

# TCWLA LEGAL MATTERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY WOMEN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

## SAVE THE DATE:

### CAFA TRAINING MAY 21, 2007

TCWLA will provide a full day (6 hours) CLE/ training course for attorneys who serve as ad litem for children and court appointed counsel for adults in guardianship and child protective services cases. The Court Appointed Family Advocates (or "CAFA") course will be presented on May 21st at the offices of Winstead PC, located at 401 Congress Avenue, Suite 2100.

Speakers and specific topics TBD. The cost will be \$80 for TCWLA members and \$100 for non-members. If you have topics you would like covered and/or would like to volunteer to be a speaker, please contact Paige Castañeda at [pcastaneda@winstead.com](mailto:pcastaneda@winstead.com) or Cameron Vann at [cvann@advocacyinc.org](mailto:cvann@advocacyinc.org)

April 2007

## Estate Planning 101: What Everyone Should Know

With TCWLA Board Member  
Ellen Stewart  
of Barnes & Karisch, PC  
& TCWLA Member Vivian  
Ross-Bennett, Attorney at  
Law

Date: Monday, April 16, 2007  
Time: 11:45 - 1:00 p.m.  
Location: Austin Bar  
Association, 816 Congress  
CLE: 1.0

Menu: Chicken Picatta, Pasta,  
Salad, Iced Tea and Brownies

### *Don't Miss Inside:*

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**You must RSVP by  
Wednesday, April 11th at  
noon for a catered lunch. If  
we don't you are are coming,  
we cannot order you lunch.  
No shows will be billed.  
Brown bag lunches are  
welcome.**



## ***FROM THE PRESIDENT***

### **March 2007**

This month I'd like to start off by welcoming our two newest additions to the TCWLA Board: our new Publicity Chair, Elizabeth Poole, and our new CLE Co-Chair, Cameron Vann. Elizabeth was most recently with the Women's Advocacy Project and is transitioning to a new practice. Cameron is with Advocacy, Inc. and will be helping her Co-Chair, Paige Castaneda, to conceive, organize and present our new day-long CLE seminar this May.

Speaking of the CLE seminar, make sure to check out the save-the-date announcement on page one and look for more details on the program to be sent to members in an email this month. We will also post details on our website, [www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org). With Travis County requiring 30 hours of CAFA training these days and so few hours currently

being offered in the area, we look forward to helping fill the gap and assist the people serving such an important function in our legal system.

Our regular meeting this month is another CLE program — this one on estate planning. Last month's CLE by David Sheppard on what to do when friends/clients/loved ones (and hopefully never ourselves!) find themselves in the Travis County jail. I had no idea what was involved in getting someone out of jail and having the tips (and even phone list and maps) that David shared with us will certainly make us feel more like the knowledgeable attorneys we are when someone asks us for this kind of help. There was such a great turn out for last month's meeting and I look forward to seeing even more of you at our April meeting.

Finally, we are hard at work on our overarching mission of promoting women in the profession and equal access to justice for women, children and families. Our TCWLA and TCWLF boards had a joint meeting at the end of March at which we very carefully selected the non-profit organizations who will be the 2007 recipients of grants from our Foundation. We also selected the winners of the 2007 attorney awards. Grant recipients and award winners are currently being notified. We will announce the names in next month's newsletters and we will honor them all at our Annual Awards and Grants Luncheon on June 15th.

Warmest Regards,

*Joelle Boehle*  
TCWLA President

## **April Happy Hour**

Watch your email for more information about our April 18th "Makeover" Happy Hour at Julian Gold! We're putting together a night of fun and fashion, with author Cathy O'Neill and her new book, "Babyproofing Your Marriage," and a special fashion show for TCWLA members only sponsored by Julian Gold, with special guests from the WNBA team San Antonio Silver Stars!

# Save the Date!

Travis County Women Lawyers' Foundation  
&  
Travis County Women Lawyers' Association

2007 Awards and Grants Luncheon

Emcee—Ms. Shannon Sedwick, Esther's Follies

Friday, June 15

12:00 -1:30 p.m.

Hilton Austin

(500 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street)

\$50 person

Sponsorships available

For more information about sponsoring, contact:

Ms. Ann Greenberg at [annelisegreenberg@yahoo.com](mailto:annelisegreenberg@yahoo.com)

RSVP: Mail checks payable to TCWLF to:  
TCWLF, P.O. Box 1386, Austin, Tx 78767

## Meet Your Board Member: Cameron Vann



**Practice Area:** Americans with Disabilities Act

**Employer:** Advocacy, Inc.

**Education:** Born and raised in Dallas, Texas. Bachelor's in Education at University of Texas at Austin, Master's in Education Administration at University of Houston and Doctor of Jurisprudence at University of Houston College of Law

**Employment:** Legislative Assistant in Washington, D. C.; Teacher, Middle School Assistant Principal and High School Grade Level Principal in Spring Branch ISD, Houston; Solo Practitioner in Houston with probate, family, and mediation practice until retirement in 2003; after four years of travel and volunteer work, employed by Advocacy, Inc., non-profit representing persons with physical and mental disabilities

