

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

PROVIDING
HELPING HANDS
ACROSS TEXAS

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



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

HELPING HANDS ACROSS TEXAS

Over the course of 2013-2014, TYLA has provided helping hands all across the State with amazing service.

Each month, TYLA rolled out its *Generation Generosity* project – performing over 14 public service projects across the State including: Veterans clinics, events for Texas foster children, food and clothing bank events, retirement facility events, and participating in the Summer and Winter Special Olympics.

In the Fall, TYLA debuted its Pocket Guide and Toolkit series entitled *Social Media 101*, *Grievance and Malpractice 101*, and *TYLA's Family Law, Tax Controversy, and Misdemeanor Drug Offense Toolkits*. These guides provide a quick reference for lawyers on the ethical and State Bar rules governing lawyer advertisements in social media and the grievance & malpractice process. The Toolkits provide lawyers with guides for proving up evidence, objections, guidelines and checklists for case strategy and issues that are involved in that type of law, appellate tips, and resources. TYLA also held over 10 free CLE's this year across the State and expanded its Ten Minute Mentor project by adding 31 new videos to the website.



In the Spring, TYLA rolled out a series of guides it created to help educate the public and guide them through important legal topics such as: *Breath Free: A Guide to Immigration*, *Identity Theft*, *The Texas Juvenile Justice System – What You Need to Know*, and *How to Sue in Justice Court*. TYLA also partnered with the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (DAYL), and the Texas Lawyers for Children (TLC) to create the Foster Children Education Advocate Project to advocate for Texas children in foster care.

TYLA tackled the tough issue of substance abuse through its project entitled *BSAFE: Battling Substance Abuse for Everyone* that was generously funded by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation. *BSAFE* educates youth about the dangers and real life consequences of substance abuse, provides resources to those who are struggling with substance abuse and their families, and educates the public about the use of drug courts to help deal with substance abuse issues and the benefits these special courts provide.

As we wrap up the year, TYLA has one final project it will implementing for its health and fitness initiative it started this year. During the Annual Meeting, TYLA will be holding its first annual fun run/walk on Saturday, June 28th at Lady Bird Lake in Austin. The event will begin at 7:00 a.m. We hope to see you there!

This is only a small snapshot of all the amazing projects and work TYLA has completed this year. We hope you will take a look at the following pages of this report to see all of the projects TYLA's board and committee members have created and performed this year.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president and chair this year. We hope we made you proud to be a Texas lawyer!

Kristy Blanchard
President 2013–2014
Texas Young Lawyers Association

Cameron J. Cox
Chair 2013–2014
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 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 student, a law school dean, and a member of the Access to Justice Commission.

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**Minority At-Large Director,
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 County Court at Law



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District 12
 Wood, Boykin & Wolter, P.C.



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 Travis County Office of
 Parental Representation



Baylor Wortham
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District 16
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Supreme Court Liaison
 Supreme Court of Texas



Clint Harbour
Access To Justice Liaison
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ABA YLD District 25
Representative
 St. Luke's Health



Travis Patterson
ABA YLD District 26
Representative
 Shannon, Gracey,
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Law School Liaison
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 School of Law



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Law Student Liaison
 Texas Tech University
 School of Law



TYLA HANDS IN TEXAS SCHOOLS

BSAFE - BATTLING SUBSTANCE ABUSE FOR EVERYONE

TYLA created a multimedia production to help educate youth about the dangers and real-life consequences of substance abuse, provide resources to those who are struggling with substance abuse and their families, and to educate the public about the use of drug courts to help deal with substance abuse issues and the benefits these special courts provide. The DVD component includes a peer-to-peer video, a parent and teacher video, and a drug court video. The *BSAFE* project is made possible thanks to the generous grant from the Texas Bar Foundation.

The project also includes a written guide for parents and teachers that educates about the warning signs and indicators, what to do if you have suspicions of substance abuse, and life-savings links.

Rollouts of *BSAFE* have been presented across the state in schools, churches, and organizations that work with children, parents, and teachers. More than 1,000 DVDs of *BSAFE* have been distributed, and the project has been featured by numerous organizations, including the Texas Association of Drug Court Professionals, and in many publications such as the *Texas Bar Journal*.



This is an amazing project and I am really grateful to TYLA and all the people on the project for being willing to get this very important message out there in the public!

— Judge Cyndi Wheless
417th Judicial District Court, Collin County, Texas



VOTE AMERICA! HONOR THE FIGHT, EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT

To remind us of our civic duty, *Vote America!* educated students about the heroic efforts made for equality and democracy. The struggles of the civil rights era and the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution are all chronicled in this important educational video. This year, TYLA presented *Vote America!* to students with the Jack and Jill Organization in Dallas.



R U SAFE?

The award-winning program *R U Safe?* was designed to educate children and their parents about online dangers and provide them with the tools they need to be safe while online. *R U Safe?* is intended to serve students at the elementary, middle school, and high school levels and also contains a section for parents. Using experts from law enforcement and child advocacy groups, the four-part video covers a wide-range of topics, from cyberbullying, social networking sites, and chat rooms to sexting, and online predators. In 2013-2014, TYLA presented *R U Safe?* to schools and teachers across Texas and distributed more than 350 copies of this project to Texas citizens. *R U Safe?* project was made possible by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation.



THEY HAD A DREAM TOO



They Had a Dream: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement is an Emmy Award-winning 11th- and 12th-grade curriculum project that was made possible by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation. It consists of a 28-minute film highlighting the achievements of a few of the thousands of young people who made a difference in the 1950s and 1960s when the struggle for civil rights reached

its peak in the United States. The film features interviews with people who as young adults changed their lives. The film also includes a component that educates students about civil rights and challenges young people to become leaders today. Educators are provided with a curriculum regarding the TEKS and TAKS credits that are covered by this project.

