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THIS IS THE CCBA NEWSLETTER
IMPORTANT NEWS INSIDE
PLEASE DO NOT DISCARD



January Luncheon Meeting
Wednesday, January 11th, 12:00 p.m.
Congressman Solomon Ortiz International Center
402 Harbor Drive

Speaker: Lance Phy, Associate Consultant, Rimkus Consulting Group

Topic: "Technology in Accident Investigation and Reconstruction"

CLE Credit: 1.0 hour Participatory, **Litigation**

Cost: \$16.00 per person for members, \$21.00 per person for non-members if reserved by noon, Tuesday January 10, 2006. Call the Bar Office at 883-4022 to RSVP or e-mail us at sgonzales@corpusbar.com. All reservations must be paid for. The cost at the door will be \$18.00 for members, \$23.00 for non-members

NOTE

ADDED ADVANTAGE OF ADVANCE RESERVATIONS — THOSE WHO RSVP IN ADVANCE WILL HAVE THEIR CLE ATTENDANCE CARDS PRE-POPULATED SO ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS TO SIGN THE CARD (AND, OF COURSE, STAY FOR THE PRESENTATION) IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THEIR CLE CREDIT — Just another service of your Corpus Christi Bar Association



Newsletter

January 2006

Judges' Fish Fry a "Spanning" Success

Over 90 members and guests spent a relaxed Friday evening enjoying the view from Doug Allison's Corpus Christi Bay-front home and eating Bob Spann's superb fried fish, sipping their favorite beverage, and communing with judges and each other. The warm and clear December evening weather rounded out an event to remember (a direct result of President Pat Wolter's weather prognostication skill, a skill heretofore held very close for his own fishing benefit). The overwhelming response by those in attendance was "Let's do this again."

Those responsible for making the event such a success were as follows:

Bob and Dorothy Spann (prepared the fish and coleslaw, provided the fish fryer, and cooked the fish)

Les Cassidy (supplied the beer and wine)

Doug Allison (opened his beautifully decorated home and bay-front view patio to us)

The Honorable Carl Lewis and the Deadbeats (live music)

Butler Rentals (donated tables and chairs)

Sico, White & Braugh (Cash)

Gonzalez & Gonzalez, L.L.P. (Cash)

Donnell, Abernethy & Kieschnick (Cash)

The Edwards Law Firm, L.L.P. (Cash)

Watts Law Firm (Cash)

Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association (Provided person power —

Alicia and Jason Ardoin, Frank Gonzales, Melissa Franco de Gonzales, Luis Rodriguez, Aidan and Cary Perales, Geordie (Vernon) Schimmel and date Amber, Bry Miller, Rene Obregon, and Danice Obregon)

And last but not least, **David McGee who along with his wife, Anita, put it all together.**

Board Actions

There was no Board Meeting in December.

Important Dates

(Changes and seminars noted in **bold**)

January

- 1/10 — Last day for Luncheon reservations
- 1/11 — Luncheon at Ortiz Center
- 1/27 — **Appellate Law Seminar**

February

- 2/4 — **High School Regional Mock Trial Competition**
- 2/17 — Joint Luncheon with CPA's

March

- CCISD spring break 13th — 17th
- 3/3 — **Family Law Seminar**
- 3/7 — Last day for Luncheon Reservations
- 3/8 — Luncheon at Ortiz Center

April

- Board of Directors Elections
- 4/7 — **Advanced Civil Law Seminar**
- 4/11 — Last day for luncheon reservations
- 4/12 — Luncheon at Ortiz Center

May

- 5/2 — Law Day Reception
- 5/3 — Law Day Luncheon
- 5/19 — **Criminal Law Seminar**
- 5th Region Judicial Spring Meeting Reception in evening**
- 5/20 — **5th Region Judicial Spring Meeting**

June

- Docket Call, Retreat/Joint Board Meeting
- 6/14— 6/17 — **State Bar Annual Meeting**

17th Annual Adopt-a-Family Holiday Project THANKS

CCBA attorneys stepped up to the plate again making the 17th Annual Adopt-a-Family Holiday Project one of the most successful yet. Although the final dollar-figures are not in yet, we can report that twelve firms participating provided clothing, toys, and food to fifteen needy families. All were single-parent families. The children assisted ranged in age from six months to 11 years. **Special thanks** go to **Michael Maldonado** who organized the project and the participating firms:

Wilson Calhoun

Davis, Hutchinson & Wilkerson, L.L.P.

Dunn, Weathered, Coffey, Rivera, Kasperitis & Rodriguez, P.C.

The Edwards Law Firm, L.L.P.

Gary, Thomasson, Hall & Marks, P.C.

Gonzales Hoblit Ferguson, L.L.P.

Hermansen, McKibben, Woolsey & Villarreal, L.L.P.

Upton, Mickits, Hardwick & Heymann, L.L.P.

Watts Law Firm

Charles C. Webb, Jr.

Law Offices of James M. Whitten Wigington & Rumley, L.L.P.

Judges and Sponsors Needed for February 4th High School Mock Trial Competition

The 2006 Regional High School Mock Trial Competition will be held at the Nueces County Courthouse on Saturday, February 4th. This is a great learning experience for high school students. Attorneys to serve as judges are needed as follows:

- (1) 8:30 a.m., 6 judges needed
- (2) 11:00 a.m., 6 judges needed
- (3) 2:30 p.m., 3-to-5 judges needed

You may sign up for a many of those rounds as you wish (each round will take

about 2 1/2 hours).

