

TCWLA LEGAL MATTERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

May 2006

A Day In Federal Court: CLE Seminar
Thursday, May 11
Texas Law Center, Room 101
1414 Colorado St.
Austin, Texas
8:30 - 4:15

Whether you are an experienced federal practitioner or applying for admission to the Western District of Texas, this seminar will provide you with invaluable practice tips and the rare opportunity to hear first-hand from the judges, their law clerks, and some of the most skilled lawyers around. Please see the TCWLA website for more information on the seminar and on how to register.

Kristen Sitchler of Giordani Schurig Beckett Tackett LLP will speak on Wills & Estates

TCWLA will also introduce our new volunteer program with the Susan G. Komen Foundation

Fundamentals of Estate and Disability Planning

Date: May 17, 2006
Time: Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Location: Texas Law Center
Speaker: Kristen Sitchler
CLE: .75 of an hour
(no ethics)

Menu: Chicken Florentine with pasta, Salad, Iced Tea, and Brownies

Mary Pearl Williams 2006 Scholarship Awarded

This year TCWLA awarded the Mary Pearl Williams scholarship to Katheryne Ruth Mardock. Katheryne distinguished herself from all other applicants with her legal, work, volunteer and leadership experience. Not only is Katheryne a board member for the Women's Law Caucus at The University of Texas School of Law, but she was also president of the Liberal Arts Council during her undergraduate work at the University of Texas, voted most outstanding council president from 2002 to 2003.

Katheryne has also volunteered for The Women's Advocacy Project and for the Office of Senator Jane Nelson. She has worked for the Children's Rights Clinic at UT as a student attorney, she was a legal intern for the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, and she worked as a client counselor for a local lobbying firm here in Austin.

Katheryne epitomizes the purpose of The Mary Pearl Williams scholarship which is awarded to a law student at the UT School of Law who shows – through community service and activities at the law school – exceptional promise of being a leader in the community.



TCWLA member, Janet Hamilton, presented the Mary Pearl Williams Scholarship to Katheryne Ruth Mardock (center), pictured here with Hamilton (left) and TCWLA President Portia Bosse (right).

**MAY ITEM
OF THE MONTH
Fan Drive for Family
Eldercare!**

Donate a new fan or bring your tax-deductible cash or check to purchase a fan for Family Eldercare.

TO RESERVE A LUNCH, YOU MUST RSVP NO LATER THAN **MAY 12** to info@tcwla.org. We cannot provide lunch if we don't know that you are coming! You are always welcome to attend and brown bag your lunch if you forget to RSVP. Please remember also that no-shows will be billed.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

May 2006

The Travis County Women Lawyers' Association and Foundation are gearing up for our annual Awards and Grants Luncheon that will be at the Four Seasons Hotel on June 7, 2006. Every year the Association and Foundation honor women lawyers with awards for excellence in Litigation, Government, Outstanding Achievement, Contribution to Minority Community, President's Award, Pro Bono, Public Interest, and Firm in an effort to strengthen the image and position of women lawyers in the community. This year's award recipients are brilliant and talented

women lawyers from all areas of practice. They truly bridge the gap between firms, government, in house, and solo practitioners.

We are also honored to be awarding our annual grants to non-profit organizations around Austin for the purpose of protecting the legal rights of women and children. This year will be a historical year for the Foundation as it is awarding \$16,000.00 in total grants, surpassing all prior years of grant giving.

However, it is with great regret that we inform our members that Governor Ann Richards will not be able to attend the luncheon as planned. Governor Richards has been an

inspiration to us all and she is in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We are grateful to have Mary Beth Rogers attend on Governor Richard's behalf to help us honor Governor Richards at our luncheon.

