

TYLA in Action



On May 5, directors Sara Giddings, Kaylan Dunn, 2018-2019 TYLA President Sally Pretorius, Britney Harrison, Nicole Soussan Caplan, and Jenny Smith helped TYLA celebrate its last meeting of the 2017-2018 bar year in Horseshoe Bay with some Derby de Mayo festive gear.



On May 10, 2017-2018 TYLA President Baili Rhodes and 2018-2019 TYLA President Sally Pretorius presented at the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Affiliates Training Showcase in Louisville, Kentucky.



Teach Safe. Learn Safe. Be Safe., a web-based project designed to give educators, parents, and students an overview of the laws that apply to school systems, is available at teachsafe.tyla.org. The site, funded by a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, features video interviews on bullying, fighting, and sexual misconduct; legal FAQs; and links to pertinent TYLA projects.

I'm So Excited



Words cannot begin to describe how excited I am about the upcoming bar year. The very thought of helping lead the Texas Young Lawyers Association and working with such amazing people leaves me feeling like Selena in the movie—"Me siento muy ... excited"—basically speechless and full of emotions (although I can't sing and dance like her).

That excitement is also a little scary and overwhelming. How will I continue to meet my clients' needs? How will I maintain my relationships with my family, my friends, and my husband? How will I live up to the leaders before me? How will we be able to serve the young lawyers of the great state of Texas?

The whole experience takes me back to when I was first licensed to practice law—admittedly, a time when I had many questions and fears. I obsessed about whether the proper style was "LLC" or "L.L.C." I practiced opening statements before hearings multiple times, got up in the middle of the night to double-check deadlines, and on numerous occasions ran back to the office to make sure mail was properly picked up. Ultimately, those fears receded, and I became confident as an attorney (or, at least to the point where I am able to trust my own judgment). While those fears haven't completely subsided (and to be quite honest, I'm not sure we want them to), I think staying on your toes, being prepared, and paying attention to detail are the skills that, fear-induced or otherwise, separate the *great* attorneys from the *good* attorneys.

Looking back at those stressful times, I am reminded of the one part of my life that, more than any other, was responsible for helping me persevere—my support system. Whether it was sage advice from my boss, talking with friends, or even my mom taking a few minutes to let me vent, my support system has proven invaluable for me.

As I begin my term with TYLA, it's clear that the support system I've relied on will be there for me again. In many ways, it's already taking shape, and I couldn't be luckier.

My support system—whether my mom, my husband, my friends, or the "TYLA Ladies"—is something all young lawyers should be able to count on, and I would love nothing more than for TYLA to be a part of that support system for young lawyers across the state. Each of you should know that TYLA is here for you, and we want to help you conquer all of those young lawyer fears. This year, TYLA is building on the support system we already offer by creating and distributing a series of practice guides for young lawyers that provide critical information covering basic legal principles to help attorneys navigate the court system. Topics include default judgments, withdrawals from representation, contents of a trial/hearing briefcase, objections, and offering evidence. These will be available online for easy distribution and access.

I sincerely hope that if you are a young attorney, you will take the time to peruse our website—tyla.org—and look at some of our existing projects like the *Ten Minute Mentor* videos and the numerous guides that are available to help you.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns. I am truly excited for this bar year and all we can do. Let's get to work.

SALLY PRETORIUS

2018-2019 President,
Texas Young Lawyers Association