

# TYLA

These Boots are Made for Service –  
“Heeling” for All Texans



Annual Report 2011-2012

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The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) consists of roughly 24,000 Texas lawyers who are 36 years old or younger or in their first five years of licensure. As the “public service arm” of the State Bar of Texas, TYLA aims to facilitate the administration of justice, foster respect for the law, and advance the role of the legal profession in serving the public. Its programs are designed to assist Texas attorneys in their practice of law and to provide public legal education services to Texans.

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

Front cover illustration:  
*"I'll Take Them All"*  
By Donna Howell Sickles

## BOOTS ON THE GROUND

Over the course of 2011-12, TYLA has done some amazing work. Our boots were definitely made for service this year and our board of directors and committee members went above and beyond the call when it came to serving the public and our profession.

During the fall we held a rural wills clinic in Fredericksburg where our project, "The Texas Probate Passport" was rolled out to the public. This informative brochure has garnered a lot of attention and we can hardly keep it in stock at the TYLA office. It answers many important questions about the Texas probate system and provides alternatives to probate for small estates and for indigent families.



Natalie Cobb Koehler



Alfonso Cabañas

In the fall we also debuted our "Breaking the Silence" program. This project was very important to us because it addresses the serious issue of mental illness in our profession. This project features a series of podcasts that can be accessed in the privacy of one's own home on topics such as depression, post-partum depression, suicide and mental illness.

In the spring, we worked with the Texas Special Olympics to roll out "Peace of Mind: A Legal Guide to Supporting Special Kids with Special Needs." This informative brochure helps families with special needs children obtain information on special needs trusts, guardianships, social security, and many other areas of law that these families may encounter.

Our largest project this year was our video project, "The Unconscious Truth". Generously funded by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, this project addresses the growing epidemic of binge drinking among teenagers. The two part multi-media project has a DVD component, as well as a curriculum for teachers to use, that walks students through a mock debate and mock trial process and dispels many of the myths associated with binge drinking. This project has received a lot of media attention and we hope that the message delivered in the project continues to save the lives of Texas teens.

This is just a small overview of the projects we completed this year. Please take a look at the following pages to see all of the amazing contributions from our dedicated board and committee members.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president and chair.

**Natalie Cobb Koehler**  
President 2011-2012  
Texas Young Lawyers Association

**Alfonso Cabañas**  
Chair 2011-2012  
Texas Young Lawyers Association



# → BOARD OF DIRECTORS →

The TYLA Board is made up of an Executive Committee, Directors, and Liaisons. The Executive Committee consists of the President, President-elect, Chair, Chair-elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. The President-elect is elected by TYLA membership while the other officers are elected by the Board of Directors; all serve one-year terms. Each member of the Executive Committee acts as an advisor to at least one TYLA committee.

The 33 Directors represent 21 districts from around the state and serve as liaisons to the local affiliates in their districts. Directors serve as chairs or co-chairs of the various TYLA committees. Directors are nominated and elected by the TYLA members in their districts and serve two-year terms.

Liaisons include a Texas Supreme Court Justice, American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division representatives, a law student, a law school dean, and a member of the Access to Justice Commission.

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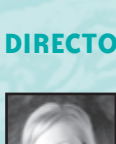
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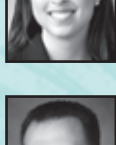
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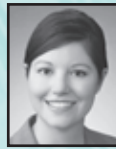
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Law Office of Danny Razo



**Clint Harbour**  
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Office of Attorney General



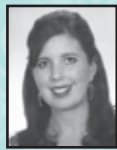
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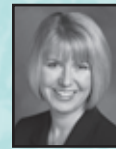
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Asst. Dean of Prof. Develop-  
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National Labor Relations Board



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**Amanda Navarette**  
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Ector County District Attorney's  
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**Victor Villarreal**  
District 19  
Villarreal & Romero, PLLC



## THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR SERVICE TYLA BOOTS UP IN TEXAS SCHOOLS

### Pre-Law Diversity Symposium

TYLA co-sponsored its annual Pre-Law Diversity Symposium with the University of Texas–El Paso’s Law School Preparation Institute, El Paso Bar Association, Mexican American Bar Association of El Paso, and several judges and lawyers in the El Paso area on Oct. 26, 2011, at Chamizal National Memorial. TYLA’s mission with the symposium is to educate El Paso-area high school students on the importance of diversity in the legal profession. The symposium teaches students the practical aspects of applying to law school, making it through law school, and practicing as a young lawyer. More than 300 area high school students were in attendance, representing 17 high schools in the El Paso area.



### Attorneys Without Borders

The first annual Attorneys Without Borders series was presented in Laredo on Feb. 28-29, 2012. This two-day program was designed to promote the practice of law to students from South Texas through a panel discussion and the presentation of oral arguments before the Texas Supreme Court. A reception was hosted on the evening of Feb. 28 with more than 130 attorneys and students from Texas A&M International University in attendance. Students and local attorneys were able to meet with the justices in a more relaxed and casual atmosphere during the reception. The next day, students, local attorneys, and members of the public were able to observe oral arguments presented before the Texas Supreme Court at the Student Center of Texas A&M International University. The arguments were followed by a panel discussion and audience Q&A on the importance of diversity in the profession.



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TYLA officers and directors with the Texas Supreme Court at Attorneys Without Borders in Laredo

## Central Texas High School Senior Day

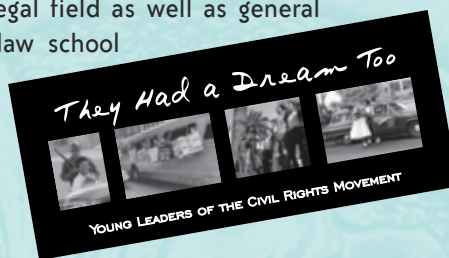
TYLA hosted a Senior Day for high school seniors at Baylor Law School in May 2012. The students received t-shirts and flash drives with TYLA materials. Lunch was provided and the TYLA projects *You're Hired Now What?* and *Vote America!* were highlighted.



## Odessa High School Symposium



The first annual Odessa High School Pre-Law Diversity Symposium took place April 19, 2012, at Permian High School. More than 80 high school students attended the event to hear a diverse panel of young attorneys from the area talk about the importance of diversity in the legal field as well as general information about applying to law school and the different practice areas of law. TYLA's award-winning project, *They Had a Dream Too*, was presented, as well.



