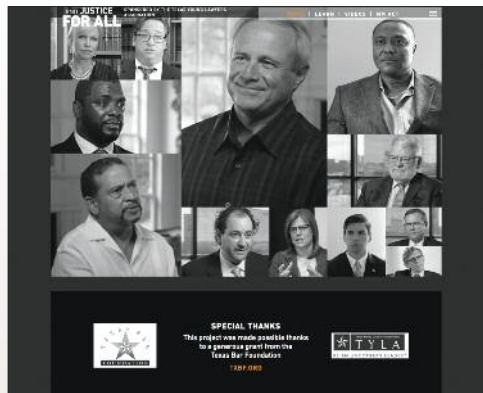
TYLA's signature project for the 2015-2016 year was *And Justice For All*, which aims to educate the public about common causes of wrongful convictions and suggests small steps we can take to improve our criminal justice system from investigation through trial. TYLA believes this initiative and education can have a positive effect on an imperfect human system.

*And Justice For All* was designed to inform laypeople, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and everyone in between about the existence of wrongful convictions, the toll they take on the lives of exonerees, and what we can do to decrease their occurrence. To this end, TYLA has created the interactive website **TYLAJusticeForAll.com**.

Website visitors can watch video interviews of high-profile exonerees, such as Michael Morton, Christopher Scott, and Juan Roberto Melendez-Colon, discussing their experiences; listen to top experts in the field opine on major causes of wrongful convictions and how to address them; watch judges, criminal defense attorneys, and district attorneys discuss their thoughts on improving the system; and learn many perspectives on fighting wrongful convictions. Riding a public outcry for changes to the criminal justice system, the *And Justice for All* project is informative and educational.

2015-2016 TYLA President C. Barrett Thomas has offered the following insight into his vision for the project: "People's eyes have been opened lately to a tragedy that has gone unnoticed for many years. Wrongful convictions *do* occur, and they occur at a frequency that many simply don't want to believe. Yet, nobody gets into the practice of criminal law wanting to participate in a case that sends an innocent person to prison. That is what makes this project so unique and so important. We have developed a program that can be universally accepted by prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the community at large. It is a program that can correct tragedies before they ever occur. Through education, we can better our system of criminal justice to ensure that justice is truly done."

This project has already received positive reviews and write-ups in the *Texas Bar Journal* and the *Texas Lawyer*. TYLA wishes to thank the Texas Bar Foundation for the grant it received to help fund the project.



## Hiring an Intern Pamphlet

Many employers, including law firms and other businesses, often want to hire interns during summer breaks or during the school year. Some internships are intended mainly as a mentoring or learning opportunity for the intern, while others more closely resemble a paid job. This guide addresses topics and frequently asked questions employers face when hiring interns and helps them make more informed decisions when deciding to take on interns.

The project covers topics such as whether an intern is an “employee,” whether an internship must be paid or can be on a volunteer basis, overtime pay for paid internships, workers’ compensation, and nondisclosure agreements.



Pro Se Litigator Flash Card for the Texas Rules of Evidence	
For more information and examples go to: <a href="http://www.tyla.org">www.tyla.org</a> This resource offers introductory information about legal topics, but cannot substitute for the advice of a lawyer. If you do not know a lawyer in your area, contact the State Bar of Texas to find out about referral services in your area.	
<b>During trial, one party has the burden of proof to establish the facts with evidence. Evidence can be the testimony of a witness, documents, pictures, videos, or even physical objects. The Texas Rules of Evidence control what evidence is admissible and how it can be identified. The rules are often based on common sense. In general, think of the rules of evidence as trying to accomplish two things: all evidence should be (1) relevant (helpful) to deciding the case, and (2) reliable. Similar types of rules are grouped together in the rules of evidence and are described below.</b>	
<b>Relevance (Helpfulness): Rules 401 - 412</b> <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, Relevance." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 401-402 <b>What it means:</b> The testimony is not helpful to proving or disproving a fact or element of a party's claim. <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, the evidence is substantially more prejudicial than probative." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 403 <b>What it means:</b> Even if it is a little helpful, the evidence is so highly relevant, prejudicial, or confusing, it should be excluded. <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, improper character evidence." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 404 <b>What it means:</b> Evidence a person is generally good or bad (or did something good or bad in the past) is not admissible to prove how a person acted during the events in the trial. <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, the question asks for inadmissible settlement negotiations." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 408 <b>What it means:</b> Evidence a party offered to settle the case being tried is generally not admissible. <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, the question asks for insurance information." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 411 <b>What it means:</b> Evidence a person has insurance is generally not admissible to prove the person acted wrongfully.	
<b>Attaching (Impugning) Witness Credibility</b> <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, improper impeachment." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 607-609 & 613 <b>What it means:</b> The party questioning the witness is not following the rules for attacking the witness, and therefore the question asked should not be answered. <b>Types of Impeachment</b> <b>Consistency of testimony:</b> Rule 609 <b>What is allowed:</b> Generally, convictions of the witness for (1) a felony or (2) a crime of moral turpitude. Crimes of moral turpitude generally involve dishonesty such as fraud or theft. <b>Prior inconsistent statement:</b> Rule 613(a) <b>What is allowed:</b> Confronting a witness with something the witness said that is different from his or her testimony in court. To do this the person attacking the witness must tell the witness: (1) the prior statement, (2) the time and place the witness said the prior statement, (3) to whom the statement was made; and (4) offer the witness the opportunity to explain. <b>Yes or No test:</b> Rule 613(b) <b>What is allowed:</b> Asking the witness about reasons the witness (1) favors a party or dislikes a party in the trial, or (2) has an interest in seeing the Plaintiff or Defendant win. When the basis for the attack is something the witness previously said, the same four requirements for Rule 613(a) apply.	
<b>Privilege: Rules 501 - 513</b> <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, the question asks for privileged information." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 501 - 513 <b>What it means:</b> Communications between certain people are often not admissible. Examples include communications between (1) spouses, (2) doctor-patient, and (3) attorney-client.	
<b>Competence of Witnesses: Rules 601-606</b> <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, the witness lacks personal knowledge to answer the question." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 602 <b>What it means:</b> Witnesses can generally only testify to what they have first-hand knowledge of. The witness generally can only testify to what he or she directly saw or (if allowed by rules 801 - 806) what he or she heard. <b>Proper Questioning: Rule 611</b> <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, leading." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 611 <b>What it means:</b> When your opponent calls a witness, usually in that side of the case, your opponent cannot ask a question where the answer is suggested to the question. The same applies to you when you call witnesses friendly to your side. <b>Objectives:</b> "Object, cumulative." <b>Basic:</b> T.X. R. EVID. 611 <b>What it means:</b> Neither party can ask the same question over and over again once the question has been answered by the witness.	

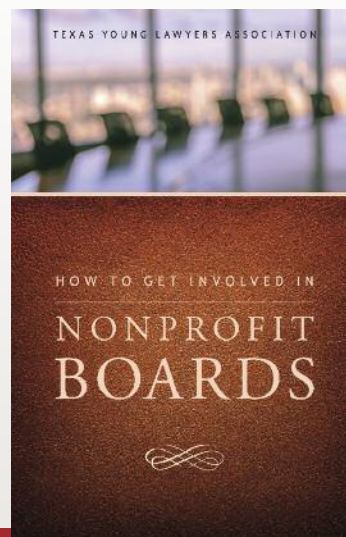
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## Pro Se Litigators Flashcard

TYLA created a flashcard to assist pro se litigants in familiarizing themselves with the Texas Rules of Evidence and, practically, how to apply them at trial. This two-page flashcard provides an overview of the rules and can be a useful tool when preparing for trial, allowing pro se litigators to better understand how to admit or object to evidence at trial. Pro se litigants should keep this flashcard readily available during trial to reference as needed. Of course, this flashcard is not meant to be a substitute for the advice of a licensed attorney.