Warmest Regards,

Portia Bosse
TCWLA President

Mina Brees
TCWL Foundation Chair

2005-2006 TCWLA OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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**Travis County Women Lawyers' Association
and
Travis County Women Lawyers' Foundation
Annual Awards Luncheon & Charity Raffle**

When: Wednesday, June 7, 2005 from 12:00-1:30 PM

**Where: The Four Seasons Hotel & Ballroom,
98 San Jacinto Blvd., Austin, Texas**

Sponsorships for the event are still available!

Underwriter - \$5,000

(includes 2 tables, 20 tickets total, and an exclusive invitation to a pre-luncheon private reception)

Platinum Sponsor \$2,500

(includes 1 table and 10 tickets total)

*Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.; Strasburger & Price, L.L.P.
Walsh, Anderson, Brown, Schulze & Aldridge, P.C.*

Gold Sponsor \$1,000

(includes 8 tickets)

*Scott, Douglass & McConnico, L.L.P.; Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, L.L.P.
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Silver Sponsor \$500

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Bronze Sponsor \$250

(includes 2 tickets)

*Hanna & Plaut, L.L.P.; Honorable Margaret A. Cooper;
Lloyd Gosselink Blevins Rochelle & Townsend, P.C.
Shaunessy & Burnett, P.C.; Clark, Thomas & Winters, P.C.; The Hendler Law Firm, P.C.*

If you or your firm would like to be a sponsor, please contact Ann Greenberg at annelisegreenberg@yahoo.com. Additional information about the event, the awards and grant recipients, and the raffle can be found at <http://www.tcwla.org>. To purchase raffle tickets, please contact Laurie Higginbotham at higginbotham@mericabourland.com, (512) 477-0100

2006 Award & Grant Recipients

TCWLA Awards:

Litigation — Lori Erwin, Thompson, Coe, Cousins, & Irons, L.L.P.

Government — Sylvia Hardman, General Counsel at Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services

Contribution to Minority Community — Elena Diaz, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4

Pro Bono — Cathy Fryer, Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever, & McDaniel, L.L.P.

Public Interest — Patricia McAllister, Executive Director of Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas

Firm/Organization — Cole & Powell, PC

Outstanding Achievement — Beryl Crowley, Exec. Director of Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism

President's Award — Conny Kohler Ruthven

TCWLF Grants:

Capital Area AIDS Legal Project — \$2,000

Center for Child Protection — \$3,000

Family Eldercare — \$2,500

Jane's Due Process — \$1,000

SafePlace — \$1,500

SAHELI: An Organization for Asian Families — \$1,500

Texas Civil Rights Project — \$1,500

Women's Advocacy Project — \$3,000

TOTAL: \$16,000

Successful Color of Justice Program

Board Member Elizabeth Branch and Justice Bea Ann Smith are excited to report that the Color of Justice Program was a huge success. This is the second Color of Justice program presented in Austin with the collaboration of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) and the University of Texas School of Law's Women's Law Caucus. It was a half-day event held on April 10, 2006, at the Eidman Courtroom at the University of Texas School of Law.

The Color of Justice program brought together a distinguished panel of minority judges, lawyers and law students who shared their experiences and the reasons why they chose careers in the law to a selected group of approximately 20 minority high school students from Austin's Akins High School. The program focused on career preparation, panel discussions with judges and lawyers sharing personal and professional insights, and small group discussions during a box luncheon. Another highlight to the program was when Ciara Williams, a second year student at the UT's School of Law, received the Access to Justice Scholarship given by the NAWJ. This \$1,000 scholarship was presented to a student who demonstrated a sustained and passionate commitment to promote access in the justice system, and who overcame significant obstacles. The scholarship was formally presented by Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson and Judge Susan Criss, District Director of NAWJ in Texas.