## R U Safe?

The award-winning program, *R U Safe?*, is designed to educate children and their parents about online dangers and give them the tools needed to be safe while online. It is intended to

serve students at every age

level (elementary, middle school, and high school) and also contains a section for parents. Using experts from law enforcement and child advocacy groups, the four-part video covers such wide-ranging topics as cyber bullying, social networking sites, chat rooms, "sexting," and online predators. Children are also told how to report suspicious activity and educated about the legal ramifications of certain online behavior. The parental section addresses basic safety plans, implementing parental controls, privacy settings, child-safe browsers, the use of cookies, and website history. It also provides parents with useful advice about how they should address the issue of cyber safety with their children. In 2011-12, TYLA presented *R U Safe* across Texas, reaching more than 1,800 Texas citizens.

“ Thank you so much for the outstanding presentation at Klein High. I have already received positive feedback from both the faculty and students. I appreciate your taking time to come to our school and educate our freshman class about protecting themselves in an online environment. ”

— Ruth Adkins-Villarreal, MLS, Klein High School, Klein, Texas



## They Had a Dream Too



YOUNG LEADERS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

*They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement* is an Emmy Award-winning 11th and 12th grade curriculum project and was made possible by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation. It consists of a 28-minute film highlighting the achievements of a few of the thousands of young people who made a difference in the 1950s and 1960s when the struggle for civil rights reached its peak in the United States. The film includes interviews with people who as young adults helped changed their world.



The film also contains a component that educates students about civil rights struggles that have occurred since the 1960s and challenges young people to become leaders today. Educators are provided with a curriculum regarding the TEKS and TAKS credits that are covered by this project.



## You're Hired, Now What?

*You're Hired! Now What?* is a video program designed to teach students and other new members of the workforce about rules governing discriminatory or unfair workplace environments, through a series of vignettes covering the following topics:

- Unfair treatment or harassment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or age.
- Denial of reasonable workplace changes requested due to religious beliefs or disability.
- Retaliation against complaints about job discrimination, or assistance given to a job discrimination investigation or lawsuit.
- Workers' compensation related to on-the-job accidents.
- Wage and hour requirements.



KNOWING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS ON YOUR FIRST JOB

*You're Hired, Now What?* was presented across Texas to more than 1,500 young Texans, including a roll out in conjunction with Central Texas High School Senior Day at Baylor Law School in May 2012



# Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right

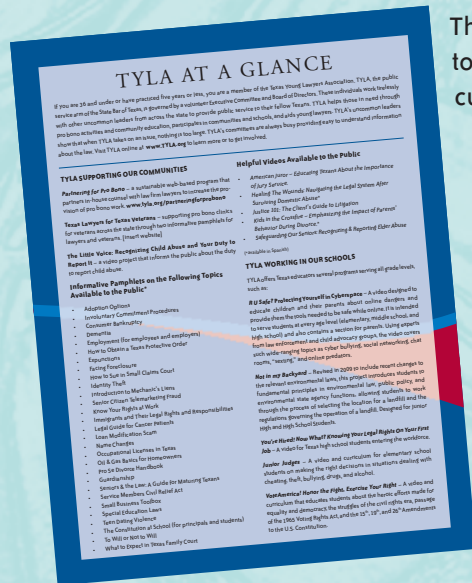


To remind us of our civic duty, *Vote America!* educates students about the heroic efforts made for equality and democracy. The struggles of the civil rights era, passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and the Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution are all chronicled in this important educational video. *Vote America* was presented to more than 150 students this year.



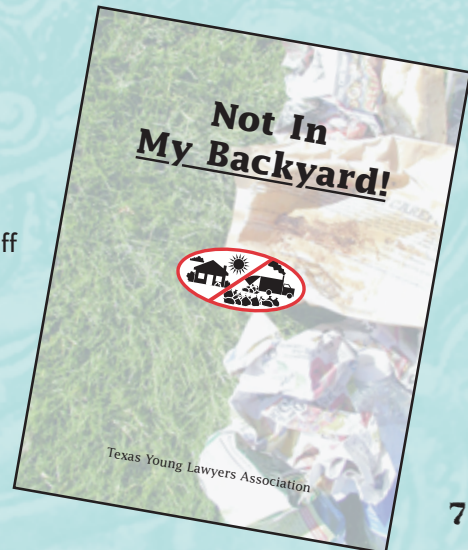
## TYLA At-a-Glance Pamphlet

The committee developed a *TYLA At-a-Glance* pamphlet to be handed out to teachers describing the various curriculum projects that can be handed out in schools.



## Not in My Backyard

*Not in My Backyard* was presented at the Austin District-Wide Staff Development meeting.



## THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR SERVICE TYLA IN THE COMMUNITY, TO BOOT

### The Unconscious Truth: The Legal and Physical Effects of Underage Binge Drinking

*The Unconscious Truth: The Legal and Physical Effects of Underage Binge Drinking* featured the story of Shelby Allen, a teenager who died from alcohol poisoning. TYLA produced a multi-media production educating parents and teenagers about the dangers of underage drinking, the laws associated with underage drinking, and the laws that apply to parents who provide alcohol to teens. *The Unconscious Truth* dispels the myths that you can “sleep it off,” that you will “feel better after throwing up,” and that a “shower will sober you up.” Most important, *The Unconscious Truth* encourages students to call 911 and seek help for their friends exhibiting the signs of alcohol poisoning.



A mock trial and mock legislative debate were created to help teens learn through active participation about the laws associated with underage drinking.

Although TYLA produced more than 1,000 DVDs of *The Unconscious Truth*, it was being downloaded from the TYLA website the day it went live! Many organizations have requested the video and discussion materials to present on their own throughout Texas.



On May 17, 2012, TYLA and the San Antonio Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse presented *The Unconscious Truth* at the National Alcohol Abuse Prevention Week.

“You guys really hit a home run! ... It was so hard to watch, but so on target.”  
— Steve Allen, father of Shelby Allen

“I have three teenagers so we have discussed Shelby often as we worked together on the legislation. However, I was starting to get the rolled eyes. ... Tonight, I turned on the second video, the dramatization ... they started watching with me and watched the entire video, even pausing their TV program. I think it was the way it was produced that caught their attention when the written materials and perhaps my nagging didn’t.”

— Nancy Peverini, Esq., Legislative Director, Consumer Attorneys of California, Sacramento, Calif

“My wife, Mary Rossi, who has been an educator and believes passionately in preventative and early childhood education, agreed with me that this is a very important story and program that should be distributed. As she put it, this could change a teenager’s life.”

