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The Bar Bulletin

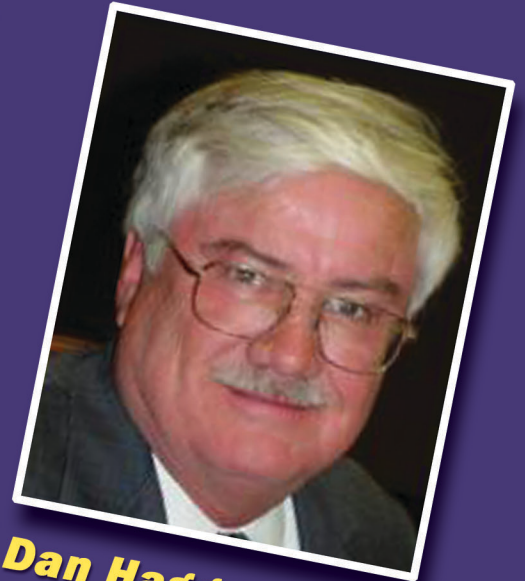
A Monthly Update of Events and Information,



Dee Margo



Rick Olivo



Dan Haggerty



Pat Haggerty



Eliot Shapleigh

Meet the Candidates

Tuesday, October 10, 2006. Noon at The El Paso Club

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The El Paso Bar Bulletin is a monthly publication for the El Paso Bar Association. Articles, notices, suggestions and/or comments should be sent to above address to the attention of Nancy Gallego. All the submissions must be in the office on or before the 10th of the month preceding publication. You may either fax or email your submission. Articles published in the Bar Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the El Paso Bar Association, its Officers or the Board of Directors. Calendar listing, classified ad, display ad, and feature articles should not be considered an endorsement of any service, product, program, seminar or event. Please contact our office for ad rates.

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Putting the Professional Back in the Profession

As I mentioned last month, each of my articles on this page will deal with an integral part of professionalism. This month's message is captioned **Relevance Is For Relevance**. I received an e-mail from our executive director last month in which she recounted a recent conversation with a local lawyer.

She mentioned that he had not been a member of EPBA for several years. He

told her that he would join when the Bar did something for him

that was "relevant". Then he added that the Bar didn't need

his dues anyway since we receive state and federal funds.

My, my, this got my attention. Folks, the El Paso

Bar Association receives NO state or federal funds. Our

revenue is comprised solely of dues, advertising in this

magazine, listings in the website and directory practice areas,

mailing lists, seminars, and interest. All monies paid into the

El Paso Plan are held in trust for the benefit of El Paso County

which in turn uses it to partially fund the El Paso Public

Defender's Office. I'm not sure where this misperception

originated, but let me dispel of it right here.



The other part of this attorney's statement is equally

troubling. Why is the Bar relevant? Oh, let me count the ways. Yes, I admit to

having been called a Bar junkie. Yes, I have spoken at many CLE presentations,

and directed others. Yes, I have served in various leadership positions for State

Bar sections and committees. I have exchanged ideas with State Bar presidents

and other local bar presidents. I've spoken at other local bar programs. And I

have received far more than I have given.

Merriam-Webster's online dictionary defines "relevance" this way: **1 a** :

relation to the matter at hand; **b**: practical and especially social applicability;

2: the ability to retrieve material that satisfies the needs of the user.

Wikipedia calls it "a term used to describe how pertinent, connected, or

applicable some information is to a given matter." To be relevant, EPBA

must relate to your practice, provide practical and useful information, and

offer social applicability.

Over the past three years, our local bar has made a concerted attempt to

open the umbrella and include articles, luncheon speakers, and CLE

programs which relate to your practice. Each section of EPBA is asked to

provide a one-hour "Lunch 'n Learn" seminar on topics pertinent to their

unique membership. We have nine sections, including ADR, Appellate

Law, Bankruptcy Law, Consumer Law, Criminal Law, International Law,

Labor & Employment Law, Real Estate, and Solo/Small Firm. There are

also specialized bar associations, including the Women's Bar Association,

Continued on page 4

EL PASO BAR ASSOCIATION
October Bar Luncheon

Tuesday, October 10, 2006

El Paso Club

201 E. Main 18th Floor, Chase Bank - \$14 per person

12:00 Noon

Candidates Forum

Eliot Shapleigh & Dee Margo, Pat Haggerty,

Dan Haggerty & Rick Olivo

Please make your reservations by Monday, October 9, 2006 at noon by calling Nancy at 532-7052 or via email at nancy@elpasobar.com

Putting the Professional Back in the Profession

MABA, the Family Law Bar Association, the Probate Bar, the Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the Young Lawyers' Association, and the Federal Bar Association. All of these entities work closely with EPBA. No doubt you have attended a local CLE event in the past year.