Travis County Women Lawyers' Association would like to extend a huge thank you to the panelist who so graciously took the time and effort to share their diverse and truly uplifting experiences, making the program a success!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 10th	12-1pm	TCWLA Board meeting, Texas Law Center Room 202
May 17	12-1pm	TCWLA member meeting (Kristen Sitchler of Giordani Schurig Beckett Tackett LLP will speak on Wills & Estates – TCWLA will also introduce our new volunteer program with the Susan G. Komen Foundation)
June 7th	12- 1:30 pm	Travis County Women Lawyers' Foundation 2006 Charity Raffle & Awards Luncheon, Four Seasons. Speaker: Former Texas Gov. Ann Richards
June 14th	12 - 1 pm	TCWLA membership meeting: annual elections and brainstorming session. Texas Law Center Room 101

Meet Your Board: Ellen Stewart



Practice area: estate planning, probate and guardianship.

Employer: Burns Anderson Jury & Brenner L.L.P.

Education: After graduating from Leander ISD (back when it was small with one high school) I ventured far from home (Georgetown) and attended Southwestern University (no not Southwest Texas State University. I graduated in 1993 with a BA Magna Cum (political science major and history minor). Such credentials could only mean a trip to law school. I graduated from Baylor University in 1996. I started my legal career in Dallas (a reaction to Waco) at Smith Underwood and Perkins in commercial litigation.

Family: I married my high school sweetheart (Dean Tesmer who did attend SWTS) in 1994, during law school. We lived in Dallas for 4 years. After the birth

of baby 1 (Emily Caroline Tesmer) we decided Austin was the place to be. Moved back in 2000 and started with BAJB. Originally I worked in insurance defense, railroad litigation and workers compensation defense at BAJB. In Sept 2002, my son was born (Nicholas Stewart Tesmer), which began my transition phase to estate planning/probate practice. Dean and I are surrounded by family in Austin, my folks in Cedar Park and his in Round Rock. Also in the family is Hannah Jane, the basset hound.

Loves to Do: I love to travel, cook (baking is my favorite) and meet people. I belong to too many clubs, groups etc, b/c I love to meet new people, make friends and be productive.

Tidbits: I met Dean at 16 at Highland Mall. My friend, newly licensed, almost hit the boys. Of course the only solution was to exchange numbers. We have been married for 12 years this August. I have worked for the Texas Legislature (the political science thing) campaigned for Ann Richards, and worked at Wal-Mart during HS and college (summers/breaks). I am afraid of heights and do not like boating, even though we have a boat.

KEEP AUSTIN COOL! TCWLA's FANTASTIC Summer Fan Drive Benefiting Family Eldercare

The Family Eldercare Summer Fan Drive is a seasonal program that has operated during the summer months for the past 15 years. Through this program Family Eldercare distributes fans to low-income elders, persons with disabilities and families with young children living on a fixed income. Distribution sites are located in 11 Central Texas counties in order to make fans as accessible to those in need as possible. Last year, Family Eldercare provided 7,200 fans and 110 window air conditioners to 2,848 households. Please join us in helping Family Eldercare reach this year's goal of \$60,000 in donations! Please bring your tax-deductible cash or check donation or a new fan for this year's fan drive. Together, we can save lives.

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What's Going On?

If you are an attorney, or legal professional who has recently changed jobs, opened up a new office, received an award, or hired new staff...we want to know what's going on.

Please e-mail info@tcwla.org with your announcements and photos.



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For more information please contact

Angelica at info@tcwla.org

TCWLF Raffle Prize Packages

Executive Treatment (\$4,640): · Res Ipsa Litigation Support Firm, video package and two digitize & sync packages (\$3,650) · Legally Large, one hour CLE ethics class (\$500) · Emily's Catering, lunch for 15 (\$180) · Little Big City Catering, 10 box lunches (\$110) · SCORE Counselors to America's Small Business, registration for 3 workshops (\$105) · Values First, registration for one workshop (\$75) · The Ripple Effect by Steve Harper (\$19)

