

TCWLA LEGAL MATTERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

June 2008

BRAINSTORMING SESSION FOR COMING YEAR AND ELECTION OF NEW BOARD

Our annual general membership business meeting is coming up June 18th at the Winstead Law Firm. We hold our annual election for the Board at this meeting. The slate will be forwarded by a separate e-mail reminder of the event. As always, the slate is simply the recommendation of the outgoing Board, and nominations from the floor are welcome.

This is the session where we plan for the coming year. We would love your input on what type of events you would like to see TCWLA undertake in the coming year, CLE topics of interest to you, and, of course, suggestions for improvement in any area are always welcome. This is your organization and it is what you make of it. So please plan to attend to share your thoughts and suggestions.

Brainstorming for the Coming Year and Election of the New Board

Date: June 18th, 2008

Time: 11:45 am to 1:00 pm

Place: Winstead, PC
401 Congress, Suite 2100

CLE: None

Menu: Chicken Enchiladas
Verdes, Green Salad,
Southwestern Pasta Salad,
Chips and Salsa, Cupcakes

Lunch cost:
\$15.00

Go to www.tcwla.org to
reserve your lunch before June
11th.

Austin is Hot in the Summer!

But don't forget there are many fun things to do:

1. Take an early morning walk around town lake (with sunscreen)
2. Volunteer at the Townlake Animal Shelter
3. Take a dip in Barton Springs
4. Organize a clothing or back to school drive for local charities
5. Donate a fan to the Family Eldercare Fan Drive
6. Visit the Austin Nature and Science Center
301 Nature Center Drive
7. Take an Austin Ghost Tour (853-9826)
8. Attend a live Auction with your own food and drinks
austinauction.com
9. Go see Blues on the Green in Zilker Park (check online for
Wednesday's schedule)
10. Go to Unplugged at the Grove on Thursdays at Shady Grove
11. Check out the local farmers market Saturday mornings
(4th and Guadalupe)

Meet your *PRESIDENT-ELECT*

Rande Herrell

June 2008

Practice Area: Civil Appellate Law. I began my legal career at the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Dallas as briefing attorney to Chief Justice Clarence Guittard. After some time as an associate in a Dallas business litigation firm and as an associate general counsel for a Fortune 500 company, I made my way back to a full time appellate practice as staff attorney to Justice John Cornyn (now Senator Cornyn) at the Supreme Court of Texas. Shortly after that, I managed to become certified in Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. This year I underwent my third recertification. Fifteen years sure flew by fast!

Employer: Office of the Attorney General. I have spent a large part of my legal career with the Office of the Attorney General. I started out in the Tort Litigation Division. I have also served in the Energy Division, Natural Resources Division, Elder Law Division and Financial Litigation Division. My most recent position is the Managing Attorney of the Appellate Section of the Child Support Division. I am once again devoted full time to the practice of appellate law in what is literally a state-wide practice. Working to ensure the children of Texas receive the support they need is extremely satisfying.

Education: I have 3 and a half degrees from Southern Methodist University: a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, a Master of Arts in psychology, a Juris Doctor, and 15 graduate hours in computer science.

Family: I have a great husband, Barry Brooks, who is also a lawyer (S.M.U. undergrad and UT School of Law). Barry and I have almost 30 years together. He is the Managing Attorney for the Special Collections Unit, Child Support Division, Office of the Attorney General. I had an inside track in law school with Barry to mentor me. We have two wonderful sons. Our oldest, Brandon, attended St. Stephens' Episcopal School here in Austin (class of 1999) and graduated from S.M.U.'s Cox School of Business in 2003. He met a wonderful young lady his junior year of college, Brenda Flaming, and they are getting married in a sunset ceremony in St. Lucia on June 12th. Brenda is also a graduate of S.M.U.'s Cox School of Business and is a CPA with Ernst and Young. Our youngest, Morgan, attended Westlake High School (class of 2005) and is a rising senior at Vanderbilt University, majoring in biology. He just finished the MCAT and is making his applications to medical schools this summer.