TYLA HANDS IN THE COMMUNITY

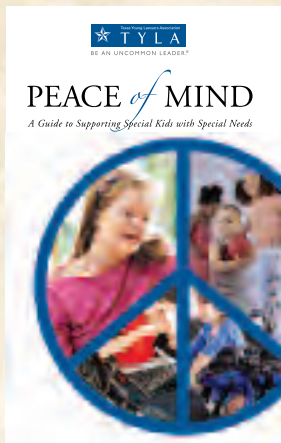
GENERATION GENEROSITY

In 2013, TYLA partnered with the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers to take its initiative entitled *Generation Generosity* statewide. With this project, TYLA partnered with local affiliates across the state to implement at least one public service event each month. TYLA held public service events with this project, including:



- August 2013—TYLA partnered with the Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association to put on a veterans clinic.
- September 2013—TYLA partnered with Gillespie County lawyers to put on a Veterans clinic for Gillespie County area veterans and their surviving spouses.
- October 2013—TYLA partnered with the College Station Young Lawyers to attend the Special Olympics to hand out free legal resources to parents and guardians of special needs children in attendance.
- November 2013—TYLA went to the Lubbock Children’s Home and put on a field day with the foster children who live there. TYLA donated more than \$700 for sports equipment for the home and more than \$500 for Christmas gifts for the children.
- December 2013—TYLA participated in the Austin Young Lawyers Association’s Reindeer Games and helped foster children make Christmas ornaments.
- January 2014—TYLA went to the Tarrant Area Food Bank and helped sort food for the facility.
- January 2014—TYLA put on a bingo event for a local retirement facility in Fort Worth.
- February 2014—TYLA partnered with the Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association and worked at the garden at the High Plains Food Bank.
- March 2014—TYLA joined with the Houston Bar Association and put on a drive to benefit young people aging out of Harris County’s foster care system.
- April 2014—TYLA partnered with the Susan G. Komen Foundation in San Antonio to write cards of encouragement to women diagnosed with breast cancer.
- May 2014—TYLA partnered with the Dallas Bar Association Home Project in Dallas where TYLA provided manual labor for the Habitat for Humanity event.
- May 2014—TYLA attended the Special Olympics in Arlington to hand out free legal resources to parents and guardians of special needs children in attendance.
- May 2014—TYLA partnered with Van Zandt County area lawyers to put on a veterans clinic for Van Zandt County area veterans and their surviving spouses.
- June 2014—TYLA held a book drive and donated new and unused children’s books to the Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, which is located in Austin.





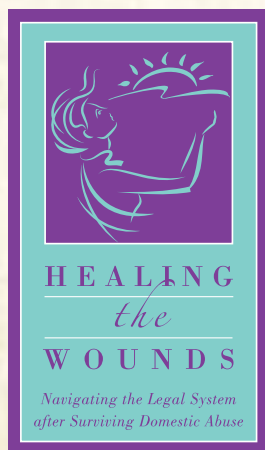
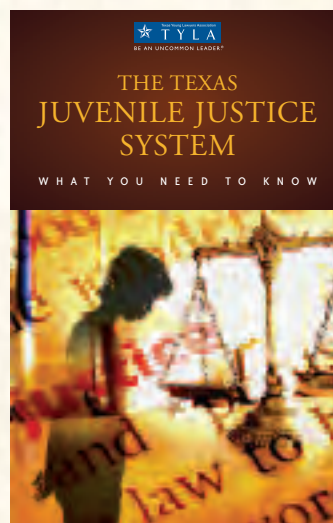
PEACE OF MIND

Peace of Mind is a comprehensive booklet designed to educate families about the need to protect and secure the future of their special-needs child. 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 February, 2013, and in May, 2014, TYLA participated in the Winter and Summer Special Olympic Games by distributing copies of *Peace of Mind* and offering free legal advice to parents and guardians in attendance with special-needs children. This year TYLA distributed more than 500 copies of *Peace of Mind* to attendees at the Special Olympics.



THE TEXAS JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Texas juvenile justice system can be confusing and complicated to citizens if they are not familiar with the court process and how it works. TYLA created *The Texas Juvenile Justice System Guide* to provide youth and their parents and guardians basic information about the court process and procedures, the rights and options available, penalties, answers to the most frequently asked questions, and resources. The handbook is available in print or can be downloaded from the TYLA website at tyla.org.



HEALING THE WOUNDS: LADIES NIGHT OUT EVENTS

TYLA and the Brazos Valley Young Lawyers Association hosted a “Ladies Night Out”—an evening of fellowship, relaxation, and a meal—in conjunction with Phoebe’s Home in Bryan, Texas. Phoebe’s Home residents and their children shared in, and participants received free legal advice and resources, dinner, babysitting, and a spa package that was all donated by local lawyers and vendors. Local attorneys and TYLA board members presented the TYLA video project *Healing the Wounds*, which discusses navigating the legal system After surviving domestic abuse, to the residents of Phoebe's Home. The lawyers also doubled as babysitters to give the moms a break, and led the children in an "owl inspired" Valentine's Day craft.