Takin' Care of Business (\$4,600): · Strategic Solutions, Inc., seminar/lunch for 10 (\$2,500) · Res Ipsa Litigation Support Firm, digitize & sync package (\$1,000) · BiG AUSTIN, 14-session class for women or minorities starting a small business (\$895) · Emily's Catering, lunch for 15 (\$180) · The Ripple Effect by Steve Harper (\$19)

Diva for a Day/King for a Day (\$2,620): · Barton Creek Resort & Spa, golf for 4 (\$660) · Pink Car at Your Service, 3 hour limo ride (\$360) · Brenda Ladd Photography, portrait session (\$325) · The Mansion at Judges' Hill, one night stay (\$300) · Rochelle Rae, RAE Cosmetics, hair/makeup session and cosmetics (\$250) · Jennifer Garner/Refined Interiors, home decor consultation (\$200) · Whole Foods Market, Whole Body gift basket (\$150) · Joe Koen & Son Jewelers, gift certificate (\$150) · Keepers, gift certificate for men's clothing (\$100) · Jeffrey's, gift certificate (\$75) · Fetish, gift certificate (\$50)

Swank & Soirée (\$1,925): · Four Seasons Hotel Austin, one night lakeview room including breakfast for 2 (\$445) · Chris Black "The Wine Guy," guided wine tasting for 10 (\$300) · Hilton Austin, one night stay including breakfast for 2 (\$200) · Eddie V's, gift certificate (\$200) · Capra & Cavelli, gift certificate (\$200) · The Austin Wine Merchant, gift certificate (\$100) · Ballet Austin, 2 tickets (\$128) · Austin Symphony Orchestra, 2 tickets (\$80) · Julie Alexander Jewelry (\$75) · Natalie Tischler Jewelry (\$75) · Mexic-Arte Museum package (\$55) · Austin Carriage Service, one half-hour ride (\$40) · Andrea Perry, two CDs (\$26)

Renew & Relax (\$1,585): · Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa, two night stay (\$700) · David Gordon, DDS, teeth whitening for 2 (\$400) · Lost Creek Country Club, golf for 4 (\$300) · Avant Salon & Spa, one-hour massage and Aveda spa products (\$110) · Reflexology by Marlene, two 30-minute sessions (\$50) · Shoreline Grill, gift certificate (\$25) · Two Feathers Ghostwood CD (\$15)

Family Fiesta (\$1,450): · Tracy Robinson, JD, estate planning package (\$900) · Glenn Ruthven, mural or portrait gift certificate (\$300) · MBF Agency, 1 year membership (\$100) · Austin Children's Museum, Keep 'em Comin' package (\$66) · Round Rock Express, four tickets (\$40) · Capital Cruises, private bat watching cruise for 4 (\$32) · Two Feathers Ghostwood CD (\$15)

Weekend Escapes (\$1,370): · Southwest Airlines, 2 roundtrip tickets with no restrictions or black out dates (\$800) · Pink Car at Your Service, 2 airport transfers in Escalade (\$164) · Creekhaven Inn B&B in Wimberley, one night including breakfast for two (\$159) · Whole Foods Market, wine & food basket (\$150) · Southwind B&B in Wimberley, one night (\$100)

SoCo Loco (\$1,020): · Austin Motel, one night in Executive Suite (\$158) · Lucy in Disguise/Electric Ladyland, gift certificate for two costume rentals (\$150) · Antigua, gift certificate and ring (\$109) · Austin Art Glass, glass goblet (\$100) · Susan Bollinger Pottery, vase (\$80) · Peggy Ghorbani Acupuncture, one session (\$65) · Green Pastures, brunch for two (\$60) · Southside Tattoo, gift certificate (\$60) · Hotel San Jose Lounge, bread & cheese plate (\$50) · Home Slice Pizza, gift certificate (\$50) · Body Vita, 4 classes (\$48) · Magnolia Café, gift certificate (\$30) · El Sol y La Luna, gift certificate (\$25) · Guero's Taco Bar, gift certificate (\$25) · Texas French Bread, lunch for one (\$8.25)