Loves to do: I love to cook and entertain. There is nothing better than good food, good wine, and friends and family. All four of us scuba dive, and are looking forward to seeing some spectacular dive sites while in St. Lucia for the wedding. I am also an avid reader and look forward to a lot of relaxing beach time with several good books too.

Tidbits: A wedding on the beach so intimidated me that I immediately went to work on weight loss and have shed 55 pounds over the last 9 months. I simply refuse to look like a beached whale in the photos of my son's wedding. No picture accompanies this piece because I need to get a new one that looks like me! Thankfully the old one doesn't look anything like I am today. And yes I will share the secret – its eating the food the human body was designed to run on and getting “industrial” food out of your diet. The pounds really do melt away. Now it is a lot of fun to indulge in my guilty pleasure – running away on a spring afternoon with the top down on my baby blue convertible!

Calendar of Events

June 18th, 2008

11:45 - 1:00

General Membership Meeting

Advice for Women in the Workplace

By Barbara Klein, Senior Vice President & CFO of CDW Corporation

1. Embrace Change. It's inevitable and if you have a positive attitude, good things will come and your career will prosper.
2. No one cares as much about your career as you do. Take responsibility for your future; take charge of your life.
3. Learn about finance. It's the "bottom line" for everything in business. Take a class, study; know the various ratios in the industry, what they mean and how they impact what you do.
4. Never stop learning. We live in a global economy, learn about different cultures and remain open to new perspectives and ideas.
5. Solid communication skills are vital – both verbal and written.
6. Learn what it takes to go from an individual contributor to a manager.
7. Hire the very best talent you can find. Look for individuals with skill sets complimentary to your own so that you can achieve together as a team.
8. Work hard and recognize that work sometimes requires sacrifices.
9. Have a mentor. If you don't have one, seek one out.
10. Networking is invaluable – both for today and for your future success. Be careful not to get too caught up in simply completing the task at hand. Always take the time to build relationships.
11. Travel as much as you can. Travel broadens your horizons, especially international travel.
12. Give back. Get involved with charitable organizations, be a mentor to others, give to the world, the community and to others. Remember that you wouldn't be where you are today if it weren't for the influence and inspiration that you have received from others.
13. Don't forget your family and friends. As you reflect on your life, you likely won't be saying "I should have spent more time on that work project."
14. Ask questions, and then really listen to the answers. The 5 why's help in getting to the heart of an issue. As children we do this, and we forget what a great strategy it is to uncover answers.
15. Don't forget to have some fun along the way! Find a healthy balance between work and your personal life.

TCWLA 2008 Scholarship Recipients

The Recipients of the Marian Boner Scholarship:

Kelly deAnne Davis

Kelly is a 2nd year student at UT Law School with an interest in environmental law. She has volunteered many hours to causes such as the Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, Save Our Springs Alliance, the Environmental Law Society at UT, and the Environmental Law Clinic. She hopes to pursue a career in the environmental justice field and to remain in Austin.

Busi Mlambo

Busi will graduate from UT Law School this spring, and is interested in international human rights, especially the rights of women. She hails from Zimbabwe, where her grandfather was the first black judge in the country. At the law school she has been involved with moot court, Texas International Law Journal, and the Black Students Association. As a child she told her grandfather she would become the first female Chief Justice, and he told her he believed in her.

The recipients of the Farris-Cisneros Scholarship are:

Sara Kim

Sara is completing her 2nd year of law school. She is involved with the Women's Law Caucus, Domestic Violence Support Network and helping to start a Law Student's Family Law Association. She will also be working for Texas Rural Legal Aid.

Stephanie Kolmar

Stephanie is completing her 1st year and is presently a volunteer at Political Asylum Project and translated at the weekly Texas Rural Legal Aid Clinic. During the summer she is going to work for ProBar in South Texas and is President Elect of the Public Interest Law Association.