— Arthur J. Rossi, Jr., San Antonio attorney



## District Clerk's Resource Wheel

On Sept. 27, 2011, TYLA presented the *District Clerk's Resource Wheel*, available in English and Spanish, at the District Clerks Conference in Kerrville. The District Clerk's Resource Wheel is a quick-reference guide containing links to TYLA pamphlets and brochures that can be distributed to the general public. It includes references to TYLA's resources for the courts, the general public, consumers, those seeking assistance in family law matters, and senior citizens. The project also features the newly revamped *American Juror* video ([www.americanjuror.org](http://www.americanjuror.org)) designed to engage and inform prospective jurors about the importance of jury service. The Resource Wheels were presented to the County & District Clerks Association of Texas, which promotes professional standards of court clerks and educates them about the statutory and constitutional duties of their offices.



## Public Information Pamphlets

TYLA, at the request of the Public Information Department of the State Bar of Texas, revised the following pamphlets in 2011-12:



*How to Sue in Small Claims Court*

*Servicemembers Civil Relief Act*

*Legal Guide for Cancer Patients (available in English and Spanish)*

*What to Expect in Texas Family Law Court (available in English and Spanish)*

*Ending the Violence: Obtaining a Texas Protective Order (available in English and Spanish)*

*Protecting the Incapacitated a Guide to Guardianship in Texas*

*Facing Foreclosure*

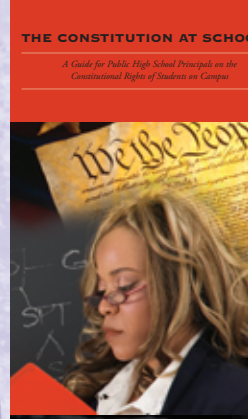
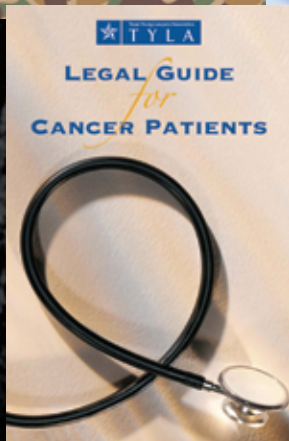
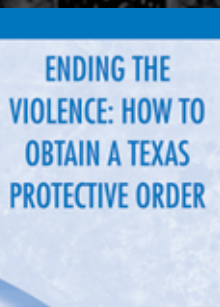
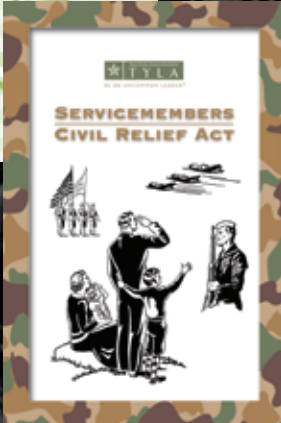
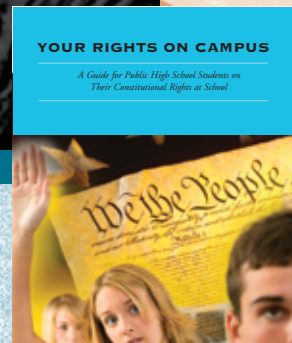
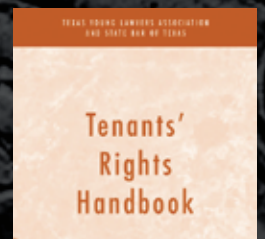
*Committed to Healing: Involuntary Commitment Procedures*

*Becoming a Lawyer*

*Your Rights in School*

*Small Business Toolkits*

*Tenants Rights Handbook*



## Law Enforcement Training and Outreach Program

Police officers and other law enforcement officials are routinely asked to address civil issues that arise during their duties. Yet few if any officers are trained in how to handle these issues. In response, TYLA created *Remaining Civil: An Officers Guide to Responding to Non-Criminal Calls for Service*.

*Remaining Civil* is a two-part project, developed by the Community Education Committee, designed to train peace officers on the best practices when responding to non-criminal calls for service and to educate the community on how to properly resolve their civil complaints without law enforcement involvement.

The first part focused on the development of a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) authorized training block to teach officers the best practices when responding to civil or non-criminal calls. Some of the call types addressed in the training session include domestic disputes, custody disputes, evictions, repossessions, animal calls, and mental health commitments. The second part involved the creation of informational pamphlets to assist citizens in dealing with their non-criminal legal issues and to direct them to appropriate resources to assist them in resolving their legal dilemma. Law enforcement officers can hand out the pamphlets to citizens when called to a civil dispute. The pamphlets were expanded into a PowerPoint presentation and lesson, certified by the TCLEOSE. The first TCLEOSE test training was May 18, 2012 in Sweetwater.

TYLA also developed a web-based resource page for the public to assist them with their questions. *Remaining Civil* was completed thanks to the support of approximately 15 volunteer attorneys, approximately 30 law enforcement entities, the West Central Texas and Heart of Texas Council of Governments, and the TCLEOSE.

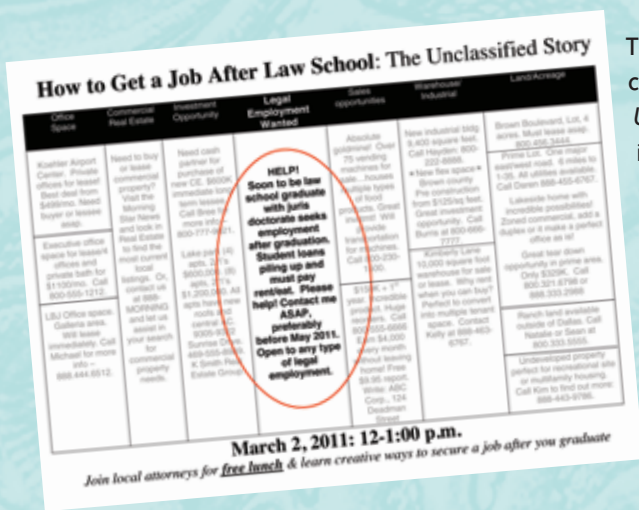


# THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR SERVICE LAW STUDENTS NOT SHAKING IN THEIR BOOTS

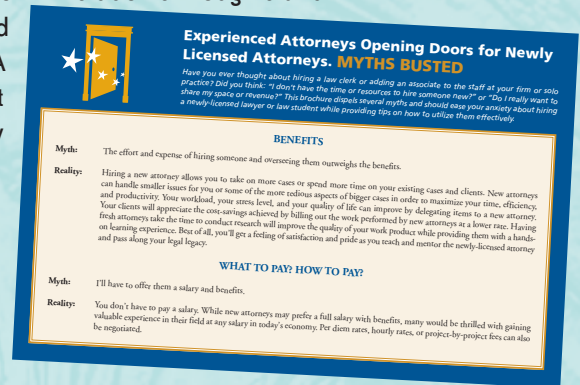
## Law School Orientations

TYLA representatives and TYLA law student liaisons attended seven out of the nine Texas law school orientations in fall of 2011.

