



Cameron County Young Lawyers Association

SIDEBAR



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It's back....introducing the new and improved Cameron County Young Lawyers Association's newsletter----*SIDEBAR*, your source to CCYLA news, articles and events. So enjoy and as always, thank you for supporting CCYLA.

CONGRATULATIONS CCYLA!!!



L-R, David Irwin (CCYLA Board Member), Noemi Garcia (CCYLA President), Cori Harbour (Immediate TYLA Past President), and Philip Snyder (CCYLA Treasurer)

On July 24, 2010, the Cameron County Young Lawyers Association attended the State Bar of Texas Leadership Conference in Houston, Texas and received the Texas Young Lawyers Association Local Affiliates Second Place Service to the Public Award for the CCYLA Lawyers Lending Hands project aiding victims of domestic violence and the First Place Newsletter Award for your very own Sidebar. Thank you to everyone who helped CCYLA achieve these very distinguished awards.

Stay up to date with CCYLA news and events by visiting CCYLA's website at <http://affiliates.tyla.org/cameron/>. Or become a friend of ours on Facebook at www.facebook.ccyla.org.



Message from the President....



Happy New Year!

It's the end of August and for some of you that means getting your kids back on a routine of sleeping early and waking up for school on time. For those of us with no children it means sitting in our car behind a bus yelling, "Hurry up kid get on that bus before I'm late for court (waiving fist in the air)." Just kidding, hopefully that made you laugh.

Actually the end of August is really a new beginning for CCYLA as this is the time CCYLA regroups and makes plans for the 2010-2011 year. So Happy New Year and make a resolution to become more involved with CCYLA. We are always looking for members to write articles for the Sidebar, update the CCYLA website or just volunteer.

The officers and board of directors have planned an exciting CCYLA lineup of mixers, trial skills workshops and community service projects. I promise you won't be disappointed as there is a CCYLA event for everyone. So, be on the look-out for our announcements, visit our website for events and become a friend of CCYLA on Facebook. If you are new to Cameron County, I welcome you. If you are just license or waiting for your results, I'll pray for you. But become involved and a part of an award winning organization.

Our next membership mixer is September 16, 2010, location to be announced, so I encourage you to show up, have a couple of drinks and get to know CCYLA.

Have a great week,
- Noemí García

Cameron County Young Lawyers Association Mission Statement

Advance the common law and the finest traditions of jurisprudence. Inspire excellence in advocacy through training and education. Uphold the honor and dignity of the legal profession and the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity. Provide networking opportunities among colleagues. Improve the image of lawyers. Participate and volunteer in community service projects.



SIDEBAR

We want to hear from you!

Contact your 2010-2011 Officers and Board of Directors.
Tell us your ideas for service projects and let us know how CCYLA can help you.



Noemi Garcia
President
Law Office of Noemi Garcia
noemi@ngarcialaw.com



Maria "Lou" Costilla
Board Member
Costilla & Ortiz
lou@costillaortizlaw.com



Patricia E. Garza
President Elect
Cameron County District Attorney's Office
patriciae.garza@co.cameron.tx.us



Donny Delgado
Board Member
Gault, Nye & Quintana
ddelgado@gnqlawyers.com



Chris Pineda
Secretary
Willette & Guerra, LLP
cpineda@wglawfirm.com



David Irwin
Board Member
Law Office of Daniel Rentfro, Jr.
david@danielrentfro.com



Philip Snyder
Treasurer
Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams
philip.snyder@roystonlaw.com



Abbas E. Mahvash
Board Member
Rodriguez & Nicolas, LLP
amahvash@rodrigueznicolas.com



Mauricio Chavez
Board Member
Royston, Rayzor, Vickery & Williams
mauricio.chavez@roystonlaw.com



Rene Oliveira, Jr
Board Member
Roerig, Oliveira & Fisher, LLP
roliveirajr@roflp.com



Mario Cisneros
Board Member
Cameron County District Attorney's Office
mario.cisneros@co.cameron.tx.us



Albert Lee Rodriguez, III
Board Member
Bailey & Galyen
arodriguez@galyen.com



Summer Mixer

Despite the thunderstorm, on July 8, 2010, the Cameron County Young Lawyers Association held a Summer Mixer open to all summer interns, clerks, and law students living and working in Cameron County. This was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to network and meet future colleagues. We would like to thank everyone who attended the mixer and made this a great event.

A special thank you to U.S. District Court Judge Hilda G. Tagle, Karen Betancourt and the UTB Pre-Law Academy for attending the mixer. And an extra special thank you to our mixers sponsors **Rimkus Consulting Group, Inc., Rodriguez & Nicolas, LLP, the Law Office of Noemi Garcia and the Law Office of Michael Martinez.**

CCYLA plans to hold its mixers on a bi-monthly basis in an effort to connect attorneys with each other to exchange ideas, make new friends and business contacts in a relax atmosphere. To sponsor a CCYLA mixer please contact Mauricio Chavez or Philip Snyder at (956) 542-4377. Sponsors receive recognition at the mixer, the Sidebar and the CCYLA website.