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 tcwlaorg@gmail.com.

The TWL Annual Retreat and Planning Session

The TWL Board met in San Antonio for its annual retreat and planning session last month. The annual CLE was a huge success in Austin with 200 lawyers attending from all over the state. The TWL Maternity Survey Report was presented at the Annual Meeting and will be available for a "road show" powerpoint tour. That survey found paid leave ranged from zero time to 12 weeks and usually depended upon the size of the firm, with smaller firms providing more flexibility, and the majority of women returning to work full time. The report is available on the website: www.texaswomenlawyers.org

TWL has an opening for the Vice President position and is looking for an attorney to plan the next board retreat for April 19, 2009. Law student liaison positions are also available. Membership focus for the coming year will target the DFW Metroplex and Corpus Christi.

TCWLA is taking a summer break after our June meeting. There will be no newsletters or meetings until September. You can expect new board members, CLE topics and exciting events. Please continue to email us with questions over the Summer at tcwlaorg@gmail.com. In the meantime, stay hydrated, wear sunscreen and enjoy the Summer sun (see a list of things to do in Austin on pages 1 & 8). We look forward to returning to you refreshed in the Fall.

Announcements

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

The law office of Pittman & Fink, P.C. has moved to 8000 Anderson Lane, Suite 101, Austin, Texas 78757; (512) 499-0902. The attorneys at Pittman & Fink provide legal services in the areas of ERISA/employee benefits concerning multiemployer and single employer benefit plans, as well as in the areas of labor law and employment law. Glenda L. Pittman is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

\$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.

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>

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

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

Travis County Women Lawyers' Association Holds Annual Charity Awards Luncheon

The Travis County Women Lawyers' Association and Foundation ("TCWLA") held their annual Charity Awards Luncheon, honoring women lawyers for their contributions to the Austin legal community and awarding \$25,000 in grants to area nonprofit groups providing legal services to women and children. The event took place on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the Hilton Hotel in downtown Austin.

This year, Roxanne Wilson of "The Apprentice" emceed the event. Wilson also conducted a live auction for tickets to "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and "The Colbert Report with Stephen Colbert."

TCWLA recognized the following outstanding women lawyers: Kristine A. Huskey (Public Interest); Gloria Leal (Contribution to the Minority Community); Alicia G. Key (Government Service); Beverly Stringer (Pro Bono); Beverly Reeves (Litigation); Karen J. Bartoletti (Transactional); Christine Sweeney (Transactional); Nancy Matchus (Outstanding Achievement); and Elizabeth Branch (President's Award). Casey, Gentz & Magness, L.L.P was chosen for the Outstanding Firm Award.

The TCWLA Scholarship Foundation awarded four scholarships to law students at the University of Texas School of Law. The 2008 scholarship recipients were Kelly deAnne Davis, Busi Mlambo, Sarah Kim, and Stephanie Kolmar.

At the luncheon, TCWLA also announced their 2008 Grant Recipients. \$25,000 in grants were awarded to: Advocacy, Inc.; Austin Children's Shelter; KAZI Radio; Capital Area AIDS Legal Project; Casa of Travis County; The Center for Child Protection; Family Eldercare; Texas C-BAR; and Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas.

Founded in 1977, TCWLA is an organization created to **foster communication among women lawyers. The Annual Charity Awards Luncheon is one of the ways the organization fulfills its mission of strengthening the image of women lawyers in the Austin community.**

The 2008 Annual Charity Awards Luncheon Stars of Reality





2008 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 SWEENEY
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT: Nancy Matchus
President's Award: ELIZABETH BRANCH
Firm/Organization/Government Entity:
CASEY, GENTZ & MAGNESS, L.L.P.