## How to Get a Job after Law School: The Unclassified Story



The Law School Orientation Committee continued its on-campus seminar, *How to Get a Job After Law School: The Unclassified Story*, to share with students thoughts and ideas of how to get hired out of law school. TYLA hosted seminars at eight of the nine Texas law schools in Texas.



## Legal Professionalism Award

This award promotes legal professionalism among Law Students Division members by rewarding participation in activities that further the administration of justice, enhance professional responsibility, and provide service to the public. Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship. The 2011-2012 scholarship recipients are **Gregory Siemankowski** and **Skylar Howton**, both of Baylor Law School.

## 2011 Essay Contest

The annual Law Student Division Essay Contest provides an opportunity to help law students to reflect on this nation's legal heritage. Two scholarship recipients were chosen from among the Law Student Division applicants (Texas and out-of-state law student members may apply). Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship. The 2011-2012 Essay Contest winners are SaraBeth Egle of South Texas College of Law and Anna Gryska of Texas Tech University School of Law.

## TYLA Minority Scholarship

The TYLA Scholarship Program promotes diversity in the legal profession by assisting members of minority populations within the State to enter the legal profession and participate in the programs and activities of TYLA and the State Bar of Texas. The TYLA Diversity Committee awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority student at each Texas law school that submitted an application. There were a total of 41 applications.

### 2011-2012 Scholarship Recipients



**Lynette M. Boggs**  
St. Mary's University  
School of Law



**Randel Cross**  
Thurgood Marshall  
School of Law



**Elizabeth Guillen**  
University of Texas  
School of Law



**Emma Ibarra**  
South Texas  
College of Law



**Jenny Mai**  
Baylor Law School



**John M. Muniz**  
Texas Tech University  
School of Law



**Soluto Uba**  
SMU Dedman  
School of Law



**Ubani Ukuku**  
University of Houston  
Law Center

## State Moot Court Competition

TYLA hosted its annual State Moot Court competition in June 2011 during the State Bar Annual Meeting in San Antonio.

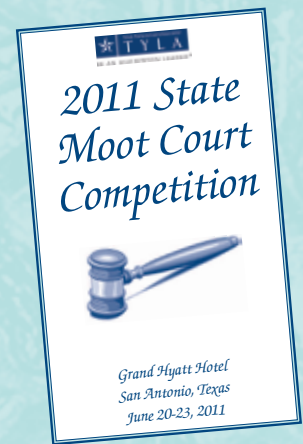
Champion — University of Houston Law Center Team Members Seth Gagliardi, Patrick McKee, Jameson Watts

Finalists — St. Mary's University School of Law and University of Houston Law Center

Semifinalists — South Texas College of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law, St. Mary's and University of Houston

Best Brief — Baylor Law School Team Members Kristen Blakely, Adrienne Morris, James Willis

Best Oral Advocate — Seth Gagliardi, University of Houston Law Center



## National Trial Competition

The National Trial Competition (NTC) is one of the oldest and most prestigious mock trial competitions in the United States. NTC was established in 1975 to encourage and strengthen student advocacy skills through quality competition and invaluable interaction with members of the bench and bar.

NTC is co-sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and is designed to expose law students to the nature of trial practice and to serve as a supplement to their education.

Twenty-six teams from around the country advanced to participate in the national competition in Austin, where Baylor Law School was crowned champion.



2012 National Champion Team: Baylor Law School  
 Team Members: Steven Lopez and Mark Walraven  
 Coach: Robert Little



Finalist Teams: Baylor Law School Teams One and Two

Best Oral Advocate Award: Mark Walraven, Baylor Law School

Semifinalist Teams: Drexel University Earle Mack School of Law  
 University of Denver Sturm College of Law (Team One)

Quarterfinalist Teams: Loyola Law School, Los Angeles  
 St. John's University School of Law  
 Temple University Beasley School of Law  
 Yale Law School (Team One)

“Each time I come to Nationals, I am impressed with the organizational efforts, the judging, and the extra things you do to help so many students. This is a remarkable program that blesses many beginning trial attorneys. Without question, it is the best trial program in the country.”

— Richard C. Mangrum, Professor of Law, Creighton University



Dustin Howell, Natalie Cobb Koehler, and Priscilla Camacho at the National Trial Competition



(From left) Finalists Joel Towner and Chaille Graft Walraven, TYLA President Natalie Cobb Koehler, American College of Trial Lawyers President Thomas H. Tongue, and champions Mark Walraven and Steven Lopez.

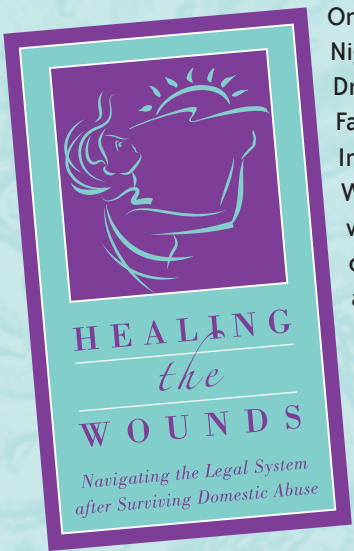


Teams in action at the National Trial Competition.

# THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR SERVICE

## TYLA MAKING FAMILIES AND SENIORS TOUGHER THAN AN OLD BOOT

### Healing the Wounds Ladies Night Out



On Oct. 24, 2011, TYLA hosted Ladies Night Out in San Antonio at the Alamo Drafthouse. TYLA teamed with the Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc. (FVPS), which operates the Battered Women and Children's Shelter, along with 12 transitional single-family dwellings across San Antonio, to assist victims of domestic violence in making a new start.

