



# TCWLA

Travis County Women Lawyers' Association

## Legal Matters

April 2011

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

[www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org)

### TCWLA Spring Line-up of Events

April 20 - TCWLA Membership CLE Luncheon- 11:45 to 1:00. Scott, Douglass & Mcconnico, L.L.P.(17th floor of One American Center, 600 Congress Ave.)

May 4 - Grants and Awards Luncheon - 11:45 to 1:00. Hilton Downtown (500 East 4th Street).

May 18 - "Joining TCWLA is Sweet!" Membership Party – 6:00 p.m. McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore (600 Congress Avenue #2100)

June 15 - TCWLA Membership CLE Luncheon- 11:45 to 1:00. Scott, Douglass & Mcconnico, L.L.P.(17th floor of One American Center, 600 Congress Ave.)

#### Inside this issue:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| From Your President | 2   |
| Spring Events       | 3   |
| Resolution Adopted  | 4   |
| Member News         | 5   |
| 2011 Grant Winners  | 6-7 |
| TCWLA Board         | 8   |
| Membership          | 9   |

More details on Page 3

## From Your President Amanda Taylor



*“Service to others is the rent you pay  
for your room here on earth.”*

-- Shirley Chisholm (first African-American  
woman to win a seat in the United States  
Congress)

Over the last few weeks, many Austinites have been enjoying the vibrant fruits of our great city: music flowing through the perfectly-breezy air of SXSW, a much-needed Spring Break, dining at one of our ever-increasing new “hot spots,” and invigorating loops around Town Lake. I sincerely hope that you have been one of the many with a glowing smile that says, “I love living here!” Unfortunately, while we have much to be thankful for, much remains to be done. Thousands in our community are suffering and are in great need of legal and social assistance. As educated and successful advocates, we should feel duty-bound to assist this population; don’t just live here, give here!

On March 16, David Courreges and Monty Exter gave a Legislative Update to our membership about what is happening down at “The Pink Building” in this 82<sup>nd</sup> Session. We all came away from that talk feeling more informed and impassioned about several pending bills, which will have a direct impact on our lives and our profession. Of particular importance was a discussion of the budget: Our legisla-

ture must find a way to balance a \$27 billion deficit, and the current plan is to get there through massive cuts to education, legal aid, and other service funding. Without question, the call to service is now resounding. So, what can we do?

First, I am proud to announce that, on March 11, your Board approved a Resolution Supporting Legal Aid Funding in Texas, with the hope of sending a message to our representatives and courts that TCWLA understands the importance of providing legal services to underprivileged communities in our state. You can read more about that and see the Resolution in this newsletter.

Second, I am also very proud of our Foundation, which has a fundraising mission to provide grants to many legal aid organizations in Central Texas. You can directly support this mission by attending our May 4 Grants and Awards luncheon and by making donations (through the purchase of raffle tickets, by becoming a Fellow, or simply writing a check) at that luncheon. In this newsletter, we

have included detail about which organizations are receiving grants and exactly what the grants will be used for this year. I am confident that when you read this information, you will be amazed by the great services being provided in our community and, hopefully, you will feel compelled to support TCWLA’s mission this May!

Between now and then, I hope you will also join TCWLA for a “Yoga Happy Hour” on March 30 to gain clarity in these trying times, and then for our CLE luncheon on April 20, at which Judge Amy Clark Meachum will give us insights from the bench. On May 18, instead of our typical CLE, we will be hosting a sure-to-please “dessert and wine” party on the rooftop deck of McGinnis, Lockridge, & Kilgore because it is “Sweet to Join TCWLA.” Finally, on June 15, our membership will convene to elect our 2011-2012 Board!

Spread the love,

Amanda Taylor  
2010-2011  
Board President

“don’t just live  
here, give here!”

