



TCWLA

Travis County Women Lawyers' Association

Legal Matters

March 2010

Annual Judicial Reception Huge Success!

TCWLA is your organization, and the Board welcomes your comments and suggestions at tcwlaorg@gmail.com

Each year the TCWLA Judicial Reception is one of our organization's most well attended and often complimented events. This year was no exception. Members of the bench and the bar shared an evening of good food, good conversation and enjoyed the presentation of the scholarships. The 2010 Mary Pearl Williams Scholarship went to

Susannah Volpe and the 2010 Margaret Cooper Scholarship winners were Adriana Rodriguez and Lorrie Cantrell. Special thanks to Cindy Connolly and Julie Street, Activities chairwomen on the TCWLA board, for putting together this wonderful event. And special thanks to all our sponsors for making this a truly great night!



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Important Dates to Remember

March 5	TCWLA CLE- Lessons from FLDS Intervention	1:00-5:00
March 24	Monthly General Meeting Guantanamo Bay CLE	11:45-1:00
March 27	Women's Resource Fair	TBA
April 21	Monthly General Meeting Supreme Court Update	11:45-1:00
May 3	Take Your Daughters to Work Day	8:30-1:00
May 13	Grants and Awards Luncheon	12:00-1:00
June 16	Next Year's Board Elections	11:45-1:00



From Your President Elizabeth Poole

This month TCWLA will review your nominations for our annual attorney awards. If you have not yet sent in a nomination, you can do so by visiting our website, www.tcwla.org, and by downloading an application. TCWLA began this award program several years ago. At that time, the board noticed that local bar organizations were failing to include women among the ranks of the successful and influential attorneys they recognized. The board felt that women who were equally contributing to the local community were underrepresented in receiving the recognition they deserved. Thus began the annual TCWLA attorney awards.

I had the good fortune to enter law school the first year that female law students outnumbered male students. And from my first law clerking job to my

current position, the executive directors and managing attorneys under whom I've worked have all been women. From my first visit to the uncontested docket as a young lawyer to my first full jury trial, I have practiced before more women judges than men and many of my opposing counsels have been women.

I know that my experience is still unique and that there is much work to be done. But I thought I would take this month to note how far the legal profession has come. More women are managing partners in law firms, more women have started their own practices, and more women are running our local non-profit organizations than ever before. As young women embark on their legal education, they are increasingly taught by female professors.

Let's celebrate this change. Let's honor the women who opened the doors for the rest of us, and let's welcome the newly licensed attorneys who will continue to shape the changing face of our legal community. Take some time today to honor a woman who has inspired you, whether through her dedication to her community, to her dedication to her job or her mentorship of less experienced attorneys. All award recipients will be honored at our annual grants and awards luncheon on May 13 at the Austin Hilton Hotel. We hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Poole

"Let's honor the women who opened the doors for the rest of us, and let's welcome the newly licensed attorneys who will continue to shape the changing face of our legal community."

*For an attorney award nomination form and to register for events, please visit our website:
<http://www.tcwla.org>*

SAVE THE DATE & REGISTER ONLINE

TCWLA CLE

March 5
Register online for a half-day CLE on the FLDS cases.

Membership CLE/Luncheon

March 24
CLE is free for members and \$15 for non-members,

with an optional \$15 catered lunch for both by Spoon, Inc., a locally & woman-owned business. Menu this month is exceptional and includes, Southwestern Spiced Roasted Chicken Breasts served with Crushed Pecan Butter, Candied Jalapenos and

Cilantro (vegetarian option of Southwestern Spiced Pan Roasted Tofu - please designate vegetarian when you RSVP), Red Rice with roasted Squash, Pepitas and Fresh Herbs, Amador Farms Leafy Salad with Best of the Market Bits and a Butter-

milk Dressing
Red Velvet Cupcakes, and Iced Tea

Interested in admission to the Western District?

Contact us for our new reduced DVD rental price at tcwlaorg@gmail.com.

TCWLA 2010 Events

See <http://www.tcwla.org> to register!

- March 5 **TCWLA Half-Day CLE**, dynamic speakers and panel discussion on the state intervention in the FLDS cases from attorneys who have been most involved
- March 24 **Membership CLE Luncheon, TSTA Building.** Kristine A Huskey (Clinical Professor of Law, National Security Clinic and UT School of Law) will be discussing her work on the Guantanamo cases. Our CLE/Networking lunches are free for members and \$15 for non-members, with an optional \$15 catered lunch for both.
- March 27 **Women's Resource Fair, Community Life Center on Lavaca.** This annual charitable event provides an array of services to women and children in need, and is hosted in conjunction with the AYL. Contact Liz Branch or Amanda Taylor to volunteer: branch@branchlawoffice.com; amandat@hts-law.com.
- April 21 **Membership CLE Luncheon, TSTA Building.** Kurt Kuhn (Partner at Brown McCarroll, candidate for the Third Court of Appeals, & TCWLA member) will be presenting a Supreme Court Update. Our CLE/Networking lunches are free for members and \$15 for non-members, with an optional \$15 catered lunch for both.
- May 3 **Take Your Daughters to Work Day.** Judge Orlinda Naranjo leads this annual program, at which 20 elementary school girls will have the chance to participate in a mock trial and learn about the legal system. Contact Judge Naranjo to volunteer, orlinda.naranjo@co.travis.tx.us.
- May 13 **Grants & Awards Luncheon, Austin Hilton Hotel .** At this annual event, hosted with the Foundation, members will enjoy a great lunch, auction, and raffle. Importantly, awards will be given to women attorneys making significant contributions in the categories of litigation, public interest, government, contribution to the minority community, pro bono, outstanding achievement, and law firm, government agency, or organization outstanding in its treatment of women. Additionally, grants will be given to organizations that benefit women and children and solve legal problems affecting women and children in Travis County. Finally, scholarships will be presented to 3 female UT Law Students finding success in the face of adversity. Tickets will be available for purchase soon.