THE LITTLE VOICE



The Little Voice

Recognizing Child Abuse and Your Duty to Report It

The Little Voice was created to educate the public about recognizing child abuse and the duty to report it. The award-winning program reaches Texans through its bilingual video, pamphlets, magnets, pushcards, posters, and public service announcements outlining the legal and ethical duties we all have to protect children who are unable to protect themselves. In 2013, TYLA participated in both Conferences on Crimes Against Children and Crimes Against Women in Dallas, highlighting . More than 5,000 professionals from the fields of law enforcement, prosecution work, children’s advocacy, therapy, and medicine who work directly with victims of crime attended the events. This year

TYLA distributed more than 500 copies of the DVD and project materials.

In March, TYLA participated in the Prevent Child Abuse Texas Conference in San Antonio, which was attended by more than 900 professionals who work with children in schools, organizations, medical offices, law enforcement, therapy, and CPS cases. TYLA distributed more than 300 copies of the DVD and project materials at this event.

This year TYLA also presented *The Little Voice* at three events held for groups of lawyers, teachers, church employees, child-care workers, parents, and the general public. Each attendee received a copy of the DVD, pamphlets, and other marketing materials for this project.

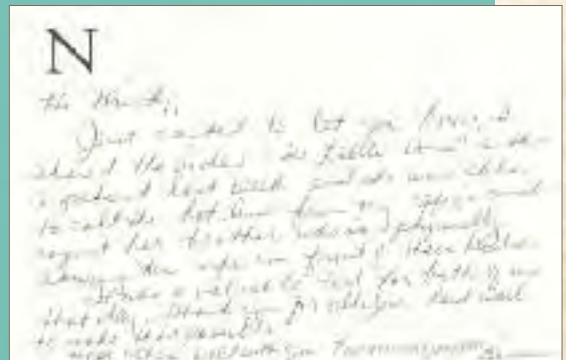


Dear Kristy,

Once again I want to thank you for speaking to the Parish Safe Environment Directors (60) on April 10, 2014, for the Catholic Diocese of Dallas. The training you provided on the videos entitled: "Slavery Out of the Shadows," "The Little Voice," "The Unconscious Truth," and "Battling Substance Abuse for Everyone" was so helpful.

We appreciate your willingness to speak to our group and the generosity of the Young Lawyers Association and the Texas Bar. It is all about keeping children safe and we are very grateful for what you are doing.

Warm regards,
Barbara Landregan, MA, MPM
Director Safe Environment





THE FOSTER CHILDREN EDUCATION ADVOCATE PROJECT

In 2012 there were 30,571 Texas children in foster care. Studies show that less than 2% of these foster children receive a bachelor level degree after high school. More than 37% of Texas foster children drop out of school and never receive a diploma or GED. To help combat these issues, TYLA, Dallas Association Young Lawyers (DAYL), and Texas Lawyers for Children (TLC), partnered with Dallas County's Special Guardians/Attorneys Ad Litem (Special Guardians) assigned by the Honorable Cheryl Shannon, 305th Dallas District Court, to create the Foster Children Education Advocate Project to advocate for children in foster care.



This project utilized and trained pro bono attorneys in Dallas and surrounding cities to serve as Education Advocates for foster children to help enhance the educational outcomes for these children. TYLA and its partners provided three free CLE trainings (6.75 hours of free CLE) this year to over 150 lawyers who signed up to serve as advocates for foster children in this project.



BREATH FREE: A GUIDE TO IMMIGRATION

This year TYLA created *Breath Free* to educate the public about the immigration process. This project consists of a written handbook that contains information about the immigration process, provides a Q&A on the most frequently asked immigration questions, and resources for members of the public who are affected by immigration issues.



IDENTITY THEFT GUIDE

In 2012, there were more than 28,000 reported cases of identity theft in Texas. As of June 2013, Texas ranks fourth in the nation for the highest rate of reported cases of identity theft with 130.3 victims per 100,000 people. To help combat this issue, TYLA created the *Identity Theft Guide* to educate the public about the different types of identity theft, how to protect against it, the laws regarding this issue, and a list of remedies and resources available for victims.



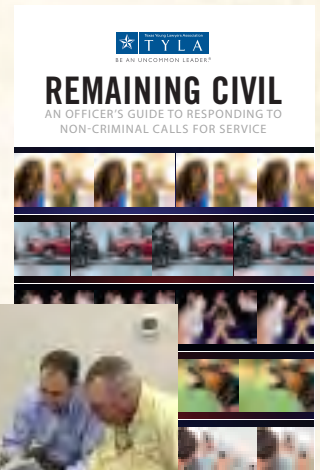


SLAVERY OUT OF THE SHADOWS: SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This year, TYLA presented *Slavery Out of the Shadows* to more than 600 members of the general public, teachers, lawyers, and medical professionals across the state. SOS seeks to build awareness of human trafficking, a global epidemic affecting the lives of tens of thousands of victims within our own borders, through a combination of expert analysis defining the scope and operation of the crime and inspiring personal tales of survivors. SOS includes pamphlets for the general public, teachers, lawyers, and medical professionals.

REMAINING CIVIL: AN OFFICER'S GUIDE TO RESPONDING TO NON-CRIMINAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

Remaining Civil is designed to train officers in best practices when responding to non-criminal calls for service and to educate the community on how to properly resolve their civil complaints without law enforcement involvement. This year, TYLA distributed more than 600 copies of *Remaining Civil* to police officers across the state and held four training events for Texas police officers. The presentations include a certified training block that discusses best practices for answering calls involving domestic disputes, custody disputes, evictions, repossessions, animal calls, and mental health commitments for licensed peace officers.



TEXAS LAWYERS FOR TEXAS VETERANS

TYLA conducted two veterans clinics this year in Gillespie and Van Zandt counties. Members of the TYLA board provided free legal advice, distributed legal resources, and drafted medical and financial powers of attorney for any veterans and their spouses (including surviving spouses) that attended the clinics.



