

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

PROUD TO BE A
TEXAN

Y'all

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The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) consists of roughly 27,000 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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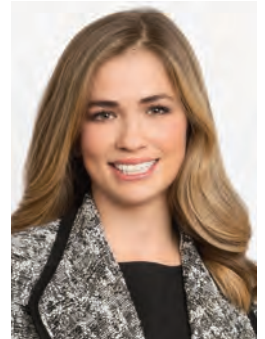
www.tyla.org

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AND CHAIR

What a year! We began this year with an agenda of goals and a calendar full of plans to focus on services for young attorneys and highlight how great it is to be a Texas Lawyer and an American. It is our pleasure to report that, despite there being some unexpected turns along the way, we accomplished all of our goals and plans without a scuff on our boots.

Shortly after the bar year started, State Bar Leadership asked TYLA whether we thought it was unconstitutional or a legal violation to permit only Texas Young Lawyers to vote in TYLA elections. We responded that, of course, having Texas Young Lawyers vote on their elected officials is constitutional and consistent with decades of Texas and United States tradition. This started what would begin a long series of phone calls, meetings, emails, by laws revisions, responses to an AG “request for opinion” submitted by former President Joe Longley and then, later, a lawsuit in a separate but ancillary matter – that was resolved with a dismissal about three hours after Randy Sorrels took office and an hour before Sally became Immediate Past President.

Despite this legal controversy being the subject of many Texas Bar Journal President’s pages, plastered all over Texas Lawyer, and the subject of lawsuits and many attorney forums, we are proud to report TYLA remained strong to its motto—we are true Uncommon Leaders. Here are some of our accomplishments this year:



- Competitions- Three successful competitions were hosted: The Paper Chase (a legal writing competition), State Moot Court, and National Trial Competition
- Diversity Committee – 15 episodes of the podcast Shero were produced and released reaching hundreds of young attorneys offering long distance mentorship and inspiration; a Diversity Toolkit was produced and launched at the annual Bar Leaders conference providing a guide on how to make local affiliates more diverse.
- Implementations – 62 presentations of our projects were presented across the state reaching over 6500 people.
- Law Focused Education: a Children’s Advocacy Guide in the form of a coloring book was produced and disbursed to local Children’s Advocacy Centers to act as a guide for children who are going through the interview process; Junior Judges was reproduced with help of high school media interns as The Choice; Educator’s Toolkit was created to act as a summary of all of the resources available to educators; and last but not least Proud to be an American was fully produced and launched with the sponsorship of the Texas Bar Foundation and will act as a resource to K-12 students about the rights and duties that are afforded to us as Americans.
- Local Affiliates: Bookshelves in Courtrooms was launched across the state putting bookshelves in 14 courtrooms as a resource for children in courts; Bar Leaders was re-invigorated to include new panels and a Local Affiliate showcase of local projects.
- Public Service in the Community: a IV-D Court Guide was created to offer guidance to pro se litigants facing IV-D child support court; a informational video addressing the current housing crisis in Texas was created and launched.
- Online Member Services – The TYLA.org website got a much needed update.
- American Bar Association – TYLA represented at the YLD meetings and at the ABA Annual meeting and presented a CLE on Podcasts on a Shoestring to the ABAYLD Western Summit.

It has been our absolute pleasure to serve as the TYLA President and Chair this year and although this wasn’t the year we planned for, it has definitely proven to be a successful and amazing year. We are so grateful for the experience of seeing the power of young attorneys, how much we have to offer, and how we certainly rise to any occasion. Here’s to all the Uncommon Leaders out there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally Pretorius".

Sally Pretorius
President 2018–2019
Texas Young Lawyers Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron J. Burke".

Aaron J. Burke
Chair 2018–2019
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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At-Large Director, Large City
 Fourth Court Of Appeals of Texas



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District 13
 Office of the Criminal District
 Attorney of Hidalgo County,
 Texas



Ricky Shelton
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Access To Justice Liaison
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ABA YLD District 26
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Law School Liaison
 Judge James Noel Dean and
 Professor of Law
 SMU-Dedman School of Law



Taylor Winn
Law Student Liaison
 Texas A&M University
 School of Law

TYLA SERVING MEMBERS

WELLNESS PANELS

Because mental health among attorneys has become such an important, concerning issue, TYLA endeavored to host events throughout the state to discuss attorney wellness. Topics included compassion fatigue, wellness tips, ethical duties to maintain wellness, etc. TLAP and the State Bar of Texas were intimately involved in planning and sponsoring the events, respectively. Events were held in Austin, San Antonio, Houston, and Lubbock. At each event, panelists included a clinician that works with attorneys, a TLAP representative, and a practicing attorney. The events were well-attended. A push card on compassion fatigue was also created and distributed at these events. It is estimated that approximately 150 attorneys attend these events this year.



Lubbock Wellness Panel

Presented by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program

Your Mask First: Taking Care of Yourself to Better Serve Your Clients

A candid panel discussion on compassion fatigue and attorney wellness to help Texas lawyers maintain mental and physical health while successfully practicing law over the long term.

Panelists:
 Bill Howell, M.Ed., TCCO, CRT
 Chris Ritze, MEd, JD
 Rick Wadrop
Moderator:
 Bob Nebb

April 9, 2019
 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Lanker Auditorium
 Texas Tech University School of Law
 300 18th St.
 Lubbock, Texas 79409
 Cost: \$5
 Includes 1 hour Ethics CLE and Lunch

CLICK HERE TO RSVP NOW!
by April 5, 2019

Austin Wellness Panel

Presented by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program

Your Mask First: Taking Care of Yourself to Better Serve Your Clients

A candid panel discussion on compassion fatigue and attorney wellness to help Texas lawyers maintain mental and physical health while successfully practicing law over the long term.

Panelists:
 Erica Gregg, Attorney
 Shawna Storey-Louis, LPC
 Chris Ritze, MEd, JD
Moderator:
 Honorable Dustin Howell

December 14, 2018
 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Scott Douglas & McCormick
 Colorado Tower 12th Floor
 303 Colorado, Austin, TX 78701
 Cost: \$5
 1 hour of FREE Ethics CLE
 Lunch will be provided

CLICK HERE TO RSVP NOW!
by December 10, 2018

Houston Wellness Panel

Presented by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program, and sponsored by Norton Rose Fulbright LLP

Your Mask First: Taking Care of Yourself to Better Serve Your Clients

A candid panel discussion on compassion fatigue and attorney wellness to help Texas lawyers maintain mental and physical health while successfully practicing law over the long term.