## How to Get Involved in Nonprofit Boards

Many young lawyers want to give back or to meet new people, and what better way than through nonprofit boards? To help educate young lawyers and the community at large on how to join and grow on such boards, TYLA created an informational booklet with tools on how to engage in these boards. Unfortunately, many young lawyers do not know how to identify the nonprofit that is right for them or who to talk to. This booklet addresses these issues and many others including common legal questions and issues presented when serving on a nonprofit board.





## Pro Bono Clemency Petition

Answering the call to action from the U.S. Department of Justice and the American Bar Association, TYLA's *How to Do a Pro Bono Clemency Petition* provides a step-by-step guide and CLE presentation for attorneys to teach them how to get registered with the Clemency Project 2014 volunteer database and also provides information regarding what to expect during the course of the pro bono representation.

This project aims to recruit attorney volunteers to assist with the national Clemency Initiative announced by the DOJ in 2014, which encourages qualified federal inmates convicted of nonviolent offenses to petition to have their sentences commuted or reduced.


Currently, more than 5,000 federal inmates are eligible for consideration of commutation of their sentences under the Clemency Initiative. As of the date the project launched, only approximately 1,500 attorneys volunteered to submit petitions to the Office of the Pardon Attorney on the eligible inmates' behalf. That means more than 3,500 eligible prisoners—all of whom have already served 10 years or more for low-level, nonviolent offenses—will remain in prison, many of them for life without parole, if a clemency petition is not submitted on their behalf. This project attempted to bridge the gap between the need for Clemency Initiative volunteers and attorneys looking for pro bono matters with the potential for immediate and meaningful impact.

Through this project, attendees were able to receive one hour of ethics credit and learned the basics of how to get involved with representing a federal inmate in connection with a clemency request and what to expect during the process.

TYLA made seven presentations around the state of Texas over the course of six weeks to criminal bar associations in the following cities:

Dallas (2) (Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, DBA Criminal Law Section)  
Houston (2) (Harris County Criminal Defense Lawyers, University of Houston)  
San Antonio (1) (San Antonio Young Lawyers Association)  
Galveston (1) (Galveston Criminal Defense Bar)  
McAllen (1) (Criminal Defense Bar)

Through our efforts, we were able to recruit over 100 attorney-volunteers who signed up on the spot and many more who expressed interest in volunteering with the Clemency Project 2014 in the future.



### HOW TO DO A PRO BONO CLEMENCY PETITION

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the Department of Justice's Office of the Pardon Attorney announced a new initiative to encourage qualified federal inmates convicted of non-violent offenses to petition to have their sentences commuted or reduced. As part of this effort, the Clemency Project 2014, a non-governmental, nonprofit organization was formed to help effectively locate eligible inmates and match them with volunteer attorneys to submit clemency petitions on their behalf. The Clemency Project 2014 trains attorneys and provides them with materials and resources needed to assist these prisoners at no cost. Attorney volunteers are needed to represent up to 20,000 potentially eligible inmates.

#### II. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The criteria the Justice Department will use when considering clemency petitions from federal prisoners help the Justice Department identify federal prisoners who, if sentenced under current sentencing laws and policies, would likely have received lower sentences. The Office of the Pardon Attorney will prioritize clemency petitions from inmates who meet all of the following factors:

- 1) Currently serving a federal sentence in prison and, by operation of law, likely would have received a substantially lower sentence if convicted of the same offense(s) today;
- 2) Non-violent, low-level offenders without significant ties to large-scale criminal organizations, gangs or cartels;
- 3) Served at least 10 years of their prison sentence;
- 4) Do not have a significant criminal history;
- 5) Demonstrated good conduct in prison; and
- 6) Have no history of violence prior to or during their current term of imprisonment.

The Bureau of Prisons sent out notices to federal prisons advising inmates who believe they meet the criteria, and who would like to ask for free assistance from a lawyer, to fill out a survey and submit it to the Clemency Project 2014. The Clemency Project screens survey results. Prisoners who appear to qualify are then assigned a lawyer from the Clemency Project 2014 volunteer attorney database.

#### III. SIGNING UP TO VOLUNTEER

Attorneys interested in representing an inmate pro bono must (1) be a member of the bar in good standing in your jurisdiction and (2) agree that you will not charge prisoners assigned by the Clemency Project 2014 for your work on their behalf.

If you are interested in volunteering, visit [www.clemencyproject2014.org](http://www.clemencyproject2014.org) and click on the link for "Volunteers." Next, click on the link "Get Started" to set up an account and begin the two-hour online training video.

Once you have completed the training video, complete the Post Training Survey. Then, the Clemency Project 2014 will send you an email assigning you your first case, the case number for your inmate's case and his/her Bureau of Prisons Identification Number.

#### IV. THE APPLICANT TRACKING SYSTEM

Once you have been assigned a case, log on to the Applicant Tracking System to get access to the materials and forms you will need for your representation. Then you will follow these steps:

- 1) Check the Progress Tracker Tool to see what stage of the process the inmate is currently in.
- 2) Check the Assignment History for the contact information for the person with the Clemency Project who will be working with you if you have questions about eligibility.
- 3) Search your inmate's public records on PACER.
- 4) Contact the inmate to obtain a Consent Form and upload it to the Applicant Tracking System.
- 5) The Clemency Project will request a copy of the Bureau of Prisons Records on your behalf.
- 6) Request a copy of the Presentence Investigation Report (PSIR) and a copy of the Final Judgment and Commitment Order from the sentencing court.
- 7) Contact the Sentencing Judge and the Prosecutor.
- 8) Request a copy of the Sentencing Hearing Transcript if necessary.

#### V. EVALUATING ELIGIBILITY

Once you have obtained the PSIR and Bureau of Prisons Record, you will use those documents along with the Final Judgment and Commitment Order to evaluate your client's eligibility for clemency.

- 1) Review the PSIR to confirm that the inmate has served at least 10 years.
- 2) Use the PSIR to determine which statutes were applied and if those statutes would be applied today.
- 3) Determine any enhancements to the sentence that were applied by the judge.
- 4) Consider the inmate's role in the original offense.
- 5) Calculate the sentence the inmate would receive if sentenced today.
- 6) Review the Bureau of Prisons Record to evaluate the inmate's record while in prison.
- 7) Prepare a 2-5 page Executive Summary containing your conclusion about whether the inmate is a good candidate for clemency.

#### VI. PREPARING THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary is a brief statement submitted to the Clemency Project summarizing your inmate's eligibility for clemency. A Sample Executive Summary is available in your materials on the Applicant Tracking System. The Executive Summary should be brief, but should include:

- 1) Narrative of the offense.
- 2) Explanation of how the inmate qualified for the original sentence.
- 3) Explanation of the inmate's role/affiliation with organizations or persons convicted with the inmate.
- 4) Chart showing the original sentence as compared to the sentence they would receive today.
- 5) Explanation of the changes in law or policy that would demand a different sentence today.
- 6) Amount of time the inmate has served.
- 7) Explanation of criminal history.
- 8) Explanation of other convictions or arrests/allegations of violence.
- 9) Explanation of any infractions or achievements while in prison.

An example of the chart described in item (4) above is provided below:

SENTENCE CALCULATION		
COMPONENTS	CURRENT SENTENCE	LIKELY SENTENCE TODAY
Statutory Range	Life	0-20 years, or 5-10 years
Case Offender Guidelines Range	300 months - Life	N/A
Delivery Guidelines Range	262-327 months	120-168 months
With Double Variance	N/A	Estimated 88 months
Likely Would Be Imposed	Life	88 months

Email completed Executive Summaries and questions to [executivesummary@clemencyproject2014.org](mailto:executivesummary@clemencyproject2014.org). The Screening Committee will review the Executive Summary and make a decision whether the inmate is a good candidate for clemency and may contact you with follow-up questions or suggested revisions. The Screening Committee will review the Screening Committee's decision.

