

TCWLA LEGAL MATTERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

April 2008

Be Sure To Put This On Your Calendar!

April 16 General Meeting (RSVP Online Today!)

May 15 TCWLA/TCWLF Charity Awards Luncheon

June 18 TCWLA General Meeting –Year End Feedback

Lessons from the *QUALCOMM* E-Discovery Sanctions Order: Best Practices for Managing E-Discovery.

At our April 16th meeting Jennifer Brannen and Julie Grantham will make a presentation on best practices for managing E-Discovery. The presentation will provide strategies for managing E-Discovery for client companies and agencies, including tips on 1) implementing a litigation hold after suit has been filed, 2) how to achieve productive communication between in-house counsel and outside counsel and vendors, 3) issues that should be negotiated with opposing counsel, 4) lessons learned from the *QUALCOMM* E-Discovery sanctions order, and 5) consequences of failing to follow an appropriate E-Discovery plan.

Jennifer Brannen is a senior counsel with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. She is a 1998 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, where she was a member of the Legal Research Board and *The Review of Litigation*, serving as an associate editor from 1997 – 1998. Jennifer's practice focuses on securities litigation in both federal and state courts, representing public companies, officers, directors and securities underwriters in class actions and derivative lawsuits.

Julie Grantham serves as General Counsel for Scarab Consulting. She is a 1999 graduate of the DePaul University College of Law in Chicago. Julie also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas School of Law teaching E-Discovery and technology law. She is a National Board Member of Women in E-Discovery organization and is the founding member of the Central Texas Chapter.

In today's internet entwined business environment, E-Discovery touches us all sooner or later. Join us in April to get the latest "best practices" tips and avoid the pitfalls that lead to sanctions. TCWLA has applied for 1.0 credit hours for this CLE event.

**Lessons from the
QUALCOMM E-Discovery
Sanctions Order: Best
Practices for Managing E-
Discovery**

Speakers:

Jennifer Brannen of Akin Gump
Julie Grantham of Scarab Consulting

Date: April 16th, 2008

Time: 11:45 am to 1 pm

Place: Winstead, PC
401 Congress, Suite 2100

CLE: 1.0 hours

Menu: Large shrimp sauteed with black olives, fresh tomato, onions and basil in olive oil, tossed with linguini, parmesan and a dash of red pepper, Green salad, Bread, Iced Tea, and Cupcakes!

Lunch cost:
\$15.00

Go to www.tcwla.org to reserve your lunch before April 14th.



FROM THE PRESIDENT April 2008

Most of you know by now that I practice with my husband, Jamal Alsaffar. I think I manage to mention that one way or another in every column. Many people shake their heads at the prospect of working with their spouse day in, and day out, and I understand it may not be for everyone. But it's the only thing that keeps me sane between my busy practice and our busy young family. I'm not sure I'd ever see him if I didn't work with him.

As I'm writing this newsletter, we're sitting together at our dining room table close to midnight, typing away on our respective laptops, an appellate record spread out around the coffee pot and cups strewn about the table. We're working on an appellate brief that's due tomorrow (my part's finished for now, he's the ultimate procrastinator and I'm waiting on him to finish so I can do the table of authorities, but that's neither here nor there...)

We really enjoy these late night work moments—although we could use a little less working together and a lot more playing together these days. Working late alone can be so, well, lonely. It's nice to divide and conquer, to bounce ideas off each other, and fun to share the latest (respectfully) poisonous sentence we're throwing at the bad guys. After reading my draft of an issue today, Jamal said, "It looks like you had a little fun writing that section, didn't you?" I did—and I had more fun waiting for his reaction to my legal repartee.

We can't help it. When we watch the HBO series based on the book by David McCulloch on John Adams (which is great, by the way, if you haven't caught it yet), we fancy ourselves a modern-day John and Abigail. Admittedly I have the tendency to self-project us onto any great love story, from *Memoirs of a Geisha* to *The Other Boleyn Girl*, or whatever I happen to be reading, regardless of the period or context. The Adams' are arguably little closer to home; at least one of them was a trial lawyer.

We carpool to work on most days, and I was bemoaning our great need for a vacation on the ride home today. And we do really need one, with two young kids and having worked over Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and yes, Easter. But as John Adams observed, he and Abigail weren't meant "to sit in the shade of life." I'm afraid neither were we.

So shake your head if you will, roll your eyes in disgust if you must. We genuinely love our 360 degree partnership in life. And our clients benefit from the pillow talk for certain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurie M. Higginbotham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Laurie M. Higginbotham

Calendar of Events

April 4th, 2008	All Day	Advanced Court Appointed Advocate Training
April 9th, 2008	12:00 - 1:00	Board Meeting
April 16th, 2008	11:45 - 1:00	General Membership Meeting
April 17th, 2008	8:30-2:00	Take Your Daughter to Work Day
May 15th, 2008	TBA	TCWLA/TCWLF Charity Awards Luncheon
June 18th, 2008	11:45 - 1:00	General Membership Meeting

DON'T FORGET!!