PUBLIC INFORMATION PAMPHLETS

TYLA, at the request of the Public Information Department of the State Bar of Texas, revised the following pamphlets in 2013-2014:

Tenants' Rights Handbook

How To Sue In Justice Court

Pro Se Divorce Handbook

To Will or Not to Will

Texas Probate Passport

Living Trust Scams and the Senior Consumer

Seniors and the Law

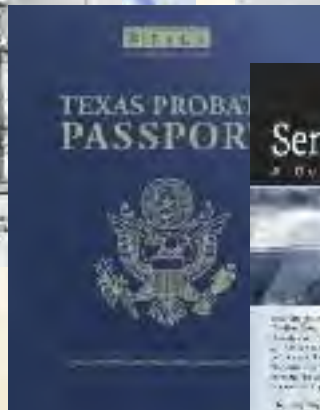
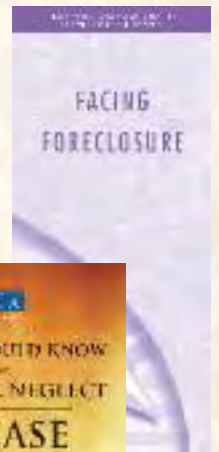
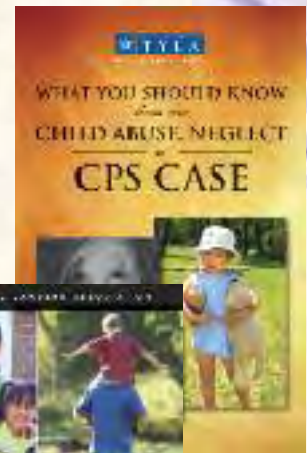
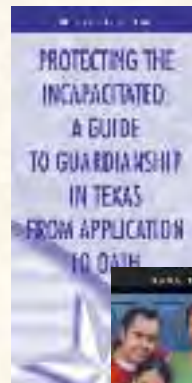
Protecting the Incapacitated Guardianships in Texas

What You Should Know About Texas Family Court

Facing Foreclosure

Employment Guide to General Employment Law

What You Should Know About Your Child Abuse, Neglect and CPS Case



TYLA HAND AND HAND WITH TEXAS MEMBERS

TYLA POCKET GUIDES: SOCIAL MEDIA 101 & GRIEVANCE AND MALPRACTICE 101

TYLA created two pocket guides this year that provide a quick reference for lawyers on the ethical and State Bar rules governing lawyer advertisements in social media and the grievance and malpractice process. TYLA partnered with the Office of Chief Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar and several malpractice attorneys who deal with these matters to create a list of the top issues lawyers should be aware of when advertising via social media and to provide information regarding the grievance and malpractice process. This year, TYLA has distributed more than 1,000 copies of each of these guides and has implemented rollouts of the materials at numerous CLEs and law schools across Texas. The pocket guides have also been featured in several publications since their debut, including *The Texas Bar Journal*, *Texas Lawyer*, and the *Fort Worth Business Journal*.



Dear Ms. Blanchard: My internet staff and I read with avid interest the outstanding TYLA Pocket Guide: Social Media 101 by the Texas Young Lawyers Association. We commend your diligent work and welcome this valuable input to law firms' presence on the Web. Thank you so much for your time, Ms. Blanchard. Your efforts on behalf of all of us are greatly appreciated.

— Jim S. Adler



TYLA TOOLKITS

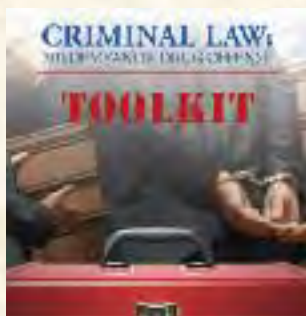


This year TYLA created a series of toolkits that featured practice guides on different areas of law. Lawyers and legal aid organizations can use these tool kits, which contain standard forms, information for proving up evidence and objections, guidelines and checklists for case strategy and issues that are involved in that type of law, appellate tips, resources, and commonly cited law for each practice area. These toolkits can be used as a resource to help familiarize lawyers with these types of law and to help them navigate through their case. TYLA started with the following areas of law and hopes to continue to expand the topics covered each year:

- Family law
- Criminal law: Misdemeanor Drug Offenses
- Tax Controversy

PRO BONO TAX CLE

On February 7, 2014, TYLA partnered with the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Low Income Taxpayer Clinic and the Houston Bar Association, Taxation Section to present “How to Handle a Pro Bono Tax Case” at South Texas College of Law. The CLE provided all attendees with 3.75 hours of free CLE, including .5 of Ethics CLE credit. More than 75 lawyers and law students were trained to take a pro bono tax case with this CLE and the Houston Volunteer Lawyers placed all 17 pro bono cases on its waiting list. In addition, nine pledges were received from attendees to take tax cases before April 15. This CLE taught attendees how to handle a tax controversy case, audit techniques and procedures, work through IRS collections processes, litigate a tax case, use administrative appeals, and use innocent spouse/injured spouse relief.