This *Bar Bulletin* is also designed to bring you information of interest. David Ferrell writes frequently about developing technology and offers his opinions on both hardware and software. Judge Oscar Gabaldon writes about children in distress and the need for special advocates. He waxes eloquent on philosophy and the proper roles of judges in our society. Clinton Cross interviews our sterling seniors who are more than

willing to share their experiences.

I turn now to social applicability. Check out Stephanie Townsend Allala's spotlight series on local lawyers contributing time and talent to community efforts. Her September profile on Blake Barrow was terrific. But let me give you two more recent examples. At our first meeting of the new fiscal year on Tuesday, September 5th, the Board expressed interest that we as an organization should help our neighbors who are suffering from the recurrent rains and flooding. Nancy Gallego had already contacted the State Bar of Texas and urged them to feature a link to disaster relief sources on the home page of mytexasbar.com for El Paso victims. The Board discussion focused

on legal clinics and dissemination of information on legal questions El Pasoans are facing. Chantel Crews mentioned that Mitch Moss works closely with the Red Cross. Amy Sanders said we should contact the Salvation Army. Judge Anchondo suggested that we network with the media. Bruce Koehler volunteered to be the point person. In an 8:00 a.m. phone call on Wednesday, Mitch Moss agreed to immediately contact the Red Cross. Jim Daross with the Office of the Attorney General was on board by mid-morning. By noon, Bruce advised that KFOX was willing to tape a panel discussion on Friday

Continued on page 5

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



OCTOBER, 2006

Tuesday, October 3

EPBA Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 10

EPBA Monthly Luncheon

Thursday, October 12

EPYLA Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 12

EPYLA Happy Hour

Friday, October 13

EPCLSA Monthly Meeting

Thursday, October 19

FBA Court Update

Thursday, October 19

EPPA Monthly Luncheon

Wednesday, October –

Friday, October 27, 2006

Advanced Personal Injury Video Seminar

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2, 2006

Legal Support Staff Seminar

December 1, 2006

Joint Association Holiday Party

February 9 & 10, 2007

11th Annual Civil Trial Seminar

PLEASE NOTE: Please check the *Bulletin* for all the details regarding all above listed events. If your club, organization, section or committee would like to put a notice or an announcement in the *Bar Bulletin* for your upcoming event or function for the month of November, 2006, please have the information to the Bar Association office by Tuesday, October 10, 2006. In order to publish your information we must have it in writing. **WE WILL MAKE NO EXCEPTIONS.** We also reserve the right to make any editorial changes as we deem necessary. Please note that there is no charge for this service: (915) 532-7052; (915) 532-7067-fax; nancy@elpasobar.com - email. If we do not receive your information by the specified date please note that we may try to remind you, but putting this bulletin together every month is a very big task and we may not have the time to remind you. So please don't miss out on the opportunity to have your event announced.

afternoon for airing on Monday the 11th. Bruce quickly organized a panel of Mark Matthys [Executive Director of the Red Cross], Jim Daross, Tom Mullins [FEMA], and Ron Foss [Small Business Association]. Now you know why he chairs our CLE committee. By Wednesday evening, we had compiled a series of articles published in connection with the Katrina-Rita disaster which addressed housing concerns, employment issues, consumer issues, FEMA aid, avoiding scams, and the replacement of critical documents. Katari Buck [president of the Women's Bar Association] edited, reformatted, and organized it. On Thursday, we finalized the product and sent it to our publisher, Reyes Mata III of Del Pueblo Printing. He had it printed and available by the time KFOX taped the segment. He also agreed to provide a Spanish translation.

Our webmaster, Danny Sierra, has uploaded the booklet to our website in both English and Spanish. At this point, let me offer my personal and public thanks to those individuals I have mentioned who dropped everything to make this public service possible. I am so honored to work with this Board this year. But this is only the first example.

Also at the September meeting, Nancy advised us that she had been contacted about *Suits for Success*. We all have suits or business clothing that we no longer wear. Jamye Boone Ward of the Legal Clinic for the Homeless at the Opportunity Center indicated that various shelters around the city offer job training. When clients are sent to an interview, they need appropriate clothing to make a good impression. Katari said the Women's Bar was beginning a similar project. Together, EPWBA and

EPBA will sponsor a clothing drive through December. Open your hearts and open your closets. Bring your suits, dresses, shoes, ties, and accessories to the EPBA office at the courthouse.