**Organizations:** Past President of Houston Association of Women Attorneys and River Oaks Rotary; Board Member of Assistance League of Houston, Houston West Chamber, The Professional Group, Animal Friends of Washington County, Washington-on-the-Brazos Park Association, Women's Leadership Forum

**Family:** Husband Charlie is retired High School Principal, son in Los Angeles and daughter in D. C. Lives on ranch in Washington-on-the-Brazos (near Brenham) now weekends only and Austin during week. Lots of animals – cattle, horses, goats, dogs, cat and pot-belly pig. Operates Barrington Bed and Breakfast since 1994, [www.barringtonbb.com](http://www.barringtonbb.com)

## Lost in Translation: Deciphering What Clients Want

At this summer's ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco from August 9-14, TCWLA is a Co-Sponsor of the program entitled "Lost in Translation: What do Clients Really Want?" The program description is as follows: As corporate clients consolidate and law firms merge, dissolve, and remake themselves, the core questions remain the same:

What is a prospective client really looking for in a beauty contest on a complex piece of litigation?

How can we distinguish our firm from the multitude of others for the in-house lawyers who are making the hiring decision?

Once we are on board, how do we keep clients happy so they become return customers?

The era of the "old boys' network" is gone, or as some have said, "It's not your father's ABA." In its place is not only a demographic diversity among clients, but different and constantly-emerging views on the answers to these questions. Listen to speakers address their hiring priorities from an ever-developing perspective. Learn how lawyers and their firms can become part of a client's "magic circle" in this new era. Find out that diversity is about more than mere demographics.

### **Women's Giving Network Fosters Philanthropy, Leadership, among Austin Women**

The Austin professional landscape is full of stars – stars, that is, in the form of successful, active female professionals. A group of such women has emerged and is united in their goal to give back to their community. The Women's Giving Network (WGN) is affiliated with the United Way Capital Area – and its mission is to create a powerful female-driven philanthropic force in Central Texas. In doing so, WGN will play a key role in addressing the issues that are critical to the health and potential of our community.

Founded in October 2003, WGN has more than 150 members, each of whom contributes annually to United Way Capital area. WGN hosts regular educational, volunteer and social events for its members, all the while raising money to advance the community agenda and foster local female leaders in philanthropy. In recent years, WGN has focused on such issues as early childhood education, children's health, and the citywide 211 helpline to make a positive community impact. In addition to these programs, the WGN Volunteer Initiative enables members to reach out and enhance their financial investments in the community. WGN can provide customized volunteer projects for companies and/or women's groups. All volunteer opportunities will be directed to making the greatest possible community impact.

WGN would like to invite all interested TCWLA members to a speaker luncheon on April 25<sup>th</sup>. The luncheon will be held at 12:00 at Sullivan's Steak House downtown. Our featured guest speaker will be Dr. Aletha Huston, Regents Professor of Child Development and Associate Director of the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Lunch discussion will cover topics including the effects of poverty on children and the impact of child care and income support policies on children's development. At the luncheon, the 2007 Child Well-Being Report Card for Austin/Travis County will also be presented. This "report card" highlights the results of the United Way Capital Area's Success by 6 program to foster early childhood education.

If you are interested in attending this event or learning about other, upcoming WGN events, please contact Susan Marler, Manager of the Women's Giving Network, at 512.225.0371 or [susan.marler@unitedwaycapitalarea.org](mailto:susan.marler@unitedwaycapitalarea.org). Feel free to visit [www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/wgn](http://www.unitedwaycapitalarea.org/wgn) for more information about United Way Capital Area and the Women's Giving Network.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April		Past Time to Renew your TCWLA Membership! (application included in this newsletter) If you have not renewed, you will not get a newsletter in May.
April 16th	11:45-1:00 pm	Estate Planning 101 (Please note, this is a Monday!)
April 18th		April Happy Hour at Julian Gold, more details to follow
May 21st	All Day/6 hrs	CLE Seminar for Training Court Appointed Family Advocates
May 23rd	11:45-1:00 pm	Membership meeting: Thinking Your Way to New Client Opportunities
June 15th	11:45 am	Annual Awards and Grant Luncheon at the Hilton

## MS.JD LAUNCHES WEBSITE WOMEN FROM 12 TOP LAW SCHOOLS UNVEIL A NEW BLOG: WWW.MS-JD.ORG

One year ago, Ms. JD was an idea shared by a group of law students from around the country. Politically, racially, and geographically diverse, these women were all concerned by the rates at which women opt out of the legal profession, the lack of representation of women in the highest courts and echelons of the legal community, and the role of gender in the progression of many women's legal careers. Since then they've raised funds from law schools and law firms including Yale, Michigan, Stanford, UCLA, Latham Watkins, Cooley Goodwood, Paul Weiss, and Wilkie Farr & Gallagher. Today Ms. JD is an interactive blog featuring posts from women lawyers, students, and their allies from around the country.