Panelists:
 Erica Gregg, Attorney
 Dr. Mike Kasib, CEAP
 Chris Ritze, MEd, JD
Moderator:
 Stan Perry

January 11, 2019
 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Norton Rose Fulbright Auditorium
 1305 McKinney St., Suite 3500
 Houston, Texas 77010
 Cost: \$5
 Includes 1 hour Ethics CLE and Lunch

CLICK HERE TO RSVP NOW!
by January 7, 2019

San Antonio Wellness Panel

Presented by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program

Your Mask First: Taking Care of Yourself to Better Serve Your Clients

A candid panel discussion on compassion fatigue and attorney wellness to help Texas lawyers maintain mental and physical health while successfully practicing law over the long term.

Panelists:
 Shawna Storey-Louis, LPC
 Chris Ritze, MEd, JD
 Allan Takish
Moderator:
 June Morris-Moynihan

February 8, 2019
 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Dykens Gossett PLLC
 Watson Center
 112 E. Pecan Street, Suite 2800
 San Antonio, Texas 78203
 Cost: \$5
 Includes 1 hour Ethics CLE and Lunch

CLICK HERE TO RSVP NOW!
by February 6, 2019

Odessa Wellness Panel

Presented by the Texas Young Lawyers Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program

Your Mask First: Taking Care of Yourself to Better Serve Your Clients

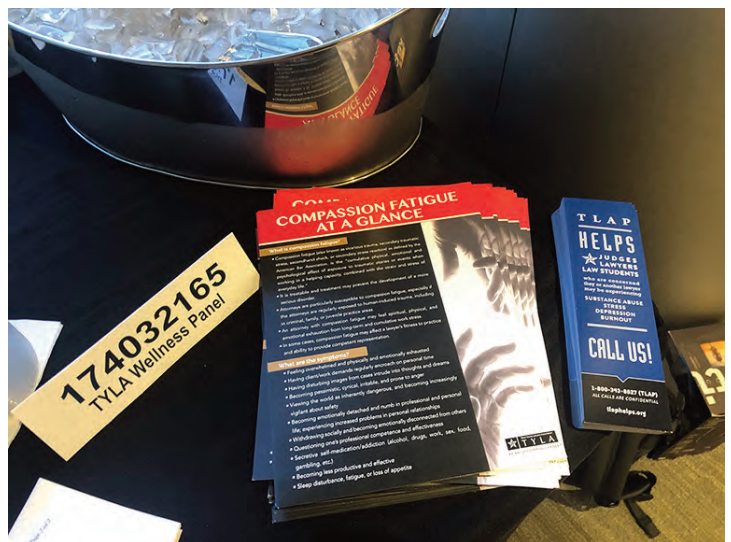
A candid panel discussion on compassion fatigue and attorney wellness to help Texas lawyers maintain mental and physical health while successfully practicing law over the long term.

Panelists:
 Derek Cook, Attorney
 Erica Gregg, Attorney
 Angie Morris, LPC, RPT
 Tiffany Stearns, Attorney
Moderator:
 Robert White, Attorney

June 19, 2019
 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Odessa Country Club
 4 Parkway Dr.
 Odessa, Texas 79701
 Cost: \$5
 Includes 1 hour Ethics CLE and Lunch

CLICK HERE TO RSVP NOW!
by June 14, 2019



YOUNG GUNNERS PODCAST

Young Gunners is a practice series podcast where TYLA board members interviewed various attorneys in different areas of law to learn about topics important to young attorneys and TYLA's members. To date we have aired 25 episodes in multiple formats. There have been over 4,486 plays of the podcast episodes. The average amount of plays per episode is 164 and we have 202 "listeners."



TYLA FUTURE OF LEGAL PRACTICE

This project sought to engage stake-holder attorneys to determine where they believed the legal field will grow and change. Additionally, the goal was to obtain information about areas in which the legal profession can better improve access to justice, access to legal education, and attorney wellness.

This goal was achieved by holding roundtable discussions in Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio with deans of law schools, officers of sister bar organizations, Judges, and TYLA directors and members. Through candid discussion, TYLA was able to learn the trends in legal practice currently facing a diverse group and how TYLA can be involved in improving and shaping the legal community.

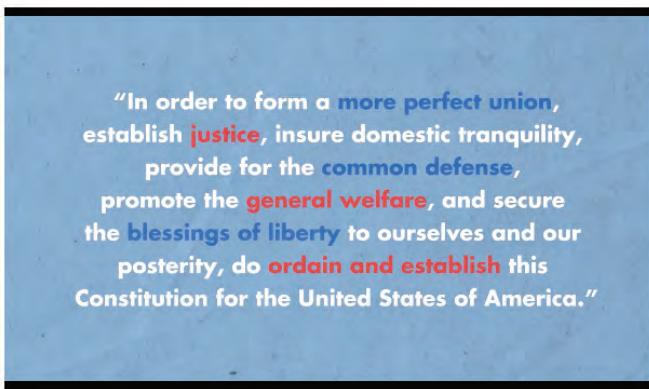
Issues raised ran the gamut, but central themes emerged: access to justice for the middle-income client, diversity in the legal practice, attorney wellness, maintain attorney competency, and respect for the rule of law.



TYLA IN THE COMMUNITY

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

This project is compliant with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standard and designed for K-12 students to learn about the rights, privileges and responsibilities we have as Americans while celebrating the unique diversity of our nation. Young attorneys on the board of TYLA designed the project and helped write outlines for the video script, create classroom assignments to compliment the video content, recruit video participants and review several rounds of edits. The project is now live on the TYLA website and includes several modules delineated by grade level. This project is available to every teacher throughout the State and will help amplify class content in history, government or civics.