Relevant? You bet we are. If you agree with my comments, share your views with a friend. If you disagree – if you still believe the Bar is irrelevant – then take advantage of my next offer. Beginning in November, we will feature a column called *Letters to the Editor*. Write or e-mail us and tell me where we are falling short. Let us know what you want that we aren't providing. We can't fix it if we don't know it's broken.

Coming next month: O Is For Outreach.

ANN McCLURE
President

Lawyer professionalism involves reaching out

■ By JUDGE OSCAR G. GABALDÓN JR.

“We live in a world that has narrowed into a neighborhood before it has broadened into a brotherhood.” When Lyndon B. Johnson said these words, he validated the observations of many who have come to realize the tendency of some individuals to be unwilling to incorporate themselves with others, to give to others, and to focus on others.

The legal profession is one of the noblest of service professions. However, many of its members limit their services to the paying client. Beyond the paying client, they stop their caring and they stop serving. They neglect to see the value in others outside the context of financial or tangible gain. Thus, it is this attitude that often leads to the perception that lawyers are self-serving and wholly money-oriented. They bring about the perception that their main concern centers on the question: “What’s in it for me?” While it is understandable that being a lawyer is a career, and that a lawyer’s time and advice is the lawyer’s stock and trade, it is also true that lawyers are first and foremost members of the human race. Membership in the human race calls for lawyers to contribute to the betterment of others, in some manner or other, without necessarily expecting to be remunerated. For the lawyer that truly considers his or her profession to be a profession of dignity and worthy of respect, volunteerism and altruism are highly valued.

To be willing to work on behalf of others, without expecting some form of tangible profit or advantage, is at the core of true and pure volunteerism. Giving some value outside the conventional “quid pro quo” scheme is what elevates an individual from just being “one more lawyer” to being “a noble and professional lawyer.” Such a lawyer will help when the need arises. This is the lawyer that undertakes some responsibility and accountability for bringing benefit to others, regardless of whether or not some form of pay back comes along. This is the lawyer that



Giving some value outside the conventional “quid pro quo” scheme is what elevates an individual from just being “one more lawyer” to being “a noble and professional lawyer.”

knows that the most basic of all values is people lending a helping hand to other people. Whether it is a lawyer sharing his or her talents and skills with bar associations or volunteering in civic, faith-based, or other community efforts, the lawyer’s proactive stance and involvement to help improve the status quo of others reflects positively on the legal profession. It helps engender trust in the legal profession. It creates a positive attitude about lawyers. More importantly, people become beneficiaries of the lawyer’s selfless contributions. These contributions, in essence, are a gift that many will appreciate and that many can benefit from. While it is

true that some people will often express thankfulness when they really do not mean it, the giving lawyer will not be deterred by a lack of gratitude. Rather, precisely because such lawyer is noble and true to the profession, he or she will continue to freely and unconditionally give. The lawyer knows that it is both a virtue and a duty to give to others, and that in doing that, he or she helps to enhance and bring greater relevance to the legal profession beyond the traditional practice of law. In essence, this kind of lawyer realizes the wisdom in the saying: “The man who takes and never gives, may last for years but never lives.”

SENIOR LAWYER INTERVIEW

by Clinton Cross

Judge Robert Galvan

"I presided over the first welfare fraud case in Texas. The defendant was selling real estate, while collecting welfare. Pat Dwyer represented the defendant. He lost."

If you read last month's Bar Bulletin, you know that as far as this column is concerned "rugged individualism" has prevailed over "community." I will be once again interviewing "Senior Lawyers."

I love this assignment, and hope to continue these interviews when my term on the El Paso Bar Board comes to an end. I expressed some concern to several Board members that I might run out of lawyers to interview, but I have been assured that there will be an ever increasing number of "eligible" candidates in the years ahead. I just hope that someday I can get to a point where I can find as many women to interview as men. (Do you

think my successor will have a problem finding men to interview?)

This month I interview another member of the great World War Two generation of lawyers, Judge Robert Galvan.

Although perhaps hard to imagine today, legal services for the poor was highly controversial in the legal community when it was first created. Judge Galvan played a key role in marshalling local support for the program. In addition, Judge Galvan deserves much credit for the development of the El Paso County Law Library. Our library today is four times its original size and is considered one of the finest law libraries in the State.