### Who is Ms. JD?

Ms. JD provides a forum for dialogue and networking among women lawyers and law students. Ms. JD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan community founded by a group of law students from around the country. Contributors are dedicated to reinforcing and expanding the representation of women in law school and the legal profession.

**Ms. JD seeks to improve the experiences of women in law school and the legal profession. Obstacles to equal participation hinder not only women in the law but also their colleagues, clients, children, and communities. Ms. JD consequently strives to give voice to why it matters that women continue to face these barriers. In doing so, Ms. JD spreads the word: women's victories are everyone's victories.**

Already students and practitioners have filled the site with posts. Featured bloggers include Professor Barbara Babcock, Slate Magazine writer Dahlia Lithwick, Judge Dorothy W. Nelson, legal pioneer Shirley Hufstedler, Professor Herma Hill Kay, and Judge Deanell Reece Tacha.

**For more information, visit [www.ms-jd.org](http://www.ms-jd.org).**

March 31<sup>st</sup> Launch Conference: Legally Female – What Does it Mean to be Ms. JD?

Scheduled speakers and panelists to include, keynote speaker Judge Janet Bond Arterton, Judge Nancy Gertner, Deborah Epstein Henry, Deborah Rhode, Vicki Schultz, and Joan Williams.

For more information, email [ms-jd@legallyfemale.org](mailto:ms-jd@legallyfemale.org) or visit <http://legallyfemale.typepad.com/>.

**CONTACT: Elizabeth Pederson  
(775) 250-3667  
[president@ms-jd.org](mailto:president@ms-jd.org)**

# Announcements

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

Want to be admitted to the Western District? Rent the DVD from TCWLA.  
Email [tcwlaorg@gmail.com](mailto:tcwlaorg@gmail.com) for details.

Spring is for SafePlace  
Since spring is here, we are collecting cleaning supplies for SafePlace as our spring community service project. Please donate cleaning supplies, such as bathroom and kitchen cleaners, paper towels, sponges, or cleaning equipment at our April membership meeting. All donations will be delivered to SafePlace.

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Safe Place Walk  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
Waterloo Park  
Sign up at [www.austin-safeplace.org](http://www.austin-safeplace.org)

State Bar Building is still under construction, so we can't use their space until that's done. Meetings are at the Austin Bar Association in the meantime. (816 Congress)

**Find your 2007 membership applications at the back of the newsletter!! It is past time to renew.**

## ***TCWLA Membership has its privileges!***

It is that time of year again – Travis County Women Lawyers Association annual membership drive. Please renew or join today by filling out and mailing in the attached membership form with your \$40 annual dues, or see [www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org) for payment by PayPal/credit card.

TCWLA is a diverse group of women lawyers who practice in Travis County. The benefits of membership, to name a few, are:

- Member discount at CLE Seminar for Training Court Appointed Family Advocates on May 21st, 2007.
- *Free Monthly Meetings and FREE CLE*
- Our annual **TCWLA Awards Luncheon** on **June 15, 2007**, where we recognize our 2007 scholarship recipients, award grants to non-profit organizations in Travis County that provide direct legal services to women and children in need, and present awards to female attorneys practicing in Travis County who have achieved professional milestones during the past year.
- *MORE CLE – upcoming events: a spring CLE seminar for attorneys representing children and parents in **Child Protective Services** cases and continued rental of our DVD CLE program entitled “**A Day in Federal Court: An Introduction to Federal Court Practice**.”*
- *Fellowship, business referrals, networking, support systems, pro bono opportunities, giving back to the community, general camaraderie...*

For more information about TCWLA, log onto our website at [www.tcwla.org](http://www.tcwla.org) or feel free to contact one of us. We are looking forward to seeing you in 2007!

Joelle Schulze Boehle, TCWLA President  
Gavra Flood, membership co-chair  
Ellen Stewart, membership co-chair

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](mailto:tcwlaorg@gmail.com) with your announcements and photos.



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## YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

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## 2006-2007 TCWLA OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT:

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### PRESIDENT-ELECT:

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### TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK:

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### PUBLICITY CHAIR:

Elizabeth Poole

### Texas Supreme Court Task Force on Gender Discrimination LIAISON:

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# TCWLA

## Travis County Women Lawyers' Association 2007 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](mailto: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:**

- |                                      |                                 |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ <b>Bankruptcy</b>              | _____ <b>General Litigation</b> | _____ <b>Probate</b>                  |
| _____ <b>Consumer</b>                | _____ <b>Guardianships</b>      | _____ <b>Real Estate</b>              |
| _____ <b>Debt Collection Defense</b> | _____ <b>Housing</b>            | _____ <b>Social Security Benefits</b> |
| _____ <b>Education</b>               | _____ <b>Insurance</b>          | _____ <b>Tax</b>                      |
| _____ <b>Employment Problems</b>     | _____ <b>Landlord/Tenant</b>    | _____ <b>Torts Defense</b>            |
| _____ <b>Family Law</b>              | _____ <b>License Revocation</b> | _____ <b>Wills</b>                    |
|                                      |                                 | _____ <b>Wills, Homebound</b>         |

\*\*\*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ 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](mailto:akmeyers@vlsoc.org)

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