

TCWLA LEGAL MATTERS

The 2008 Annual Charity Awards Luncheon
Stars of Reality



Featuring
Emcee Roxanne Wilson of
"The Apprentice"
and a Live Auction for tickets to
The Daily Show with Jon Stewart
& The Colbert Report
All proceeds to benefit
TCWL Foundation
Tickets: \$50 each

The 2008
TCWLA – TCWLF
Charity Awards Luncheon

Date: May 15, 2008
Time: 12:00 – 1:30 P.M.
Location: Hilton Hotel
500 W. 4th St.
To reserve your seat,
please:

◆ Specify your order and
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or

◆ RSVP online at
www.tcwla.org.

For more information,
email
tcwlfoundation@gmail.com
or call Val Kirk at
917-9957

JUNE GENERAL MEETING

Join us for our annual brainstorming/year in review meeting on June 18 at noon at Winstead, PC, 401 Congress, Suite 2100. Lunch will be: Chicken enchiladas verdes, green salad, Southwestern pasta salad, Chips and salsa, Iced tea & Cupcakes. Your input is highly valued so please join us before we take our summer hiatus to plan a wonderful 2008 – 2009 bar year!

FROM THE PRESIDENT – MAY 2008

I've been on the board of TCWLA since 2003. In 2003, we had been married three years, had just purchased our first house the year before and had one child (a baby). I was an associate and my husband just joined our current firm. Five years later, we're contemplating buying our second house, have a 5 ½ year old and a 3 year old, and we're partners in our own firm together. Even just the past year has been so dynamic and busy for me that on reflection, I feel like a completely different person than I was when I joined this organization.

Well, maybe not *completely*. I've always had certain characteristics even as a little girl that wouldn't really surprise anybody who knows me. But having weathered more than a few storms now, I certainly feel stronger, not to mention more appreciative of slowing down. As I get older, time seems to go faster and faster. It seemed like every year of high school felt like a decade, and every semester in college was like a year at least. But once you get out of school and start creating a family and career of your own, time seems to have no defining markers anymore, no beginnings or endings.

Which is not to say that you stay on a steady, even plain after those hurdles. This past year has certainly felt like climbing a mountain and now I feel like I'm finally starting to level out. I just finished a tough trial that I handled alone, out of state in federal court, with a - shall we say, temperamental - judge who was appointed to the bench when I was in first grade. I have never had a legal experience quite like this before. A month before at the pretrial conference, I got a 4-hour taste of what I could expect in trial and it wasn't pretty. To make it even worse, the opposing counsel wasn't exactly a joy to share the process with either. The week before trial, I spent two days mentally and emotionally paralyzed, with uncharacteristically no appetite whatsoever, thinking of what that week ahead would be like with a judge who previously threatened me and my experts with contempt if we dared venture outside of their reports. Finally, I just started preparing, figuring there was nothing else to do but just prepare as I normally would, and deal with what came.

Sure enough, the trial was absolute torture. The judge changed the rules from one minute to the next, from one party to the next, yelled at me, yelled at my experts (including a mild-mannered professor of pediatric neuroradiology, who informed me on a break that she was "not used to being yelled at in that manner.") We don't have a judgment yet, as it was a bench trial, but despite this rough ride, I'm still optimistic that we may have won. Whatever the final result, that unpleasant experience gave me more confidence than ten easy wins could have given me. Because I survived! And I not only survived, I really handled this grumpy judge and put on a great case. I didn't enjoy that process, but every day of that experience, I got leaner (even though I did eventually start eating!), tougher, and stronger than before. Now, I'm feeling kind of like a new forest growing over scorched earth. I think I'm still recovering a little from being so scorched. But once you've been through the fire, it's harder to get burned. I think I have a new Teflon armor as a result. And that is a good feeling. I've enjoyed serving TCWLA and will continue to serve as Past-President and as the Chair of the Foundation next year. You're in great hands with Rande Herrell as incoming president! Thanks for being a part of my ongoing growth and I hope TCWLA and I can continue to be a part of yours.

Sincerely,



Laurie M. Higginbotham

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 3, 2008	All Day	Women's Resource Fair
May 15, 2008	12:00-1:30	TCWLA/TCWLF Charity Awards Luncheon
June 18, 2008	12:00-1:00	TCWLA General Meeting: Brainstorm/Feedback Session



TCWLA-WLC MIXER

Thank you to TCWLA member, D'Ann Johnson for hosting the annual TCWLA - WLC mixer in her historic home known as "The Old School" on March 26, and to TCWLA board member Elizabeth Branch for organizing this event.