#### VII. DRAFTING THE PETITION

If your inmate is approved, you will receive notification from the Clemency Project that you have been approved to draft a petition on his/her behalf. You will send a form letter to the inmate notifying him/her of approval and your pro bono representation to submit a petition on his/her behalf. There is a sample packet on the Applicant Tracking System to show you what to include with the Petition, and a Sample Petition. The Petition should be submitted to [petition@clemencyproject2014.org](mailto:petition@clemencyproject2014.org) as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days after approval or November 15, 2015, whichever is earlier.

#### VIII. RESOURCES FOR ASSISTANCE

Several resources are available on the Applicant Tracking System to assist pro bono attorneys, including:

- 1) Webinars
- 2) Answers to frequently asked questions
- 3) Resource Attorneys
- 4) Time tracker tool to track pro bono hours

For more information on volunteering and additional resources to assist a federal inmate with commutation of a sentence, visit the following:

[www.clemencyproject2014.org](http://www.clemencyproject2014.org)  
[www.nacdl.org](http://www.nacdl.org)  
[www.probono.net](http://www.probono.net)  
[www.lawprobonocenter.org](http://www.lawprobonocenter.org)

Attorneys preparing and submitting a clemency petition do so in their individual capacity, not in their capacity as a member of the Texas Young Lawyers Association or the State Bar of Texas.



## Life in a Big Firm

TYLA invited associates and summer associates to participate in an event focused on educating young lawyers on the benefits of practicing with “Big Law” firms. A panel discussion comprised of accomplished lawyers from various firms shared tips and best practices on how to succeed in a career with a big firm, educate young lawyers and summer associates on the benefits of practicing with a large firm, and addressed common questions about the legal practice in a large firm environment. The panel discussion was followed by a networking reception where young lawyers and summer associates interacted with the panelists and developed relationships with their peers from other large firms.



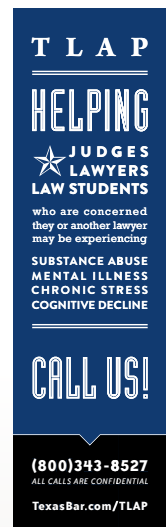
## TYLA Helps Other Lawyers in Need

In partnership with and in support of State Bar of Texas President Allan K. DuBois's mission to raise money for the Sheeran-Crowley Memorial Trust and awareness of the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program, TYLA President C. Barrett Thomas issued a fundraising challenge to all TYLA affiliates.

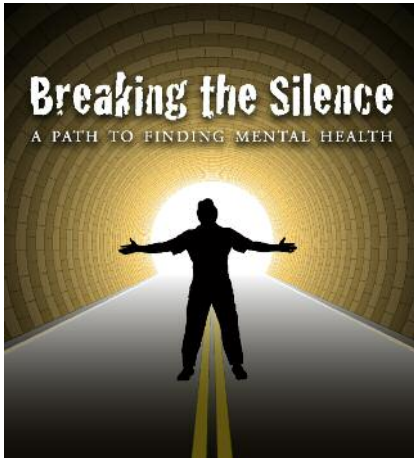
Each year hundreds of fellow lawyers wage personal battles with depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. Many take on the fight alone, and for that reason they often lose. That should not be the case, and it has long been the goal of TLAP to see that lawyers dealing with substance abuse and mental health issues have the financial and personal support they need to win the battle.

As part of the TYLA challenge, affiliates competed to determine which could raise the most money in support of the trust. Issuing the challenge in the fall of 2015, many of our TYLA affiliates assisted in making some kind of financial contribution to this very important cause. No donation was too small for this effort!

TYLA members donated a total of \$15,591 in support of the trust. TYLA will recognize and award plaques to the top three individual young lawyer donors and the top small and large young lawyer affiliates at the 2016 Bar Leaders Conference.



## Breaking the Silence



The *Breaking the Silence* project originated out of a need to address issues regarding mental health and substance abuse that affect many individuals. As the statistics regarding substance abuse and mental health continue to indicate that the legal profession is affected by these issues at an alarming rate, the Texas Young Lawyers Association felt that this project needed to be expanded. Instead of just writing an article or redirecting attention to the *Breaking the Silence* videos, the Texas Young Lawyers Association decided to put faces to the issue. The panels provided a unique opportunity to address these significant issues that impact our profession while hearing firsthand accounts of individuals that have personally dealt with them. In addition, the panels included a mental health professional to shed light on the signs and symptoms and to provide guidance to audience members on how to help others with these issues. Each panel consisted of a moderator and three panelists: an individual that has experienced mental illness, an individual that has struggled with some form of substance abuse, a mental health professional. On each panel at least one individual was a young lawyer. Further, young lawyers were used in promoting the panels, opening and closing the panels, and in bringing the panels to the various cities.





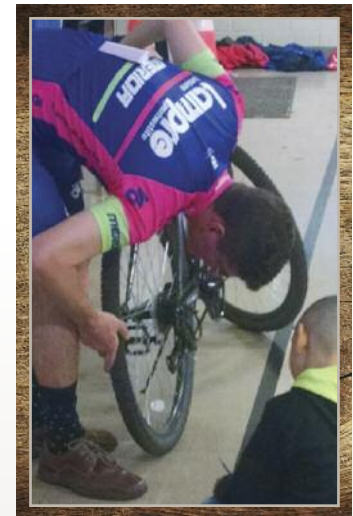
# TYLA IN THE COMMUNITY

## Cyclists Be Careful

TYLA created a project to educate the general public about bicycle safety and the relevant laws of the road regarding cyclists. Audiences presented with the project received a double-sided flyer that includes a list of relevant laws affecting cyclists, observed a PSA regarding helmet safety, and participated in an interactive session covering important topics for current and future cyclists.

Presentations were given to a number of groups across the state including:

- In March 2016, the Jefferson County Young Lawyers Association presented the project at the Beaumont Police Department's Beaumont Bicycle Rodeo, which is cosponsored with the department's Cops and Kids Program.
- On April 2016, TYLA presented to elementary students and a number of adults for a school in San Angelo at Trinity Lutheran Church.
- TYLA met with the director of physical education for San Antonio Independent School District to discuss the Bicycle Safety project. The director connected TYLA with 10 different elementary schools in the district where TYLA could deliver the presentation. To date, a presentation has been delivered to Collins Garden Elementary in San Antonio in March 2016 with other presentations in the works.
- TYLA met with the volunteer and events coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club of San Antonio. This meeting has now led to the beginning of a process to present this information to all Boys & Girls Club members in the San Antonio area.





## Kinship Project

Starting in 2015, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services has focused on an initiative to reduce the time a child spends in non-permanent situations. As a part of this initiative, DFPS is focusing on having more children placed in permanent kinship placement. For Fiscal Year 2015, 31.2 percent of children in the care of DFPS were placed with permanent kinship placements. However, when an individual or family chooses to be a kinship placement they are provided with little or no resources and are given limited guidance as to the legal process of being a kinship placement. TYLA took on this project in order to provide guidance for individuals considering such arrangements.

The *Permanent Kinship Placement* project is a brochure designed to assist individuals when making the choice to be a permanent kinship caregiver. The brochure addresses what being a permanent caregiver means and what happens once an individual becomes a permanent kinship caregiver. The brochure that resulted from this project will be distributed in print and available online.

## Resources for Foster Care Children

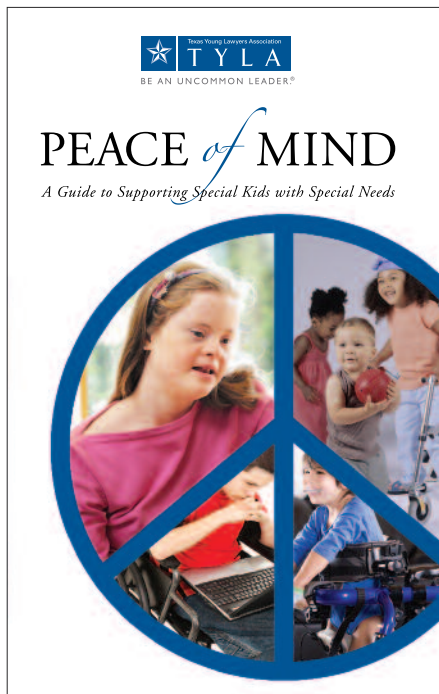
Every year thousands of children across Texas age out of the foster care system governed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Once out of care, these individuals have many needs that the department cannot address on its own. Our project was designed to provide a variety of vital resources to all of the statewide Transitional Living Services, which only provide limited assistance to these young adults.