Proud to Be an American

For Educators & Students

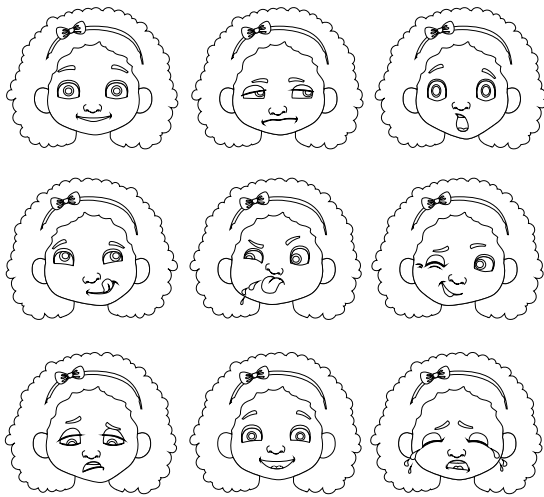
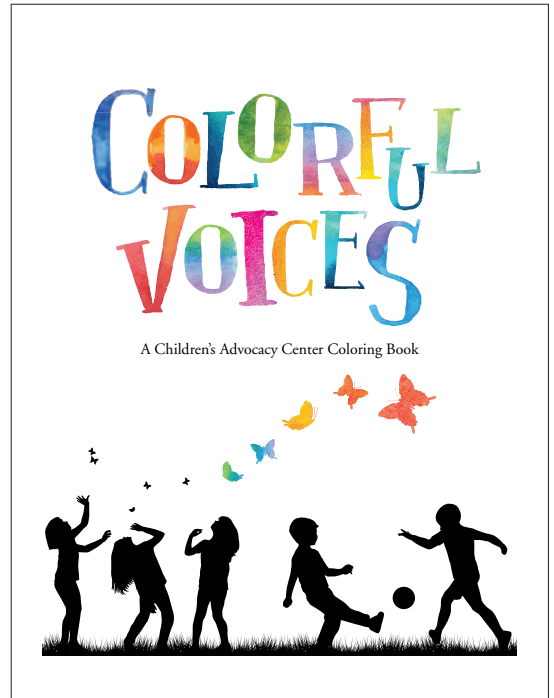
Grades 6-12

Module One



CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY COLORING BOOKS

The purpose of the Children’s Advocacy Coloring book is to help educate children about the Children’s Advocacy Center process without undermining its neutrality. The team spoke with Lindsey Jordan, one of the Program Directors for the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Texas who helped ensure that our final product maintained this neutral tone. The coloring book addresses issues, including, but not limited to the following: the purpose of the Children’s Advocacy Centers, a child’s right to be safe and not be hurt by others, the burden/guilt a child may bear as a result of grown-up choices, and the team at the Children’s Advocacy Centers that are there to help them. The title of the coloring book is “Colorful Voices,” because at the end of the day it is our goal that this coloring book helps give each child not only more information but also confidence in their right to be heard.



All of your feelings are okay, and it’s important to let them out!



They are like a team of your very own superheroes, who are here to help protect you and help you feel better!

THE CHOICE (FORMERLY JUNIOR JUDGES 2.0)

Junior Judges is a video and curriculum project created by TYLA in 2001 that was designed to help children make the right choices in tough situations that they would likely encounter in their childhood and adolescent years. This year, TYLA set out to revamp the project and launch Junior Judges 2.0 to target more current issues faced by middle and high school aged students. Since the original project's release 18 years ago, youth are faced with a host of new, tougher issues and challenges, such as social media, cyber bullying, and online safety, among others. Due to the new topics the project is covering and the fact that the project's target age is older, Junior Judges 2.0 has been rebranded as "The Choice." This year, young lawyers from TYLA have been writing and filming new scripts targeting these updated issues and developing curriculum to facilitate a meaningful discussion with students on these topics. The launch of the program is expected in summer or fall of 2019. We hope that it will be shared with thousands of students across the state.



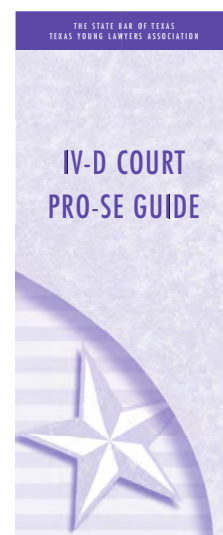
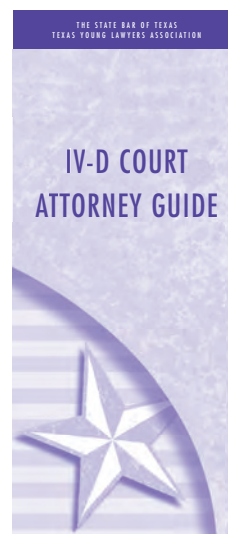
**Junior
Judges**
helping kids make
smart choices

IV-D COURT – MORE THAN JUST CHILD SUPPORT

The IV-D Court Guides are designed to help self-represented litigants and new attorneys understand the laws and procedures at play in "child support court." IV-D courts across Texas are packed with people who cannot afford attorneys but desperately need to know and understand their rights and duties as parents.

The guide for self-represented litigants addresses everything from what to wear and how to act to the substantive legal issues that can arise in a family law case. Both guides are intended to help newcomers understand what can, and cannot, be done in contested cases in an IV-D court.

These guides will help the general public understand the competing dynamics at play in a typical child support, paternity, enforcement, or modification case and will be available on the Texas Bar and TYLA Websites.

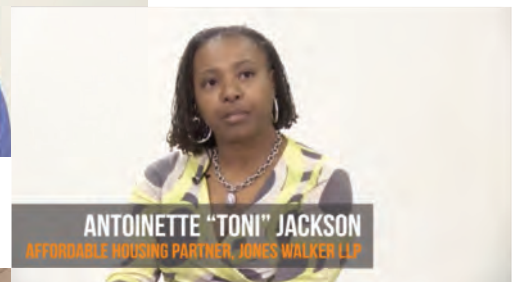
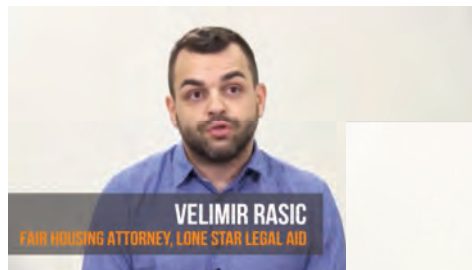
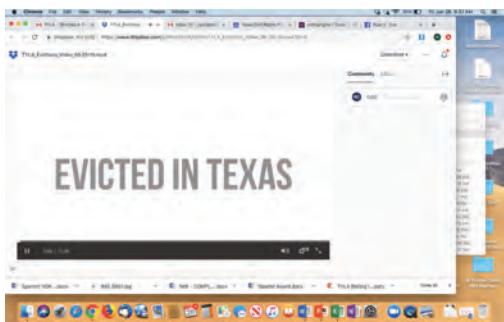


EVICTED IN TEXAS – THE TEXAS HOUSING CRISIS

This project was inspired by Professor Matthew Desmond's Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Evicted," in which he tracks the plight of people trapped in the cycle of eviction. The project involved two components: first, developing and updating written materials for landlords and tenants regarding their rights and responsibilities under the law, and second, developing a video to educate young lawyers and the public about the cycle of eviction in Texas specifically, its detrimental effects on both landlords and tenants, and how lawyers are (and can be) involved in addressing the issues related to Texas's massive upswing in evictions over the past two decades.