Advanced Court Appointed Advocate Training – Friday, April 4, 2008

TCWLA will host a full day advanced training course for court appointed advocates on Friday, April 4, 2008, at the offices of Winstead PC, located at 401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100. The cost will be \$80 for TCWLA members and \$100 for non-members. The panel at this year's lunch will feature Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht, Fourth Court of Appeals Chief Justice Alma Lopez, and the Hon. Darlene Byrne (126th Judicial Civil District Court (Travis County)). The panel will again be moderated by TCWLA board member, the Hon. Orlinda Naranjo (419th Judicial Civil District Court (Travis County)). Registration is now available on our website at www.tcwla.org. If you have any questions, please contact Paige Castañeda at pcastaneda@winstead.com, Cameron Vann at cvann@advocacyinc.org, or Rande K. Herrell at rkherrell@sbcglobal.net.

2008 TAKE YOUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

We need you to volunteer on Travis County Woman Lawyers Association's award winning program by serving as a mentor, even if it's only for one day. TCWLA has scheduled its premier program, "Take Your Daughters to Work Day", on Thursday, April 17, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This program reaches out to 20 young girls in the fifth grade at Norman Elementary School located in East Austin. This will be our 2nd year to have a mock trial where the State seeks a protective order on dating violence allegations.

If you wish to participate in helping on the date of this event, please contact the Chair, Judge Orlinda Naranjo, at 854-4023 or email her at orlinda.naranjo@co.travis.tx.us. We always need help with drivers.

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.



Meet Your Board Member: Brenda Collier

Brenda Collier is a 1982 graduate of the University of Texas law school. She has been in solo practice since 1991. In 2008 Brenda moved her practice from Dallas to Austin, to enjoy the music and ambiance of Austin.

As an attorney Brenda represents entrepreneurs in business transactions and business litigation. She represents employers and employees in discrimination and other employment matters. She is equally comfortable in the boardroom or the courtroom.

Brenda has been active in the volunteer community since attending law school, when she volunteered with the Austin Rape Crisis Center on the hotline and accompanying victims to the hospital.

As one of Governor Ann Richards' first appointees, while practicing law in Dallas, Texas Ms. Collier served as chair of a state agency for several years.

Over the past 25 years Brenda has served as a Board member for several charities, including those advocating protection for victims of domestic violence, for homeless children, and for pregnant teens. Brenda undertakes several VLS cases per year, providing legal services to those than could not otherwise afford them. She also privately provides legal services to poor and deserving clients that cannot otherwise pay for services.

She is currently the President-Elect of the Austin Bar Association Solo and Small Firm Section and Board member of the Travis County Women Lawyers Association Foundation.

Brenda is married to Roger. They have one son, 28 years old who lives in Austin. Brenda and Roger love to listen to live music and watch movies.

Announcements

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

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.

\$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.

Go to TCWLA.org and renew your membership online today!

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>

TCWLA has a new improved webpage. Sign up and pay for luncheons, renew your membership and update your personal information online! You can prepurchase a year's worth of lunches at a discounted price. Be sure to visit it at www.tcwla.org.

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

The Travis County Women Lawyers' Association and Foundation's Annual Grants and Awards Luncheon

The Travis County Women Lawyers' Association and Foundation's Annual Grants and Awards Luncheon will be held May 15, 2008 at the Hilton Downtown Hotel. Please mark your calendar and join us in celebrating local women lawyers in our community and to help provide financial assistance to area non-profits who help women and children in need. This year the master of ceremonies will be Roxanne Wilson, a local attorney, writer and reality celebrity from the Apprentice.

All proceeds will benefit future grantees of the Foundation.

TRAVIS COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION 2008 AWARD WINNERS

The Travis County Women Lawyers' Association is pleased to announce the 2008 Award Recipients. A new category was added this year to honor outstanding women transactional attorneys. We are proud to honor the following 2008 Award Winners:

PublicInterest – Kristine A. Huskey

Contribution to Minority Community – Gloria Leal

Government Service – Alicia G. Key

Pro Bono – Beverly Stringer

Litigation – Beverly Reeves

Transactional Attorney – Karen J. Bartoletti and Christine Sweeny

Outstanding Achievement – Nancy Matchus

Outstanding Firm/Organization/Government Entity – Casey, Gentz & Magness, L.L.P.

President's Award – Liz Branch

As Small Business Freedom Fighters at *IT Freedom*, We Liberate Companies from the Headaches and Hassles of...

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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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Contact Lynn G. Bone at
lynn@barnesandroberts.com
512-476-9500
www.barnesandroberts.com

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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

Please indicate your practice areas for publication in the online directory:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <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"/> ADR | <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 | <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