Many of these students are extremely impressive. You will be very gratified to see the excellence of these hard-working students. This is a very enriching experience not only for the students but for the judges as well.

We wish to raise the profile of this event this year by holding a dinner honoring the students at the end of the competition and by awarding two \$400.00 scholarships (one to the Best Attorney and one to the Best Witness). If you would like to serve as a judge, or if you or your firm would like to serve as an underwriter or sponsor for either the dinner (in whole or in part), or the Best Attorney or Best Witness scholarships, please contact Tim Dowling at either 884-1961 or tdowling@gthm.com.

2006 Advanced Civil Appellate Law Seminar Friday, January 27th

The 2006 Advanced Civil Appellate Law Seminar will be conducted on Friday, January 27th, at the Congressman Solomon Ortiz International Center. Attendees can earn up to 6.75 hours of participatory MCLE including 1.5 hours of ETHICS. **The Seminar has been approved for 6.75 hours of Specialization Credit for Civil Trial Law, Personal Injury Trial Law, and Civil Appellate Law.**

Texas Supreme Court Justice Scott Brister will provide a Supreme Court update. Other topics to be covered are "Arbitration," "Voiur Dire after *Cortez v. HDDI—San Antonio*," "Practice before the 13th and 4th Courts of Appeals," "Multi-District Litigation," "Fee Agreements," "Updates in Dram Shop Litigation," "Developments in Expert Witness Law," and "Ethics in the Courtroom and on Appeal." The flyer hit the streets this week and is on the CCBA website. The cost for members is \$185.00; it is \$205.00 for non-members. To register, contact us at sgonzales@corpusbar.com, fax 883-0353, or voice 883-4022.

U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Rules Against FTC Privacy Enforcement Against Attorneys

As a result of a lawsuit filed by the New York State Bar Association against the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia has ruled that the nation's lawyers are not bound by the privacy and information-sharing requirements of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Privacy Act (GLBA). The GLBA requires financial institutions to send notices to customers alerting them to the possibility of disclosure of their personal financial information and providing methods for customers to "opt out" of the institution's disclosure practices. Failure to comply with the GLBA provisions can result in civil penalties of up to \$10,000.00 per violation. When the FTC sought to apply that provision of the GLBA to attorneys engaged in tax planning and transactions, estate planning, real estate closings, and personal bankruptcy, the New York State Bar Association challenged the FTC in court. In ruling against the FTC, the Court noted that "the regulation of the practice of law is traditionally the province of the states."

ABA Seeking Applications for the ABA's Legal Opportunity Scholarships

The ABA's Legal Opportunity Scholarships are intended to encourage racial and ethnic minority students to apply to law school and to provide financial assistance to the scholarship recipients. The Scholarships are for \$5,000.00 annually. An award made to an entering first-year student may be renewable for two additional years. Recipients will be selected based on their qualifications for the Scholarship, not on the law school they plan to attend. The law school must be an ABA-accredited law school. Copies of the application form can be obtained

from the CCBA Office. Just call us at 883-4022. Copies can also be downloaded from the ABA website, <http://www.abanet.org/fje>.

Extra Space You Would Like to Rent to Another Attorney?

Do you have extra space you would like to rent to another attorney? Why don't you advertise it in the newsletter? The cost is cheap, \$20.00 for 1/4 page, \$40.00 for 1/2 page, and \$80.00 for a full page. You don't want to advertise it? We still have a solution for you. We are preparing a list of spaces available for rent by attorneys. All you have to do is to notify us at 883-4022 or e-mail us at sgonzales@corpusbar.com. We shall place you on the list of attorneys/firms with space to rent to other attorneys. Attorneys/firms advertising space available will automatically be placed on the list. If we receive inquiries, as we have in the past month, as to space available to rent to other attorneys, we shall notify you of the individual seeking space; and you can contact the individual seeking the space or not do anything based upon whether you wish to rent to the attorney seeking space for rent.

Actually Said in Court

Attorney: What gear were you in at the moment of impact?

Witness: Gucci sweats and Reeboks

Attorney: Do you know if your daughter has ever been involved in voodoo?

Witness: We both do.

Attorney: Voodoo?

Witness: We do.

Attorney: You do?

Witness: Yes, voodoo.

Attorney: All your responses MUST be oral, OK?

Witness: Oral.

Attorney: Now doctor, isn't true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know it until the next morning?

Witness: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

RIMKUS CONSULTING GROUP, INC.'S SOUTH TEXAS TEAM

Corpus Christi Consultants

Tony Elarba, P.E.
Mechanical Engineer

Fred Koch, P.E.
Chem. Engineer

Frank Stevens, Ph.D.
Toxicologist/Industrial Hygienist

Melinda Benavides
Environmental Technician

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
Industrial Hygienist

Roger Garza, P.E.
Civil Engineer

Eddie Masters, A.S.
Automotive Component Expert

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

Mike Hoblet, M.S., P.E.
Civil Engineer

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

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

McAllen Consultants

Matt Spiekerman, P.E.
Civil/Structural Engineer

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

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

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

Austin Consultants

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

Jeff Gibeaux, P.E.
Civil Engineer

Ryan Burnes, P.E.
Civil Engineer

David Sutphin, C.F.I.
Fire Investigator/Master Electrician

Houston Consultants

Houston, Texas, is our World Headquarters with 50+ full-time consultants and more than 75 contract consultants for special projects.

You can also call me for information on our other 300+ full-time experts in our 25 other offices nationwide!

Tim Christ, M.B.A.
South Texas Marketing Manager
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