Our next mixer is September 16, 2010, we will be announcing the location really soon. Hope you will join us.





Profile in Professionalism



Bryan D. Nichols

Ransome & Ray, P.C.

550 East Levee

Brownsville, Texas 78520

Phone: (956) 542-3642

bryan@ransomeray.com

Bryan Damien Nichols was born in Houma, Louisiana, on August 30, 1978, but was raised in the Houston, Texas area (the Atascocita/Kingwood area). After graduating from Humble High School, he enrolled at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Bryan graduated from Baylor in May 2000, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, and Phi Beta Kappa. Thereafter, he enrolled at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas, where he graduated in 2003. Bryan has been a licensed Texas attorney since 2003. He has also studied abroad in Thailand and the Netherlands.

After practicing in downtown Houston for six (6) years, Bryan joined the law firm of Ransome & Ray, P.C., where he specializes in construction and commercial litigation. He has lived in Brownsville for approximately ten (10) months, and enjoys the beach and the warm, vibrant culture the area has to offer. He proudly serves on the Board of Directors of both Healthy Communities of Brownsville and the Brownsville Literacy Center. Bryan enjoys writing, traveling, hunting, and reading philosophy and poetry. He is an avid book collector.

Glad you are a CCYLA member Bryan and best of luck to you.

COMIC RELIEF



Impatient with the slow pace of the mediation, Nancy resorts to noogies.

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Profile in Professionalism



Cynthia A. Jezek

Law Office of Cynthia A. Jezek, PLLC

P.O. Box 3966

South Padre Island, Texas 78597

Phone: (956) 545-0239

Cynthia@Jezeklaw.com

Cynthia was born in Webster, Texas and raised in Pearland. She attended Incarnate Word Academy in Houston for high school then the University of St. Thomas also in Houston. While in undergrad, Cynthia majored in Biology and minored in Theology. She graduated from the University of St. Thomas Magna Cum Laude with her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. Deciding to stay in Houston, Cynthia attended South Texas College of Law and was licensed to practice in Texas in 2003.

Soaking up the sun, Cynthia is new to the Valley and currently lives and offices in South Padre Island. She enjoys exploring the beach with her fiancée Tim and their two year old daughter Cora. The Law Office of Cynthia A. Jezek, focusing on estate planning, probate, real estate law and business law. Cynthia believes moving to the Island was a very positive move for her and is looking forward to a long career in the Valley.

Cynthia is an Islanders Committee Member with the South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce and is hoping to attend the Laguna Madre Leadership program this fall. She enjoys traveling and hopes to visit Bora Bora or Hawaii one of these days. Her fondest trip so far has been to Cozamel.

We welcome you to the Rio Grande Valley Cynthia and are glad you are part of CCYLA.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Happy Birthday

August 4 – Esteban Soto

August 14 - Patricia Garza

August 15 – Noe Alaniz

August 24 - Rene Oliveira, Jr.

August 30 – Trey Mendez

September 1 - Michael “Mikie” Martinez



Please e-mail us your birthday, anniversary or new other important news to include in our special events section.



Profile in Professionalism



Elizabeth Valdez Garza

Valdez Garza Law Firm

700 Paredes Ave., Ste. 206

Brownsville, TX 78521

Phone: (956) 639-5993

valdezgarzalaw@gmail.com

Liz was born in Houston, Texas but raised in Brownsville. A Valley girl, she attended Rivera High School and the University of Texas at Brownsville for undergrad. She majored in History and minored in Government. She graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree in History from UTB, then went on to attend Thurgood Marshall School of Law. She has been a licensed Texas attorney since 2008.

She stayed to live in Houston and was very active with the Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program, the Autism Speaks Organization and the Children's Hunger Fund. Contemplating returning to the Valley for a while, the birth of her daughter last December solidified her decision to return to Brownsville. With her family still living in the Valley, it was the right choice for her and her husband, who by the way is her high school sweetheart.

Liz is a solo practitioner; her practice focuses on immigration, family and criminal law. She describes herself as a role model as she is the first person in both her paternal and maternal family to graduate with a Bachelor's degree and the only one with a post graduate degree. She hopes to set an example for her daughter and other young Hispanic ladies.

You are a role model for us all Liz, welcome back home.

Save the Date...

September 1, 2010: Cameron County Family Network Meeting, 444th Court Room, 12:00 pm

September 2, 2010: Free Brown Bag CLE, Cameron County Court At Law No. 1, 12:00 pm

September 16, 2010: CCYLA Membership Mixer, Location to be Announced

September 17, 2010: Constitution Day

October 7, 2010: Free Brown Bag CLE, Cameron County Court At Law No. 1, 12:00 p.m.

October 23, 2010: CCBA Annual Golf Tournament, Rancho Viejo Golf Resort



FREE CLE – DON'T MISS OUT

SEPTEMBER 2, 2010



Speaker: Noemi Garcia

Topic: "How the Advertising Rules Apply To Social Networking Sites"

Location: Cameron County Court at Law No. 1

Time: 12:00 p.m.