TYLA contacted transitional centers in Dallas, Tyler/Longview, Houston, Austin, Kerrville, and El Paso and was able to provide them with baby care essentials, hygiene items, laundry supplies, bus passes, business attire for job interviews, and work-related items for prospective jobs.





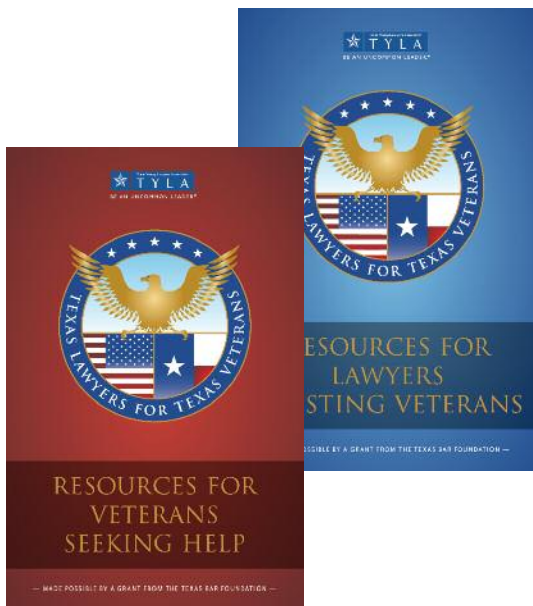
## Peace of Mind



*Peace of Mind* is a comprehensive booklet designed to educate families about the need to protect and secure the future of their children with special needs. The guide outlines a wide range of topics including planning to preserve and maximize needs-based public benefits, such as Supplemental Social Security Income and Medicaid. In October 2014 and in May 2015, TYLA participated in the Special Olympics World Winter and Summer Games by distributing more than 500 copies of the booklet and offering free legal advice to parents and guardians in attendance with children with special needs.



## Veteran's Family Law

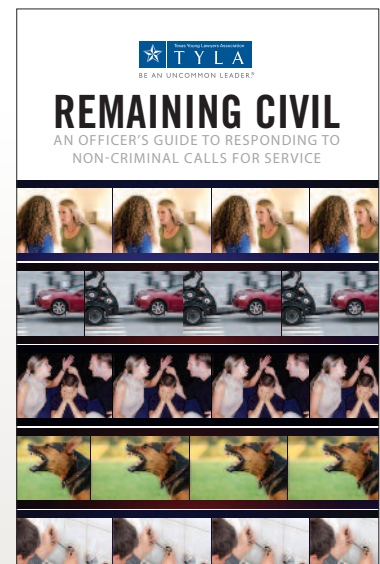


The Veteran's Family Law Project was envisioned to be a resource for veterans in Texas who had questions regarding family law. It quickly received an overwhelming response at both the state and national levels. The committee drafted materials that cover the laws at both the state and federal levels. Volunteer attorneys have received the outlines to draft, edit, and review. Various young lawyers from not only the Texas Young Lawyers Association, but also from all over the state have volunteered to complete different sections of the project.

The committee initially intended to have this material available in a handbook but because of the nationwide interest the committee is going to present the project in a web-based format. The committee is working to do this within the current budget but may request more funds next year. The goal is ultimately to have relevant family law information for each state in our nation located in one place. TYLA received materials from the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division and is working on gathering information from other states to use on the future website.

## Remaining Civil: An Officer's Guide to Responding to Non-Criminal Calls for Service

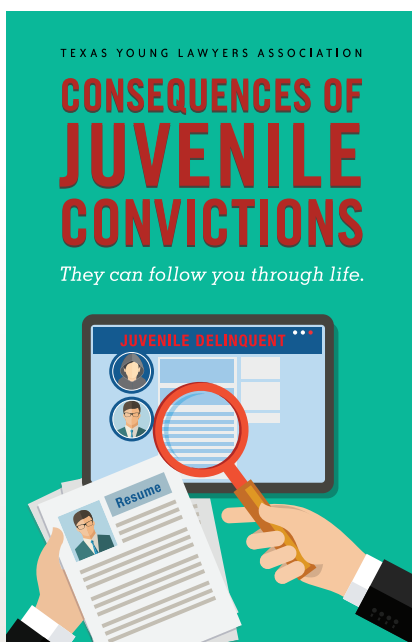
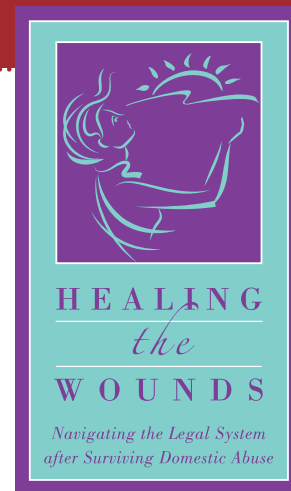
*Remaining Civil: An Officer's Guide to Responding to Non-Criminal Calls for Service* is a two-part project created by the TYLA Law Focused Education Committee designed to educate law enforcement officers and civilians about the availability of civil remedies arising from common scenarios presented by emergency calls. The first part of the project consists of a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education certified training block that discusses the best practices for answering calls involving domestic disputes, custody disputes, evictions, repossessions, animal calls, and mental health commitments. The second part of the project consists of informational pamphlets to assist citizens in dealing with their non-criminal legal issues and to direct them to appropriate resources to assist them in finding resolutions.





## Healing the Wounds

*Healing the Wounds* is a video that walks victims of domestic violence through what they can expect when using the court system to obtain a protective order, a temporary restraining order, or a divorce. The video portrays the story of “Melinda,” a fictional 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. We hope that after viewing this video, some of the victims’ fear and confusion about the legal system will be eliminated.



## Consequences of Juvenile Convictions

This project is focused on educating young people and the general public about the consequences of juvenile criminal convictions. The target audience is middle school and high school students. Although the project is not finalized, a brochure will be produced that provides:

- Statistics on tickets, arrests, convictions;
- a “What will happen to me now?” section; and
- a “What can I do to avoid the consequences of juvenile convictions?” section

TYLA wishes to thank the Texas Appleseed project for their contribution to this project.

# TYLA IS COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY

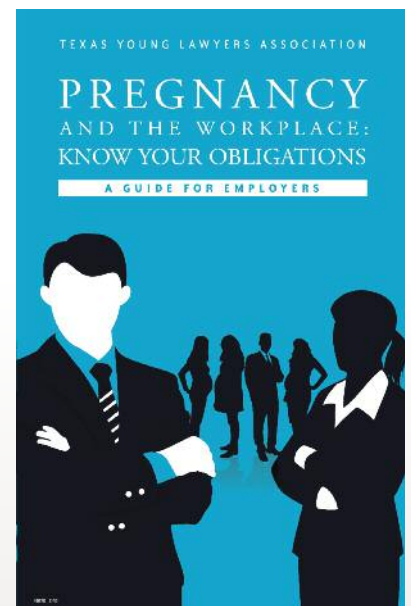
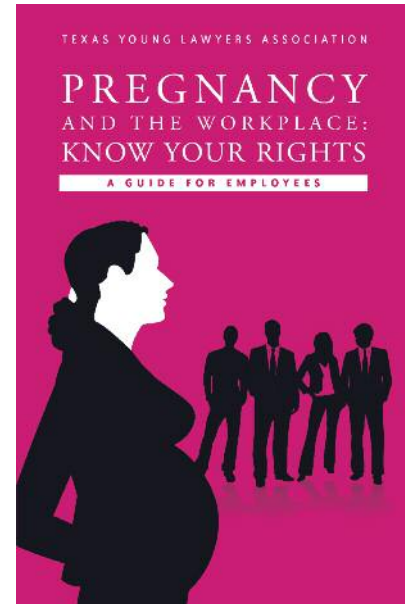
## Resource Guides for Lawyers and Employers

The TYLA Diversity Committee published two resource guides focused on issues with pregnancy and the workplace.