To complete these components of the project, the committee first worked together as a team to section-off and update previously existing landlord/tenant guides including providing key substantive law updates and updated contact information for organizations that provide resources to landlords and tenants in distress. The committee also engaged the Texas Access to Justice Committee for guidance and to plan for further updates when AJC releases its planned uniform pro se forms for landlords and tenants in 2020. The newly updated guides were completed and sent to press in December 2018, and were then updated a second time to bring them up to date with changes to the law made in the 2019 legislative session.

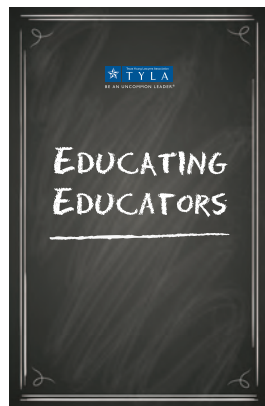
The second component of the project is the video titled "Evicted in Texas." Beginning in August of 2018, committee members began to meet with and discuss the problem of evictions with stakeholders, including meeting with Prof. Desmond in his Princeton, NJ office. The ultimate goals of the video – both to educate and bring awareness to the issue and to recruit young lawyers to engage in pro bono work in this field – were developed based on these conversations. The committee began filming interviews in December 2018 in Houston and San Antonio with lawyers, community activists, and judges, and the video went to editing in February 2019. After editing, the video is to be published on tyla.org on a dedicated page along with links to the TYLA landlord/tenant guide and other resources as they become available.



EDUCATOR'S TOOLKIT

With 1,031 public school districts and over 320,000 public school teachers in Texas, TYLA has the potential to impact a very large and important professional group. TYLA has created several projects for educators over the years but they have not ever been listed in one central location. In order to better reach educators, TYLA created an Educator's Toolkit as a resource for educator's to refer to when they are determining whether or not TYLA has resources that cover the material that they are teaching.

The Educator's Toolkit features the following projects: Teach Safe. Learn Safe. Be Safe., Educating Educators, Not in My Backyard, Proud to be An American, They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement, Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right, We the Jury, I was the first. You can be a lawyer too!. What Do Lawyers Do?, End Bullying Now, Junior Judges, Loves Me, Loves Me Not: Teen Dating Violence, R U Safe? Protecting Yourself in Cyberspace, The Choice, The Unconscious Truth—The Physical and Legal Effects of Underage Binge Drinking, and You're Hired! Now What. The toolkit provides a summary of each of these project. Young Lawyers reviewed all of TYLA previous projects and drafted descriptions of each of the projects.



TYLA IS COMMITTED TO DIVERSITY



SHERO PODCAST

The SHERO Podcast, consisting of 16 episodes, featured interviews with accomplished female attorneys, primarily in Texas but throughout the country, on topics of diversity in the profession. Each “Wonder Women” Wednesday, TYLA published either an episode of the SHERO Podcast or an inspirational quote. TYLA’s SHERO Podcast episodes were listened to 2,601 times with over a hundred listeners worldwide.

CHANGEMAKER CHAT PODCAST

TYLA has historically held an annual Diversity Dinner, but this year we opted to do a podcast that would function as a networking event. This event would also be used as a segment for our SHERO podcasts, shining a light on female attorneys both practicing law and branching out from the legal field. Our goal was to illuminate the different uses of a law degree and show how multi-faceted female attorneys are in the profession and out of the profession. This program was held in conjunction with Changemaker Chats located in Austin, Texas.

This event was held on May 16, 2019, with a reception that was held prior to the live podcast. Approximately 50 people joined our live program, which we then uploaded for another segment of the SHERO podcast.



TYLA
in partnership with
CHANGEMAKER CHATS
presents

**LAWYER LIFE
IS LIKE
A BOX OF CHOCOLATES**

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Thank you to our generous sponsors

CHANGEMAKER CHATS

MM.LAFLEUR

MAGGIE LOUISE CONFECTIONS

SCOUT & CELLAR
WINE CONSULTANT

MM.LAFLEUR | SCOTT DOUGLASS McCONNICO
CLOTHING | REYLING | COMMUNITY

Scott, Douglass & McConnico LLP
303 Colorado Street, Suite 2400
Austin, Texas 78701

6:30pm – Reception

7:30pm – Intimate panel discussion with Kim Bueno and Maggie Louise Callahan

Parking available at 303 Colorado St. at a discounted rate of \$5.00. The entrance to the parking garage is on the east side of Colorado St. between 3rd and 4th streets.

TYLA
BY OUR FUNDRAISING PARTNER

[CLICK HERE to RSVP NOW!](#)
by May 15, 2019

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 three scholarships, totaling \$9,500.00 to minority students enrolled in Texas law schools who demonstrated a commitment to diversity. There were a total of 44 applications submitted from 8 of the ten Texas law schools.

To learn more about this award, go to: tyla.org/resources/law-students



Elena Alexis Bolonina
South Texas College of Law Houston
1st Place – \$5,000



Ramatulathi Jalloh
Thurgood Marshall School of Law
2nd Place – \$3,000



Abby Brown
University of North Texas Dallas
College of Law
3rd Place – \$1,500

AFFILIATE DIVERSITY TOOLKIT

The Affiliate Diversity is a new project that included four push cards to help local affiliates increase efforts to improve organizational diversity, in membership, leadership, and in programming. The four push cards cover address diversifying membership, improving diversity through policies and projects, and diversifying partnerships with other organizations.

The image displays four 'diversity TOOLKIT' push cards. Each card features the TYLA logo and a specific focus area with a list of examples and descriptions.

