

TCWLA LEGAL MATTERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

January 2008

2008 Pathfinders Past TCWLA Presidents over 30 Years



Janet Stockard (1977 – 79), Janet Stockard, Attorney at law
Cicily Simms, (1979 – 80), Cicily Simms, Attorney at Law
Holly Gilman, (1988 – 89), Gilman & Clarke, P.C.
Susan Morrison, (1997 – 98), Morrison & Associates, P.C.

Panel Moderator current Chair **Laurie Higginbotham** (2007 – 08) Archuleta, Alsaffar & Higginbotham, P.C.

Pathfinders are women lawyers who are role models and trailblazers. This year TCWLA is celebrating 30 years of service to women in central Texas. So what is more fitting than to have past presidents from the 70s, 80s, and 90s share their experiences? The program format is panel discussion/Q & A with the Pathfinders. This is a thought provoking, informative and inspirational program. See page 3 for more detailed biographies of this year's Pathfinders. TCWLA extends a special invitation to all past-presidents to attend this luncheon and be recognized for their contribution to TCWLA over the years.

Pathfinders Luncheon

Date: January 16, 2008
Time: 11:45 – 1:00 P.M.
Location: Carmelo's
Restaurant
504 East 5th Street
(plenty of onsite free parking)

Pathfinders:
Janet Stockard
Cicily Simms
Holly Gilman
Susan Morrison

Menu: House Salad, Lasagne with Meat sauce, dessert, iced tea and coffee
(Vegetarian option – Eggplant Parmigiana – please specify this option when you register)

Lunch cost:
\$25.00
No CLE Credit



FROM THE PRESIDENT **January 2008**

Happy New Year! 2008 is sure to be an exciting year full of change and hope, especially with important elections shaping our future. A new year always gives us an opportunity to reflect on our dreams and goals, even if we never get around to carrying all of it out as the year unfolds. For myself, I'm planning on doing *less* of some things and *more* of other things. Less taking on projects that aren't really necessary or fulfilling, more quiet time for peace and reflection. Less noise and clutter in all aspects of life, more empty space to discover what really calls me.

I think the people who end up shaping our world are the ones who manage to tune out all of the excess noise of our busy lives, really listen to their hearts and spirit, and put their dreams into action. This month, TCWLA will honor some women who embody that change – those who founded and showed exceptional leadership in this organization at our Pathfinders luncheon at Carmelo's on January 16. I have personal experience with one of our Pathfinders, Cicily Simms. I worked for Cicily as her runner for 2 ½ years in college, starting at the tender age of 19. She was my first real introduction to the Austin legal community and Austin in general. Living in a dorm on campus didn't give me much reason to learn the city until I took that job and had to figure out exactly where Mopac was. And Cicily was my first introduction to quite a few great places around town – Green Pastures, Sweetish Hill, and the 78704 zip code in general. It's almost hard to remember what downtown looked like “way back then,” with no Warehouse District, Second Street District, or Frost Building. Cicily always set a great, professional example in her practice. She is a survivor, a patron of the arts, and still has one of the best laughs I've ever heard. I learned my way around the courthouse and around pleadings long before I ever set foot in law school from her, and for that, and all of the Austin culture, I will be forever grateful to Cicily. Little did I know back then that one day, I'd be following in her footsteps as president of this great organization!

And speaking of TCWLA, yes, it's time once again to renew your dues and it's never been easier. You can renew online with the click of a button from our website, or send in your membership check the same way you always have. We have some wonderful events on the horizon. Our January Pathfinders luncheon is one of the highlights of the year, and this year will be especially wonderful at Carmelo's. In February we will host two amazing events, the Color of Justice Program on February 15 and our annual judicial reception at Green Pastures on February 21 and are currently seeking sponsors for this event. Of course, we'll offer more great program lunches and CLE in the spring as well, including a full-day CLE CAFA training on April 4. We hope that you will continue to inspire and shape TCWLA with your presence and support. Here's to a wonderful, prosperous year ahead!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie M. Higginbotham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laurie M. Higginbotham

Lets Meet Our 2008 Pathfinders

Janet Stockard is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and received her JD from the University of Texas at Austin. In 1976-77, Janet organized and founded the Travis County Women Lawyers and served as the organization's President from 1977-78 and 78-79. In 1982, she organized and founded the Travis County Women Trial Lawyers. Janet is a member of numerous local, state and national organizations and practices criminal law.

Cicily Simms is a graduate of Tulane University and received her J.D. from the University of Texas, where she was an assistant professor before turning to the full-time practice of family law in the Austin area. She is a member of the State Bar of Texas, and is State Board Certified for the specialized practice of Family Law. Cicily has served on the City of Austin Planning Commission and was selected to serve on the State of Texas Senate Special Task Force on Child Support Standards Blue Ribbon Panel.