CLE Credit: 0.75 ethics and 0.75 accredited

Cost: Free

OCTOBER 7, 2010



Speaker: Patricia E. Garza

Topic: "The Practical Art Of Plea Negotiations"

Location: Cameron County Court at Law No. 1

Time: 12:00 p.m.

CLE Credit: 0.25 ethics and 0.75 accredited

Cost: Free

A SNEAK PEEK INTO UPCOMING PROJECTS

This section provides a sneak peek into the projects CCYLA will undertake this year.

R U SAFE— Protecting Yourself In Cyberspace: The R U Safe program will be CCYLA's fall project. R U Safe is a program designed to educate students at every age level and their parents about online dangers while also providing tools for protection. Such program provides the students with the skills necessary to protect themselves while online as well as informing them of the consequences for acting inappropriately. The topics covered by the program include cyber bullying, social networking sites, chat rooms, "sexting," and online predators. The students are taught how to report suspicious activity and parents are taught how to implement successful safety plans for their children.

LAWYERS LENDING HANDS: The CCYLA's spring project will be Lawyers Lending Hands. CCYLA volunteer lawyers will visit the Cameron County Friendship of Women Shelter and the Family Crisis Center to educate the residents on what victims of domestic violence can expect when using the courts to obtain a protective order, temporary restraining order or a divorce. The lawyers will also present a video and hand out pamphlets to the residents regarding their legal rights. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, CCYLA will also hand out care packages to the residents and toys for children at the shelter during the visit. The care packages will include toiletry items such as shampoo, soap, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, makeup etc. We are looking for 3-4 volunteer attorneys for each shelter. Once the volunteers are put together they can decide which day and which shelter they want to visit. If you cannot make it to the shelters, we will also need volunteers to put the care packages together, so please let us know if you would like to volunteer.



CONGRATULATION!

We would like to congratulate our CCYLA members who are on the move opening up their own law firms and just getting it done. We are very proud of you all, keep up the great job.



Timothy A. Lopes
Law Office of Timothy A. Lopes
243 E. Elizabeth
Brownsville, Texas 78520
Phone: (956) 541-7600
timlopes@lopeslegal.com



Trey Mendez
Law Office of Trey Mendez
243 E. Elizabeth
Brownsville, Texas 78520
Phone: (956) 541-7600
trey@mendez-law.com



Judith Lucio
Hamilton & Lucio, P.C.
805 Old Port Isabel Rd.
Brownsville, Texas 78521
Phone: (956) 504-5500
jlucio@hamiltonlucio.com



Juan Mendiola
Law Office of Juan Mendiola
1036 E. 7th Street
Brownsville, Texas 78520
Phone: (956) 554-3600
upmendiola@yahoo.com



Michael "Mikie" Martinez
Law Office of Michael Martinez
Wildflower Plaza
30 Providencia Ct., Suite 5M
Brownsville, Texas 78521
Phone: 1-866-536-ATTY
martinezmichael@me.com




Rogelio "Roy" Ortiz
Law Office of Rogelio Ortiz
1000 E. Madison
Brownsville, Texas 78520
Phone: (956) 541-8700
Rogelio-ortiz@hotmail.com

CCYLA is dedicated to its members so if you know of someone opening up their own office or new to Cameron County please let us know so we can feature them in the Sidebar.



2010-2011 CCYLA Membership Application/Renewal

<p><u>President</u> Noemi Garcia</p> <p><u>President-Elect</u> Patricia Garza</p> <p><u>Secretary</u> Chris Pineda</p> <p><u>Treasurer</u> Philip Snyder</p> <p><u>Board Of Directors</u> Mauricio Chavez Mario Cisneros M. Lou Costilla Donny Delgado David Irwin Abbas Mahvash Rene Oliveira, Jr. Albert Rodriguez</p>	<p><u>Why Join The Cameron County Young Lawyers Association?</u></p> <p>CCYLA provides its members an opportunity to become leaders in their community, network in both professional and social atmospheres and experience all that the practice of law has to offer. From fun mixers to mentoring students, CCYLA has something for all its members. We encourage you to join and experience the tradition that has become CCYLA. Visit our website for more information at http://affiliates.tyla.org/cameron/.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Firm/Office Name: _____</p> <p>Work Address: _____ _____</p> <p>Work Telephone: _____ Fax Number: _____</p> <p>Cell Phone: _____ DOB: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Practice areas: _____</p> <p>I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN SERVING IN THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:</p> <p>____ Mixers ____ Membership ____ Projects ____ Web & Facebook Page</p> <p>____ Sidebar Newsletter ____ Awards</p>
	<p>CCYLA dues: Government/ Non-profit employees: \$25.00 Solo/Private Firms: \$35.00</p> <p>Please make your check payable to:</p> <p>Cameron County Young Lawyers Association</p> <p>Mail Payment & Application to: Attn: Philip Snyder Cameron County Young Lawyers Association 55 Cove Circle Brownsville, Texas 78521</p>