- Improving Diversity Through Projects:**
 - When it comes to improving and maintaining diversity within our organization, knowing where to start can be a challenge. Below are some diverse, successful ways to bring the discussion of diversity to the attention of your profession.
 - "Diversity Speed Mentoring and Networking Event"** – Houston: An event where law students and young lawyers could connect with attorneys at no-pressure, "speed-mentoring" reception.
 - "Resources for Minority Law Students"** – Dallas Association of Law Schools: Information to aid law students at different schools in finding associations, and scholarships focused on diversity in their field.
 - "Diversity Dinner"** – Texas Young Lawyers Association: An annual event hosted by the Texas Young Lawyers Association with speakers from various backgrounds address fellow members.
 - "The Law Diversity Symposium"** – Texas Young Lawyers Association: Several different affiliates have hosted Pre-Law Diversity Symposiums to help inform students about the law school admission process in order to encourage more diverse student participation.
 - "Tomorrow's Attorney Pipeline Program"** – Houston Young Lawyers Association: A program designed to help law school students from diverse backgrounds gain exposure to the legal profession through internships and networking opportunities.
- Diversifying Membership:**
 - There are numerous ways to increase the diversity of the membership of your local affiliate.
 - Committee/Project Assignments:** One way to attract lawyers who do not normally participate in your local affiliate is to assign them to certain projects and/or committees. Even though many large affiliates will have non-board members fill committee and project positions, small affiliates can also use this technique to involve lawyers from varying specialties and backgrounds.
 - Identifying Diversity Problems in your Membership:** A key first step in diversifying membership is identifying what members of the legal profession are not participating in your organization, thus encouraging them to become members.
- Improving Diversity with Policies:**
 - Put Diversity on Your Agenda, Literally:** Diversity doesn't create and maintain itself. If diversity is a priority, then put it on your agenda for board and committee meetings. Diversity can be a top-level item for discussion or a component of other sub-items on the agenda, such as event planning and membership efforts.
 - Make a Statement with a Non-Discrimination Policy:** Non-discrimination policies can convey and emphasize an affiliate's commitment to diversity. Consider adopting a policy against discrimination based on being part of a legally protected class and based on other characteristics that would be an asset to your organization. Non-discrimination policies can be relatively standard, such as the following example:
- Diversifying Affiliates' Relationships:**
 - The success of any local affiliate can be immediately enhanced by partnering with neighboring local affiliates. Different geographic regions provide diversity in resources and ideas. Co-hosting events can be a simple way to expand membership, increase awareness of social issues, and minimize expenses. Most importantly, collaborative efforts better serve the communities where we live and practice law.
 - "Disaster Response Legal Clinics"** – San Antonio Young Lawyers Association & San Antonio Bar Association & Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association
 - Following Hurricane Harvey in 2017, these two affiliates, along with SABA's Community Justice Program, conducted a Disaster Response Legal Clinic in Portland, Texas.
 - "Beach Day"** – Hidalgo County Young Lawyers Association & Cameron County Young Lawyers Association
 - It doesn't take a natural disaster to bring local affiliates together. These two affiliates have partnered to host an annual Beach Day at South Padre Island, Texas. Both organizations have seen an increase in membership and active participation.
 - "Family Movie Day"** – Bexar County Women's Bar Association & San Antonio Young Lawyers Association

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 while still in law school.



Paper Chase Writing Competition

TYLA, in partnership with Baylor Law School, hosted the First Annual “Paper Chase” Writing Competition. The competition was designed to feature a real-world problem of the type a new associate may face during their first or second year as an attorney.

This year’s competitors prepared a Motion for Rehearing of a denied petition for review in the in the Supreme Court of Texas. The case concerned a trial court’s decision to strike the appellants’ pleadings and award damages for discovery abuse. The underlying case involved a claim under the Texas Theft Liability Act.

The competition took place in November 2018.

The winners of the competition were as follows:

1st Place: Kamran Anwar, UNT Dallas College of Law

2nd Place: Darrick Monson, The University of Texas School of Law

3rd Place: Aaron Diaz, St. Mary’s University School of Law

Honorable Mentions: Brittney Thompson, UNT Dallas College of Law & Jonathan Slack, The University of Texas Law School



Legal Professionalism Award

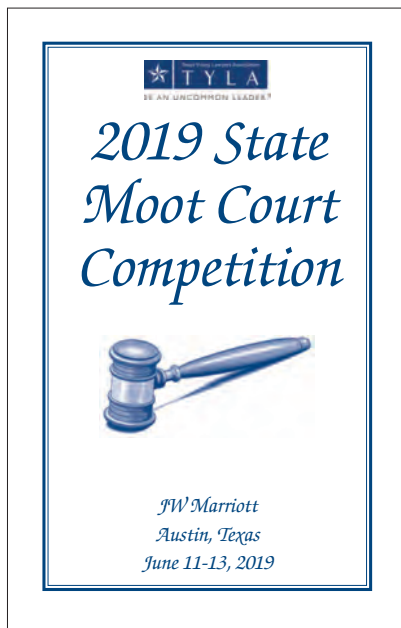
This award promotes legal professionalism among Law Student Division members by rewarding participation in activities that further the administration of justice, enhance professional responsibility, and provide service to the public. Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship from State Bar of Texas Law Student Division. Recipients of this year’s award are Malcolm Sinkfield from Thurgood Marshall School of Law and Sabrina Wilks from Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

2018-2019 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. Recipients of this year's award are Sabrina Wilks from Thurgood Marshall School of Law and Taylor Winn, from Texas A&M University School of Law.

State Moot Court Competition

The 2019 Moot Court Competition was hosted by Texas Young Lawyers Association at the JW Marriott hotel in Austin, Texas. The competition was held in conjunction with annual State Bar of Texas meeting in June 2019.



CHAMPION TEAM

Baylor Law School

Kylie Calabrese, Aaron Horner and Kyle Gardner

Coach: Kathy S. Serr

FINALIST TEAMS

Baylor Law School

SMU Dedman School of Law

SEMIFINALIST TEAMS

Baylor Law School

SMU Dedman School of Law

Texas Tech University School of Law

University of Houston Law Center

BEST BRIEF

South Texas College of Law Houston and

Texas Tech University School of Law

(tie for first place)

BEST ORAL ADVOCATE

Kyle Gardner

Baylor Law School



National Trial Competition

TYLA, in partnership with the American College of Trial Lawyers, hosted the National Trial Competition (“NTC”) in San Antonio, Texas, in March 2019.

Hailed as one of the oldest and most prestigious competitions in the United States, the NTC consists of 30 of the best law school mock trial teams from around the nation. Established in 1975, NTC’s purpose is to advance future lawyers’ advocacy through competition amongst peers and interaction with the bench and bar.

This year’s competition constitutes the 44th year and the champions hailed from the Catholic University of America.

