



TCWLA

Travis County Women Lawyers' Association

Legal Matters

January 2011

Renewing your membership and registering for events is much easier on our new website!

www.tcwla.org

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Join us for our most popular and inspiring event!

2011 Pathfinders Luncheon

The Travis County Women Lawyers' Association is pleased to announce the 2011 Pathfinders. This year we are honoring Laura Fowler, founder of The Fowler Law Firm PC, preeminent oil and gas litigator, Becky Miller, the Honorable Lora Livingston, and former Texas Supreme Court Justice, Harriet O'Neill.

Each year TCWLA recognizes women in our community who have used their law degrees in ways that inspire the rest of us. These four successful women continue to work in and for our legal community.

We look forward to listening to and learning from these four accomplished women. Please join us on Wednesday, January 19 at Carmelo's restaurant (504 E. 5th Street) at 11:45 AM to honor our 2011 Pathfinders. Please feel free to arrive early to greet one another and network before lunch is served.

Reserve your lunch today at www.tcwla.org!

Important Dates to Remember

- January 19 **Pathfinders' Luncheon.** Carmello's
- March 26 **Women's Resource Fair**

**From Your President
Amanda Taylor**



“We are filled with hope, determination, ambition, and clarity of mind.”

‘Twas three We will open the book. Its pages are blank.
We are going to put words on them ourselves.
The book is called Opportunity and its first chapter is New
Year's Day.
~Edith Lovejoy Pierce

I love the crisp, refreshing start of a new year. We are filled with hope, determination, ambition, and clarity of mind. Our outlook for the upcoming months is unwaveringly positive. Nothing will hold us back this year! Then, without fail, somewhere along the way – usually on the first of those breezy spring days when a patio cocktail sounds so nice – our goals become a little, well, shall we say “muddled.” We know this will happen in May, but we forge ahead anyway in January. That is the simple beauty of the human spirit.

This year, let’s try to keep that positive, determined outlook going for as long as possible. Here are two

ways that TCWLA can help you do that: First, make time to attend the Pathfinders Luncheon on January 19 at Carmellos. At this luncheon you will hear the personal stories of four amazing female attorneys who have forged a path to success. Let them inspire and teach you ways to succeed on your own journey. Second, get more involved in TCWLA in 2011 than you have been before. TCWLA offers the opportunity to form an amazing network of friends and contacts who understand your work/life balance and who can help you along the way. Having this type of network can help you stay on track to meet all those goals you’ve just set—whether you find a

TCWLA running buddy or someone to call about trusts and estates. The first step is remembering to renew your membership in 2011 when your dues are up. Beyond that, think about whether you might like serve on our Board. We will have some positions open for seats beginning in June, so take the time between now and then to consider if that is something you would like to do, and feel free to ask me about this potential service if you have any questions.

Happy New Year!
Amanda Taylor
2010-2011
Board President

Austin Lawyers Support Group

- What:** A confidential monthly education and support group for lawyers, judges and law students seeking help or support while healing from depression, addiction, job stress, anxiety and other mental health issues.
- When:** Every last Thursday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00 PM
This month's meeting is January 27th.
- Where:** 816 Congress, in the "Longhorn Room", Room 320.
Free Parking under the building. Enter the parking area from 9th street.
- Format:** 30 minute speaker - an expert from the mental health field
This month will feature Amy Neuzil, a Naturopath, who will give up many tips on starting the new year with a wellness plan !
30 minute peer support - lawyers supporting lawyers
- Contact:** TLAP support is from Cameron Vann, J.D. Cameron.vann@texasbar.com , (512) 427-1453 or (800) 343-8527.

Please pass this information on to other lawyers who may be interested.

Raise a Glass! *Good News from Bar Members*

 Davis & Wilkerson would like to announce that TCWLA member, Katy Merrill Andre has just been elected shareholder in recognition of her exemplary work with the firm's clients. Andre typically represents business owners, individuals and insurance companies, defending them against lawsuits ranging from personal injury and

premises liability matters, to general and professional liability issues. "Since joining the firm six years ago, Katy has exceeded expectations," said Shareholder David Wright, who has witnessed Andre first hand as her co-counsel on various legal matters. "She has done everything we have asked her to and left a trail of extremely satisfied clients." Andre was pleased with

the news, crediting the firm and its attorneys for creating an environment to succeed. "I have been so fortunate to work with someone like David Wright and the many other shareholders at the firm," said Andre. "They have been extremely supportive not only of my work on behalf of clients, but also with organizations outside the firm, such as Volunteer Legal Services, Texas As-

sociation of Defense Counsel and DRI -- The Voice of the Defense Bar. I have been able to cull my experience as a trial lawyer while remaining involved in my community and raising a family. I look forward to growing my practice now as a shareholder in the firm." For more on Andre, visit her biography at <http://www.dwlaw.com/attorneys/katy-merrill-andre.html>