PRO BONO DIVORCE CLE

TYLA partnered with the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section to put on several free CLEs across the state on “How to Do a Pro Bono Divorce,” which provided 3.75 hours of credit. TYLA and the Family Law Section worked with local legal aid organizations to offer opportunities for participating lawyers to take on pro bono cases after the CLE presentation. Attendees learned how to do a pro bono divorce case and were provided with resources to take home. Law students who attended had the opportunity to help with pro bono cases and were paired with lawyers. This year, TYLA trained more than 300 lawyers and law students to take a pro bono case and successfully placed more than 150 pro bono cases with lawyers. TYLA held these CLEs in the following locations:

- July 2013 - Belo Mansion, Dallas, Texas
- November 2013 – Texas Tech School of Law, Lubbock, Texas
- May 2014 – Austin Bar Association Offices, Austin, Texas



FEDERAL PRACTICE SEMINAR



On May 16, 2014, TYLA held its annual “Federal Courts Practice” CLE at the Crowne Plaza River Oaks in Houston. There were more than 111 lawyers in attendance and the program provided 6.75 hours of CLE to all attendees. This CLE provided excellent instruction on practicing law in federal court from experienced practitioners and sitting federal judges. Attendance at the CLE satisfied the educational requirements for admittance to practice before the Southern District of Texas, as well as the certification requirements for e-filing. The Member Services Outreach Committee worked closely with TexasBarCLE to create the program’s curriculum; recruit expert speakers, including federal judges from each of the four districts; and publicize the seminars to young lawyers across the state. In addition, the committee members also participated in the actual presentation of the seminar, which was videotaped and will be replayed in other cities across the state each year.

OTHER CLE’S PRESENTED BY TYLA

- December 6, 2013 - My First (or next) Arbitration, Austin
- February 28, 2014 – Success Strategies CLE, Houston
- March 26, 2014 – Second Annual Nuts & Bolts of International Law



TYLA E-NEWS

TYLA’s monthly electronic newsletter is distributed to more than 24,000 lawyers each month and provides substantive legal articles and tips for young lawyers, highlights TYLA and local affiliate projects and leaders, and provides young lawyers with the opportunity to author substantive legal articles and tips for other young lawyers.

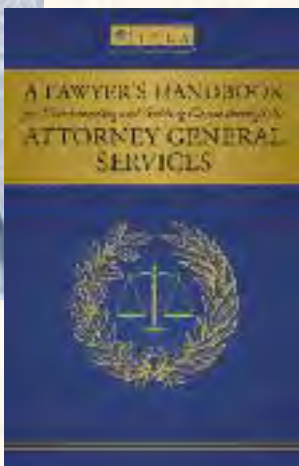
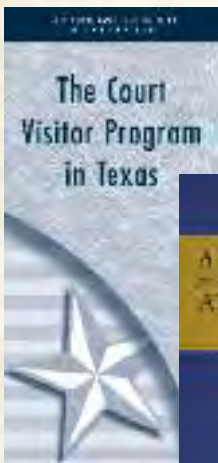


HEALTH & FITNESS INITIATIVE & FIRST ANNUAL TRIAL RUN



To aid in lawyer sustainability, TYLA created a new initiative to educate lawyers about health and fitness, provide resources for lawyers who wish to live a healthy lifestyle, and to offer an annual health and fitness event for lawyers to participate in together. TYLA created an interactive web page that features online resources, such as tips for health and fitness, training guides and plans, and information on local workout groups and events throughout the state. These resources can be found at tyla.org. TYLA also created a Pinterest page at www.pinterest.com/tylahealth that includes an informational and fun Pinterest board where TYLA members can share—via “pins”—health and fitness information, training goals, and community events. Pinterest and the web page provide a variety of opportunities to engage members and encourage participation in the health awareness initiative.

As part of the health and fitness initiative, TYLA will hold its first annual Trial Run during the State Bar Annual Meeting. The fun run/walk will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2014, at Lady Bird Park in Austin. The event will begin at 7:00 a.m. All lawyers are invited to join in on a 5K run or walk before attending a day of informative CLE presentations. TYLA is also assisting local Young Lawyer Affiliates with hosting their own 5k run or walk on the same date.



COURT VISITOR GUIDE

In an effort to assist courts and lawyers who are involved in guardianship matters, TYLA created The Court Visitor Guide, which educates attorneys about what a court visitor is (appointed by a court in a court-appointed guardianship matter), what the court-appointed lawyer’s duties are when serving as a court visitor, and what to expect when visiting with the ward they were appointed to represent.

A LAWYER’S HANDBOOK FOR UNDERSTANDING AND GUIDING CLIENTS THROUGH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SERVICES

In an effort to help navigate lawyers through cases involving the Attorney General’s office and to outline all of the benefits and resources available through the Attorney General, TYLA created a guide entitled *A Lawyer's Handbook for Understanding and Guiding Client through the Attorney General Process*. The purpose of the handbook is to help attorneys understand the Attorney General's office, the services they provide, answers to commonly asked questions, and resources to help attorneys represent or guide clients through cases they have through the AG's office. The committee researched services offered by the Attorney General's Office, as well as procedures that are to be followed by individuals participating in Attorney General proceedings and included these in this easy to read and very informative guide.



TEN MINUTE MENTOR UPDATES

Ten Minute Mentor (www.tenminutementor.com) features short, 10-minute video segments on a wide range of topics useful to Texas lawyers. The presenters include legal legends, respected jurists, experts in their fields, as well as a number of young attorneys. Best of all, Ten Minute Mentor is free.