CROSS: Why did you decide to pursue a legal career?

GALVAN: My older brother Frank Galvan was a lawyer. In 1939 or 1940, I watched him try a case before Judge Buddy Ward in County Court at Law Number One. I was intrigued. I decided to follow in his footsteps.

CROSS: Where did you go to school?

GALVAN: I went to St. Patrick's Elementary School. Thereafter, I went to Cathedral High School, graduating in 1940. I entered the College of Mines in 1940, but I didn't get to finish.

CROSS: Why not?

GALVAN: Well, the War came along. I wanted to participate, but I also wanted to finish my first semester. I was told I could finish the semester if I would join the Aviation Cadet Program. Based on that representation, I signed up. I didn't get to finish the semester, but I did end up spending four years in the Air Force.

Continued on page 8

Senior Lawyer Interview

CROSS: What did you do in the Air Force?

GALVAN: I trained people on Central Fire Control (which in plain English meant “advanced gunnery”) for the B-29 bomber. I spent most of my time in the States. Before the war was over, I was ordered to go overseas. However, before my unit could ship out, President Truman ordered our Air Force to drop the A-bomb on Japan. After Japan surrendered, our orders were cancelled.

CROSS: What did you do when the War was over?

GALVAN: After discharge from the Air Force, I re-entered the College of Mines. We were allowed to apply to law school after completing 90 hours of undergraduate work, and I applied to Baylor and SMU as soon as I could do so. I was accepted at both schools, but chose to attend SMU. I entered in 1947 with two other individuals from El Paso, Joe Calamia and Albert Perches. Calamia came back to El Paso; Perches did not. Two other El Pasoans were also there during that time: Wellington Chew and Joe Rey, Sr. I was on the GI Bill, and it covered student activities, such as attendance at football games. I thought that was an important benefit, especially since SMU was Southwest Conference football champion in both 1947 and 1948. We were on the trimester system, so I was able to finish in two years. Also, SMU allowed me to earn my undergraduate degree after my first year in law school. In short, the War slowed down my educational pursuits, but I made up for lost time afterwards.

CROSS: What was going on with your personal life during that period of time?

GALVAN: I married my high school sweetheart, Emma Valencia, when on leave in 1943. She has put up with me ever since then, God Bless her. She also gave me two wonderful children, Robert Lawrence and Victoria Susana Hess. She taught school for many years, but of course she is now retired.

CROSS: I notice you have a picture of yourself and your wife in your wallet...

GALVAN: That picture was taken when I was in the service, during the War. It is a wedding picture.

The highlight of my legal and judicial career was the honor I received on March 4th, 2004, by the Library Committee, the Commissioner’s Court, and the El Paso Bar Association, when the county law library was dedicated as “The Honorable Robert J. Galvan County Law Library.”

CROSS: Briefly summarize your career.

GALVAN: After I graduated from law school, my brother Frank and I formed the law firm of Galvan and Galvan. In 1957, I was appointed an Assistant City Attorney. The City Attorney was Travis White. I held that position for seven years. Raymond Tellez, Ralph Seitzinger, and Judson Williams served as Mayors.

In 1964, I returned to full time private practice with my brother Frank in the firm of Galvan and Galvan.

In 1969, George Rodriguez, Sr. resigned as judge of County Court at Law 1, and I was appointed to replace him. I served in that position for twenty-two years, running five times without opposition.

I retired in 1990. I am a Senior Judge, and can preside over any trial court hearing. However, in the last two or three years I have only accepted juvenile court appointments.

CROSS: Incidentally, as one of the first Hispanic lawyers in El Paso, do you consider yourself a “torch-bearer”?

GALVAN: There is no doubt that the GI Bill opened the doors for a number of us. I graduated in 1949; Joe Rey, Sr. and Albert Armendariz, Sr. were right behind. My brother Frank can claim to be one of the first Hispanic lawyers in El Paso, and perhaps the first Mexican-American lawyer in town. He started practice here in 1935. At that time, George Rodriguez, Sr. was the only other Hispanic lawyer in town.

CROSS: As a judge, what were some of your more interesting cases?

GALVAN: I presided over the first welfare fraud case in Texas. The defendant was selling real estate, while collecting welfare. Pat Dwyer represented the defendant. He lost.

CROSS: As a judge, what was one of your most challenging cases?

GALVAN: I presided over the first million dollar structured settlement in El Paso.