Holly Gilman graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, MA and received her JD at St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio in 1985. Holly was President of the Travis County Women Lawyers in 1987-88. Holly practices in the two attorney firm of Gilman & Clark, P.C. She has recently completed six years serving on the Board of Directors of Family Eldercare and currently serves on the Board of the Capital Area AIDS Legal Project, a program of AIDS Services of Austin.

Susan Morrison graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and received her JD from Baylor Law School in 1983. Susan is a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation. In 1998, Susan was the President of the Travis County Women Lawyers. Susan has over 500 hours on the bench as an administrative law judge and Assistant Counsel for the Texas Education Agency and now represents school districts on many matters before the TEA.

Court Appointed Advocate CLE – 7.25 Hours

Rent this DVD now or watch online (coming soon!)

TCWLA sponsored, and filmed, a CLE titled “What You Need to Know to be a Court Appointed Advocate” on May 21, 2007. The CLE covered the nuts and bolts of representing children and parents in CPS cases, as well as teaching the participants about available services for clients with mental illnesses and other disabilities, ethical considerations, mediation of CPS cases, attorney general and DRO cases, and guardianships. The CLE lunch portion featured a judicial panel, in which the following Texas judges and former judges participated: the Hon. Craig Enoch (former Texas Supreme Court Justice), the Hon. Eva Guzman (14th Court of Appeals, Houston), and the Hon. Darlene Byrne (126th Judicial Civil District Court (Travis County)). The panel was moderated by TCWLA board member, the Hon. Orlinda Naranjo (419th Judicial Civil District Court (Travis County)).

Viewing of this DVD qualifies for 7.25 hours of CLE credit with the Texas Bar, including one hour of Ethics, and counts towards the 30 hour training requirement in Travis County.

Rental fee: \$100 plus shipping & handling for DVD rentals

For questions concerning the rental of this DVD, please contact Paige Chappell at tewlaorg@gmail.com.

Save the Date – Advanced Court Appointed Advocate Training – Friday, April 4, 2008

TCWLA will be hosting a full day advanced training course for court appointed advocates on Friday, April 4, 2008, at the offices of Winstead PC, located at 401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100. The cost will be \$80 for TCWLA members and \$100 for non-members. The panel at this year’s lunch will feature Texas Supreme Court Justice Scott A. Brister. If you have any questions, please contact Paige Castañeda at pcastaneda@winstead.com, Cameron Vann at cvann@advocacyinc.org, or Rande K. Herrell at rkherrell@sbcglobal.net.

TCWLA Membership has its privileges!

It is that time of year again – Travis County Women Lawyers Association annual membership drive. Please renew or join today by filling out and mailing in the attached membership form with your \$40 annual dues, or see www.tcwla.org for payment by credit card.

TCWLA is a diverse group of women lawyers who practice in Travis County. The benefits of membership, to name a few, are:

- Our annual **Judicial Reception on February 21, 2008**, honoring our local judiciary at Green Pastures Restaurant in South Austin.
- *Free Monthly Meetings and FREE CLE*
- Our annual **TCWLA Awards Luncheon in May, 2008**, where we recognize our 2008 scholarship recipients, award grants to non-profit organizations in Travis County that provide direct legal services to women and children in need, and present awards to female attorneys practicing in Travis County who have achieved professional milestones during the past year.
- *MORE CLE – upcoming events: a spring Advanced CLE seminar for attorneys representing children and parents in **Child Protective Services** cases and continued rental of our DVD CLE program entitled “**A Day in Federal Court: An Introduction to Federal Court Practice**” and “**What You Need to Know to Be a Court Appointed Advocate**”.*
- *Fellowship, business referrals, networking, support systems, pro bono opportunities, giving back to the community, general camaraderie...*

For more information about TCWLA, log onto our website at www.tcwla.org or feel free to contact one of us.

Announcements

Have something you want to share with membership? Let us know!

\$60/hr contract attorney with seven years of experience in general litigation, employment and appellate law available for research, briefing and document review. Contact Elizabeth Branch at (512)565-4464 branch@branchlawoffice.com.

TCWLA turns 30!

Go to TCWLA.org and renew your membership online today!

Want to be a court-appointed special advocate? Need to get some of the required 30 hours in Travis Co.? Contact Paige Chappell at tcwlaorg@gmail.com for details on how to rent a copy.

TCWLA has a new improved webpage. Sign up and pay for luncheons, renew your membership and update your personal information online! You can prepurchase a year's worth of lunches at a discounted price. Be sure to visit it at www.tcwla.org.

Want to know how you can help with the Color of Justice Program in February? Email branch@branchlawoffice.com for details.

Want to be Admitted to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas? Rent the mandatory CLE video from TCWLA. Visit us at www.tcwla.org or email tcwlaorg@gmail.com for more details

Calendar of Events

January 2008	Time for Membership Renewal (see page10 for application)	
January 16th, 2008	11:45-1:00 pm	Pathfinders Luncheon
February 15th, 2008	9:00-11:00 am	Color of Justice Program
February 21st, 2008	5:30-7:30 pm	TCWLA Judicial Reception
March 6th, 2008	5:30-7:30 pm	TCWLA/WLC Mixer
April 4th, 2008	All Day	Advanced Court Appointed Advocate Training

Save the Date!