Meet Your 2011 Pathfinders



*Former Texas Supreme Court Justice,
Harriet O'Neill*

✧ Former Justice Harriet O'Neill was elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 1998 and re-elected to a second term in 2004. O'Neill's judicial career began in 1992, when she was elected to the 152nd District Court in Houston. In 1995, Governor George W. Bush appointed her to the 14th Court of Appeals, and she won election to that seat in 1996. She left the court of appeals with a 91 percent approval rating, the highest rating on her nine-member court. She was appointed by then-U.S. Attorney

General Gonzales to serve on the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women. She has a special interest in improving our court system for children and families in foster care and spearheaded the creation in 2007 of the Permanent Judicial Commission for Children, Youth and Families. In the 10 years before assuming the bench, Harriet O'Neill practiced law in Houston, concentrating in complex business and commercial litigation. She practiced with the firms of Porter & Clements and Morris & Campbell, and then opened her own office. Now she is beginning a private practice in Travis County and settling in Austin with her husband and three children.



Laura Fowler

✧ Laura Fowler is one of the state's pre-eminent experts in school and real estate law. Currently Ms. Fowler is the founder and leader of the Fowler Law Firm, P.C., a firm of sixteen attorneys carrying forward the tradition of excellence established in Austin by its predecessors, Judge Robert Lee Penn, I.D. Fowler and James Malcolm "Mac" Harris more than one hundred years ago. Laura Fowler entered Baylor Law School with a full scholarship at a time when there were few women in the law school. In her first year of law school she was recruited by the

U.S. Navy to serve as one of its first female JAG officers at a time when numbers of female commissioned officers were limited by federal law. Laura traveled the world aboard a combat vessel, where she found herself at times the lone woman and lawyer aboard a ship with more than three thousand navy and marine corps personnel. Ms. Fowler returned to Texas and served as counsel to the Texas Commissioner of Education. She was rapidly recruited into private practice and by the late 80's was a named partner in a firm which grew while she was a part of it from a three lawyer firm in Austin, Texas to the largest woman owned law firm in Texas and one of the top one hundred law firms in the State of Texas. As she enters her third decade of law practice, Ms. Fowler's true passion is in giving back to

Meet Your 2011 Pathfinders

the Travis County community. She is the publisher and co-author of five books which have been adopted by the graduate level programs of eighteen Texas colleges and universities. The proceeds of all sales of all publications are donated to support Texas students in various ways.



Becky Miller

Becky Miller started law school at The University of Texas as a single mother of a two-year-old. After graduating with honors in 1981, she joined Scott, Douglass & McConico, L.L.P. She was the second female attorney to join the firm.

In 1992, she became the firm's managing partner and the first female managing partner of a major Texas law firm. At Scott, Douglass & McConico, Becky built a career in oil and gas law and has become an expert in the field. Becky has been a Texas Super Lawyer in Energy and Natural Resources Law since 2004 and was named a Texas Lawyer Top Five "Go-To" Lawyer in Oil and Gas in 2008. From 1998 to 1999, Becky served as the first female chair of the State Bar's oil and gas section, and from 1988 to 1989, she chaired the gas and mineral law section of the Travis County Bar. Becky, now in semi-retirement, still practices law at Scott Douglass & McConico on a part-time basis and is an adjunct professor at the University of Texas School of Law.



The Honorable Lora Livingston

Judge Lora Livingston is a 1982 graduate of the UCLA School of Law. She began her legal career as a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow assigned to the Legal Aid Society of Central Texas in Austin, Texas. She continued to work in the area of poverty law until 1988 when she entered private practice with the law firm of Joel B. Bennett, P.C. In 1993, she and S. Gail Parr formed a partnership and opened the law firm of Livingston & Parr. She was engaged in a general civil litigation practice with an emphasis on family law. In January, 1995, she

was sworn in as an Associate Judge for the District Courts of Travis County, Texas. After her successful election, Judge Livingston was sworn in as Judge of the 261st District Court in January, 1999. She is the first African-American woman to serve on a district court in Travis County, Texas. In addition to her professional posts, she has served on numerous Boards of important Austin area community groups, such as Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, Capital Area Food Bank, Austin Symphony Orchestra, Austin Area Urban League, and El Buen Samaritano. Her many contributions to pro bono efforts statewide include her service on the board of the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation and appointment by the Texas Supreme Court to serve on the inaugural board of the Texas Access to Justice Commission.