Invite your  
friends and  
colleagues to join  
TCWLA  
[www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org)

## Mark Your Calendar & RSVP

April 20 - TCWLA Membership CLE Luncheon- 11:45 to 1:00. Scott, Douglass & Mcconnico, L.L.P.(17th floor of One American Center, 600 Congress Ave.)

Judge Amy Clark Meachum will provide insights from her first few months on the bench. If you were unable to attend this month's ABA luncheon with Judge Meachum, or if you have more questions for her, this will be a great opportunity to get to know one of our newest District Judges a bit better, so please mark your calendars now. CLE is free to all, and a catered lunch is provided (\$15 for members and \$20 for non-members). Advanced registration required for lunch at: [www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org).

May 4 - Grants and Awards Luncheon - 11:45 to 1:00. Hilton Downtown (500 East 4th Street).

Please join us for an amazing luncheon at which we will honor 8 outstanding female attorneys and 1 firm; hand out \$30,000 in grants to non-profit organizations fighting for the legal rights of women and children in Central Texas; and honor a female UT law students with a scholarship. We will also be raffling off some amazing gift baskets to support our fundraising for the grants. You can find more information about the events and sponsorship opportunities on our website. Registration is now open at [www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org).

May 18 - "Joining TCWLA is Sweet!" Membership Party – 6:00 p.m. McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore (600 Congress Avenue #2100)

On May 18 at 6:00 pm, please celebrate with us at a "dessert and wine" party on the rooftop deck of McGinnis, Lockridge, and Kilgore because **"Joining TCWLA is Sweet!"** May is our "membership drive" month, and we are hosting this party so that all new and current members can mingle and network while enjoying sweet treats from some of Austin's best chefs. Anyone who joins in May will receive free admission to this event, and each new member can enter to win our door prize: Two \$40 spa gift cards - 1 for the new member and 1 for the person who referred her to TCWLA! So, encourage all your friends to join TCWLA in May, and then enjoy the benefits of membership with them, starting at this party. Registration will soon be open on our website, with a cost of \$10 for existing members and \$20 for non-members.

June 15 - TCWLA Membership CLE Luncheon & Board Elections- 11:45 to 1:00. Scott, Douglass & Mcconnico, L.L.P.(17th floor of One American Center, 600 Congress Ave.)

Finally, Langford Elementary School is looking for dynamic, female attorneys to participate in their Career Day this year on **May 6, 2011** from 9:00-11:00am. Know anyone who fits that description? If you are interested, please contact the school counselor, Lynette Alanis directly at [lynette.alanis@austinisd.org](mailto:lynette.alanis@austinisd.org)

“In 2004, 3.8 million Texans qualified for legal aid; now that group is 5.7 million and growing.”

[www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org)

## TCWLA Board Passes Resolution in Support of Legislative Funding for Pro Bono Legal Services

Texas, like most of the nation, is facing a budgetary crisis with a \$27 Billion deficit to be accounted for in the current legislative session. While cuts will have to be made, TCWLA does not believe that drastically reducing legal aid funding provides an efficient solution, as it will simply leave more at-risk populations in need of help. In 2004, 3.8 million Texans qualified for legal aid; now that group is 5.7 million and growing. (*Legal Aid Funding Crisis*, by Ari Phillips, Texas Observer, 2/18/11). For these reasons, the TCWLA Board adopted a resolution in support of legislative funding of pro bono services, as called for by Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson and the Texas Access to Justice Commission. A .pdf version of the Resolution will be sent with this newsletter and can be found on our website ([www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org)).

“You may be the lawyer who saves another lawyer’s life.”

[www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org)

## TLAP Develops Protocol to Help Lawyers Suffering from Depression and Suicidal Thoughts

Lawyers are at high risk for depression and suicide.

Lawyers continue to ask, “what can I do if I am concerned a colleague who is suicidal?” Here is the answer.