2019 NATIONAL CHAMPION TEAM

The Catholic University of America,
Columbus School of Law

Team Members: Jennifer Brooker and Vania
Smith

Coaches: Lindsey Mervis and John Sharifi

NATIONAL FINALIST

Stetson University College of Law

SEMI FINALIST TEAMS

Baylor Law School

BYU, J. Reuben Clark Law Center

QUARTERFINALIST TEAMS

University of California, Berkeley

Syracuse University College of Law

Villanova University School of Law

University of Washington School of Law

BEST ORAL ADVOCATE AWARD

Vania Smith

The Catholic University of America,
Columbus School of Law



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.

El Paso CLE Roadshow



The goal of this project series is to provide high-quality, low-cost CLE to smaller cities. The event was held at the Eighth Court of Appeals Courtroom in El Paso and was funded entirely by co-sponsorships from other organization. Fifty-four attorneys RSVP'd and approximately fifty attorneys (mostly senior lawyers) attended. This was about four times the turnout we were expecting. At one point the courtroom was standing room only.

The focus of this CLE was tax issues, which is a CLE topic that has not been discussed recently in El Paso. CLE Speakers included:

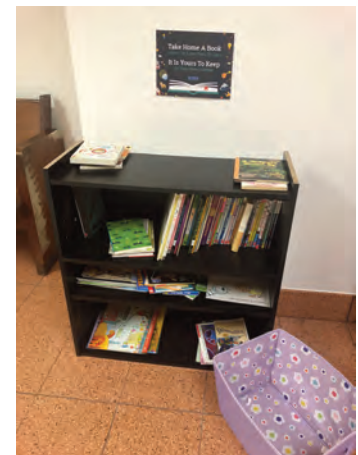
- Erica Grigg, TLAP
- Willie Hornberger, Partner at Jackson Walker in Dallas (Cross-Border Income Tax Issues, focused on dealing with U.S. tax issues faced by individuals from Mexico—very well-received)
- Ira Lipstet, Partner at Dubois Bryant & Campbell in Austin (Panelist, What Non-Tax Lawyers Should Know About Tax Law)
- Abbey Garber, Partner at Thompson & Knight in Dallas and former attorney from IRS Office of Chief Counsel (Panelist, What Non-Tax Lawyers Should Know/State and Federal Tax Appeals)
- Sara Giddings (moderator of panel)
- Kirk Cooper (with Abbey on Handling State and Federal Tax Appeals)



Bookshelves In Courtrooms

TYLA recognized the need to provide reading material for children who attend Court. These bookshelves are stocked with children's books that are donated from local libraries, attorneys, and charitable organizations.

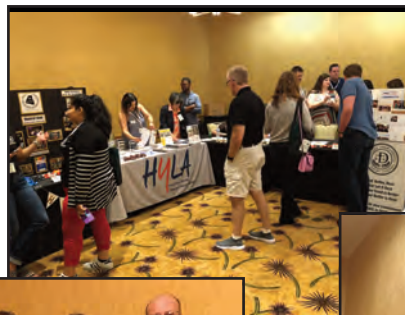
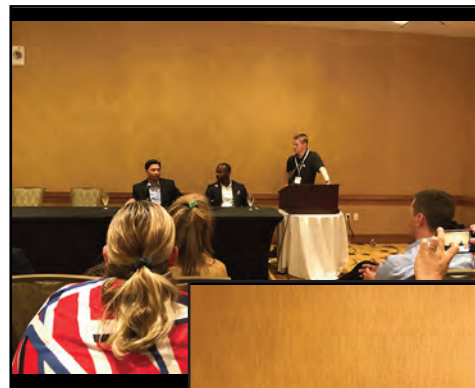
So far, bookshelves have been installed in Courtrooms across Texas. These include Courtrooms in Lubbock County, Montgomery County, and Harris County.



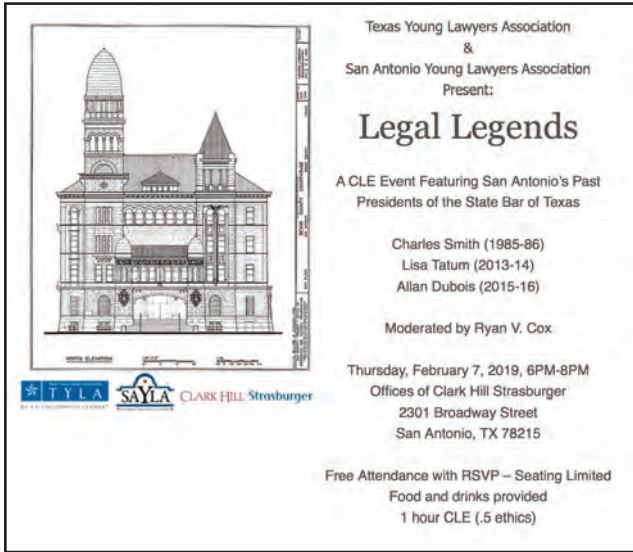
Bar Leaders Conference

The Bar Leaders Conference brings State Bar and TYLA elected leaders together with lawyers in various leadership positions with local bar organizations and young lawyer affiliates from across the state. This two-day training program inspires and engages effective leaders, addresses common concerns among bar associations, and offers valuable resources available from the State Bar of Texas.

The 2018 conference was held July 20th-21st at the Westin at the Domain in Austin and was attended by more than 100 young lawyers from local affiliates across Texas. The highlight for TYLA's portion of the conference was the Local Affiliate Showcase. The Affiliate Showcase was an opportunity for local affiliates to showcase their exceptional projects completed throughout the bar year. Each local affiliate set up a table featuring their key projects and provided attendees with information, materials, tools, and insight for implementing similar successful projects. Attendees also had the opportunity to interact with colleagues, learn about other successful initiatives, and take away the tools to implement projects of their own.



LEGAL LEGENDS CLE – SAN ANTONIO



Texas Young Lawyers Association
&
San Antonio Young Lawyers Association
Present:

Legal Legends

A CLE Event Featuring San Antonio's Past
Presidents of the State Bar of Texas

Charles Smith (1985-86)
Lisa Tatum (2013-14)
Allan Dubois (2015-16)

Moderated by Ryan V. Cox.

Thursday, February 7, 2019, 6PM-8PM
Offices of Clark Hill Strasburger
2301 Broadway Street
San Antonio, TX 78215

Free Attendance with RSVP – Seating Limited
Food and drinks provided
1 hour CLE (.5 ethics)

The goal of the Legal Legends CLE is to bring a panel of legendary lawyers to discuss their careers, goal-setting, service, diversity goals and other career development advice with young lawyers in different cities across the State, and to provide CLE and networking opportunities to TYLA members. Started in 2015, this event had previously taken place once annually in Austin, Dallas, and Houston in respective years. For 2019, the committee brought the event to San Antonio.