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UT CENTER FOR WOMEN IN LAW HOSTS LEADERSHIP BOOT CAMP FOR WOMEN 3Ls AND JUDICIAL CLERKS

Launched in 2009, the Center for Women in Law at The University of Texas School of Law is the premier educational institution dedicated to the success of the entire spectrum of women in law, from first-year law students to the most experienced and accomplished attorneys. Under the leadership of Executive Director Linda Bray Chanow, the Center advocates for the advancement of women lawyers into leadership positions in the profession.

“Even after decades of progress, women continue to be grossly under-represented in virtually every area of the law,” states Chanow. Women comprise just 16% of law firm equity partners; 15% of law firm governing committees; 6% of law firm managing partners; 19% of Fortune 500 general counsel; and 20% of law school deans. Women attorneys of color occupy even fewer leadership positions, comprising less than two percent of partners in law firms. She notes, “These distressing percentages have remained static for many years, despite the fact that women have constituted nearly 50% of law school graduating classes for two decades.”

To change this dynamic, the Center will host its second annual Leadership Boot Camp on February 18th. The Leadership Boot Camp is an all-day training session for 3rd year law students and judicial clerks. The intense training session focuses on skills that women lawyers traditionally learn too late in their careers to have an impact – self-promotion, effective communication, and building internal and external networks.

“The program provides a meaningful opportunity for women at the start of their careers to fine-tune skills with experienced attorneys who understand what it will take for the students to succeed as young lawyers,” explains Chanow. This early preparation is intended to give women their best chance at success in the legal profession, and is an important component of the Center’s goal to advance a critical mass of women into positions of influence.

The Center is currently seeking senior level attorneys to co-lead small group training workshops at the Leadership Boot Camp. The time commitment is 3

hours on the day of the event and a 1 hour training call. For more information, contact Linda Chanow at lchanow@law.utexas.edu or 512-232-1973.

The Leadership Boot Camp is one of a number of initiatives being spearheaded by the Center. Other programs include:

- A bi-annual Women's Power Summit on Law and Leadership that brings leading women lawyers together to exchange ideas and generate solutions to challenges facing women in the legal profession. The 2009 Power Summit culminated in the creation of the Austin Manifesto, which calls for concrete steps to tackle the obstacles facing women in the profession today.
- The Consortium for Advancing Women Lawyers, a platform for leaders from across the country to share knowledge, develop relationships, and combine resources that will accelerate efforts to advance women lawyers.

The Center is founded and funded by 40 women. It serves as a national resource to convene leaders, generate ideas, and lead change.

For more information about the UT Center for Women in the Law and their upcoming events, visit centerforwomeninlaw.org

If you have written or have seen articles that you think members would find interesting, please forward to: publicity@tcwla.org

*Go online to register or
mail this into us
with your dues.*

T C W L A
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

-
- Active Membership: \$40 per year
-
- Student Membership: \$20 per year
-
- Lifetime Membership: \$400, payable anytime
-
- Newly Licensed Attorney Membership: *Complimentary* membership for one year
-

Member Contact Information

Member's Name: _____

Email address: _____

New member? Y / N

Are you purchasing this membership as a gift for another? Y / N

If yes, please let us know your name and email address: _____

Member Practice Information

I am currently employed at: _____.

I am seeking employment in this practice area: _____.

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

My practice area(s) are:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <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"/> A D R | <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 |
| <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 Prosecution/Defense | <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance (Other) | <input type="checkbox"/> Workers Compensation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment/Labor | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile | <input type="checkbox"/> Other :_____ |

I am interested in networking: () in my practice area(s)

() in the following practice area(s)

I would be willing to:

() send a welcome email to a new member in my practice area.

() be a resource to a member interested in my practice area.

() be listed on the public part of the website as a member with this practice area.

I would like to be included:

() in the online directory available to members.

Payment Information

- Paying by check? Mail both to: TCWLA, P.O. Box 684683, Austin, TX 78768-4683.
- Paying by Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express, or PayPal? Pay online at: <http://www.tcwla.org>

Thank you for joining TCWLA!



Primary Business Address

Your Address Line 2

Your Address Line 3

Email

tcwlaorg@gmail.com

WE'RE ON THE
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Free Memberships for Newly Licensed Attorneys!

TCWLA congratulates all newly licensed attorneys! Your membership is free for the first 14 months of licensure. But you have to register to get involved and to take advantage of member benefits. 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.

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 for a year of membership!

Student membership is \$20!

Become a lifetime member for \$400!

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

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paperless by renewing
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