This year, TYLA recorded 31 new and updated segments, including:

- Mediating Family Law Cases*
- Bankruptcy*
- Collaborative law*
- Foreclosure*
- E-Discovery*
- Taking your first deposition*
- Ethics and Professionalism for New Lawyers*
- Amicus Ad Litem*
- Economic Contribution – Reimbursement*
- Plaintiff's Medical Expenses – Paid or incurred*
- Practical Aspects of Injunctive Relief*
- Preparing and Proving Civil Claims for Attorney's Fees*
- Preparing Witnesses*
- Designating Responsible Third Parties*
- 10 Things to know before appearing in Federal Court*
- Relationships with lawyers and professionalism*
- A three-point checklist for the admission of documents*
- Challenging a juror for cause and preserving error*
- Opening statements*
- Municipal Court*
- 10 Things to remember about estate planning*
- Importance of local rules*
- My first bench trial*
- My first mediation*
- My first jury trial*



TEN MINUTE MENTOR

HAND IN HAND FOR DIVERSITY

DIVERSITY DINNER FEATURING REV. PETER JOHNSON



On January 16, 2014, TYLA's Minority Involvement Committee partnered with the Tarrant County Bar Association and the Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association to bring this year's TYLA Diversity Dinner to the Fort Worth Club. More than 100 leaders and community activists from across Texas came together to discuss civil rights and explore diversity in the legal community, with the added benefit of 1.5 hours of CLE credit.

This year's keynote speaker, Rev. Peter Johnson, was a leader in the civil rights movement and is the founder and CEO of the Peter Johnson Institute of Non-Violence. He spoke about his work in the civil rights movement with the late Martin Luther King Jr. and talked about what can be done in today's society to further the goals and lessons taught during that turbulent time in history. At the event, TYLA President Kristy Blanchard presented Rev. Johnson with a Presidential Citation for his tremendous work and lifetime commitment to the civil rights movement.



The event also featured a presentation by Katherine and Isabelle Adams, ages 8 and 11, who founded the nonprofit organization *Paper for Water*. To date, these young ladies have raised over \$380,000 to fund water wells in third world countries by selling hand crafted origami Christmas ornaments.



OVERCOMING BIASES AND BOUNDARIES CLE

TYLA's Minority Involvement Committee partnered with the Austin Young Lawyers Association to organize and present a new educational CLE titled "Overcoming Biases and Boundaries." The 40 attorneys who attended the event, which was held on March 21, 2014, at the Texas Law Center, received 1.5 hours of free CLE ethics credit. A panel of five speakers, including three lawyers who have physical or medical disabilities, a representative of the Office of Chief Disciplinary Council, and a representative from the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program discussed the different disabilities lawyers face, how to overcome these disabilities to have a successful law practice, the services available to lawyers with these issues, and the importance of creating a contingency plan in the event some form of disability occurs that may affect a lawyer's ability to service clients. TYLA has the video for this CLE available for viewing at www.tyla.org



HELPING HANDS IN TEXAS LAW SCHOOLS

LAW STUDENT OUTREACH

The Law Student Outreach Committee conducts projects focusing on preparing Texas law students for the practice of law. The committee emphasizes professionalism, ethics, and law practice management and coordinates with Texas law schools to increase opportunities for students to partner with TYLA on initiatives.

This year, the committee worked with each law school's administration and student representatives to speak at each school's fall orientations. The committee also worked with career services officers to promote various projects and resources available to law students and young lawyers, which include:

- *Office in a Flash*— Provides young lawyers with information on various topics relevant to establishing a law practice, including materials on business plans, firm structure, office logistics, technology, and revenue management.
- *Ten Minute Mentor Goes to Law School*— Features short video segments on topics useful to law school students, such as the ins and outs of practicing law, tips for law school, advice on taking exams, bar exam preparation recommendations, and job search information, to name a few.
- *Social Media 101*— A quick reference for new lawyers on the ethical and State Bar rules governing attorney advertising and social social media, including a list of the top issues lawyers should be aware of when advertising themselves via social media.
- *Grievance and Malpractice 101*—A quick reference for new lawyers on the grievance and malpractice process, including a list of the top issues facing lawyers, how to prevent a grievance or malpractice suit, and what to do if a lawyer is ever faced with these issues.
- *How to Get a Job After Law School: The Unclassified Story*—A series of seminars and resources designed to share thoughts and ideas with law students on how to find employment after graduation.
- *Pro Bono Divorce CLE*—A series of free CLE's that provides training on everything a lawyer or law student needs to know to do a pro bono divorce.
- *Financial Resources Guide for a Public Interest Career*—This pamphlet provides a summary of strategies and resources that law students may find useful when determining whether to pursue a career in government or public interest law.
- *What Do Lawyers Do?*—An interactive web-based project designed to educate high school, college, and law school students about how to become a lawyer, how to prepare for law school, the law school experience, and different career paths for law school graduates.





HOW TO GET A JOB AFTER LAW SCHOOL: THE UNCLASSIFIED STORY



After communicating with each law school’s career services officer and State Bar Law Student Division representatives, TYLA determined that a majority of law students were unsure about the job market for legal professionals. The committee presented “How to Get a Job After Law School: The Unclassified Story” to nearly half of all the law schools in Texas to alleviate some of uncertainty about finding employment. Attorneys representing multiple practice areas across across the state offered guidance in a laid-back open forum that encouraged students to voice their concerns and learn from practicing professionals how they found their way into their first job out of law school. Presentations were held at South Texas College of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law, Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law, Texas A&M University School of Law and Southern Methodist University School of Law.

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 while still in law school.



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 TYLA.



2013-2014 ESSAY CONTEST

The annual Law Student Division Essay Contest provides an opportunity to help law students to reflect on this 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.



TYLA MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP

The TYLA 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 that submitted an application. There were a total of 15 applications.

The 2013-2014 scholarship recipients are:



Janelle Cavazos

Texas Tech University School of Law



Travis Gasper

Texas A&M University School of Law



Darina Koleva

University of Houston Law Center



Jana Mims

*Texas Southern University
Thurgood Marshall School of Law*



Samantha Nguyen

South Texas College of Law



Camille Powell

*Southern Methodist University
Dedman School of Law*



Skylar Simons

Baylor Law School



STATE MOOT COURT COMPETITION

TYLA hosted its annual State Moot Court competition in June 2013 during the State Bar Annual Meeting in Dallas. Eight teams from the nine law schools participated in the event.