More than 35 women attended the program. The first part of the night was dedicated to empowering women. TYLA presented *Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System After Surviving Domestic Abuse*, a 20-minute

video that portrays the story of "Melinda," a domestic violence survivor and her journey through the legal system. The video details what victims of domestic violence can expect when using the courts to obtain a protective order, temporary restraining order, or divorce.

The subject was personal to every woman there. Some shared their stories and many had questions that directors readily answered. TYLA helped to diffuse myths and eliminate fears and confusion in hopes that women who face domestic violence will seek the assistance they may need.

The second part of the program focused on self-esteem and image building. Several local vendors came out to support the Ladies Night Out. Hair stylist Pablo Rosalez of Renee's of Castle Hills and make-up artist Sarita Garza of Heavenly Unique selected volunteers and styled several women. Each vendor showed the women easy techniques for a night out, work, and everyday looks.

Door prizes that included handmade matching necklace and earring sets designed and donated by Director Alyssa Long and spa gift certificates were handed out. The women ended the evening dining on pizza and sodas while enjoying the recently remade classic movie *Footloose*.

At the end of the night out, each woman was treated to a personal pamper bag complete with Mary Kay cosmetics, toiletries, various discounts for hair and make-up, and other legal literature regarding domestic violence.

*I am sending this out to you on behalf of the ladies who attended the "Mom's Night Out" event that your Association sponsored for us @BWS.*

*"Foot Loose" was a hoot, the door prizes by "Alysa" made our night, and "James" from Alamo Drafthouse and his leg. really were "gods" that evening and it was appreciated. We'd also like to let Ms. Cox with Mary Kay and Pablo Rosalez of "PABLO" know that they made us all feel beautiful. Thanks to "Natalie", "Sylvia" and all the rest that attended as well and I thought it took great courage from the woman in the tape "Healing the Wounds" to share her story. It has given rise to many voices and I personally have been spreading the word across my social networks.*

*So Thanks to All of you, for the laughter and the tears, the pizzas and the cheers, But most of all For Being There For Us and The Kids.*

*\*\*Kaputani99 Sincerely, Roberta K. Smith Survivor*





## Other Healing the Wounds Events

TYLA presented *Healing the Wounds* to approximately 100 attendees at the Ector County Domestic Violence Awareness Month Kickoff on October 3, 2011. Several local agencies took part in the kickoff, including victim service providers, crisis response centers, city and county agencies, and law enforcement agencies. TYLA's project *Healing the Wounds* was shown to the attendees and was on continuous play in the domestic violence awareness display in the Ector County Courthouse the following week. Other TYLA projects that were handed out and displayed at the event were *Loves Me, Loves Me Not* and *How to Get a Protective Order*.

On March 26-28, 2012, TYLA also participated in the 7th annual Conference on Crimes Against Women in Dallas, showcasing *Healing the Wounds*. More than 1,000 attendees from around the country were there representing all fields of law enforcement, including prosecution, social work, victims advocacy, therapy, probation/parole, attorneys, campus safety personnel, and medical professionals who work directly with female victims of crime. More than 50 DVDs and posters were presented.

ENDING THE  
VIOLENCE: HOW TO  
OBTAIN A TEXAS  
PROTECTIVE ORDER

Loves Me  
Loves Me Not

www.tyla.org



## The Little Voice

“We have received an extensive amount of materials and by far felt your materials were the most effective at carrying the message for abuse and prevention.”

— Carla Olson, Executive Director, Parenting Cottage, Inc., Lubbock

*The Little Voice: Recognizing Child Abuse and Your Duty to Report It* was created by TYLA in 2010 to educate the public about recognizing child abuse and the duty to report it. The award-winning program reaches Texans through its bilingual video, pamphlets, magnets, pushcards, posters, and public service announcements outlining the legal and ethical duties we all have to protect children who are unable to protect themselves.

In August 2011, TYLA participated in the 23rd annual Conference on Crimes Against Children in Dallas, highlighting *The Little Voice*. More than 2,800 professionals from the fields of law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, social work, children's advocacy, therapy, and medicine who work directly with child victims of crime were in attendance. More than 75 DVDs and posters were distributed.

In support of Child Abuse Awareness Month, on Nov. 5, 2011, TYLA participated in the Walk to Action benefiting Prevent Child Abuse Texas (PCAT) in San Antonio. The 20-mile walk represented 40,000 steps toward the day when every American will understand that each of us can stop child abuse. Team TYLA raised \$4,500 for the cause, with proceeds from the walk going to PCAT. Board members distributed *The Little Voice* materials to all participants and hosted a booth at the event.

In March 2012, TYLA hosted a booth at the Houston Galleria featuring *The Little Voice* materials. On April 1, 2012, TYLA featured *The Little Voice* at the Texas Afterschool Association Pre-Conference in Grapevine. Each attendee received copies of the DVD, pamphlets, tattoos, pencils, and other marketing materials.





At the inaugural Fredericksburg Wills Clinic

## The Probate Passport: Guide to Texas Probate and Estate Planning

*The Probate Passport: Guide to Texas Probates and Estate Planning* was created through a partnership between TYLA and the State Bar of Texas to help individuals and families plan for the future. The guide explains the legal aspects of Texas probate law and alternatives to probate. TYLA hosted the inaugural rural estate planning clinic in Fredericksburg on Nov. 17, 2012. Five local attorneys participated with TYLA to draft Power of Attorney, Medical Power of Attorney, and Advance Directive documents for attendees.



TYLA members assist at Wills Clinic



## Peace of Mind

*Peace of Mind* is a comprehensive booklet designed to educate families about the need to protect and secure the future of their special needs child. The guide outlines a wide range

of topics including the planning to preserve and maximize needs-based public benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. The guide provides parents, guardians, and caregivers with information about legal options for financial and estate planning, powers of attorney, health care directives, guardianship responsibilities, and special needs trusts to help protect special needs children. In addition, *Peace of Mind* includes resources regarding disability rights, employment and labor laws, tools to assist with obtaining accommodations for school, and other tips to help special needs children transition to adulthood.

“Great job at the Winter Games this year. We have gotten so many requests for you guys to be at our events. It is just unbelievable!”

