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IMPORTANT NEWS INSIDE
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LAW DAY RECEPTION

Thursday, May 4, 2006, 5:30 p.m., Ortiz Convention Center, 402 Harbor Dr.

Special Presentations to

Outstanding Young Lawyer • Liberty Bell Winner
Judge Paul W. Nye Professionalism Award • Winners of Law Day Poster Contest
Captain Dan & Barney Flynn Scholarship Recipients

Hors d' oeuvres • Cash Bar

LAW DAY LUNCHEON

Friday, May 5, 2006, Ortiz Convention Center, 402 Harbor Drive

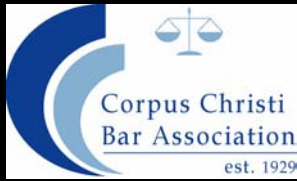
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: LARRY MEYERS, JUDGE, TEXAS COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Special Guests: Judges from Nueces and surrounding Counties

11:30 a.m.: Music by Latin Talk

11:45 a.m.: Program Begins

Cost: (Judges Are Complimentary) \$25.00 per person if reserved by Tuesday, May 2, 2006. Call the Bar Office at 883-4022 to RSVP or e-mail us at sgonzales@corpusbar.com. All reservations must be paid for. Reservations made after that date are \$30.00 per person. Cost at the door will be \$30.00 per person. For more information, check our website: ccbar.com



Newsletter

May 2006

Special Thanks to Blake Farenthold for Making Blast E-Mail Possible

We can finally say that we have “fully operational” blast e-mail. It would not have been possible without the efforts of Blake Farenthold. He spent many hours helping us overcome the several obstacles we faced in developing blast e-mail capability. Equally important was the fact that he did it all for **NO CHARGE**. Mr. Farenthold also hosts our website for free. We are truly indebted to him.

IOLTA Compliance Info Can Be Filed Online

Commencing May 1st, you can submit your IOLTA compliance information online. The Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation requests that all lawyers avail themselves of the online option because it will save the Foundation money that could be used to help additional Texas indigents attain justice in civil matters. It estimates that it costs the Foundation \$46,000 per year to process paper compliance forms. The Foundation “advertises” that using the online option is quick, convenient, and secure. In order to file online, go to www.teajf.org.

Women’s Shelter Offers Facilitated Exchange Program

The Women’s Shelter of South Texas located at 813 Buford has established a “Facilitated Exchange Program.” A facilitated exchange occurs when a child is transitioned from one parent to another. The parent surrendering the child to the other parent for visitation delivers the child to the Women’s Shelter and then

leaves. The child is supervised by a member of the Women’s Shelter staff until the parent gaining custody of the child for visitation arrives and takes custody of the child. When the visitation is over, the procedure is repeated. The service allows the transfer of custody to occur without the parents having to interact with each other. This service is available on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekends each month and every Wednesday evening. Each exchange, i.e., drop off, pick up, return drop off, and pick up, costs \$25.00. In order for parents to take advantage of this program, there must be a referral to the Exchange Program by a court or agency; the parents must review and agree to the program requirements; they must agree to Exchange Program’s schedule for exchanges; and they must agree to the Exchange Program’s fee schedule. For more information, contact the Women’s Shelter at 884-2900.

Criminal Law Seminar Coming Friday May 19th

The “2006 Criminal Law Seminar” will be Friday, May 19th, at the Ortiz International Convention Center. It is a joint effort of the Corpus Christi Bar Association and the Coastal Bend Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. The Course Director, Jerry Dorsey, has put together an outstanding program. The seminar will provide 7.25 hours of CLE with .75 hr of ETHICS. **It has been approved for 7.25 hour of Specialization Credit for Criminal Law.** Topics to be covered include “The Criminal Lawyer’s Primer on Recognizing the Civil Rights Lawsuit,” “Current Federal Sentencing Guidelines,” “Gunshot Wounds and Other Gory Subjects,” “Appeal of Plea-Bargained Cases

for the Indigent,” “Hot to Try a Death Penalty Case,” “SBOT Grievance Process — How the Criminal Lawyer Can Avoid It,” “Appellate Issues for the Trial Attorney,” “Expunction and Petitions for Non-Disclosure,” and “Recent Developments in Polygraph Technology.” The flyer is on the street and is available on our website (ccbar.com). The cost for members is \$185.00 for pre-registration (on or before May 17th). It is \$210.00 for non-members. After May 17th it will be \$205.00 for members and \$230.00 for non-members. Please complete and submit the registration form on the flyer to register.

