

TYLA in Action

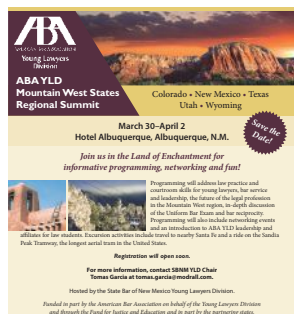


TYLA needs *you* to serve as a judge in the National Trial Competition finals! Volunteers are needed to judge the preliminary rounds of the contest on March 23-24 at the Tom Vandergriff Civil Courts Building in Fort Worth.

If you are interested, email ntcjudges2017@gmail.com.



TYLA District 3 Director Matthew L. Harris presented to the State Bar of New Mexico Young Lawyers Division about how to increase the group's presence on social media.



TYLA is co-hosting the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Mountain West States Regional Summit from March 30 to April 2 at Hotel Albuquerque in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Programs at the event will include information on bar service, leadership, and courtroom skills for young lawyers. For more information, contact Tomas Garcia at tomas.garcia@modrall.com.

Good Neighbors

Neighbors come in all types. Following a few scientific Google searches, I have determined that the internet recognizes Fred Rogers as "the best neighbor ever." On the opposite end of the spectrum is Gladys Kravitz, the hyper-nosy neighbor on *Bewitched*. Apparently Gladys is so well known that there are many online articles discussing something called "Gladys Kravitz Syndrome." Unfortunately, I do not believe there's a cure.

Anyone who has ever made the mistake of asking about my never-ending home renovation immediately regretted it. I mention the project again because my neighbors were also adversely affected by my misfortune. For nearly two years, they have had to look at heaps of construction debris littering my front yard. It really hit home the morning the last stack was being hauled away. As I was putting my daughter into her car seat, my neighbor remarked that "it looks so much better." There may have been a little passive aggression baked into her statement. Oh well, it is true—the house does look better.

The term "neighbor" can apply in a number of contexts beyond where one resides. For example, I usually refer to the folks in the immediate vicinity of my office as my neighbors. Consistent with our public service objective, the Texas Young Lawyers Association also strives to be a good neighbor and to provide its members with tools that encourage neighborly behavior.

In fact, we are putting the finishing touches on our *Young Lawyers' Guide to Working With Your Paralegal: Tips on Creating a Symbiotic Relationship*. Thanks to the great work by TYLA Directors Christopher E. Stoy of Fort Worth and Sara A. Giddings of San Angelo, with help from other committee members, we have a resource to help young lawyers navigate this important relationship. The guide is not one sided; it also includes input from members of the Paralegal Division of the State Bar who provided comments about conduct that is most likely to frustrate a paralegal. It will be a must read.

Nurturing connections with our neighboring states' young lawyer associations was one of my goals this year as TYLA president. At our November board meeting in Austin, we



hosted representatives from the New Mexico and Louisiana Young Lawyers Divisions, along with young lawyer affiliates from around Texas. We were able to share all our great work with the hope that TYLA projects will find their way beyond our borders. Because neighborly behavior is a two-way street, we also learned about issues confronting young lawyers in those states.

Another way to stay connected is through social media, and I encourage you to seek out and like TYLA on the various platforms. Our marketing and technology committee is chaired by District 3 Director Matthew L. Harris of Lubbock, and he has done a tremendous job with social media, substantially increasing TYLA's presence and engagement. The representative from New Mexico was so impressed by Matthew's comprehensive report at the November meeting that he invited him to the New Mexico Young Lawyers Division's January meeting to address his board and to give advice with respect to social media.

We have continued to strengthen our ties. Thanks to an American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division subgrant, TYLA has joined forces with young lawyer associations in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming to co-host a regional summit in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from March 30 to April 2. The formal program includes various CLE presentations covering topics such as courtroom skills, bar service and leadership, and the future of the legal profession. There will, of course, also be plenty of networking opportunities.

If you are ever in my neighborhood, I hope that you will stop by to say hello.

SAM HOUSTON

President,
Texas Young Lawyers Association