The event featured San Antonio's past presidents of the State Bar of Texas, Charlie Smith (1986), Lisa Tatum (2013) and Alan Dubois (2015), for the first such panel to ever be put together in San Antonio. TYLA board member Ryan Cox moderated the panel and conducted Q&A with the audience. The room booked up to capacity (50) and ~40-45 TYLA members attended to hear from the panel.



Grants

TYLA supports its affiliated young lawyer associations by providing funding to support local programs and projects. The Local Affiliates Committee awarded grants to 15 local affiliates totaling \$22,000. The grants provide much needed assistance for service projects that benefit the community, as well as the members of the bar. In awarding these grants, TYLA seeks to provide seed money to get a new project off the ground or expand the scope of an existing project.

Local Affiliate 2019 Awards of Achievement Winners

The Awards of Achievement Program provides TYLA affiliates the opportunity to submit their best projects 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: Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
- 2nd: Austin Young Lawyers Association

Service to the Bar

- 1st: Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
Second Chair Program
- 2nd: Austin Young Lawyers Association
Speed Networking

Single Project – Service to the Public

- 1st: Austin Young Lawyers Association
Community First Village Legal Clinics and Resource Fair
- 2nd: Houston Young Lawyers Association
Lean In To Law
- 3rd: Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Association
Homeless Initiatives

Diversity Project

- 1st: Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Association
Continuing the Conversation: Where Have All the Women Lawyers Gone?
- 2nd: Houston Young Lawyers Association
HYLEA's Women's Breakfast

Newsletter

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

SMALL CITY

Single Project – Service to the Public

- 1st: Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association
Beef with the Bench



BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®

TYLA 2018-19 HONOREES

Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award Recipient Neal A. Sarkar

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.



Neal A. Sarkar is a litigation associate of Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing in Houston, where he focuses on commercial legal matters. He has been lead counsel on several matters in both federal and state court and has handled cases in a variety of administrative proceedings, including before the EEOC, OSHA, and the Texas Railroad Commission. In addition to serving as the vice president and treasurer of the South Asian Bar Association of Houston, he serves as chair and founding board member of the American Constitution Society Houston Lawyer Chapter, overseeing efforts to coordinate volunteer lawyers in response to Hurricane Harvey, the travel ban, and family separations at the border. Since 2015, Sarkar has served as an ambassador of the Houston Bar Association, educating the next generation of HBA leaders. Sarkar is also the mentorship chair of the Houston Chapter of New Leaders Council, a fellow and nominating committee member of the Texas Bar Foundation, and a member of the Houston Committee on Foreign Relations.

Liberty Bell Award Recipient Matt Osborne

The Texas Young Lawyers Association presents this annual award to one outstanding non-lawyer 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.



Matt Osborne is senior vice president for rescue and rehabilitation at Operation Underground Railroad, an organization with a mission to rescue kidnapped children who are being trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor. He has led rescue operations that have resulted in the liberation of some 120 trafficking victims and the arrest of nearly 40 suspected traffickers. Osborne previously worked for 12 years in national security for the federal government, providing classified information to presidents, senior cabinet officials, and the National Security Council during his time with the CIA and the U.S. Department of State. His work included time as a Foreign Service officer in places such as Spain, Mexico, and Venezuela, where he focused on terrorism, counter-narcotics, and human trafficking.

Outstanding Mentor Award Recipient John P. Palmer

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.

John P. Palmer is a partner in Naman Howell Smith & Lee, having worked at the firm since 1989. He has a passion and commitment for training others and participating at all levels with high school mock trial competitors, teams, and coaches. Palmer served as a member and chairman of the McLennan County Dispute Resolution Center Board of Directors, where he was involved in credentialing, training, and serving countless attorneys and private individuals who wanted mediation skills.

As a master, officer, and president of the Judge Abner V. McCall American Inn of Court, Palmer has taken on the individual and systematic mentoring of law students, endowing them with practical and ethical approaches for practicing law. Through the Inn of Court, he has spearheaded a mentoring program connecting law students with attorneys in the greater Waco and McLennan County area. Palmer's commitment to associates goes beyond assistance with books, cases, and statutes studied in law school; he provides knowledge to young attorneys that can only be provided by one with experience and passion for practicing law.



Texas Young Lawyers Association President's Award Recipient Tim Newman

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.

Tim Newman is a litigation partner with Haynes and Boone, LLP in Dallas who represents clients in government enforcement actions, cybersecurity matters, and complex litigation. Tim began the year by working with a subcommittee to draft the at a glance *Local Affiliate Toolkit*, a one page guide that was presented at bar leaders 2017. As co-chair of the Member Outreach committee, Tim faced a unique circumstance this year when both his co-chair and Executive Committee Advisor were nominated to run for TYLA President. Because of the campaign, neither of them could continue working on TYLA projects. As a result, Tim was tasked with ensuring all of the committees projected were completed. Under his leadership, *Spanish for Lawyers* was produced. Additionally, Tim oversaw and contributed to a number of other projects, including the *HIPAA Guide*, *Privilege Guide*, *Criminal Enhancement CLE*, and the *National Trial Competition*.



Similar to other award recipients, Tim's contributions went beyond committees to which he was formally assigned.



Joseph M. Pritchard Inn Outstanding Director Award Recipient Joel T. Towner

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.

Joel Towner is an associate at Beck Redden, in Houston and practices in the area of Business Litigation. Joel has served on the TYLA board of directors for 4 years. Even before joining the board of directors, Joel participated as a dedicated committee member *National Trial Competition*, which is hosted in conjunction with the American College of Trial Lawyers. Joel has been integral in insuring the continued success of the competition. As a co-chair this year, he rose to the occasion and organized and executed a regional competition, which a regional host was unavailable. He also spear headed efforts to make improvements to the competition, which will result in a more efficient competition for years to come. Not only did Joel fulfill his duties as a board member with excellence, Joel rose to the occasion to help draft a lengthy response to a challenge to the constitutionality of Texas Young Lawyers Association to the Texas Office of the Attorney General. We are forever grateful for Joel's service to our organization.

Texas Young Lawyers Association Keith L. Krueger Award Recipient Meagan T. Harding

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.