*Pregnancy and The Workplace: Know your Rights* is a guide for employees designed to help them understand their employer's legal obligations to pregnant employees from hiring to returning to work after childbirth. It provides direction for employees who suspect that their rights may have been violated by an actual or prospective employer.

*Pregnancy and The Workplace: Know your Obligations* is a guide for employers and is designed to help them understand their basic legal obligations toward pregnant and lactating employees. It also provides best practices for employers seeking to minimize the risk of liability for violating pregnant employees' rights.

The committee also published a video called *Pregnancy in the Workplace* as part of its *Ten Minute Mentor* series aimed at providing guidance to attorneys who may be pregnant and addresses issues such as how to inform your employer that you are expecting, how to transition your caseload before taking leave after the birth of a child, and managing your caseload once you return.



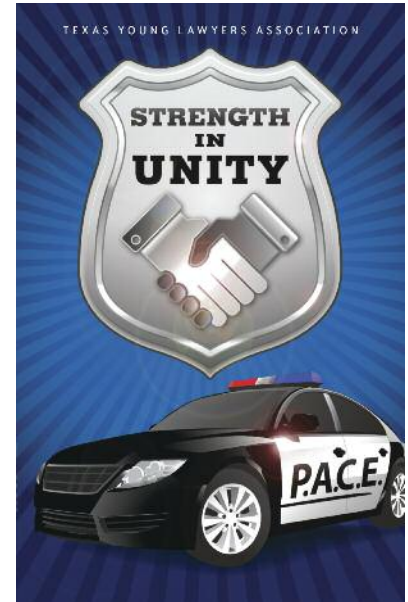


## Strength in Unity

*Strength in Unity* is a project focused on bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community it is sworn to protect and serve.

Traffic stops are one of the most contentious (yet regular) interactions between law enforcement and the public. Using vignettes, this program is designed to spark conversation through public panels among the audience, the panel, and the facilitator about these routine community interactions. Additionally, this program gives tips to the public on how to lessen the tension during these interactions and educates law enforcement regarding the perspective of the public.

The main goal of the project was to help heal any fractures in the relationship between law enforcement and the general public that may have resulted due to events that have taken place in Ferguson, Cincinnati, New York City, Baltimore, and South Carolina. It has been widely reported that there has been a significant drop in the trust that many citizens have in law enforcement. In turn, that has become a significant issue in not only how officers are able to enforce the law for the safety of the community but also their ability to recruit young people to join their ranks and forces. This program is the legal community's response to help make sure that at a minimum these issues are discussed in a respectful but open format. It is TYLA's desire that these discussions help change the trajectory and dynamic of this discourse and hopefully achieve resolution.



## Speed Mentoring for Women Law Students: Preparing for Your Future Now

This program targeted female law students from Dallas-area law schools and provided an atmosphere where the students learned invaluable lessons about preparing for the practice of law.

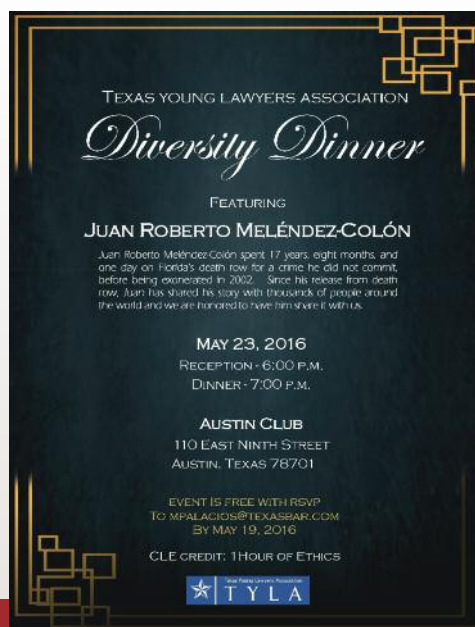
Students heard from mentors about topics and issues facing female attorneys. The event took place on February 23, 2016, at City Club Dallas. There were eight mentors that participated, each from a different area of the practice (in-house counsel, large law firm, family law, criminal defense, criminal prosecution, education law, and solo-practitioner). TYLA prepared topics for discussion including the importance of networking, preparing for the Bar Exam, interviewing, and what to expect during your first year in practice. The main goal was to promote and support a dialogue between law students and practitioners to help bring to light issues concerning women in the industry. Students received firsthand information about the practice at a pivotal part of their law school careers.



## TYLA Diversity Dinner

The Diversity Dinner is an annual event hosted by the TYLA Diversity Committee to enhance the discussion of diversity in the legal practice.

The 2016 Diversity Dinner took place at the Austin Club on May 23, 2016, in Austin and featured guest speaker Juan Roberto Melendez-Colon, who told his remarkable story of his innocence and being exonerated from Florida's death row.





## TYLA Diversity Scholarship

The TYLA Diversity Scholarship Program promotes diversity in the legal profession by assisting members of minority populations within the state to enter the legal profession and participate in the programs and activities of TYLA and the State Bar of Texas. The TYLA Diversity Committee awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority student at each Texas law school who demonstrated a commitment to diversity. There were a total of 38 applications submitted from eight of the nine ABA accredited Texas law schools.

### 2015-2016 TYLA Diversity Scholarship Winners:



**Kristinia Anderson**

*Texas A&M University School of Law*



**Fernando Pablo Candil**

*Texas Tech University School of Law*



**Oscar Escoto**

*Texas A&M University School of Law*



**Graciela Garcia**

*St. Mary's University School of Law*



**Jasmine E. Grant**

*University of Texas School of Law*



**Clé Holly**

*University of Houston Law Center*



**Zainab Khan**

*Southern Methodist University  
Dedman School of Law*



**Urvashi Morolia**

*South Texas College of Law*



**Dontrey Tatum**

*Texas Southern University  
Thurgood Marshall School of Law*

# TYLA SERVING LAW SCHOOLS

## Law School Orientations

Throughout the year TYLA representatives and TYLA law student liaisons attended orientations for all of the Texas law schools. TYLA also provided information about the resources TYLA offers students during school and when they start their law practices and spoke about the benefits of joining the Law Student Division of the State Bar.



## Legal Professionalism Award

This award promotes legal professionalism among Law Student Division members by rewarding participation in activities that further the administration of justice, enhance professional responsibility, and provide service to the public. Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship from the State Bar of Texas Law Student Division.

## 2015-2016 Essay Contest

The annual Law Student Division Essay Contest provides an opportunity to help law students reflect on the nation's legal heritage. Two scholarship recipients are chosen from among the Law Student Division applicants (Texas and out-of-state law student members may apply). Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

## State Moot Court Competition

TYLA hosted its annual State Moot Court Competition in June 2015 during the State Bar Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Eight teams from the Texas law schools participated in the event.