Meet Your Board Member Jaclyn Thompson

Jaclyn Thompson is a licensed attorney in both Texas and Michigan with several years of legal experience in both the private and public sector. Jaclyn obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from Purdue University and Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University School of Law.

In addition to her legal experience, Jaclyn has worked in higher education for a number of years, previously as a recruiter and admis-

sions counselor for Valparaiso University School of Law and currently as a Law School Account Executive for LexisNexis. Dedicated to being involved, Jaclyn is on the Travis County Women Lawyers' Association Board and the board of her HOA. She also serves as a chairperson for the Women's Resource Fair and a fundraiser for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The Women's Resource

Fair will be held this month on March 27 at the Community Life Center on Lavaca. This annual charitable event provides an array of services to women and children in need, and is hosted in conjunction with the AYL. Contact Liz Branch or Amanda Taylor to volunteer: branch@branchlawoffice.com; amandat@hts-law.com.

*Women's Resource Fair
March 27, 2010
Community Life Center*

*"Contact Liz Branch or
Amanda Taylor
to volunteer for the Women's
Resource Fair:
branch@branchlawoffice.com;
amandat@hts-law.com."*

Austin Lawyers Support Group

Are financial woes keeping you up at night? Come to Texas Lawyer Assistance Program's (TLAP) confidential monthly meeting on Thursday, February 25, 12:00-1:00 at 816 Congress,

3rd floor Longhorn Room, to discuss the basics of how to identify causes of financial headaches, make progress towards your financial goals and address the emotional roadblocks often en-

countered when facing money issues. For more information call 512-427-1463 or go to <http://www.tlap.org>.

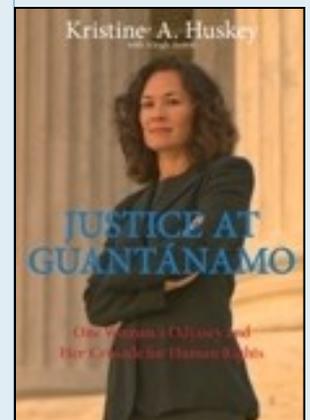
CLE on the FLDS cases in El Dorado
Friday, March 5, 2010

On April 4, 2008, law enforcement descended upon the YFZ Ranch in El Dorado, Texas. More than 450 children were removed from their families on the suspicion of child abuse. TCWLA brings you the behind the scenes stories from the people involved with the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) investigation. Come hear the personal accounts of what occurred from both the lawyers who volunteered their services and the members of the FLDS community. Learn more about the FLDS culture and beliefs, see the video footage of the raid that took place, and find out where the cases now stand in the legal system.

Next TCWLA Membership Meeting and CLE
Guantanamo and Beyond: the Policy of Preventive Detention
by Kristine A. Huskey
Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Kristine A. Huskey is a clinical professor of law and the founder and former Director of the National Security Clinic at the UT School of Law. She is also the author of *Justice at Guantánamo: One Woman's Odyssey and Her Crusade for Human Rights*, a recently-published memoir about her experiences representing Guantánamo detainees. On March 24, Professor Huskey will speak to TCWLA about the current legal and policy issues surrounding Guantánamo and its detainees, including the current legal paradigm for preventive detention at Guantánamo and the possibility of moving "GTMO" and preventive detention to the United States. Professor Huskey's CLE presentation will explore these intriguing topics from the unique perspective of someone who has a wealth of legal experience in the field. Also, copies of Professor Huskey's book will be available for sale following the CLE.

- *March 5, 2010*
- *1:00 pm- 5:00 pm*
- *TSTA Building*
316 W. 12th Street
- ***4 hr of CLE***
(1 hr. ethics)
included
- *Snacks generously*
provided by
Montford &
McNelis, LLP
- *\$20 for members*
- *\$40 for non-members.*
- *To register, go to*
<http://www.tcwla.org>



Color of Justice Paves the Way for a More Diverse Future More TCWLA February Success Stories

Approximately 75 minority students from local Austin high schools, including Lanier, Akins and Austin High, recently had the opportunity to participate in the Color of Justice program, a program started by the National Association of Women Judges to introduce minority students to a diverse group of minority judges, lawyers, and law students whose stories illustrate the many career options available in the law and judiciary. The program was held on February 2nd at UT Law’s Eidman Courtroom.

