



Cameron County Young Lawyers Association

SIDEBAR



February 23, 2011
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Message from the President....

Happy Charro Days everyone. Yes, I will admit this is my favorite holiday. Christmas has nothing on a holiday that offers you candy apples, funnel cake and three different low price beer booths for three days in a row. Most importantly, this is a great time to meet up with old and new friends in person and not just on Facebook.

As we celebrate Charro Days, CCYLA is keeping up with its tradition and entering the Sombrero Festival Frijolympics with our very own CCYLA mean bean team "Lawyers A'La Charra." For those of you not familiar with the Frijolympics, it is a competition made up of over 40 teams all competing for the bragging rights of making the best charro beans in Brownsville. In 2009, CCYLA ranked 4th place but unfortunately in 2010 we did not place. But that's ok because we are strong, resilient and ready to cook. We are not backing down so bring on the competition and antacids.

I encourage everyone to enjoy the Charro Days festivities and attend the Frijolympics on Saturday, February 26, at Washington Park. We are looking for volunteers to join our team, if interested, please contact Philip Synder or Mauricio Chavez to volunteer. We need your help and loud cheers. It is a family event so please feel free to bring your children.

- Noemi Garcia



Profile in Professionalism



Abigail D. Molina, Esq.

Law Office of Jodi Goodwin

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(956) 428-7212

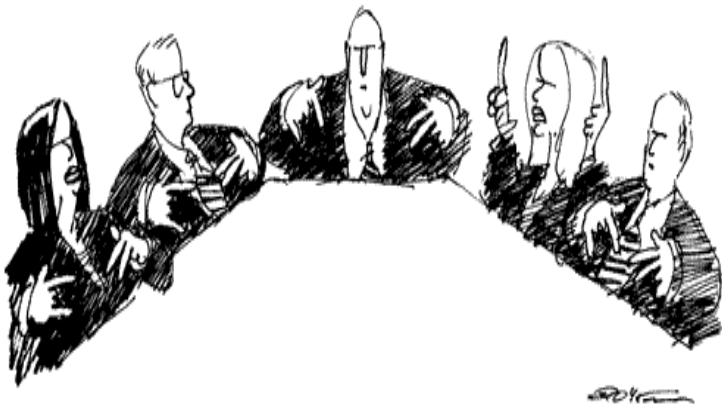
E-mail: abigaildmolina@sbcglobal.net

Abigail Dennyse Molina is a very recent transplant to the Rio Grande Valley. She was born and raised in another valley far away: The Willamette Valley in Oregon.

Abigail started law school at the University of Oregon after working as a legal assistant for an immigration attorney for seven years. She knew in this difficult economy it might be difficult to find the job of her dreams, but she dared to dream anyway. A year ago, as she was finishing up her last year of law school, she and her husband, Mark, decided to pray about where they should settle down. They felt a very strong impression to move to Harlingen, Texas. She sent out her resume to as many immigration attorneys in the Rio Grande Valley as she could find and she considers herself very fortunate to have secured employment with the highly reputable immigration attorney Jodi Goodwin in Harlingen.

Abigail still pinches herself when she realizes her dream has become a reality: practicing immigration law, working closely with clients she is passionate about representing, and all in the paradise she now calls home!

We are very fortunate to have Abigail as a CCYLA member and would like to thank her for all of her work with the Lawyers Lending Hands project.



Megan could never get the firm's gang signs right.

c.09CharlesFincher03.02 Scribble-in-Law at LawComix.com

COMIC RELIEF

Stu's Views

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Counselor,
I need an
answer.



Hold on.
I'm texting my
librarian.



Advice From the Bench

This is a new exclusive section to the Sidebar in which several judges give young attorneys advice to practice by. We would like to thank the local judiciary for all of their support to CCYLA and for their words of wisdom.



Honorable Judge Migdalia Lopez
197th Judicial District Court
Cameron County, Texas

Advice From Judge Migdalia Lopez

- Do not let yourself get so personally involved in your case that it affects your performance.
- When a judge rules against you, instead of getting upset and start to argue with the Court,
 1. Understand the Judge's ruling and reason for such ruling;
 2. Try to find another way to get what you want; and
 3. Take a different approach and direction.

Practicing these steps will help keep down your frustration and make you think. This is what makes you a better lawyer and advocate for your client.



Honorable Judge David Gonzalez
County Court At Law No. 3
Cameron County, Texas

Advice From Judge David Gonzalez, III

- Be on time to all hearings.
- Know the procedures in each court and prepared to argue your motion.
- Remember as a young attorney you are developing your reputation therefore, always be honest and forthright with the Court.
- No question is a silly question, it is better to ask then not to ask.
- Most importantly, do not be intimidated to speak to a judge in chambers; all judges were young lawyers at one point.



WE ARE MAKING IT A TRADITION!