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 ◆

2008 Scholarship Winners:

Kelly deAnne Davis ◆ Busi Mlambo
Sarah Kim ◆ Stephanie Kolmar

Foundation Fellows

Alex Albright ★ Bill Aleshire ★ Paige Arnette Amstutz ★ Becky Beaver
★ Julie G. Benkoski ★ Joelle Schulze Boehle ★ Portia Bosse ★ Cindy
Olson Bourland ★ Mina Brees ★ Hon. Jan Breland ★ Jo-Christy Brown
★ Andrea Pair Bryant ★ Bree Buchanan ★ Karen Burgess ★ Linda
Burgess ★ Susan Burton ★ Edna Ramon Butts ★ Hon. Darlene Byrne
★ Lynn Carter ★ Robin Casey ★ Lou Castañeda ★ Sheila Enid
Cheaney ★ Brenda Clayton ★ Rosemary Coffman ★ Brenda Collier ★
Cindy Connolly ★ Hon. Margaret Cooper ★ Hon. Suzanne
Covington ★ Beryl (Berry) Crowly ★ Gerald Daugherty ★ Monica A. De
La Paz ★ Hon. Elena Diaz ★ Martha Dickie ★ Kristen Pauling Doyle
★ Hon. Elisabeth Earle ★ Maria Luisa (Lulu) Flores ★ Susan Gentz
★ Hon. Melissa Goodwin ★ Sam Graham ★ Ann Greenberg ★
Marcy Hogan Greer ★ Catherine L. Hanna ★ Hon. J. Andrew
Hathcock ★ Sally Henly ★ Mack Ray Hernandez ★ Elizabeth (Liz)
Hickson ★ Laurie Higginbotham & Jamal Alsaffar ★ Hon. Nancy
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Ruth Jacks ★ Hon. Scott Jenkins ★ Eleanor Jewart ★ D'Ann Johnson ★
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Merica ★ Shannon Meroney ★ Lorri Michel ★ Page Mitchell ★ Janet
Monteros ★ Angela Moorman ★ Susan G. Morrison ★ Hon. Orlinda
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★ Velva Price ★ Milbrey Raney ★ David & Jennifer Reck ★ Beverly
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Kathryn Tullos ★ Cameron Vann ★ Robb Voyles ★ Karen Watkins ★
Katy Wells ★ Hon. Mary Pearl Williams ★ Sally Wittliff

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The Exhibit Company

Things to do this Summer in Austin continued...

12. Participate in an Adult Summer reading program at your local Library
13. Watch the bats on Congress
14. Canoe on Townlake
15. Go see an IMAX
16. Catch one of the many old classics shown at the Paramount Theatre in their Summer Movie Series
17. Write a legal article for submission to the TCWLA Newsletter
18. Take a tour of the Capitol

2008 TAKE YOUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY: “DATING VIOLENCE” MOCK TRIAL AND JAIL TOUR

On April 17, 2008, eighteen fifth-grade girls from East Austin Norman Elementary visited the 419th District Court and the county jail. Judge Orlinda Naranjo, a Board Member of TCWLA, hosted the girls as part of the 6th annual “Take Your Daughters to Work Day”. Fourteen of the lucky girls were able to participate as an assistant prosecutor, co-defense counsel, and jurors in a Teen Dating Violence Trial. This year we again focused on this very germane topic for these girls who are pre-dating age. The fact pattern involved a young teenage couple where the boyfriend’s violent behavior escalates from controlling to finally physically pushing her and grabbing her hair.

The girls were able to observe experienced professionals and individuals that role played: Defense Attorney Jana Ortega and her client, Nicholas Bates, Court Clerk I from the District Clerk Criminal Division, County Attorney Assistant Linda Magee, and her client, Sarah Racanelli, a junior from Cedar Park High School. The girls/jury found the Defendant not guilty. After the trial, they had a discussion about the education requirements and experiences of our participants; the participants role in the legal system; and dating violence. The girls defined dating violence, discussed the importance of this issue with teenagers, identified the abusive behavior they saw in the trial, how can they prevent abuse, and what they can do if their friend/relative is being abused.