The Mental Health Subcommittee of Texas Lawyers Assistance Program has reviewed the research, met with professionals, and collaborated to develop a protocol to ‘have the conversation’ with a lawyer you are concerned about. This protocol is entitled, “Life Alert: Save a Lawyer.” A .pdf version of this protocol will be sent with this newsletter and can be found on our website ([www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org)).

You may be the lawyer who saves another lawyer’s life.

## 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
- Where:** 816 Congress, in the “Longhorn Room”, Room 320.  
Free Parking under the building. Enter the parking area from 9<sup>th</sup> street.
- Format:** 30 minute speaker - an expert from the mental health field  
30 minute peer support - lawyers supporting lawyers
- Contact:** TLAP support is from Cameron Vann, J.D.  
[Cameron.vann@texasbar.com](mailto: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*

FOR LEASE: 3 office condo TWO BLOCKS from the Travis County Courthouse @805 W. Tenth Street with 3 reserved covered parking spaces, phone system, lateral HON filing cabinets, furnished kitchen, copier/scanner/fax \$1300 mo. Call 478-1616.

March was Women's History Month and the Travis County Courts website has a tribute to remarkable women worth visiting: [http://www.co.travis.tx.us/features/WHM\\_bios.asp](http://www.co.travis.tx.us/features/WHM_bios.asp)

### Hines & Leigh, P.C.



is pleased to announce that  
*Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch*  
has joined the firm.

She is now accepting referrals on immigration law matters and attorney inquiries on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions post-*Padilla*.

Hines & Leigh, P.C. is a full-service immigration law firm, established in 1981, with offices in Austin and Temple. We offer advice and representation in all family and employment immigration matters as well as:

- removal defense
- immigrant and non-immigrant visas
- citizenship

[www.hines-leigh.com](http://www.hines-leigh.com)  
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Phone: (254) 307-1046

## GRANTS & AWARDS LUNCHEON IS MAY 4

Please join us on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 for our Annual Grants & Awards Luncheon, from 12:00-1:30 at the Downtown Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 4th Street.

Each year at this luncheon, TCWLA honors local female attorneys who have significantly contributed to the legal profession and one organization that has promoted and/or supported women-friendly practices in the workplace. You can read more about these winners next month. Our Scholarship Committee will also present a scholarship at the luncheon to a female UT Law Student who has found success in the face of adversity.

The other major focus of this luncheon is to provide charitable grants to non-profit organizations that help solve legal problems affecting women, children, and families in the Central Texas area, which is the mission of our Foundation ("TCWLF"). This year we are excited to be handing out \$30,000 in grants, and hope you will read the details about that below. In light of our legislature's recent, large cuts on funding for legal aid services in

Texas, the fundraising that TCWLF does to provide these grants is *more important than ever!* As part of our fundraising efforts, the luncheon will feature a raffle of several gift baskets featuring wonderful packages, including hotel stays, spa certificates, local wine selections, and more. Please come armed and ready with your checkbooks or cash to help combat these critical issues -- 100% of the money raised goes directly to our charitable grants!

If you have additional questions or are interested in sponsoring, please contact Susan Burton, Chair of the Foundation, at 480-5738 or [sburton@gdhm.com](mailto:sburton@gdhm.com).

### THIS YEAR'S GRANT WINNERS:

The Travis County Women Lawyers' Foundation is very proud to be awarding \$30,000 in charitable grants this year to the following non-profit organizations, each of which is dedicated to providing critical legal and social services to women, children, and families in the Central Texas Area.

**Advocacy, Inc.** (soon to be "Disability Rights Texas") is dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. Advocacy Inc. will use its grant to put on a Special Education Clinic for parents, attorneys, and other advocates receive training about how to obtain and enforce legal rights and other benefits for school-aged children under the special education laws.

**AIDS Services of Austin** provides outreach, prevention, education, testing, and intervention services, as well as legal, social, and medical-benefit assistance to persons with HIV/AIDS and at-risk populations throughout Central Texas. A division of this organization, the Capital Area AIDS Legal Project (CAALP) will use the grant to host legal training and assistance clinics and seminars, two of which will be focused specifically on women.