Board Actions

The CCBA Board met April 18th and took the following actions:

- Judge Robert Blackmon will head the June Docket Call planning
- Agreed to allow 13th Court of Appeals Briefing Attorneys who are members to attend seminars for \$15.00 and they will be provided one free set of materials but additional copies will cost \$50.00.
- Agreed not to invited Leonard Bucklin to make ethics lunch presentation due to prohibitive travel cost.
- Agreed to formally invite specialty bars to July Luncheon
- Agreed to determine viability of “Comedy Central” fund raiser next spring

Important Dates

- May**
- 5/4 — Law Day Reception**
- 5/5 — Law Day Luncheon**
- 5/19 — Criminal Law Seminar
5th Region Judicial Spring
Meeting Reception in evening**
- 5/20 — 5th Region Judicial Spring Meeting
- 5/29 — Holiday, Office closed**

June
Docket Call, Retreat/Joint Board Meeting, Appointment of special committees, committee chairs, seminar course directors

6/8 — CCYLA Baseball with the Bench

6/14— 6/17 — State Bar Annual Meeting

July

Beginning of new fiscal year

7/4 — Holiday, Office closed

7/11 — Last day for luncheon reservations

7/12 — Luncheon, Ortiz Center, JoAl Cannon Sheridan, ETHICS

721 — 7/22 — State Bar Leaders Conference, Dallas

August

8/8 — Last day for luncheon reservations

8/9 — Luncheon

September

9/12 — Last day for luncheon reservations

9/13 — Luncheon

9/14 — 9/15 — SBOT Board of Directors Meeting at Omni Bayfront

October

Annual “Coat, Blanket, and Warm Clothing Drive” begins

10/4 — Red Mass, Judge Carolyn Dineen King, 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, Speaker

10/10 — Last day for luncheon reservations

10/11 — Luncheon

November

“Coat, Blanket, and Warm Clothing Drive” ends and donations distributed to homeless shelters; “Adopt a Family” Holiday Project begins

11/7 — Last day for luncheon reservations

11/8 — Luncheon

11/10 — Holiday, Office Closed

11/23 — 11/24 — Holiday, Office Closed

December

Annual Fish Fry; “Adopt a Family” Holiday Project ends and food and other items donated distributed

Advanced Civil Trial Law Seminar Held Friday, April 7th.

The 2006 Advanced Civil Trial Law Seminar was held Friday, April 7th, at the Ortiz Center. Seventy-Five lawyers attended and once again it garnered rave reviews. **Special thanks to David Bright and John Gsanger.**

33rd Annual Estate Planning Seminar Monday, May 22nd

The Corpus Christi Estate Planning Council's "33rd Annual Estate Planning Seminar" will be Monday, May 22nd, at University Center, Texas A&M University — Corpus Christi. Stanley Johanson, Distinguished Teaching Professor and Fannie Coplin Regents Chair in Law of the University of Texas School of Law who is also Of Counsel with Vinson & Elkins, Houston, is the featured presenter. It will cover recent developments, community property concepts, and ethical issues. This seminar is co-sponsored by the College of Business, Texas A&M University — Corpus Christi. May 12th is the deadline for early registration. The cost for CCEPC members will be \$160.00. Non-members will have to pay \$185.00. After May 12th, add \$20.00 for the registration cost. Approval is being requested for CLE credit. For more information, call 825-2434 or e-mail pstokes@cob.tamucc.edu. Send checks payable to "CCEPC" to Pamela Stokes, College of Business, Texas A&M University — Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, TX 78412.

SBOT Paralegal Division Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The Paralegal Division, formerly known as the Legal Assistants Division, was created October 23, 1981 by the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors. It was the first organization of its kind in the United States. Since its inception, the Paralegal Division has been recognized

as a national leader among paralegal organizations.

On April 8, 2005, the SBOT Board of Directors approved the following definition of a paralegal:

A paralegal is a person, qualified through various combinations of education, training, or work experience, who is employed or engaged by a lawyer, law office, governmental agency, or other entity in a capacity or function which involves the performance, under the ultimate direction and supervision of a licensed attorney, of specifically delegated substantive legal work, which work, for the most part, requires a sufficient knowledge of legal principles and procedures that, absent such person, an attorney would be required to perform the task.