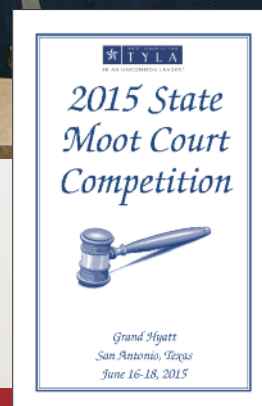
**CHAMPION TEAM** — South Texas College of Law  
Jennifer Bonds, Kyrie Cameron and Taylor FitzGerrell  
Coach: Rob Galloway

**FINALIST TEAMS** — South Texas College of Law and  
Texas Tech University School of Law

**SEMIFINALIST TEAMS** — South Texas College of Law,  
Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law,  
St. Mary's University School of Law, and  
Texas Tech University School of Law

**BEST BRIEF** — South Texas College of Law

**BEST ORAL ADVOCATE** — Jennifer Bonds,  
South Texas College of Law







#### **2016 NATIONAL CHAMPION TEAM**

Harvard Law School

Team Members: Amanda Mundell and Joseph Resnek

#### **NATIONAL FINALIST**

California Western School of Law

#### **SEMI FINALIST TEAMS**

Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law

Yale Law School

#### **QUARTERFINALIST TEAMS**

Mitchell Hamline College of Law

Samford University, Cumberland School of Law

University of Iowa College of Law

University of Missouri School of Law

#### **BEST ORAL ADVOCATE AWARD**

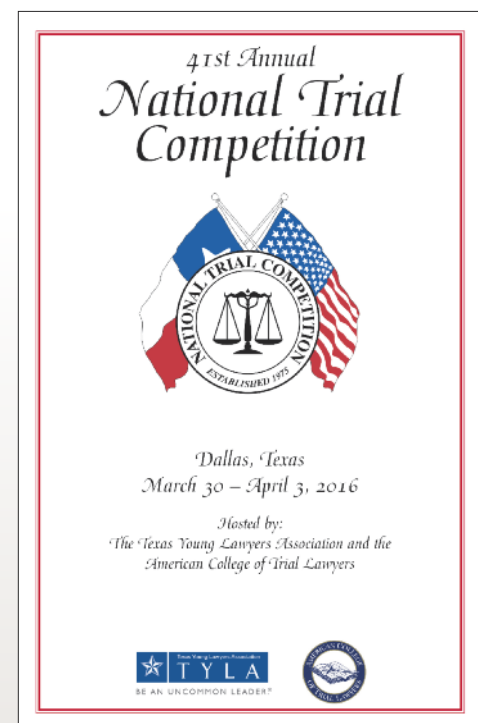
Joseph Resnek, Harvard Law School

## **National Trial Competition**

The National Trial Competition is one of the oldest and most prestigious mock trial competitions in the United States. NTC was established in 1975 to encourage and strengthen student advocacy skills through quality competition and invaluable interaction with members of the bench and bar.

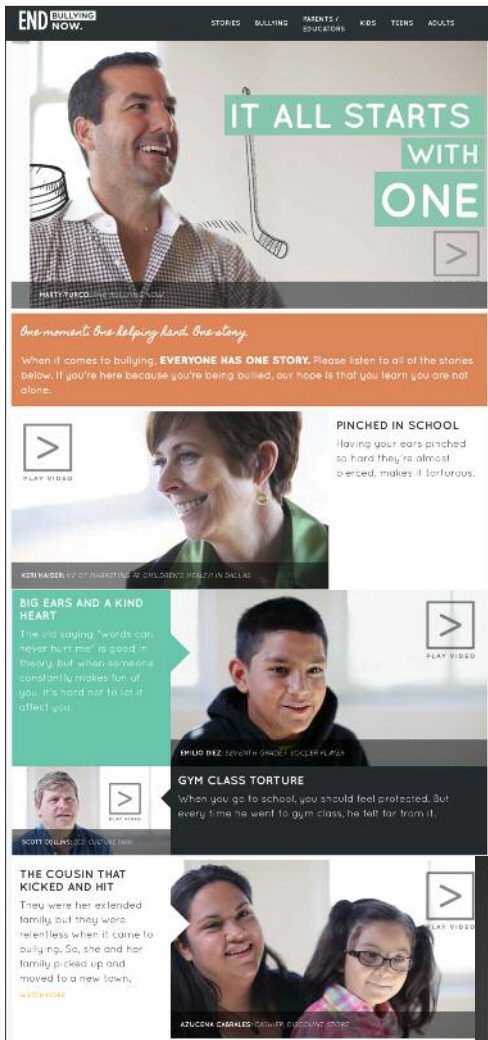
NTC is cosponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and is designed to expose law students to the nature of trial practice and to serve as a supplement to their education.

Twenty-eight teams from around the country advanced to participate in the national competition in Dallas, where the team from Harvard Law School was crowned champion.



# TYLA LOCAL AFFILIATES

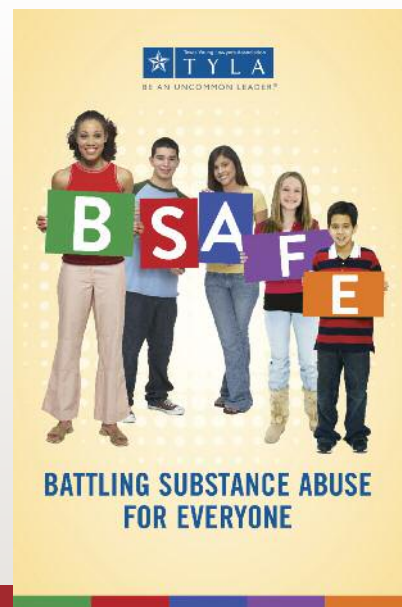
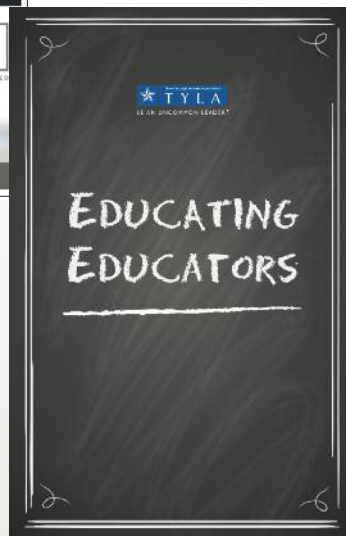
TYLA's goal is to serve young lawyers by assisting in fostering a relationship between young lawyers and their local affiliate bar associations across the State of Texas.



## Bar Leaders Conference

The Bar Leaders Conference brings together lawyers in various leadership positions with local bar organizations and young lawyer affiliates from across the state to exchange ideas on projects and encourage participation in bar activities.

The 2015 conference was held July 24-25 at the Westin Galleria Houston and was attended by more than 70 young lawyers from local affiliates across Texas. TYLA sponsored the networking event *Meeting Uncommon Leaders* at Mariposa in Neiman Marcus. The highlight for TYLA's portion of the conference was the session *Projects, Projects, Projects*, during which representatives from TYLA highlighted recent projects and local affiliates presented their award-winning projects to attendees. *Educating Educators*, *End Bullying Now*, *Know Your Rights*, *Battling Substance Abuse for Everyone*, and *Breaking the Silence* were featured. Local affiliates presented information about projects, including Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association's *Burgers with the Bench*, Austin Young Lawyers Association's *Lawyerling 101* and the Smith County Bar Association's and Young Lawyers Association's *Java with the Judges*.





## TYLA Road Shows

TYLA Roadshows are designed to assist local bar associations in providing quality leadership and CLE programs to their members at no cost. Roadshows conducted in 2015-2016 included the baby prosecutor school event hosted by Texas district and county attorneys in Austin and attended by 150 people.

## TYLA Facilitates Business Development with Business Community Project

Through TYLA's new Business Community project, young lawyers were provided with a forum to conduct business development in their local community. Hosted in two cities, Midland and Houston, young lawyers were able to network with other professionals outside the legal profession. First, the Midland and Ector County local affiliates hosted an oil and gas title attorney, a senior petroleum landman, and a probate and estate planning attorney panel at the Petroleum Club of Midland. Houston hosted the Healthcare Business Partners breakfast featuring hospital executives and the general counsel of Texas Children's Hospital.



## Grants

TYLA supports its affiliated young lawyer associations by providing funding to support local programs and projects. The Local Affiliates Committee awarded grants totaling \$21,000 to 13 different local affiliates. The grants provide assistance for service projects that benefit the community, including educational and networking programs that offer opportunities for local young lawyers and scholarships and internships that assist students in law school.