CROSS: Most satisfying experience?

GALVAN: There were several.

As I told you, I worked for Travis White. White was primarily interested in the practice of law, and he was an excellent lawyer. He was, however, grossly underpaid. As de facto office manager, I got him three well-deserved pay raises—all in rapid succession.

Also during that time, Judge R.E. Thomason asked me to address a group of new citizens here in El Paso. I was the first Mexican-American lawyer in El Paso to address a group of new citizens, and I treasured the opportunity.

In 1963, Governor John Connally appointed me to the Good Neighbor Commission. I later became Vice-Chairman of the Commission. I think Ray Pearson was behind the appointment, and I thank him for it. I think we did some good work.

In the 1970’s, I served for many years as Chairman of the Board of Directors of El Paso Legal Assistance Society, the local legal aid program. When I became Board chair, the program was very controversial. Ralph Miranda was Director during much of this period of time. We worked together to build support for the program, and I think we achieved some success.

Also, in the 1970’s I became a member of the El Paso Bar Association’s Law Library Committee. I was chairman for twenty years. I have been a member of the committee for over thirty years. I am still a member.

The highlight of my legal and judicial career was the honor I received on March 4th, 2004, by the Library Committee, the Commissioner’s Court, and the El Paso Bar Association, when the county law library was dedicated as “The Honorable Robert J. Galvan County Law Library.”

Online Guardianship *Ad Litem* Certification Course

By DAVID J. FERREL
djf@elpasolaw.com

There are 39 attorneys who are certified to serve as attorneys *Ad Litem* in El Paso County guardianship cases. The role of attorney *Ad Litem* is crucial in these cases and the pool of certified attorneys fluctuates.

So, how do you get certified/re-certified? The El Paso Probate Bar Association has sponsored CLE courses in the past to qualify attorneys but now there is an easier way.

The State Bar of Texas is on the cutting edge of cyber CLE. Many courses that are presented by the Bar are captured on video and posted on the State Bar CLE website for purchase and viewing in your office or anywhere else you have a fast internet connection.

When you log in to purchase a seminar, a short diagnostic program is run from the Bar's website to confirm whether or not your connection, browser and computer will successfully provide you with useable CLE content. If your connection works, you register, pay and learn.

Once you finish the online course you can click on a tab at the top of the page and claim credit to your State Bar records which may be reported to the El Paso County Probate Court(s). Your first completion of the certification process will provide you with two years of certification and subsequent CLE attendance will qualify you for four years per certification.

The State Bar conducted its 2006 Advanced Guardianship Course in Dallas in March. It was presented in "parts". Part I is the *Ad Litem* certification course featuring five speakers and the seminar lasts 3 hours, including .75 hours for ethics. The cost is \$85.

Step by step

In your browser's address line type in this URL,

http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE_OCSearchResults.asp?sSearchAreas=* &sSearchProgram=1135&sSortBy=Program&sCallingPage=OCSEARCH2.ASP

or if you want a direct link to the course go to **elpasolaw.com** and click on the obvious large link on the first page of that website.

Summary

Selections from Advanced Guardianship Course:
Part I (for Attorney *Ad Litem* certification, recorded March 2006, Dallas, Texas)
MCLE #: 000097584 (04/15/2006 — 03/31/2007)
MCLE hours: 3 (including .75 hr ethics)
Registration Price: \$85

Viewing the following 5 presentations will meet the Attorney *Ad Litem* certification requirements.

Guardianship: A Primer on Application and Administration

(31 minutes, includes 15 minutes ethics)
Scott L. Stebler, Austin
Austin

Role of Attorney *Ad Litem* and Guardian *Ad Litem*

(26 minutes, includes 15 minutes ethics)
Hon. Ruth Ann Stiles, Houston
Associate Judge
Harris County Probate Court No. 1

Helping Us Play Doctor: Medical Determination of Capacity (49 minutes)

Jeffrey Glass, Dallas
Medical Doctor

Promoting the Proposed Ward's Well-being

(45 minutes, includes 15 minutes ethics)
Darlene Payne Smith, Houston
Crain Caton & James

Case Law Update (25 minutes)

Randy E. Drewett, Beaumont
Attorney at Law

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EPYLA'S OCTOBER STARS OF THE BAR

Hector Beltran and Angelica Carreon-Beltran

If attorneys are involved in any civic project in El Paso, Hector Beltran and Angelica Carreon-Beltran are very likely to be there lending leadership and a hand. Hector and Angelica are truly dedicated attorneys, volunteers, spouses, and, as of July 18th, parents.