Among the accomplishments of the Paralegal Division are the following:

- Online CLE, voting, and newsletter E-mail E-Group for members to exchange professional legal information
- Online members-only directory Membership Directory in the *Texas Legal Directory*
- Offering CLE through an annual 3-day comprehensive education event as well as mini-seminars in each Paralegal Division District
- Access for members to MyTexasBar.com
- Discounts for members to SBOT sponsored CLE
- Non-voting membership in SBOT Sections
- Ability to purchase insurance from the SBOT Insurance Trust
- Access to discount programs offered by SBOT

SBOT Client-Attorney Assistance Program

The State Bar of Texas Client-Attorney Assistance Program began as a pilot program in 1999 and expanded statewide in

2001. It is a dispute resolution program available to the public and State Bar members free of charge. Through the services provided by the Program, misunderstandings and disputes between lawyers and clients are often resolved before they rise to the level of a grievance or lawsuit, a benefit to both sides. The Program frequently receives more than 100 calls per day from first-time callers. The Program can also serve to identify lawyers suffering from impairments so that interventions can be attempted prior to the time that a problem becomes so serious that a lawyer is headed down a path to losing his/her law license and adversely affecting members of the public. (*Highly plagiarized with permission from Texas Bar Journal, Vol. 69, No. 2, p. 112*)

SBOT Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) was established in 1989. Its purpose is to assist lawyers with substance abuse or mental health problems that affect their law practice and their clients. The purpose of TLAP is to assist impaired attorneys in overcoming their impairment. All communications with TLAP are confidential. Chapter 467 of the Texas Health and Safety Code provides that any information, report, or record that the TLAP receives, gathers, or maintains is confidential. That statute also provides that anyone who in good faith reports information or takes action in connection with TLAP is immune from civil liability or reporting the information or taking the action. Impaired lawyers come to the attention not only from lawyers calling for help but also from their family members, office staff, judges, court personnel and/or colleagues. While the SBOT disciplinary system may refer lawyers to TLAP, TLAP does not report lawyers with whom it is working to the SBOT disciplinary system. Moreover, Rule 8.03(c) of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct pro-

vides that a lawyer who believes that a certain lawyer's or judge's conduct that must be reported under the Disciplinary Rules is due to impairment caused by substance abuse or mental impairment that the lawyer may make that report to TLAP **RATHER THAN** a disciplinary authority.

TLAP currently employs three full-time lawyers who perform intake responsibilities of the program. As a result, a lawyer who contacts TLAP for assistance will be talking to someone who understands the pressures, etc., the lawyer faces.

When a lawyer comes to the attention of TLAP, it will make referrals and will assist the lawyer in obtaining help. Depending on the situation, TLAP may refer the lawyer to a TLAP volunteer in the lawyer's local community so the lawyer can work face-to-face with someone helping him/her overcome the impairment. Statistical reports document that TLAP is effective in helping lawyers overcome impairments.

CCBA New Members

We welcome the following new members:

C. Gerald Gibbons, III, who is in solo practice in Rockport, phone number 790-5079

Daniel O. Gonzalez who has joined Wood, Boykin & Wolter, phone number 888-9201

Ray A. Gonzalez who is a solo practitioner with an office at 4721 Bonner Drive, phone number 851-9200

Jon Paul Hoelscher who has joined The Law Office Lance K. Bruun, phone number 884-8300

Jaime S. Rangel who has joined The Rangel Law Firm, P.C., phone number 883-8500

Gary W. Smith who has joined the Legal Staff of the City of Corpus Christi, phone number 826-3371.

IMMIGRATION QUESTIONS?

Call Us

Debra Rodriguez, P.C.
717 Coleman
883-8900

debra@debrarodriguez.com

Debra Rodriguez, Attorney
Amy W. Apostle, Attorney

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Melinda Benavides
Environmental Technician

Frank Stevens, Ph.D.
Toxicologist/Industrial Hygienist

Tony Reyes
Branch Manager

San Antonio Consultants

Steve Frase, P.E.
Architectural Engineer

Lee Dozier, M.S.E.E., P.E.
Electrical Engineer

Sam Coffee, CIH, CSP
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Mike Hoblet, M.S., P.E.
Civil Engineer

Cliff McCarter, P.I., ACTAR
Vehicle Accident
Investigation / Reconstruction

Eddie Masters, A.S.
Automotive Component
Expert

Roger Garza, P.E.
Civil Engineer

Bryan Skelly, C.F.E.I., P.I.
Fire Investigator
Licensed Mechanical Contractor

Bruce Morris, M.C.E., P.E.
Civil Engineer

McAllen Consultants

Matt Spiekerman, P.E.
Civil/Structural Engineer

Tim O'Leary, DMT, CHT
Marine Safety Expert /
Commercial Diving

Bill Green, C.F.E.I.
Fire Investigator

Lance Phy, P.I., ACTAR
Vehicle Accident Investigation /
Reconstruction, Licensed
Police Instructor

Austin Consultants

Clark McDonald, Ph.D., P.E.
Metallurgist/Mechanical Engineer

David Sutphin, C.F.I.
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