## Local Affiliate 2016 Awards of Achievement Winners

The Awards of Achievement Program provides TYLA affiliates the opportunity to submit their best project for evaluation and recognition. The awards are designed to encourage project development by recognizing the time, effort, and skills expended by these affiliates in implementing public and professional service in their communities. This year, TYLA recognized the following young lawyer organizations for their impactful projects and programs:

### LARGE CITY

#### Comprehensive

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

#### Service to the Bar

- 1st: Houston Young Lawyers Association:  
*HYLA CLE Programming*
- 2nd: Dallas Association of Young Lawyers:  
*Trial Skills Bootcamp*
- 3rd: Austin Young Lawyers Association: *Ethics CLE Bus*

#### Service to the Public

- 1st: Dallas Association of Young Lawyers:  
*Crawfest: Claws for a Cause*
- 2nd: Houston Young Lawyers Association: *Lean In To Law*
- 3rd: Austin Young Lawyers Association: *Austin Reentry Ambassador Program*

#### Diversity Project

- 1st: Houston Young Lawyers Association:  
*Diversity Speed Mentoring and Networking Even*
- 2nd: Dallas Association of Young Lawyers: *The Check Up*

#### Newsletter

- 1st: Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
- 2nd: Houston Young Lawyers Association

### SMALL CITY

#### Comprehensive

- 1st: Tom Green County Young Lawyers Association

#### Service to the Bar

- 1st: Tom Green County Young Lawyers Association:  
*Beer and Brats Networking Event*
- 2nd: Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association:  
*The 14th Biennial Las Vegas CLE*

#### Service to the Public

- 1st: Hidalgo County Young Lawyers Association:  
*The Young Adult DWI Intervention Project*
- 2nd: Tom Green County Young Lawyers Association:  
*Bingo with the Elderly*



BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®



# TYLA 2015-16 HONOREES

## Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Recipient **Kathryn Elizabeth Boatman**

Each year, the Texas Young Lawyers Association presents the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award to one attorney who has exemplified professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community.



Katy is an attorney at Andrews Kurth and practices commercial litigation with an emphasis on the appellate process. The legal profession is replete with leaders who find joy in helping others, but the uncommon leaders are hard to find. Ms. Boatman is an uncommon leader whose nature sets her apart from others. Her jovial personality is infectious. Ms. Boatman represents the legal profession well and has been vital to TYLA's success in many of its projects. Ms. Boatman clerked at the 5th Circuit for the Hon. Jennifer Walker Elrod. She has successfully represented parties in civil rights cases and has handled multiple pro bono appellate cases. Ms. Boatman has been recognized as a Texas Rising Star by *Texas Monthly* for the past three years and has dedicated significant time to organizations like The Women's

Home, which provides resources to homeless women in the Houston area. She also volunteers and financially supports the Houston Urban Debate League, an organization that provides free debate programming to inner-city Houston schools. Ms. Boatman serves on the Young Professionals Council, wherein she volunteers to judge and coach students. Ms. Boatman's interaction with other attorneys and their staff promotes a positive and productive work environment, orchestrated directly by Ms. Boatman's supreme example of leadership. Ms. Boatman's ability to see beyond boundaries, focused only on the benefits to others represents invaluable service to her community and to the bar.

## Liberty Bell Award Recipient **Lisa Rush**

The Texas Young Lawyers Association presents this annual award to one outstanding nonlawyer who has made the most selfless contribution to his or her community to strengthen the effectiveness of the American system of justice. The Liberty Bell Award recognizes categories of community service that: (1) promote a better understanding of our government, especially the Bill of Rights; (2) encourage a greater respect for the law and the courts; (3) stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility of citizens' rights and duties; (4) contribute to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and (5) instill a better understanding and appreciation of the law.



Lisa is the director of the Travis County Law Library and Self-Help Center in Austin. Ms. Rush had an innovative idea to expand with a self-help center. The center provides assistance with uncontested family law matters, as well as occupational driver's licenses, expunctions, and landlord-tenant issues. She develops handouts and graphics to explain the complicated court processes and advocates to judges and county commissioners to change policies and allocate resources to help unrepresented litigants understand and navigate the court system. Ms. Rush ensures that every person who walks through the door is warmly greeted and provided resources to help them get the legal resolution

they seek in a timely and expeditious manner. Ms. Rush participates in statewide and national forums to improve access to justice for all people no matter their income and is a star in the access to justice movement at both a state and national levels. Ms. Rush has received national recognition for her work at the Travis County Law Library. The work that she has accomplished over the past 15 years exemplifies a love of community services, that which promotes better understanding of the core principles of American government—equal access to the courts.



## Outstanding Mentor Award Recipient

### Hon. William Harris, 233rd District Court

The Texas Young Lawyers Association presents the Outstanding Mentor Award to the attorney who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to mentoring young lawyers in his or her legal community.



Hon. William Harris is the judge of the 233rd Judicial District Court in Tarrant County. Judge Harris is well known for his commitment to young lawyers including his “Long Lunch Thursday” seminars. These seminars include educational talks from him on the basic and “not so basic” areas of the law. Something else that is unique to Judge Harris is that he is known for spending time and having coffee with young lawyers (and the not so young lawyers) most mornings in the Tarrant County Lawyers Lounge. During these coffee meetings, Judge Harris can be found having conversations with lawyers offering up words of wisdom on the practice of law. Judge Harris has always had an open door policy

in his court and spends time with lawyers working through their struggles and directing their advocacy to be more prepared and persuasive in the courtroom.

## Texas Young Lawyers Association President’s Award Recipient

### Aaron J. Burke

The President’s Award is given at the discretion of the Texas Young Lawyers Association’s president based on outstanding service to TYLA by TYLA directors, committee chairs, committee members, or other individuals who have played a vital role in furthering the objectives of the association.



Aaron Burke is an associate with the firm of Hartline Dacus Barger Dreyer, LLP in Dallas. Aaron has served on a number of committees during his three years on the board to include the law focused education, competitions and service to the public committees. He served as the project lead for this year’s major project, *And Justice For All*, which focuses on educating attorneys on how they can avoid mistakes that lead to wrongful convictions. Aaron’s work-ethic and attention to detail have been pivotal in bringing this project to the public and the bar. But, this is not the only project Aaron has assisted on during his time on the TYLA Board. Aaron has also played a major role in helping create

TYLA’s *Just Drive Campaign* and *End Bullying Now* projects as well as assisting in helping start an Educator Externship program that will be launched in the future. He has been a devoted volunteer and committee member of the *National Trial Competition* the last three years. Aaron is a quiet worker whose efforts are recognized and valued by the board and are deserving of this recognition.



## Joseph M. Pritchard Inn Outstanding Director Award Recipient Courtney Barksdale Perez

The Joseph M. Pritchard Inn of former and current officers and directors of the Texas Young Lawyers Association was established in 1979 in honor of the late Joseph M. Pritchard, a former TYLA director and active civic leader. The Inn is pledged to support the programs and objectives of TYLA and annually presents the Joseph M. Pritchard Inn Outstanding Director Award to the TYLA director who has shown outstanding leadership and exemplary efforts to further the projects and purposes of the Texas Young Lawyers Association.



Courtney is an attorney at Carter, Scholer, Arnett, Hamada, & Mockler, PLLC and practices in the areas of labor and employment and business litigation. Although Courtney has only served on the TYLA board for one year she has been an active member of our TYLA committees for several years including working on our nationally recognized *National Trial Competition*, which is hosted in conjunction with the American College of Trial Lawyers. She has served on the diversity, member outreach, and competitions committees over the last year. Even before officially starting on the board, Courtney single-handedly completed the *How to Do a Pro Bono Clemency Petition* project. It is no surprise that she then proposed and served as project lead for one of our major diversity projects, *Pregnancy and the Workplace: Know Your Rights, A Guide for Employees and Know Your Obligations, A Guide for Employers* including the corresponding *Ten Minute Mentor* video. While she has been active for years with our National Trial Competition program, her leadership on the board this past year has been invaluable especially when you consider she also assisted with our *Lawyers who Lunch* blog, the *Strength in Unity Push Card*, and our monthly *eNews*. Courtney is truly deserving of this award for all her tremendous work this year.