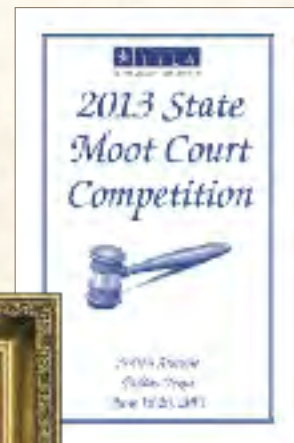
CHAMPION TEAM — Texas Tech University School of Law - Braden Brown, Jamee Cotton and Tanner Hartnett, Coach: Robert T. Sherwin

FINALIST TEAMS — South Texas College of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law

SEMIFINALIST TEAMS — Baylor University School of Law, South Texas College of Law, St. Mary's University School of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law

BEST BRIEF — South Texas College of Law

BEST ORAL ADVOCATE — Jacqueline Hamer, Baylor University School of Law



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 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.

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



2014 NATIONAL CHAMPION TEAM

Yale Law School

Team Members: Hank Moon, John James "JJ." Snidow and Ben Wallace

NATIONAL FINALIST

Loyola Law School, Los Angeles

SEMI FINALIST TEAMS

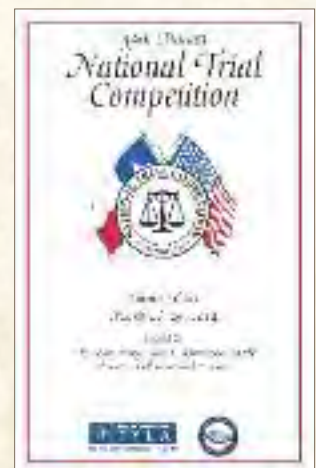
Loyola University Chicago School of Law
Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

QUARTERFINALIST TEAMS

Northwestern University School of Law
Stanford University Law School
Syracuse University College of Law
Temple University Beasley School of Law (Team One)

BEST ORAL ADVOCATE AWARD

Gus Lazares, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law



TYLA JOINING HANDS ACROSS THE STATE WITH LOCAL AFFILIATES

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. The 2013 conference was held July 26-27 at the Westin Galleria in Houston.

More than 70 young lawyers from local affiliates across Texas attended the conference. TYLA also hosted a networking event “Meeting Uncommon Leaders” with the help of generous sponsorships by RGL Forensics and Cloudnine.

TYLA stepped into the spotlight at the conference when leaders presented “Projects, Projects, Projects,” a program that featured recent events and award-winning initiatives such as *Slavery Out of the Shadows*, *Generation Generosity*, *What Do Lawyers Do?*, and *Remaining Civil*. Local affiliates presented information about programs, including Denton County’s *Will Lawyer for Food* and *Salary Survey*, Houston YLA’s *Transitions Program*, and Amarillo YLA’s *Trial Academy*.



GRANTS

TYLA supports its affiliated young lawyer associations by providing funding to support local programs and projects. The Local Affiliates Committee awarded grants totaling \$22,000 to 18 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.



TYLA ROAD SHOWS

TYLA Road Shows are designed to assist local bar associations in providing quality leadership and CLE programs to their members at no cost. Road Shows conducted in 2013-2014 included a “Government Attorneys Road Show” presented at the Tarrant County District Attorney’s Office and an “Ethics Jeopardy Road Show” for young attorneys in Texarkana.



LOCAL AFFILIATE 2014 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 service and professional service projects in their communities. This year, TYLA recognized the following young lawyer organization for finding time to make a difference.

LARGE CITY

Comprehensive

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

Service to the Bar

- 1st — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers—*Wellness Initiatives*
- 2nd — Austin Young Lawyers Association—*Trial Academy*
- 3rd — Houston Young Lawyers Association—*Transitions*

Service to the Public

- 1st — Austin Young Lawyers Association—*Austin Reentry*
- 2nd — Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association—*Generation Generosity*
- 3rd — Houston Young Lawyers Association—*Bears for Babies: National Adoption Day*

Minority Project

- 1st — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers—*Resources for Minority Law Students*

Newsletter

- 1st — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
- 2nd — Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association
- 3rd — Houston Young Lawyers Association

SMALL CITY

Comprehensive

- 1st — Denton County Young Lawyers Association
- 2nd — Smith County Young Lawyers Association

Service to the Bar

- 1st — Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association—*The Thirteenth Annual AAYLA Las Vegas CLE*
- 2nd — Denton County Young Lawyers Association—*DCYLA Membership Reception*
- 3rd — Smith County Young Lawyers Association—*Swearing in Ceremony for Newly Licensed Attorneys*

Service to the Public

- 1st — Ector County Young Lawyers Association—*Holidays With Heroes*
- 2nd — Smith County Young Lawyers Association—*"I was the first. Vote for me!"*
- 3rd — Denton County Young Lawyers Association—*High School Mock Trial Competition*

Minority Project

- 1st — Denton County Young Lawyers Association—*2014 Women in the Law Luncheon*

Newsletter

- 1st — Denton County Young Lawyers Association



TYLA 2013-14 HONOREES

OUTSTANDING YOUNG LAWYER

Mandy Price, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Mandy Price, who has a passion for serving, has been a tireless ambassador for numerous professional organizations and has undertaken a variety of significant leadership activities in the legal industry. Price has also performed a substantial amount of pro bono legal service, benefiting indigent clients in need of critical assistance. Not only does she exhibit the highest standards of professionalism, character, and skill, but she also graciously goes above and beyond on behalf of the profession, her clients, and her community. Price serves as a great example for all to emulate.