— Michael Sullivan, Director of Families and Outreach, Special Olympics Texas, Austin



*Peace of Mind* was presented at the following locations:

National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October 2011

Arbor School in Houston, Jan. 20, 2012

Texas Special Olympic Winter Games in Austin, Feb. 10-11, 2012

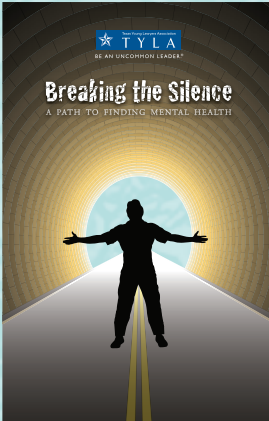
Special Olympics Families Health, March 24, 2012

Texas School Administrators Conference on Special Needs Issues, San Antonio, Apr. 3, 2012



Natalie Cobb Koehler and Alyssa Long with Texas Special Olympics participants

## Breaking the Silence



*Breaking the Silence* is a series of podcasts featuring experts, such as psychologists and psychiatrists, who deal with different forms of mental illness and depression. The project is a personal one for TYLA President Natalie Cobb Koehler. Her colleague and friend Brad Newsom committed suicide, rocking the legal community in Bosque County.

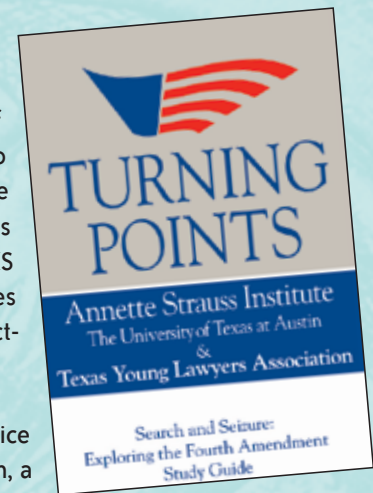
TYLA partnered with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program to film 30 video segments in October 2011 with more than 20 doctors donating their time and expertise. The podcasts have been posted to TYLA's website, with topics covering work/life balance, coping with stress and pressure, anxiety and paranoia, persons with disabilities or special needs, addiction, drug and alcohol abuse, PTSD, financial or unemployment issues, and more. The videos are not just for lawyers but can apply to anyone struggling with these issues and might not know how to reach out for help.

On April 20, 2012, *Breaking the Silence* was aired at Devereaux Treatment Facility in Victoria. Health professionals from Devereaux were instrumental in assisting with and participating in the podcasts.

## Turning Points

TYLA continued its promotion of *Turning Points*, a collaborative effort with the Annette Strauss Institute and the University of Texas to educate high school students through film about the legal framework surrounding the country's most interesting topics of debate. The first piece asks, "When is it acceptable for the government to intrude into a person's private affairs?" through dramatization of search-and-seizure issues. The film, curriculum, and study guide teaches constitutional issues to high school students in a compelling way while encouraging open dialogue of these issues and meets TEKS requirements. This project was presented at the Texas Counsel for Social Studies Conference in conjunction with the Annette Strauss Institute and at the Austin District-Wide Staff Development meeting.

The TEKS-approved curriculum includes a film depicting an encounter between police officers, a suspected kidnapper, and passengers in a vehicle. After watching the film, a step-by-step study guide provides teachers with the materials necessary to lead students through an interactive discussion of search-and-seizure issues and the leading Supreme Court cases addressing them. The video and curriculum are available online on the TYLA website.



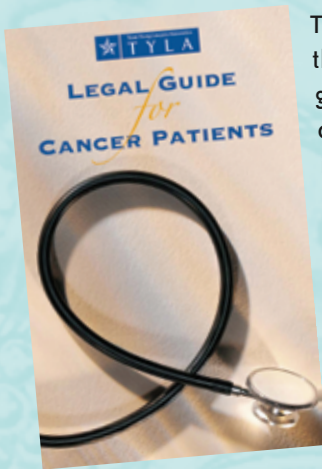
## Seniors and the Law



TYLA's important guide for maturing Texans was updated in 2011 and now includes a Spanish-language version. The guide provides information on obtaining health care and benefits, avoiding consumer scams, handling elder abuse, financial issues, losing a spouse or parent, getting legal assistance, and more.



## Legal Guide for Cancer Patients



TYLA's *Legal Guide for Cancer Patients* provides an overview of the legal issues that someone who is fighting or has fought a battle with cancer may face, including guardianship for cancer survivors with children, employment issues, insurance coverage, estate planning and concerns about privacy, to name just a few. It is available in English and Spanish.

During the 2011-12 Bar year, TYLA presented the *Legal Guide for Cancer Patients* to the following places:

- Guardian Wings of Care, Frisco, November 3, 2011
- The Rose Cancer Support Group, Houston, May 24, 2012

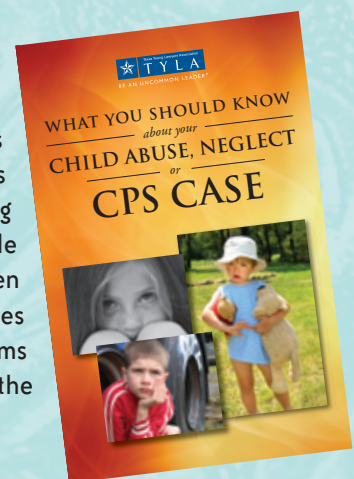
## Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans

On November 11, 2011, TYLA attended the Veterans Day Parade in Waco. Members of the TYLA Board and members of the Waco-McLennan County Young Lawyers Association walked the parade route and distributed pamphlets and other marketing materials promoting the *Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans* project.



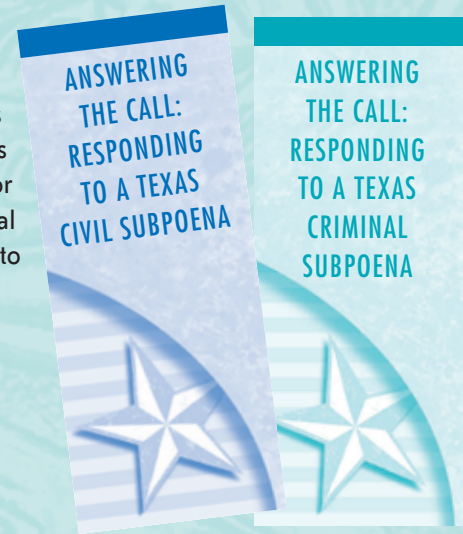
## The CPS Handbook

TYLA's Family Law Committee has prepared a CPS handbook, *What You Should Know about Your Child Abuse, Neglect, or CPS Case*, to help inform the public about the timeline all CPS cases follow through the legal system. Several years ago, the Texas Legislature enacted a 12-month timeline (possibly 18 months in very rare circumstances) in order to ensure permanency for children going through the CPS system. Attorneys and participants in the CPS system struggle with the relatively short timeline when it comes to balancing the need for children to know what will be their fate with their parents making the necessary strides in drug and alcohol recovery. The handbook contains definitions and acronyms specific to the CPS system that help parents and other participants follow the recommendations and findings of CPS.