## Texas Young Lawyers Association Keith L. Krueger Award Recipient Jenny Smith

The Keith L. Krueger Leadership Award is named in honor of the late Keith L. Krueger, a former secretary of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, who passed away on July 14, 2012. During his tenure on the TYLA board, Keith selflessly and tirelessly worked to further the objectives of the association. This award is given at the discretion of the Texas Young Lawyer Association's president and director of administration to a TYLA board member who exhibits the same leadership skills as Keith: (1) leads by example; (2) exhibits the highest integrity; (3) demonstrates a commitment and passion for public service; and (4) earns the respect and trust of the board through hard work and fun.



Jenny is an attorney at Cobb & Counsel, PLLC in Austin where she practices in business and regulatory litigation. During her time on the TYLA board, Jenny has served on the diversity, law focused education, public service in the community, competitions, and online member service committees. She served as a project lead for TYLA's major project of the year, *And Justice for All*, and she was instrumental in securing funds for this project to ensure it was completed this year. She has also worked on other TYLA projects that include: *Pro Se Litigator Flashcard*, *Distance Lawyering*, *End Bullying Now*, *TYLA eNews*, *the National Trial Competition*, *the State Moot Court Competition*, *Strength in Unity*, and *TYLA Just Drive Campaign*. Most importantly though, through it all, Jenny has led by example in action and not merely words. She has exhibited impeccable integrity, she has demonstrated a commitment and passion for public service, and she has earned the respect and trust of the board through her hard work and attitude.

## Texas Young Lawyers Association Outstanding First Year Director Award

### Sara Giddings

The Outstanding First Year Director Award is given at the discretion of the president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association based on outstanding service by a director during his or her first year on the TYLA board.



Sara is an attorney at Smith Rose Finley, PC in San Angelo where she practices in the areas of tax, estate planning, and business law. Sara served on the public service and member outreach committees in her first year. However, unofficially, she has played a part this year in almost every TYLA committee. As evidence of that fact, she participated in the production of *Cyclist Be Careful*, *How to Get Involved on Nonprofit Boards*, *Permanent Kinship Placement*, *Local Affiliate Toolkit*, and *the Family Law for Service Members*. She also single-handedly reorganized the project, *Breaking the Silence*, bringing it into its current format. She planned and participated in four panel discussions around the state in which attorneys shared with others their personal accounts of struggling with mental health issues as well as alcohol and drug dependency issues. Also present at these panels were mental health experts who taught audience members how to identify and assist others who show the signs of struggling with these problems. Sara has made a tremendous impact on the Board and the profession as a whole through her personal sacrifice and valiant efforts to address the most personal issues members of the bar face.

## Texas Young Lawyers Association President's Award of Merit Recipients

The President's Award of Merit is given at the discretion of the Texas Young Lawyers Association's president to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to the furtherance of the goals and objectives of TYLA, or who have performed above and beyond the call of duty while conducting the business of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. This year's awards are presented to individuals who put forth exceptional efforts on behalf of TYLA through their committee service. This year's recipients are:

Raymond J. Baeza, *El Paso*  
Aaron T. Capps, *Dallas*  
Kimberly C. Clark, *Huntsville*  
Scott Collins, *Dallas*  
Patricia Cummings, *Dallas*  
Matt Dill, *Cleburne*  
Victor Flores, *McAllen*  
Lt. Antoine Lane, *Austin*  
Bryan D. Mackay, *Odessa*  
Rudolph K. Metayer, *Austin*  
Dean Andrew P. Morriss, *Fort Worth*  
Amanda N. Torres, *Corpus Christi*  
Baylor Wortham, *Beaumont*



# TYLA SOCIAL MEDIA

## eNews



*eNews* is a monthly newsletter that is emailed to the entire Texas Young Lawyers Association. It features several regular columns including a top story, TYLA Project Spotlight, Local Affiliate Spotlight, Young Lawyer Spotlight, Law Student feature, Tips for Young Lawyers, and an editor's column. Even with regular updates through social media, TYLA's *eNews* helps keep young lawyers up to date on local and statewide projects, highlights new legal topics, and features local affiliate accomplishments.

## TYLA.org

The [tyla.org](http://tyla.org) website disseminates TYLA projects and materials worldwide and has increased its web traffic and viewers every year.



## Ten Minute Mentor

*Ten Minute Mentor* ([www.tenminutementor.com](http://www.tenminutementor.com)) is an online collection of video presentations from leading lawyers in their areas of expertise. Each video presentation is educational and full of practical advice on a wide range of topics relevant to young lawyers. All *Ten Minute Mentor* videos may be viewed on [tyla.org](http://tyla.org). This year, TYLA recorded 18 new and updated segments, including:



*Preparing and Proving (or Opposing) Claims for Attorneys' Fees*  
*Enforcing and Avoiding Arbitration Clauses*  
*Preparing Witnesses*  
*Pointers for the Courtroom*  
*Things Every Texas Attorney Should Know about Franchise Law*  
*Top Ten Evidence Issues at Trial (Civil)*  
*Using Technology in the Courtroom*  
*Challenges of Protecting Expert Witnesses Under Daubert/Robinson*  
*Jury Arguments*

*Jury Selection*  
*Objectives for Conducting an Effective Voir Dire*  
*Tips on Making a Closing Argument*  
*What to do when a Witness Takes the 5th*  
*Resources Available to Serve Veterans, Servicemembers, and their Families*  
*Drug Court Process*  
*Punishment Evidence*  
*Panel Discussion on Pregnancy in the Workplace*  
*AFV Victim's FAQs*





**TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2015-16**



# MAKING AN IMPACT

The Texas Young Lawyers Association is commonly known as the public service arm of the State Bar of Texas. TYLA will continue to serve our public service mission in the upcoming year. In particular, next year's theme is "Be Impactful," and we will continue to work to make a difference in the lives of Texas citizens and Texas lawyers. Below are a few of our planned projects.

**I Was the First. You Can Be a Lawyer Too!** – This "pipeline" project is inspired by the State Bar's *I Was the First. Vote for Me!* and TYLA's *What Do Lawyers Do?* projects. TYLA will create and implement a video project and website that will highlight lawyers who were the first in their families to get a legal education and went on to make significant contributions to Texas and the nation.



**Guardianship Guide** – This pamphlet will address what happens after a guardianship of a person and/or an estate is established by a court. It will discuss the ongoing duties and responsibilities of a guardian of the person and estate. It will also highlight the recent legislative changes, including the Ward's Bill of Rights, and provide basic forms for an annual report of the person and an annual accounting that a pro se individual can use to stay in compliance with court orders and the Texas Estates Code.

**Sexual Assault Survivor Rights Guide** – This guide will address legal issues, and legal hurdles that victims of sexual assault may encounter as they seek to bring an alleged perpetrator to justice. The guide will also discuss the criminal justice system generally, victim interaction with law enforcement agencies, and courts. In addition, the guide will emphasize the rights afforded to college and high school students who may be victims of sexual assault. In that connection, the guide will address administrative disciplinary processes that may be used by educational institutions.

**Divorce Guide for Children** – This video and accompanying pamphlet will educate children on what to expect when their parents are going through a divorce or a custody battle. The project will address standard possession schedules, child support, and the general litigation process. TYLA will partner with educators and mental health professionals to learn what issues most impact children to ensure those issues are specifically addressed.

**Client Development and Client Management Resource Guide** – This guide will help young lawyers with client development and client management issues. The guide will discuss strategies to grow a practice, including client-interviewing tips, ethical issues associated with attorney advertising and the creation of the attorney-client relationship, and administrative issues such as engagement letters and retainers. In addition, the guide will provide information and tips for young lawyers regarding client expectation management, fee disputes, and other issues that may arise during the attorney-client relationship.

I urge you to stand with us as we strive to make an impact in Texas. Whether you are a seasoned bar leader in your community or have not become involved in bar leadership, there is a place for you at TYLA. We are always looking for partners and volunteers. To learn more about TYLA, please visit [www.tyla.org](http://www.tyla.org). We would love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Houston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sam" and last name "Houston" clearly distinguishable.

Sam Houston  
President 2016-2017  
Texas Young Lawyers Association



BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®

Texas Young Lawyers Association

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