**The ARC of the Capital Area** provides services improving the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (such as autism, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome) and their caregivers.

Please join us on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 for our Annual Grants & Awards Luncheon, from 12:00-1:30 at the Downtown Hilton Hotel, 500 W. 4th Street. The luncheon will be from noon until 1:30 p.m. RSVP at [www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org)

The ARC will use its grant to provide Future Care Guardianship Services, which include legal services and education related to securing court-awarded guardianship.

**Austin Children's Shelter** provides emergency housing and comprehensive support services for abused and neglected children, as well as "safe havens" and ongoing services to children who have suffered crisis, enabling them to succeed in life. ACS will use its grant toward the costs of transporting and preparing children to appear at CPS Hearings and to enable case managers and licensed therapists to testify in court.

**CASA of Travis County** promotes and protects the best interest of children who have been abused or neglected by training volunteers as court-appointed advocates (guardians ad litem). The grant awarded to CASA will be used toward payment of a staff Child Advocacy Specialist on the Transitioning Youth Team, which focuses on advocating for youth in foster care, ages 14-18.

**The Center for Child Protection** provides support during the child abuse investigation and intervention process, including conducting the forensic interview (a digitally-recorded statement taken by a professional, which is often the most critical piece of evidence used to prosecute a child abuser), medical exams, crisis counseling, case management, and training. CCP's grant will be used to provide Court Orientation, following an indictment but before trial, to children who have been subpoenaed to testify.

**Family Eldercare** provides essential services for seniors, disabled adults, and their caregivers, allowing them to live in a supportive community with dignity and as much independence as possible. Family Eldercare will use its grant toward the costs of providing legal guardianship services to incapacitated women and to improve their well-being.

**SafePlace** exists to end sexual and domestic violence through safety, healing, empowerment, prevention, education, and social change.

The grant awarded to SafePlace will be used to fund direct, legal assistance including payment of filing fees, documentation costs, and transportation of clients to and from court and assorted service-provider locations.

**SAHELI for Asian Families** promotes abuse-free Asian communities through Support, Advocacy, Healing, Empowerment, Listening, and Information. SAHELI is the only organization in the area specifically aimed at stopping domestic violence in Asian communities, which has unique cultural traits and language barriers that cause a large percentage of cases to go unreported. SAHELI's grant will be used to produce resource cards, featuring population-specific information, translated in 7 Asian languages (Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Korean, Burmese, Tagalog, and Persian).

**Texas Civil Rights Project** strives to foster racial, social, and economic equality, secure justice, and ensure diversity through community education and litigation. TCRP has achieved such goals regarding Title IX

TCRP has achieved such goals regarding Title IX education, minority voting rights, privacy and civil liberties, farm workers, and more. TCRP's grant will fund supervised paralegals ("Circuit Riders") in rural, underserved areas to assist abused, immigrant women.

**Texas RioGrande Legal Aid**, through its **Foster Youth Justice Project (FYJP)** and its **Legal Alliance for Survivors of Abuse (LASA) Project**, support current and former foster youth across Texas by providing free legal representation, outreach, and rights-based education to youth, courts, and other agencies. LASA also provides free legal support to domestic violence and sexual assault survivors immediately upon arrival at a provider location so that, as soon as a survivor gains the courage to leave her abuser, she can rely on a broad network of support to guide her toward a new life free from violence. LASA's grant will be used for 13 staff members working at domestic violence centers and rape crisis centers to receive training at TRGLA's annual conference.

## **2010-2011 TCWLA OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS**

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### **TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY**

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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!*



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tcwlaorg@gmail.com

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

## 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
- § Direct Email Delivery of *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!

*Help TCWLA go  
paperless by renewing  
your membership online  
at [www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org).  
Or, fill out the form in  
this newsletter and  
mail in your dues.*