Hector and Angelica have taken active roles in countless EPYLA projects, including the Juarez Orphans' Holiday Party, EPYLA Golf Tournament, and High School Mock Trial Competition. Hector is a past-president of EPYLA, among other officer positions he has held. Angelica has also held multiple officer positions. Both have been awarded the El Paso Outstanding Young Lawyer of the year award, Hector in 2002 and Angelica in 2003.

Angelica's dedication to young lawyers extends to the state level where she served as the at large minority representative from 2004 to 2006 and represented District 17 as part of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. As part of that involvement, she was the chair of the Reading Power Club Committee, Minority Involvement Committee and Senior Texans and vice chair of the Local Affiliates committee. She was honored with the President's Award of Merit in 2000.

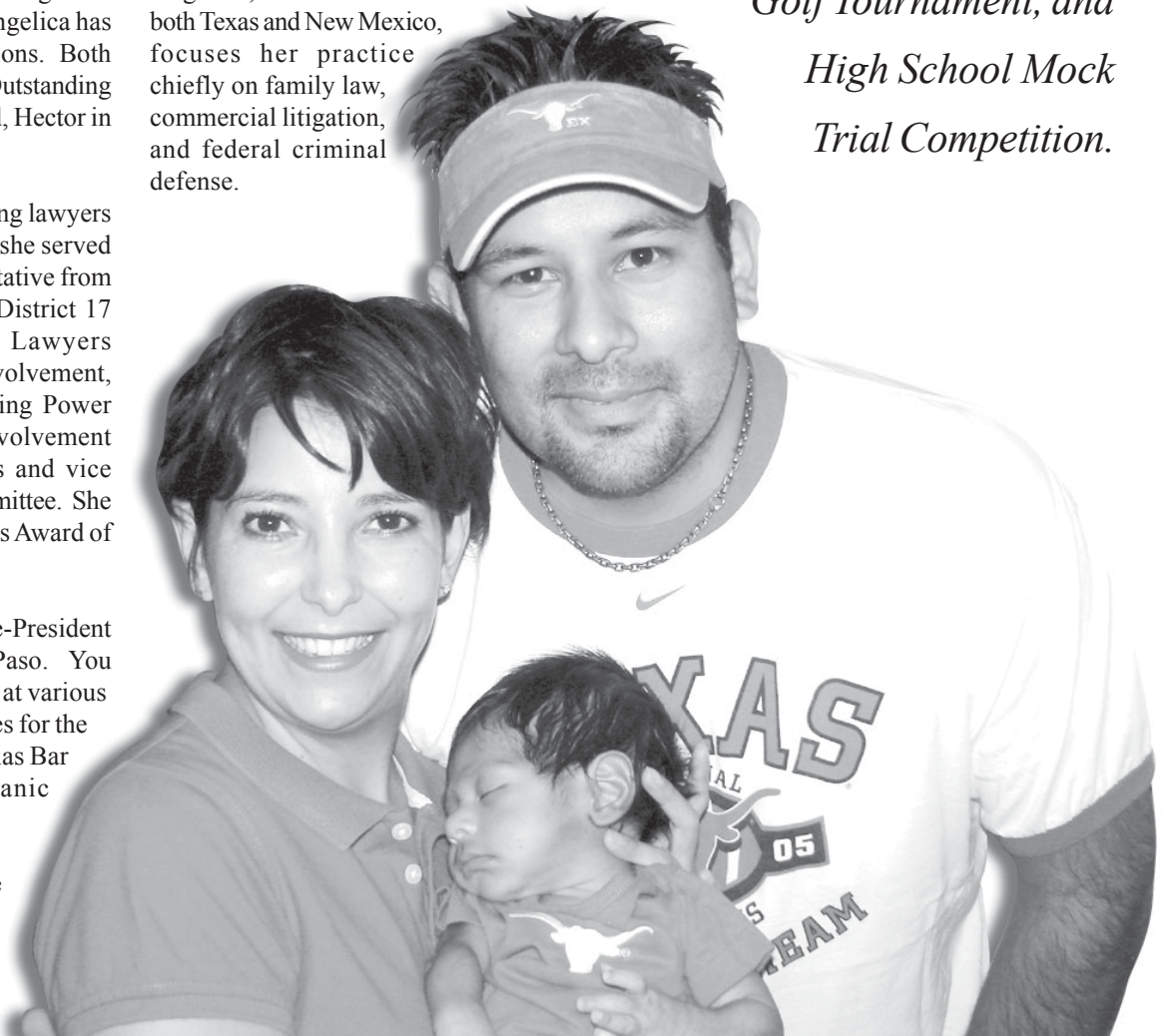
Angelica is currently the Vice-President of Planned Parenthood of El Paso. You can also find Angelica speaking at various engagements, including speeches for the National Business Institute, Texas Bar CLE, and the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Hector stays very busy at the helm of El Paso Association for the Performing Arts: Viva! El Paso. As President, he steered Viva! El Paso through its most

