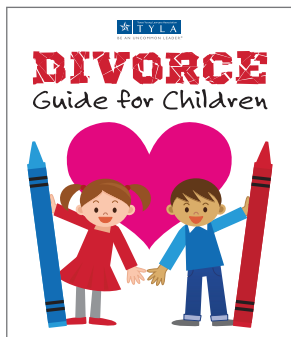
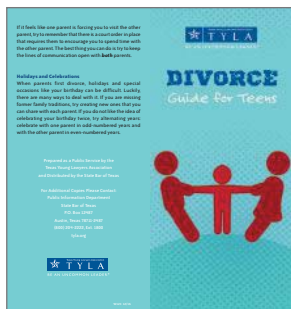


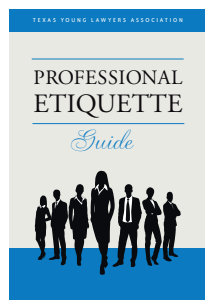
TYLA in Action



The *Divorce Guide for Children* is a coloring book for kids to help them understand what may happen when their parents split up.



The *Divorce Guide for Teens* provides youths with resources to deal with their feelings during divorce.



The *Professional Etiquette Guide* features etiquette tips on handling everything from dining to meetings.



The *Sexual Assault Survivor Rights* website educates survivors about the legal process for bringing a perpetrator to justice.

# An Opportunity to Shine

I had never viewed the world with a scarcity mindset. There was always going to be enough success for everyone if you worked hard and played nice. Law school changed that for me. Especially when I learned about the dreaded grading curve. There could be only a certain number of As? What madness! Compounding my stress was the fact that my 1L grades could shape the career options that would be available to me in the future.

My neurosis hit its climax during the fall of my 2L year during the on-campus interview recruiting process. Never in my life had I been more concerned about my classmates' fashions. If someone was in a suit and I wasn't, I most assuredly would never get a job and be forced to live in a van down by the river. It was as if all of the success in the world had been baked into a single pie. And if I didn't get a slice, then I had failed.

While attending the LeadershipSBOT meeting last fall, I had the opportunity to ask a guest speaker about my experience. She encouraged me to work toward adopting an abundance mindset, rather than viewing success as scarce. I had never heard it phrased that way, but I have adopted and used it when I talk to law students, suggesting they not get bogged down the way I did.

Upon further reflection, I believe that a person can put an abundance mindset into action by finding ways to give others an opportunity to shine. In my professional life, I have been fortunate to have worked with lawyers who were always looking for ways for me to grow, giving me the opportunity to create a professional identity in front of judges, clients, and opposing counsel.

As president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, I have been fortunate to be able to create opportunities for my fellow young lawyers to shine. I am impressed with what we have been able to accomplish so far this bar year. Some of



our projects address issues that are personal to me, but many more reflect ideas generated by our board members who wanted to use TYLA's resources to make an impact for the people we serve.

One of our larger initiatives, the *Sexual Assault Survivor Rights* website, launched in January and can be accessed at [tyla.org](http://tyla.org). This well-researched site is an invaluable first-stop resource for survivors. We had a top-notch team spearheading this project, including first-year directors Timothy Newman, Britney Harrison Dieng, and Donald Delgado.

Other recently completed programs include the *Divorce Guide for Children*, a coloring book for kids whose parents are going through a divorce, a companion *Divorce Guide for Teenagers*, and the *Professional Etiquette Guide*, which provides a refresher on manners both in and outside of the office.

Finally, we are working on my goal to bring CLE programming to places other than the state's largest cities. If you are in or near McAllen on February 17, please join us for a half-day CLE at the McAllen Convention Center.

I can't believe that more than half of my term has expired, but I can say without a doubt that I'm proud of our many accomplishments. There is still work to be done and we will continue to produce projects to assist those in need. Thanks to everyone who has helped bring these ideas to reality.

**SAM HOUSTON**

President,  
Texas Young Lawyers Association