**The Cameron County Young Lawyers Association
Will Return To The Sombrero Festival
Frijolympics With Their Team....**

LAWYERS A' LA CHARRA

**You Are Invited To Join This Winning Team Vie
For 1st Place on February 26, 2011.**

**To join the team, contact Philip Snyder at
Philip.Snyder@roystonlaw.com or Mauricio Chavez at
Mauricio.chavez@roystonlaw.com
or call (956) 542-4377.**

Hope To See Everyone There!



Trial Skills Workshop CLE- “Preserving and Presenting Evidence: Principle, Problems and Pitfalls to Avoid”



On January 26, 2011, CCYLA hosted “Preserving and Presenting Evidence: Principle, Problems and Pitfalls to Avoid,” with the Honorable Judge Rolando Olvera of the 445th Judicial District Court, Cameron County, Texas and newly appointed Presiding Judge of the 5th Administrative Judicial Region of Texas.

Judge Olvera spoke to the young lawyers about the steps to take when presenting evidence during trial and the manner in which to convince a jury and judge of their arguments. Taking questions from the audience, Judge Olvera was able to explain how to publish photos to a jury and enter evidence from foreign countries. From civil to criminal law, Judge Olvera gave members a wide range of advice from his time in private practice to his transition onto the bench. It was an honor to have Judge Olvera, the first CCYLA president, host the first Trial Skills Workshop CLE of the year.

Attendees to the workshop received free lunch and one hour free MCLE credit. This would not have been possible without a grant from the Texas Young Lawyers Association. CCYLA would like to thank the CCYLA members for attending and Mr. Trey Mendez of the Mendez Law Firm our plaque sponsor.

The CCYLA Board would like to especially thank Judge Olvera and his staff for their help with the event and their continuous contribution to CCYLA. We are eternally grateful to the local judiciary for their support in CCYLA’s mission to inspire excellence in advocacy through training and education.

Happy Birthday

February 2- Albert Rodriguez
February 4- Armando Villalobos
February 10- Gus Ruiz
February 11- Maria Linda Gonzalez
February 13- Michael Benton

February 13- Maria De Ford
February 18- Gabriela Martinez
February 24- Noemi Garcia
March 18- Rose Maginot
March 18- Tracy Franklin



Lawyers Lending Hands



For a second year in a row this February, the Cameron County Young Lawyers Association participated in their *Lawyers Lending Hands* community service project. The goal of the project was to educate victims of domestic violence about their legal rights. Several volunteer lawyers visited the Cameron County Friendship of Women Shelter and Family Crisis Centers to educate the residents on what victims of domestic violence can expect when using the courts to obtain a protective order, temporary restraining order and a divorce. The attorneys were also able to answer immigration questions specifically concerning victims of domestic violence. The lawyers presented a video to the residents titled *Healing the Wounds*, answered questions from the residents as well as handed out pamphlets regarding their legal rights in both English and Spanish.

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, CCYLA also handed out care packages to the residents. The care packages were filled with toiletries items (shampoo, lotions, toothpaste, etc.) for the residents and donations of clothes and shoes for their children. CCYLA was extremely fortunate to receive a huge donation of over 100 new children pajamas, beanies and scarves from the Brownsville Parks and Recreation Department in connection with the project. All items were donated to the shelters for their residents use. It is our hope these items can help smooth the transition of the residents into the shelters and provide some comfort during their stay.

This was a big project and so many volunteered their time, talents and efforts. CCYLA would like to thank the following individuals for their time and donations to this wonderful cause:

Korina Barrazza
Maria De Ford
Tracy Franklin
Elizabeth Valdez Garza
Shannon Guerrero
Abbas Mahvash
Trey Mendez
Chris Patterson

Laura Bustamante
Donny Delgardo
Erin Hernandez Garcia
Shannon Tetreau-Garza
Lavinia "Beni" Long
Michael Martinez
Carlos Monarrez
Philip Snyder

Mauricio Chavez
Rita S. Eckertt
Noemi Garcia
Monica Padilla Gonzalez
Crisanta Guerra Lozano
Abigail Medina
Rene Oliveira, Jr.
Estella Chavez Vasquez

Lou Costilla
Brian Ershire
Rebecca Garza
Jodi Goodwin
Erick Lucio
Amber Medina
Juan Pacheco