TAKE YOUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

Thank you to the Hon. Orlinda Naranjo for once again organizing TCWLA's annual Take Your Daughters to Work Day! Every year, Judge Naranjo opens her courtroom to at-risk girls to let them participate in a mock trial on the topic of dating violence. We appreciate Judge Naranjo's dedication to this important project for our community.

2008 TCWLA-TCWLF CHARITY AWARDS LUNCHEON
"STARS OF REALITY"



2008 "Austin Idols" - Award recipients

Public Interest: **Kristine A. Huskey**
Contribution to Minority Community: **Gloria Leal**
Government Service: **Alicia G. Key**
Pro Bono: **Beverly Stringer**
Litigation: **Beverly Reeves**
Transactional: **Karen J. Bartoletti & Christine Sweeny**
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT: **Nancy Matchus**
President's Award: **Elizabeth Branch**
Firm/Organization/Government Entity: **CASEY, GENTZ & MAGNESS, L.L.P.**



Extreme

**MAKEOVER:
AUSTIN EDITION**

2008 Grant Recipients

- ◆ **Advocacy, Inc.** ◆ **Austin Children's Shelter** ◆
- ◆ **Austin Community Radio, Inc. d/b/a KAZI Radio** ◆
- ◆ **Capital Area AIDS Legal Project** ◆
- ◆ **Casa of Travis County** ◆ **The Center for Child Protection** ◆
- ◆ **Family Eldercare** ◆ **Texas C-BAR** ◆
- ◆ **Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas** ◆

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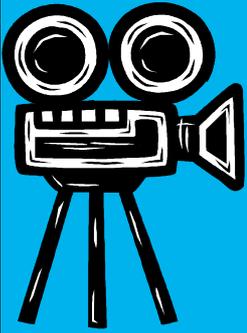
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The Daily Show with Jon Stewart
The Colbert Report with Stephen Colbert
Photography by James T. Parsons



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COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE CLE (BEGINNERS) – 7.25 Hours

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. Questions? Please contact Paige Chappell at tcwlaorg@gmail.com.

COURT APPOINTED ADVOCATE CLE (ADVANCED) – 7.25 Hours

TCWLA sponsored, and filmed, a CLE titled “What You Need to Know to be a Court Appointed Advocate” on April 4, 2008. The CLE covered advanced issues concerning representing children and parents in CPS cases, Topics include Mental Health Issues, Domestic Violence, Clients with Disabilities, CPS Litigation, Mediation, Appeals and Online Legal Resources and Pro Bono Networks, and Access to Legal Aid and Attorney General Services, as well as a Judicial Panel including the Hon. Nathan L. Hecht (Texas Supreme Court), Hon. Alma Lopez (Chief Justice, Fourth Court of Appeals, San Antonio).

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. Questions? Please contact Paige Chappell at tcwlaorg@gmail.com.

FEDERAL DAY IN COURT CLE

QUALIFIES FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

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- What is really important to federal judges.
- Tips from the best attorneys on both sides of the docket.
- The newest developments in caselaw by top law professors.
- How to get a handle on the latest court e-filing technology.

For those who were unable to attend TCWLA's Day in Federal Court on May 11, 2006, a DVD of the seminar is available for rent. 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 and law professors around.

This course is required for anyone seeking admission to the Western District of Texas, but this year the program was designed to appeal to **experienced practitioners and new applicants** alike. This is a rare opportunity to hear directly from the law clerks behind the scenes, the judges who will decide your clients' fate, and the successful lawyers who have what it takes in federal court. In addition, the program includes a training session on E-filing conducted by the IT director for the Western District.

Viewing of this DVD qualifies for CLE self-study credit of up to 5 hours with the Texas Bar and will be considered as a qualification for admission to the United States District Court of the Western District of Texas. Return the DVD in good condition, and TCWLA will send you a letter of completion to be included with your application for admission to the Western District of Texas

Seminar Fee: \$195 plus tax, plus additional shipping charges.

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

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.