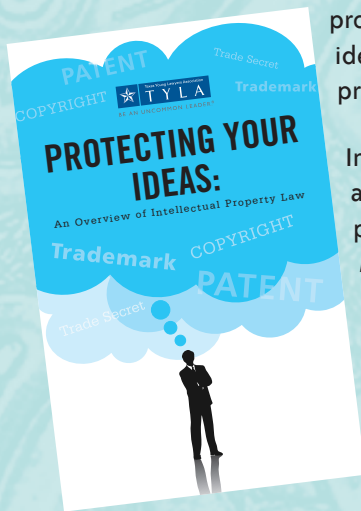
## Answering the Call: Responding to a Subpoena

*Answering the Call* consists of two companion pamphlets for responding to civil and criminal Texas subpoenas. The publications are geared toward guiding young lawyers through a basic overview of Texas subpoena practices as well as how to properly respond to a subpoena. The pamphlets also discuss the various rights and remedies available to clients, such as reimbursement for reasonable expenses and raising objections or asserting a privilege. The goal is to aid attorneys in providing clear and concise advice to clients on how to properly answer a Texas subpoena. The pamphlets are available at [tyla.org](http://tyla.org).



## The IP Project

Most people have heard terms like “patent,” “trademark,” and “copyright,” and generally understand that laws are in place to protect the work of inventors, designers, authors, artists, and others. However, most non-lawyers (and many lawyers) will not necessarily know the answers to basic questions about intellectual property: How much protection does each type of intellectual property provide? What steps does someone need to take to protect her ideas? What is the difference between the various types of intellectual property?



In an effort to help the general public navigate the maze of laws, applications, and licenses involved in protecting intellectual property rights, TYLA partnered with the State Bar of Texas IP Section to publish *Protecting Your Ideas: An Overview of Intellectual Property Law*. The handbook provides guidance to the general public regarding the various types of intellectual property and the law that governs them. The differences between patents, copyrights, trademarks, and trade secrets are explained, along with a roadmap to obtaining and enforcing rights in each of these types of intellectual property.



## THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR SERVICE THE BOOT IS ON THE OTHER FOOT: TYLA INCREASING MINORITY INVOLVEMENT IN TEXAS

### Diversity, Dinner, & Dialogue

On January 12, 2012, TYLA and the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers (DAYL) hosted the annual Diversity, Dinner, & Dialogue program at The City Club in Dallas.

The two-part program, "Creating a Culture of Inclusion," brought together more than 130 Dallas-area judges and attorneys from corporations, outside counsel, and local bar associations, while helping to raise awareness and explore diversity and inclusion in the legal community. The program was approved for 1.50 hours of ethics CLE. In addition, donations of toiletries and gently used clothing were collected to benefit Union Gospel Mission-Tarrant County.

The first part of the program featured Ron Hall, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Same Kind of Different As Me*. Hall spoke candidly about his encounters with Denver, an African-American homeless man, and how they forged a bond over the years with the persistence and vision of Hall's wife, Debbie. Hall shared how ultimately the two men began to see the world through the each other's eyes and were changed for the better because of it. He reminded us that our differences are exactly what forge the common bond between us.

Following Hall's recollections, the attendees moved into a targeted panel-style dialogue focusing on unique hypotheticals and incorporating real-life experiences. The panel was moderated by the Honorable Roberto Cañas of the Dallas County Criminal Court, and featured Felicity Fowler, chair of the Diversity Committee at Haynes and Boone, LLP, and Robert Jones, Jr., chair of the Legal Department Diversity Committee at American Airlines, Inc. The panelists spoke at length about promoting diversity in the legal profession including law firm and corporate diversity policies, as well as what works and does not work in diverse legal environments.



(From left) Chip Brooker, Author Ron Hall, Lacy Durham, and Natalie Cobb Koehler at the 2012 Diversity and Dialogue Dinner

## THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR SERVICE LOCAL AFFILIATES → ALMOST TOO BIG FOR THEIR BOOTS

### Bar Leaders Conference

The Bar Leaders Conference brings together lawyers in various leadership positions with local bar organizations and young lawyer affiliates from across the state to exchange ideas on projects. The 2011 conference was held July 22-23 at the Westin Galleria in Houston.

It was attended by more than 70 young lawyers from 17 TYLA local affiliates that contributed \$1,100 to help sponsor the conference.

The highlight for TYLA's portion of the conference was "Projects, Projects, Projects," during which local affiliates representatives presented their award-winning projects to attendees. Sixteen projects were highlighted, including three outstanding programs from the previous year: Dallas AYL's Closing Arguments CLE, Houston YLA's Teen Law Agenda, and Cameron County YLA's Dress for Success.

### Grants

TYLA supports its affiliated young lawyers associations by providing funding to support their local programs and projects. The Local Affiliates Committee awarded 29 individual grants to 12 different local affiliates totaling \$21,750. The grants provide assistance for service projects that benefit the community, educational and networking programs that offer unique opportunities for local young lawyers, and scholarships and internships that assist students in law school.

### TYLA Roadshows

TYLA Roadshows are designed to assist small- to medium-sized bar associations in providing quality leadership and CLE programs to their members at no cost.

#### TYLA held four Roadshows in 2011-12:

- A webcast to four Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas offices, watched by approximately 50 legal aid attorneys. TYLA's Ethics Jeopardy game was tailored to issues affecting legal aid services and legal aid providers.
- Austin for the young attorneys at the Office of the Texas Attorney General.
- Flower Mound for the Flower Mound Bar Association's Ethics CLE Day. TYLA Vice President Kristy Piazza and Director Cameron Cox conducted the Roadshow. Participants received an hour of ethics CLE for TYLA's Ethics Jeopardy.
- Houston for the Houston Young Lawyers Association, which received a Roadshow as a prize for winning the *Partnering for Pro Bono* Contest.



Cameron Cox, ??, Natalie Cobb Koehler, and Clint Harbour at the Lone Star Legal Roadshow

## Local Affiliate 2012 Awards of Achievement Winners

The Awards of Achievement Program provides TYLA affiliates the opportunity to submit their best project for evaluation and recognition. The awards are designed to encourage project development by recognizing the time, effort, and skills expended by these affiliates in implementing public service and professional service projects in their communities. This year, TYLA recognized the following young lawyer organization for finding time to make a difference.