The girls were provided pizza and drinks at Wooldridge Park. After lunch, the girls were led by TCSO Director of Community Relations, Kelly Page, and TCSO Community Liaison, Andrea D. Buckley, who provided the girls with a tour of the Teen Dating Violence Awareness vehicle. Thereafter, Travis County Sheriff’s Officer Cindi Sassmanshausen took the girls through a tour of the Travis County jail and Central Booking accompanied by Travis County Sheriff Officers, Nakeisha Davis, Brian Anderson and Officer Castaneda. Judge Naranjo wrapped up the day by presenting each student with an official TYDTW t-shirt, and a Certificate of Appreciation for their participation in the legal system.

A special thanks goes to the above volunteers, and our drivers who helped drive the girls to and from the school; our sponsors, the law firm of Ewbank and Byrom, P.C., and Papa Johns, and also to Sheriff Greg Hamilton for his help in organizing the jail tour. This was an excellent opportunity for these girls to see role models and to have a positive, learning experience about our legal system, judges, and deputies, as well as discuss very important social and timely issues for these young ladies.

By Judge Orlinda Naranjo
419th District Court
Chair, Take Our Daughters to Work Day



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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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PRESIDENT:

Laurie Higginbotham
(w) 266-7676 (f) 266-4646
email: lhigginbotham@govtclaim.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Rande Herrell
(w) 512 460-6132 (f) 328-1671
email: rkherrell@sbcglobal.net

PAST PRESIDENT:

Joelle Boehle
(w) 233-0280 (f) 857-1202
email: joelle@kinneyrecruiting.com

TCWLF LIAISON:

Portia Bosse
(w) 476-5355 (f) 486-7045
email: portiabosse@yahoo.com

SECRETARY:

Elizabeth Poole
(w) 782-4409 (f) 866-257-4157
email: elizabethmpoole@hotmail.com

TREASURER:

Jessica Warren
(w) 397-2417 (f) 397-2431
email: jessica.warren@bankofamerica.com

ACTIVITIES CO-CHAIRS:

Laura Moriarty
(w) 499-6299 (f) 499-6290
e-mail: lmoriarty@akingump.com

Joey Moore
(w) 476-5355 *1143 (f) 486-7045
e-mail: joeym@tsta.org

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:

Ellen Stewart
(w) 328-8355 (f) 328-8413
email: stewart@bbs-legal.com

CLE CO-CHAIRS:

Paige Casteneda
(w) 370-2839 (f) 370-2850
email: pcastaneda@winstead.com

Cameron Vann
(w) 454-4816 x319 (f) 302-4936
email: cvann@advocacyinc.org

SCHOLARSHIPS

CO-CHAIR (Bonner/Williams):
Amie Rodnick
(w) 477-2226 (f) 477-2126
email: amie@rodnicklaw.com

CO-CHAIR (Farris-Cisneros):

Velva Price
(w) 469-9006 (f) 469-9008
email: velva_p@sbcglobal.net

AYLA LIAISON/ WOMEN'S LAW CAUCUS LIAISON:

Elizabeth Branch
(w) 565-4464
email: branch@branchlawoffice.com

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK:

Hon. Orlanda Naranjo
(w) 854-9242 (f) 854-4724
email: Orlanda.naranjo@co.travis.tx.us

PUBLICITY CHAIR:

Patricia Cofty
(w)441-1411 (f) 441-1410
email pcofty@thefowlerlawfirm.com

WEBSITE CHAIR:

Molly Leder Hepkin
(w) 577-8867
email: mbleder@yahoo.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and NEWSLETTER CONTACT:

Paige Chappell
(c) 699-5073
email: tcwlaorg@gmail.com

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Bankruptcy | <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Oil & Gas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Transactions | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil/Business Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> In House Counsel | <input type="checkbox"/> Securities |
| <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
816 Congress Avenue, Suite 701, Austin, TX 78701
Fax: (512) 322-0764
e-mail: akmeyers@vlsoc.org

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