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The Office of Legal Services at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has an opening in the Environmental Law Division, an Attorney II position, the link to this position is at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assets/public/admin/jobs/docs/08164.pdf>

Interested in admittance 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



Give Your Resume an Extreme Makeover

If you're of the boomer generation, and looking for a new career, you could be getting the cold shoulder from employers. Your hair may be saying "under 40", but recruiters put your resume in the geriatric-reject pile. If you're feeling symptoms of age discrimination, your resume could be working against you, making you seem out of date and one step from retirement. There are three reasons your resume may be keeping you out of interviews. Your resume is due for an update if:

1. Your technology skills date you from the stone age
2. Your key industry words are decades old
3. Your resume format doesn't follow current trends

Don't despair if your resume is out of date. You can perform an extreme resume makeover by using the following tips.

1. Get current on your industry's technology.

Be aware that technology terms are often used as keywords to filter the best resumes from electronic databases. If your resume doesn't have them, it may never be seen. Make sure your technology skills aren't leaving you behind.

Check job descriptions from various sources within your industry to see what technology skills employers are looking for. Determine what's missing from your resume. Then decide what you need to learn or do in order to fill that technology gap. Adult education, college classes, or even online learning are all great ways to catch up.

2. Make sure your resume reflects current terminology.

If you have just been adding to the same old resume over the years your early entries reflect outdated key words. Bring your resume up to date with the help of publications from your industry's professional associations. If you don't belong to any professional associations, you might be missing out on the latest industry-speak.

Another good resource for current terminology is online job postings. Search job descriptions in your field for recurring key words. Learn to use the current terminology for your industry for optimum results.

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued from p. 10)

3. Make sure your resume reflects today's trends in resume format and style.

A decade back, the reverse-chronological format worked fine for you. But now that you have more experience, it may not be your best choice. The more advanced hybrid format will showcase your skills and expertise to your optimum advantage. With a hybrid resume, potential employers will form an impression of you based on your top accomplishments, not just your most recent job description.

Many of the old resume rules just don't apply any more. For example:

* "Limit your resume to one page." This idea went out with the advent of electronic resumes. Nothing is harder on the eyes than a trying to read a three-page resume squished onto one page.

* "Your resume should go back no more than ten years." Don't use an arbitrary number to determine how much to include on your resume. Ask yourself, "how far back does my work history relate to my current objective?"

* "One resume should handle everything." Not so! For greater effectiveness adjust your resume to different functions or industries you'd like to explore.

Finally, make sure you use the correct electronic version. You'll want to have (1) a standard Word format (for printouts and email attachments), and (2) a Plain Text version for "text only" online forms.

Give your resume an extreme makeover using these tips to let your experience work for you rather than against you. You'll see increased requests for interviews leading to your best career opportunity ever.

~~~~~  
Deborah Walker, Resume Coach, and former executive recruiter understands from an insider's view the resume errors that can spell disaster for job seekers. Her resume advice has helped many continue to reach their career objectives regardless of their age.

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(w) 266-7676 (f) 266-4646  
email: [lhigginbotham@govtclaim.com](mailto:lhigginbotham@govtclaim.com)

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(w) 512 460-6132 (f) 328-1671  
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email: [portiabosse@yahoo.com](mailto:portiabosse@yahoo.com)

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email: [elizabethmpoole@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethmpoole@hotmail.com)

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email: [jessica.warren@bankofamerica.com](mailto:jessica.warren@bankofamerica.com)

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(w) 499-6299 (f) 499-6290  
e-mail: [lmoriarty@akingump.com](mailto:lmoriarty@akingump.com)

Joey Moore

(w) 476-5355 \*1 143 (f) 486-7045  
e-mail: [joeym@tsta.org](mailto:joeym@tsta.org)

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(w) 370-2839 (f) 370-2850  
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(w) 454-4816 x319 (f) 302-4936  
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(w) 565-4464  
email: [branch@branchlawoffice.com](mailto:branch@branchlawoffice.com)

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(w) 854-9242 (f) 854-4724  
email: [Orlinda.naranjo@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Orlinda.naranjo@co.travis.tx.us)

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**T C W L A**  
**Travis County Women Lawyers' Association**  
**2008 CALENDAR YEAR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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- |                                                      |                                                |                                                  |
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- |                                          |                                                               |                                                       |
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| <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:

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***Have questions?*** Call (512) 370-WLAW (9529) or send an e-mail to [tcwlaorg@gmail.com](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of Travis County Women Lawyers Association

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**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:**

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

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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  
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 701, Austin, TX 78701  
Fax: (512) 322-0764  
e-mail: [akmeyers@vlsoc.org](mailto:akmeyers@vlsoc.org)

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