recent and very successful season. Over the years, he has also lent his talents as Treasurer of the El Paso Women's Bar Association, a director of the El Paso Bar Association, and a director of the Bridges Academy. Hector also speaks on legal issues impacting the community, including tort reform.

In addition to their tremendous contributions to the community, Hector and Angelica both have a deep commitment to their clients. Hector's practice focuses on labor and employment, criminal defense, and collections. Angelica, who is licensed in both Texas and New Mexico, focuses her practice chiefly on family law, commercial litigation, and federal criminal defense.

Hector and Angelica have taken active roles in countless EPYLA projects, including the Juarez Orphans' Holiday Party, EPYLA Golf Tournament, and High School Mock Trial Competition.





FREE Texas CLE and Westlaw Training!

Thursday, November 9, 2006

9:00 am – 10:30 am Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility in the Practice of Law (1.5 CLE)

10:45 am – 11:15 am Westlaw Litigation (1.5 CLE)

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm Beginning Westlaw (1.5 CLE)

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Intermediate Westlaw (1.5 CLE)

Classes will be held at:

CompUSA
9521 Viscount Avenue
El Paso, Texas 79925

*Please arrive 10 minutes early to ensure your class begins on time.



To register

www.west.thomson.com/westlaw/training

or call

1.800.310.9650 x7101

NOTICE

RE: Late cancellation of mediation dates

Area mediators have experienced an inordinate number of last-minute cancellations. This has affected our ability to accommodate the Bar and Judiciary in getting cases resolved.

A request is being made to all attorneys to make every effort to set mediation dates that will more realistically assure attendance by the parties. Your effort may prevent the need for mediators to require deposits prior to scheduling a mediation date.

Late cancellations are often necessary and warranted for many reasons, however, many can be prevented.

Your consideration in this regard is appreciated.

Bill Hardie, Hardie Mediation
Reed Leverton, Alternative
Dispute Resolution Services
Judge Henry Pena, T.A.M.S
Fred Morton, Mediator
Steve James, Mediator
Patricia Palafox, Mediator
Terry Pasqualone, Domestic Relations,
El Paso County

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2006-2007 Membership Dues

Go to our website,
www.elpasobar.com
to check to see if you are a
current member



El Paso Lawyers Dig Deep to Help Katrina Evacuees

Bar Association Thanks All Who Helped

■ By STEPHANIE TOWNSEND ALLALA

It was before the FEMA credit cards, before federal aid, before all of the benefits for Katrina victims had begun to flow. Hundreds of evacuees were bused and flown to El Paso, with nothing more than the clothes on their backs.

All it took was word that Katrina victims were headed here for El Paso lawyers to roll up their sleeves and get to work. With help from clients and local businesses, the legal community was overflowing with efforts to feed, clothe, and shelter the evacuees.

"I was real proud of the people I was associated with. It gave the evacuees a real good feeling about the people of El Paso," said Steve James, who helped organize one of the legal community's efforts to help.

Countless attorneys wrote checks, delivered loads of clothing, and served in food lines. Their hard work and generosity helped shape an image of El Paso as one of the better stops for evacuees trying to make the best of the tragedy.

"The lawyers really stepped-up. They were principals in helping other people, and showed a willingness to help their fellow man."

STEVE JAMES

James' client, Maria Stoiber, is a landlord who made her newly-refurbished apartments available for evacuees. James was thrilled by her generosity, but he also realized the unfurnished apartments also needed all the comforts of home. He and his fellow lawyers at 521 Texas gathered clothing and furnishings for the apartments.

"We gave many of them cash. These people were shell-shocked, and had nothing at this point," James said.