Meagan Harding is an attorney with the Texas Civil Rights project. She joined the TYLA board of directors in 2017. This year, Meagan has demonstrated consistent commitment to the success of TYLA projects. As a Chair of the Law Focused Education committee, she worked extensively on *Proud to be an American*, TYLA's project that is supported by the Texas Bar Foundation and focuses on educating K-12 students on the benefits of duties of being an American citizen and highlighting what it means to be an American to so many immigrants. She worked hard to coordinate video interviews, execute edits, ensure compliance with TEKS stands and kept the committee motivated and on task. Megan accomplished all of this passionately, with the highest of integrity and selflessly.





Outstanding First Year Director Award Ashley Hymel

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. project gave young attorneys and more seasoned attorneys the opportunity to network and learn from an all-star panels of lawyer legends.

Ashley Hymel is a solo practitioner at Hymel Law LLC where she empowers artists, musicians, hobbyists and other business owners to engage in thriving businesses by offering legal services in small business formation, general and employment counsel services and brand integration. This year Ashley came in ready and eager to work. As a first year Director she took the lead on the student intern lead

reproduction of Junior Judges into what has been re-branded as The Choice - which included guiding and mentoring two high school seniors who produced the short films and a group of teenage actors. In addition, Ashley continued her service to TYLA as a lead committee member of the National Trial Competition, where she is integral to the success of the competition. We are so excited to see what the future has in store for Ashley.

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:



- Ryan Cox
- M. Kaylan Dunn
- John W. Ellis
- Andy Jones
- Rebecca Patterson Linehan
- Steven Lopez
- Armin Salek
- Jenny Smith
- Joanie Scott
- Louis Williams



facebook.com/TexasYoungLawyersAssociation



twitter.com/TexYoungLawyers



instagram.com/texyounglawyers



pinterest.com/tylahealth

TYLA Social Media

TYLA's social media presence has continued to improve year over year. This year we used our social media accounts to announce upcoming events, increase participation in our podcasts, and celebrate the successes of our members.

Additionally, we utilized our social media to strengthen our ties with the young lawyer divisions, state bars, and specialty bars of other states. To engage with us on social media, be sure to like/follow our accounts.

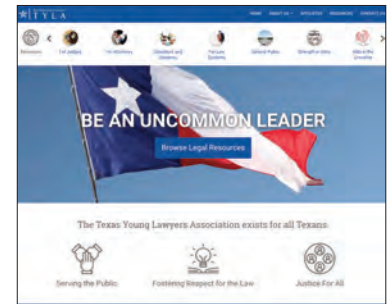
eNews

eNews is a quarterly newsletter that is emailed to the entire Texas Young Lawyer Association. It features several regular columns including a top story, TYLA Project Spotlight, Local Affiliate Spotlight, Young Lawyer Spotlight, Ten Minute Mentor feature, Tips for Young Lawyers and an editor's column. Even with often daily updates via social media, TYLA's eNews helps keep young lawyers up to date on local and state wide projects, highlight new legal topics, and feature local affiliate accomplishments.



TYLA.org

TYLA worked this year to reformat its website so that it is a useful tool to lawyers and citizens across the state of Texas. In the old format, it was difficult to find and use existing TYLA projects. In our increasingly digital world, it is less important to develop a printed brochure, rather, TYLA projects have the ability to achieve greater impact if they are readily available in digital form. Our goal was to create a user-friendly website that provides seamless access to existing TYLA projects.



This year we successfully launched the new and improved TYLA Website that incorporated a fresh design that is very user-friendly and makes all of our resources available to the public for download. Additionally, our resources are now much easier to locate.

Ten Minute Mentor

Ten Minute Mentor (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 and includes topics such as:

- 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





Better Together

If you want to go fast, go alone; but if you want to go far, go together. —African proverb

The Texas Young Lawyers Association has long been considered the public service arm of the State Bar of Texas by educating the public about important legal issues. This year will be no exception. In addition, we will place a focus on our membership by providing practical and legal resources with an emphasis on attorney wellness. The statistics are startling, 25-30% of attorneys practicing 10 years or less suffer from alcohol or substance abuse or mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression. TYLA's primary goal this year is to break the stigma surrounding attorney wellness and create an environment where more attorneys are empowered to seek help. A few of the planned projects are:



Attorney Wellness Information HUB: This central information sharing point will include engaging videos, podcasts, and articles discussing attorney wellness. The HUB will cover multiple layers of attorney wellness, including:

- Breaking the Silence/ Breaking the Stigma;*
- Wellness Resources for the Bench;*
- Law Student Wellness – Battling Stress, Anxiety and Alcohol Abuse;*
- Wellness Roundtables with Law Students;*
- Life Style Law Firm: Ideas for Cultivating Work/Life Balance for Associates;*
- Wellness Issues Impacting Women;*
- Malpractice Considerations and Attorney Wellness;*
- Suicide Prevention/Coaching for Families and Friends – R U OK?; and*
- Compassion Fatigue Discussions*

TYLA CLE Roadshows: Our Directors will be traveling the state, with a priority to regions of the state that are less served than the major metropolitan cities, to conduct FREE CLE events for local attorneys.

Texas Courts for Texas Veterans: A combination of video and written materials will be created to inform counties of the importance and goals Veteran Treatment Courts provide to our state's veteran community.

Your Voice, Now!: With the help of a generous grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, TYLA will create a learning platform (web and app based) that will present student speech from various perspectives, including key note speakers, school law experts, school administrators, parents, and students themselves.

Musicians – Know Your Rights: A pamphlet that covers the basics of understanding band (company) agreements, trade mark and copy rights, royalty, recording, and publishing contracts, and legal principles of branding. The goal is to have this ready for launch during SXSW (South by Southwest, Austin).

Our Board of Directors will be very busy this year. I hope that you will join us, especially with our attorney wellness initiatives. We hope to ignite a culture change surrounding wellness in the profession that can be adopted across the country. Breaking new ground requires different angles, different ideas, different ways of doing things, and different backgrounds. Breakthroughs happen when we break the mold. With our combined effort, we have the capacity to change people's lives in a positive and sustainable way. To join "Team TYLA" in implementing these projects across Texas, please send me an email (victor.flores@TexasBar.com). Also, if you would like more information about TYLA, please visit tyla.org.

We are better together,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Victor Flores".

Victor Flores
President 2019-2020
Texas Young Lawyers Association



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(800) 204-2222, ext. 1529

tyla.org