### LARGE CITY

#### Comprehensive

- 1st — Austin Young Lawyers Association
- 2nd — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
- 3rd — Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association

#### Service to the Bar

- 1st — Austin Young Lawyers Association, Leadership Academy
- 2nd — San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, Courthouse Tour and Judicial Reception
- 3rd — Houston Young Lawyers Association, Speed Mentoring

#### Service to the Public

- 1st — Austin Young Lawyers Association, The Permanency Project
- 2nd — Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, Pro Bono Bootcamp
- 3rd — Houston Young Lawyers Association, Texas Wildfires/Disaster Relief Efforts

#### Minority Project

- 1st — Houston Young Lawyers Association, Minority Report Webpage

### Newsletter

- 1st — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, The Dicta
- 2nd — San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, The Docket Call
- 3rd — Fort Worth-Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association, YLA Snapshot

### SMALL CITY

#### Comprehensive

- 1st — Smith County Young Lawyers Association

#### Service to the Bar

- 1st — Lubbock County Young Lawyers Association, 50th Anniversary Gala
- 2nd — Smith County Young Lawyers Association, Introduction of Justice Thomas M. Reavley
- 3rd — Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association, Coffee with the Judges

#### Service to the Public

- 1st — Amarillo Area Young Lawyers Association, Kids' Law Library
- 2nd — Smith County Young Lawyers Association, To Kill a Mockingbird: Civil Liberties at The Liberty

### TYLA 2012 Honorees

#### Outstanding Young Lawyer — Karen C. Denney, Haynes and Boon, LLP, Fort Worth

Karen C. Denney has shown uncommon leadership and commitment in pro bono work. Her service to the profession and community include coordinating high school mock trials, developing programs for elementary students, and mentoring law students.

#### Outstanding Mentor — Judge Martin J. Hoffman, 68th District Court, Dallas

Judge Martin J. Hoffman's name is synonymous with the word "mentor" in the Dallas legal community. For many years, he has served as a role model and inspiration for a multitude of young lawyers, law students, and high school students.

#### TYLA Liberty Bell Award — Tracy Brown, TYLA Director, Austin

For more than 20 years, Tracy Brown has shared her knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm with leaders of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. During that time, TYLA has developed countless nationally recognized programs and services that benefit and educate lawyers and the public.

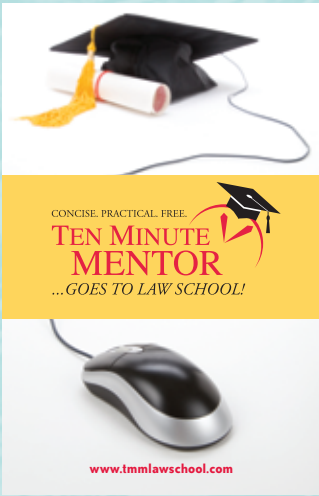




**THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR SERVICE  
INCREASING MEMBERSHIP BY THE MONTH...  
YOU BET YOUR BOOTS!**

**TEN MINUTE  
MENTOR**

**Ten Minute Mentor**



Ten Minute Mentor ([www.tenminutementor.com](http://www.tenminutementor.com)) features short video segments on topics useful to Texas lawyers. The presenters include legal legends (Joe Jamail, Harry Reasoner), respected jurists (Dale Wainwright, Mary Murphy), experts in their fields (Robert Hirschhorn, Jeff Civins), as well as a number of young attorneys. Best of all, Ten Minute Mentor is free.

Due to its popularity among practicing members of the bar, Ten Minute Mentor has been expanded to cover topics of interest to law school students (Ten Minute Mentor Goes to Law School) interested in learning about the ins and outs of practicing law.



**TYLA eNews**

TYLA's monthly electronic newsletter is distributed to more than 24,000 lawyers each month and provides substantive legal articles and tips for young lawyers, highlights TYLA and local affiliate projects and leaders, and provides young lawyers the opportunity to author substantive legal articles and tips for other young lawyers.

**Online Forms Bank**

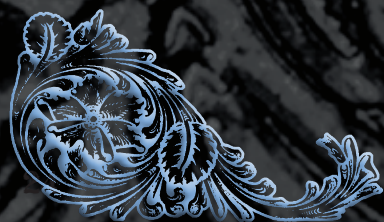
The online forms bank meets the needs of young lawyers looking for ways to market their skills and develop clients. It includes prepared presentations on various legal topics of importance to civic and business groups for young lawyers to use when presenting to these groups. TYLA members can choose the presentation that best matches the audience, download the presentation, and start building their business.

**TYLA on Twitter and Facebook**

TYLA's Twitter account increased this year by more than 50 followers after TYLA began live tweeting from its board meetings. Friends on TYLA's Facebook page increased this year by 354.



# TYLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012



## LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

In the new bar year, TYLA will continue its outstanding public and member service efforts by educating the public about important legal issues and expanding the practical resources offered to our members. In addition, we will focus on the next generation of lawyers by providing curricula to high school students and resources to law school students designed to help them prepare for the challenges that lay ahead for our profession. Here are a few highlights for the year:

- A **Human Trafficking** project that will educate the public about what human trafficking is, the laws concerning human trafficking, and how to identify and assist young people who may be at-risk or victims of trafficking in our local communities.
- **Criminal Law 101: From Arrest to Appeal** will provide an overview of the criminal justice process and will be a resource that young lawyers can use to educate victims of, and clients who are accused of, crimes in Texas.
- **Financial Resources for Students Interested in a Public Interest Legal Career** will provide valuable information about the financial resources available to college and law school students who want to pursue a public interest legal career.
- **A Young Lawyer's Guide to Superior Client Service** will be a joint project with the Florida Young Lawyers Association wherein we will survey in-house counsel to solicit and share advice on client services with our young lawyers.
- **Rule of Law in Texas and Abroad** will be a panel discussion comparing the rule of law in Texas with foreign jurisdictions, and the effects of the rule of law, or absence thereof, on Texas businesses that are doing business abroad.

I hope that you will join TYLA in these efforts. TYLA is a great place to meet other lawyers from across the state, enhance your legal skills, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of many Texas citizens. To participate in one or more of these projects and for more information, please visit [www.tyla.org](http://www.tyla.org).

Sincerely,



C.E. Rhodes, Jr.  
President 2012-2013  
Texas Young Lawyers Association





BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®

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