

TYLA in Action

The TYLA Board of Directors met for its first quarter board meeting at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa September 14-15. Board members donated books to the TYLA Local Affiliates Committee for *Bookshelves in Courtrooms*, a new TYLA program that promotes literacy by providing books for children to read while waiting at courthouses.



From left: Kirk Cooper, TYLA District 14 director; Donald Delgado, TYLA District 2 director; M. Kaylan Dunn, TYLA District 6, Place 2 director; TYLA President Sally Pretorius; Jay Forester, ABA YLD District 26 representative; Ryan Cox, District 18, Place 2 director; and Jonathan Zende Del, TYLA District 21 director.

TYLA produced a new pamphlet titled *Compassion Fatigue at a Glance*, which explains compassion fatigue, describes symptoms, and provides information on treatment.



TYLA released the Crime Victims Guide, a resource for people navigating the criminal justice system. Information includes everything from how a criminal case is initially filed to what to expect when working with the district or county attorney's office.



Holding Out for a Shero



I am probably part of the last generation that grew up idolizing Disney movies with princesses needing their knights in shining armor to save them and watching action movies with almost always male superheroes. Thankfully, I have also had the amazing opportunity to be surrounded by examples of strong women throughout my life through family, my experience in law school at SMU, and in almost every step of the way in my legal career. These women are my legal female heroes or "sheroes," if you will.

When I was campaigning and planning for this year, I came to the stark realization that this exposure to strong females was not the case for many female attorneys. Many are still blazing their paths in male-dominated practices, juggling raising a family with their career (and often sacrificing their advancement in the profession). Some found themselves in situations that no young attorney, male or female, should be in. Many find themselves without a shero to inspire or guide them.

Additionally, I learned that although women have made great strides toward equality in the legal profession, unfortunately, we are not quite there yet. As an example, just last summer, the *New York Times* reported that, although women comprise about 50 percent of law school graduates, they still make up just under 35 percent of lawyers at law firms and only 20 percent of equity partners at law firms.



While there is no easy solution for this problem, TYLA is creating a podcast (inspired by Dallas Association of Young Lawyers' *Continuing the Conversation*) that will feature intimate conversations with prominent female attorneys, who, whether they know it or not, serve as sheroes to many of us female attorneys. This podcast series is meant to serve as a platform for these sheroes to share their experiences and their advice on a broader spectrum and allow for other female attorneys to be inspired by their advice and experience.

The first Shero podcast dropped on October 3. To download, go to Apple podcasts.

Happy listening!

SALLY PRETORIUS

President,
Texas Young Lawyers Association