TCWLA Judicial Reception
Thursday, February 21, 2008
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Green Pastures Restaurant

Make sure your calendar is clear to attend one of the premiere events in the Austin legal community!

TCWLA is currently seeking sponsors for this event! Please contact us at tcwlaorg@gmail.com if you or your firm are interested!

TCWLA/TCWLF Spring Luncheon Announcement

The Luncheon in May 08 is already becoming a LIVE
AUCTION EXTRAVANZA
30th Anniversary event

Auction items already obtained include
4 tickets to The Jon Stewart Daily Show
and
4 tickets to The Colbert Report live taping.
More show
tickets may be coming!!

To auction a complete vacation package we need
donations of

8 airline tickets from frequent flyer accounts, vouchers
for
free flights, etc., to include with the
auction items AND
4 Hotel rooms in NYC or
Cash to buy these items.

Remember 100% of the Live Auction proceeds go to local
charities and
scholarships!

Contact Brenda Collier at 512-482-9409 or
brenda@collierlaw.com with
donations

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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 tcwlaorg@gmail.com with your announcements and photos.



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Contact Lynn G. Bone at
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TCWLA

Travis County Women Lawyers' Association 2008 CALENDAR YEAR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Date: _____ New Member: _____ Renewing Member: _____
Firm/Company/School Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____ Zip Code: _____
Office Phone: _____ Office Fax: _____
E-mail: _____ _ (For newsletters and notices)

Practice Areas

Please indicate your practice areas for publication in the online directory:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative/Regulatory | <input type="checkbox"/> Education/School | <input type="checkbox"/> Malpractice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appellate | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADR | <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Probate/Estate Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banking/Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Government/Municipal | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Tax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy | <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil & Gas |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights/Discrimination | <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer | <input type="checkbox"/> International | <input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance (Other) | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment/Labor | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Committee Information

I am interested in the following committees:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Court Seminar/Other Seminars | <input type="checkbox"/> Take Our Daughters to Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Activities | <input type="checkbox"/> Website/Directory | <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers Bureau | <input type="checkbox"/> "Color of Justice" Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Susan G. Komen/TCWLA Project |

Feedback/Suggestions

What I hope to get out of TCWLA membership:

What I can give to get the most out of TCWLA membership:

Things I would like TCWLA to do:

Speakers/topics I recommend for TCWLA membership programs:

Holiday Gift Memberships: Give TCWLA membership as a gift to your friends and colleagues by duplicating and completing this form for each recipient. Please submit the form and the appropriate amount for dues. Please specify if the gift is anonymous.

Have questions? Call (512) 370-WLAW (9529) or send an e-mail to tcwlaorg@gmail.com if you have questions about membership. TCWLA membership is on a calendar year basis (January 1 - December 31).

Dues: \$40.00 per year; \$20.00 per half-year Lifetime Membership: \$400.00; Law Student: \$20.00
 Additional Voluntary Contribution: \$_____

*****Please renew your membership January 1, 2007*****

Send completed application and check to: TCWLA, P.O. Box 684683, Austin, TX 78768-4683.

**LAWYERS FOR WOMEN FIGHTING BREAST CANCER
ATTORNEY VOLUNTEER SIGNUP FORM**

**A Project of Travis County Women Lawyers' Association in Partnership with Volunteer Legal Services and the
William Wayne Justice Public Policy Center at the University of Texas School of Law**

Volunteer Attorney: _____ *Bar No.* _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **e-mail** _____

_____ **I am a member of Travis County Women Lawyers Association**

Note: Our Case Referral Coordinator will call to discuss individual referrals with you.

I will accept pro bono cases in the following areas of law:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ Bankruptcy | _____ General Litigation | _____ Probate |
| _____ Consumer | _____ Guardianships | _____ Real Estate |
| _____ Debt Collection Defense | _____ Housing | _____ Social Security Benefits |
| _____ Education | _____ Insurance | _____ Tax |
| _____ Employment Problems | _____ Landlord/Tenant | _____ Torts Defense |
| _____ Family Law | _____ License Revocation | _____ Wills |
| | | _____ Wills, Homebound |

_____ I am willing to mentor a UT Law Student assigned to help with a case.

_____ I am willing to keep pro bono cases on my personal docket routinely. When I close a case or a case is inactive, you may call me to take another.

_____ **I speak Spanish fluently.**

Comments: _____

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO:
Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas
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Fax: (512) 322-0764
e-mail: akmeyers@vlsoc.org

QUESTIONS? Contact Anna K. Meyers
(512) 476-5550, ext. 304
akmeyers@vlsoc.org