OUTSTANDING MENTOR

Michael K. Hurst, Gruber Hurst Johansen Hail Shank LLP

Michael Hurst's legacy of mentoring and lawyer development extends nearly 25 years. In 1999, as President of DAYL, he created programs consistent with his passion for peer assistance, mentoring, and civility, including De-stressing the Legal Profession which now exists as integral parts of local and statewide programming. In 2013, Michael raised over \$830,000 as Chair of the Dallas Bar Association's Equal Access To Justice Campaign. Michael's organic mentorship style focuses on teaching young lawyers through hands-on application. His commitment to the development of young lawyers is evident in his actions. He has spoken on countless panels to teach young lawyers to become better trial lawyers. He has served as a mentor to not only those in his own firm, but also to many other young lawyers who are referred to him by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, or the Dallas Bar Association.

LIBERTY BELL

Julie Sherman, Paralegal at Cantey Hanger LLP

Julie Sherman embodies the spirit of the Liberty Bell Award through her constant dedication to the education of those in the community in need of access to justice. Bell has accomplished this through her constant, selfless work in organizing, staffing, and volunteering at legal aid clinics in Tarrant County, all of which make the American system of justice accessible, more effective, and better understood by the numerous pro bono clients she has assisted.

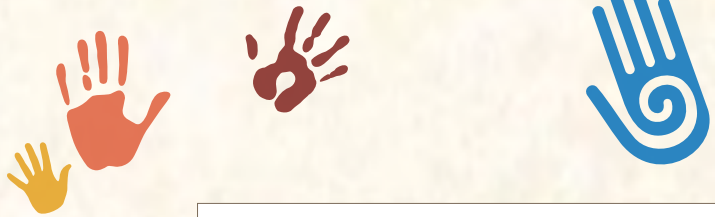


TYLA HANDS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

TYLA'S NEW MOBILE WEBSITE



The TYLA Technology Committee launched a new mobile version of the TYLA website (TYLA.org) to facilitate the dissemination of past and upcoming TYLA projects. The new mobile site allows visitors to easily access materials, videos, and presentations related to the various TYLA projects from their tablet or mobile device. The mobile website also incorporates social media to help promote and market TYLA projects.



TYLA.ORG

The TYLA Technology Committee has continued to maintain and monitor web traffic from the existing TYLA site and has observed a steady stream of new users visiting the site. TYLA.org disseminates TYLA projects and materials worldwide and has increases its web traffic and viewers every year. The TYLA website has been updated with a fresh new look and an enhanced navigation experience.



@txyounglawyers



Texas Young Lawyers Association



www.pinterest.com/tylahealth



TYLA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2013 • 2014

LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

As the public service arm of the State Bar of Texas, TYLA creates outstanding public and member service projects year after year. TYLA hopes to continue that tradition in the year ahead. A few highlights for the year include:



- **“You Are a Member of TYLA.”** TYLA intends to target newly licensed attorneys to increase their awareness of their automatic membership in TYLA. TYLA hopes to partner with the State Bar to inform newly licensed attorneys of the benefits and resources offered by both TYLA and the State Bar of Texas.
- **Work Life Balance/Blog/Discussion.** So many female attorneys leave the practice of law early. To address this issue and other issues faced, TYLA intends to create a “blog” to start the conversation and learn how female attorneys successfully balance work and family.
- **“Just In Case” – Attorneys Get Your Affairs In Order.** Attorneys are fantastic at helping others but often neglect themselves in the process. TYLA intends to create a guide that encourages attorneys to have their own estate planning completed and also to have a plan in place in the event they are unable to practice law. Attorneys leave work daily believing they will return to their desk the next day. It is critical that a backup plan be created “just in case.”
- **Bullying Project.** TYLA intends to create and implement a project that will educate the public about bullying in Texas and the laws concerning bullying. Bullying is not a “new” issue, but the bullying seen today looks and feels different and can be immediate and constant. This project will also emphasize that bullying is not limited to those that look and act “different” or to those that are young. Bullying occurs at all ages and in all professions.
- **Driving Distracted.** This project is designed to educate the public about the dangers and legal ramifications of driving while distracted. With advances in technology, drivers are now constantly shifting focus from the road to something else—like a call, text, etc.
- **Educating Teachers.** TYLA intends to create a project designed to educate teachers and the public about what a teacher can do to maintain control over his or her classroom.
- **Statewide Clerk Internship Program.** Young lawyers are still having difficulty finding a job. Summer judicial internships provide not only experience, but are often a springboard to open the door for law students to obtain a paying job. TYLA intends to create a statewide clerk internship program that will be available online.
- **“If I Knew Then...” Book/Video Podcast.** TYLA intends to interview more experienced/seasoned attorneys and gather their advice and words of wisdom on the practice of law. Topics would cover a broad range of issues lawyers face throughout their practice from business development, to starting their own firm, to billing.

I hope you will join TYLA in creating and implementing these projects, but more importantly, I hope you will utilize TYLA. TYLA has been an incredible resource to me personally. The people I have had the opportunity to meet from across the state and the resources created or made available have enhanced my legal skills and made a meaningful difference in my legal practice. To participate in TYLA and for more information, please visit www.tyla.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebekah Steely Brooker".

Rebekah Steely Brooker
Texas Young Lawyers Association President 2014-2015





BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®

Texas Young Lawyers Association

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(800) 204-2222, ext. 1529



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