State Representative Rene Oliveira

Cameron County District Attorney's Office Domestic Violence Unit



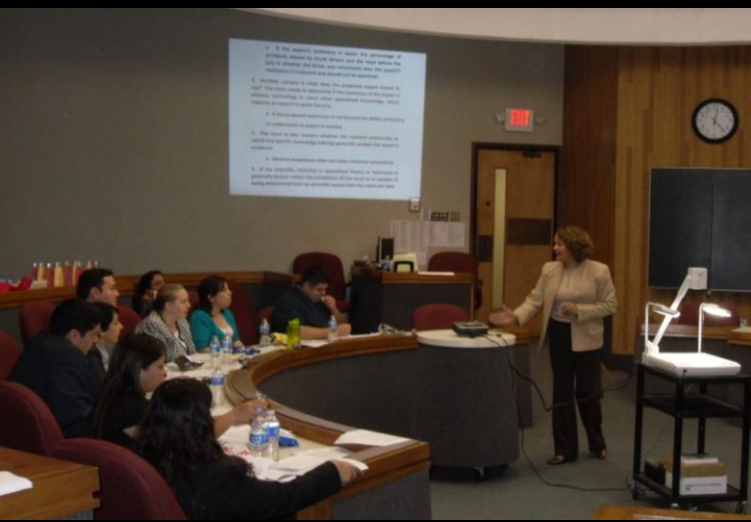
“Presenting Your Expert Witness at Trial - Preparation and Presentation”

On February 15, 2011, CCYLA hosted its second Trial Skills Workshop CLE with the Honorable Judge Migdalia Lopez of the 197th Judicial District Court, titled “Presenting Your Expert Witness at Trial-Preparation and Presentation.”

Equipped with an outline and handouts, Judge Lopez was ready to explain to the members her role as the gatekeeper when allowing an expert witness in trial. As the gatekeeper, Judge Lopez explained it is her responsibility to review the experts based on their scientific, technological and other specialized knowledge in order to determine if the expert will be able to testify in court. Judge Lopez provided the members with case law for their own use and antidotes of memorable experts she has seen while on the bench. Judge Lopez did a fantastic job explaining when and how an expert would be able to testify. The CCYLA Officers and Board of Directors would like to thank Judge Lopez and her staff for hosting the workshop and for their continued support to CCYLA.

With a grant from the Texas Young Lawyers Association, attendees to the workshop received free lunch and one hour free MCLE credit. CCYLA would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Elizabeth Valdez Garza of the Valdez Garza Law Firm our February plaque sponsor.

Just a reminder, all CCYLA Trial Skills Workshops are free and open to all members. We encourage you to join us in March for our next Trial Skills Workshop CLE.





Profile in Professionalism



Jose Antonio Ortiz

Jordan, Hyden, Womble, Culbreth & Holzer, P.C.

1534 E. 6th St., Suite 104

Brownsville, Texas 78520

Phone: (956) 542-1161

aortiz@jhwclaw.com

Jose Antonio Ortiz was born in Houston, Texas, and later raised in Brownsville, Texas. After graduating from St. Joseph's Academy in 2002, he enrolled at St. Edward's University during which time he majored in business administration and was a member of the rugby team. Jose graduated from St. Edward's University with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Thereafter, he enrolled at St. Mary's University School of Law where he graduated in 2010.

Jose became a licensed Texas attorney in 2010 and also became licensed in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, in 2010. He joined the firm of Jordan, Hyden, Womble, Culbreth & Holzer, P.C., where he specializes in business bankruptcy and commercial litigation.

He enjoys hunting, fishing, and sailing. He proudly belongs to the Board of Directors of the Gladys Porter Zoo as a provisional member, the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and the American Sailing Association (ASA). Antonio returned to the Valley because he wanted to be a part of this community and also holds the belief that Cameron County's potential for significant economic growth needs leadership to be realized. He believes its population and the business climate should provide many opportunities to "grow" a better community, a better lifestyle, and give more people a real chance for a better living.

Something interesting about Antonio that not a lot of people know stems from his last sailing "adventure". He was off shore of Port Aransas, Texas, and his sailing "adventure" came to an abrupt end when his friends announced that the boat was taking on water just as he was taking a large Kingfish off the lure. In the excitement, the lure ended up in his finger so they made one emergency trip to the boat yard to stop the leak followed by an emergency trip to the hospital to remove the hook.

Well Jose, hopefully that finger has healed. CCYLA welcomes Jose back to the Valley and wishes him all the best of luck in his legal career.

Save the Date...

February 26, 2011- Sombrero Fest Frijolympics. Location: Washington Park, Brownsville. Time: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

March 3, 2011- CCBA Law Library Brown Bag CLE. Location: Cameron County Court at Law No. 1. Topic: "Anatomy of 18 U.S.C. 3533 (Sentencing Factors). Time: 12:00 p.m. Cost: Free

March 17, 2011- CCYLA St. Patrick's Day Mixer. Location: Bennigan's Grill & Tavern. Time: 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

March 23, 2011 – CCBA President Elect Reception. Location: TBA



*Luck
O'The
Irish!*



A Bit Of Malarkey And Lots Of Green Beer.
Make No Mistake You'll Want To Be Here!

CCYLA St. Patrick's Day Mixer

March 17, 2011


5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Bennigan's Grill & Tavern

1425 Ruben Torres Blvd.
Brownsville, Texas 78521



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:</p> <p>Attn: Philip Snyder Cameron County Young Lawyers Association 55 Cove Circle Brownsville, Texas 78521</p>