“The program inspires minority high school students to consider the law as a career, and to aspire to be a judge as well as a lawyer.”

Travis County Women Lawyers Association was excited to join with the NAWJ and UT Law’s William Wayne Justice Center for Public Law, as well as sponsors, Clark Thomas & Winters PC and Winstead PC, to bring this wonderful opportunity to the students. This half-day event featured two panel discussions with speakers sharing their personal experiences and encouraging the students to pursue a career in law. The program inspires minority high school students to consider the law as a career, and to aspire to be a judge as well as a lawyer.

The first panel, titled “The Color of Justice: Making a Difference,” was led by several esteemed judges, including Texas Supreme Court Justice Dale Wainwright, Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman, Judge Orlinda Naranjo of the Travis County Civil Court, 419th Judicial District and Judge Eric Shepperd of the Travis County Civil Court, County Court at Law #2. The panel was moderated by Judge Elisabeth Earle of the Travis County Criminal Court, County Court at Law #7.

“The program was spearheaded by TCWLA Board Member Elizabeth Branch.”

The second panel, titled “Law as a Career: Preparing the Way” was led by a mix of legal professionals, including Chike Okpara of Clark Thomas & Winters PC, Jana Ortega of the Law Office of Jana Ortega, Norma Cantu a Professor at UT Law and Jessica Kemp at student at the UT Law. Amanda Taylor of Hohmann Taube & Summers and President Elect of TCWLA was the moderator.

Also, as part of the program, UT Law Student, Adriana Rodriguez received a \$1,000 “Access to Justice Scholarship” given by the NAWJ for her demonstrated and passionate commitment to the achievement of equality of opportunity and access in the justice system. This scholarship was presented by Judge Orlinda Naranjo.

The program was spearheaded by TCWLA Board Member Elizabeth Branch. TCWLA would like to thank all panel members and sponsors for making this year’s program a true success.

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TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

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information
tcwlaorg
@gmail.com**



Membership Application for New and Renewing Members

Please indicate your selection...

- Active Membership: \$40 per calendar year, due Jan. 1
- Law Student Membership: \$20 per calendar year, due Jan. 1
- Fall Membership: \$20 for October, November, and December, payable after Oct. 1
- Lifetime Membership: \$400, payable anytime
- Newly Licensed Attorney Membership: Complimentary membership up to the first 14 months of licensure. February licensees receive free membership for the remainder of calendar year in which they are licensed (10 months). November licensees receive the same for the Nov. and Dec. of their year of licensure, plus the following calendar year (14 months). Dues will be due the January 1 after complimentary membership expires.

Member Information...

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

Firm/employer: _____

I am a law student at _____ and will graduate _____.

I am a newly licensed attorney. My month and year of licensure: _____.

Method of Payment...pay by check or online at www.tcwla.org/joinus.htm

- Enclosed please find my check and form. (Mail both to TCWLA, P.O. Box 684683, Austin, TX 78768-4683.)
- I have paid online; here is my form. (Email form, as an attachment, to tcwlaorg@gmail.com (download form at www.tcwla.org) or to mail it to TCWLA, P.O. Box 684683, Austin, TX 78768-4683.)
- I'm a newly licensed attorney. Here is my form!

Thank you for joining TCWLA!



Mailing Address
P.O. Box 684683
Austin, TX 78768-4683
Email
tcwlaorg@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE
WEB!
WWW.TCWLA.ORG
FACEBOOK

Membership Renewals are Every January Are You Current?

A sampling of membership privileges:

- § FREE CLE at our monthly membership lunches
- § Free admission to the annual Judicial Reception at Green Pastures
- § Invitation to the annual Pathfinders' Luncheon and the annual TCWLF Grants and Awards Luncheon
- § Social Connections: our annual holiday party and other special events
- § Access to *Legal Matters*, our award-winning newsletter
- § Opportunities to spotlight your practice or business at our events and in our newsletter
- § Privilege of community service

Membership dues are only \$40 per calendar year for regular membership!
Student membership is \$20!
Become a lifetime member for \$400!

This year, we are providing FREE MEMBERSHIP to newly licensed attorneys. If you or someone you know was just inducted into the Texas Bar, please claim your free membership and start connecting with practicing attorneys today!

Free Memberships for Newly Licensed Attorneys!

TCWLA congratulates all newly licensed attorneys! The TCWLA board has decided to award all newly licensed attorneys free membership for 2010. TCWLA is a wonderful community of attorneys who can provide guidance and mentorship to new attorneys. We welcome you to our legal community!

For those newly licensed attorneys who are looking for a practice area, membership is an invaluable way to get to know experienced attorneys and learn about the varied practice areas in the Austin area. For those new attorneys who have already chosen an area in which to practice, there is no better group of women to turn to for advice and practical guidance. I encourage all new members to attend our luncheons and other events to get to know the women who have made their careers practicing law in Austin.

Help TCWLA go paperless by renewing your membership online at www.tcwla.org. Or, fill out the form in this newsletter and mail in your dues.