Mark Hedrick led the El Paso Bar Association to write a \$2,500 check, which went toward the effort to help evacuees at the

El Paso Convention Center. "The Bar Association, like everyone, wanted to find a way to immediately help, and in our case, we wanted to help those people displaced into El Paso. I know it was helpful because my recollection was that it was among the biggest individual gifts they received. They used it immediately for food at the convention center," Hedrick said.

When the news of evacuees hit, Cori Harbour's thoughts immediately went to the kids. Working with Cheryl Lay, who herself spent a lot of time at the Convention Center, Harbour bought more than \$1,500 worth of backpacks for the littlest of Katrina's victims. "I responded because there were people in need and something needed to be done. It was a small gesture, but hopefully something that made a difference." Harbour said many lawyers and bar associations helped raise the cash for the backpacks. "It was a huge success and we even had bags leftover for the West Texas Food Bank to use when distributing food," Harbour said.

Continued on page 13

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Hedrick said he wasn't surprised, but was thrilled by the legal community's outpouring of support and assistance. "The lawyers really stepped-up. They were principals in helping other people, and showed a willingness to help their fellow man." James said while El Paso only housed 500 to 600 evacuees, the Sun City could have handled hundreds more. "It's no surprise that the people of El Paso are warm and open hearted."

Harbour agreed. "As attorneys, I think we're in a position to help in many ways, and this was just one small way to do so. I was also moved by the devastation in New Orleans, a city I love and the city where Tavo and I were married. I wanted to do anything to help in any little way I could."

To all who extended a hand, the El Paso Bar Association extends a warm "Gracias."

WORDS OF WISDOM

By Joe Calamia

My purpose in offering my words of wisdom is to help young lawyers who want to know the law, lawyers who think they know the law, and judges who are expected to know the law:

*Freedom is paramount in our way
of government, but not to the extent it infringes
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ASSOCIATION NEWS

•El Paso Women's Bar Association

"The El Paso Women's Bar Association will hold its next monthly meeting on Thursday, October 5, 2006 at noon at Jaxon's, 4799 N. Mesa. Join us to learn about making requests under the federal Freedom of Information Act and the Texas Public Information Act. Bring a friend!"

•El Paso Paralegal Association

The EPPA will hold its next meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the El Paso Club, 201 E. Main, 18th Floor. Cost is \$14.00 for buffet and \$8.50 for soup/salad bar. We will be celebrating Texas Paralegal Day. Our guest speaker will be Justice Ann McClure who will be presenting the "Appeals Process" To make your reservations contact Lynda Camacho, 546-8311.

•El Paso County Legal Support Association

The EPCLSA will hold its next meeting on Friday, October 13, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the El Paso Club, 201 E. Main, 18th Floor. Cost is \$14.00 per person. To make your reservations please contact Tammy Castillo at 533-4424.

•El Paso Young Lawyers Association

The El Paso Young Lawyers Association will hold its October meeting on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the El Paso Club, 201 E. Main, 18th Floor. Cost is \$14.00 per person. The Board of Directors will meet at 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Frank Lopez of the Non-profit Enterprise Center. Please RSVP to Katari Buck at 546-8209 or at kbuc@scotthulse.com The El Paso Young Lawyers will be hosting a happy hour on Thursday, October 12, 2006 at 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at La Nortena, 212 W. Overland Ave. Everyone is welcome!!

•Federal Bar Association

The Federal Bar Association will hold its monthly Brown Bag Seminar, Federal Court Update on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 12:00 noon at the Federal Courthouse.



Mark Greenberg
accepts the Presidential
Achievement Award on
behalf of the El Paso
Chapter of the Federal
Bar Association at the
annual convention in Las
Vegas



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 www.janesdueprocess.org

September 8, 2006

To: All Interested Parties
From: Jane's DUE PROCESS, Inc.
Re: Training – Judicial Bypass – El Paso, TX

Jane's DUE PROCESS, Inc. will be conducting a training seminar in El Paso for attorneys and interested parties in El Paso and surrounding areas. The session, to be held October 17, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, will address the parental consent law for minors' abortions and judicial bypass proceedings.

Jane's DUE PROCESS, Inc. (JDP) is a nonprofit organization ensuring legal representation for pregnant minors in Texas. JDP operates a toll-free, statewide legal hotline and lawyer referral program to assist minors in exercising their reproductive rights. Although the seminar will focus on judicial bypass training for attorneys; court staff, guardians ad litem, advocates, providers and other interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The training session will be free of charge. Attorneys will receive one hour of MCLE credit for attending. State Bar approval has already been obtained.

Please join us for this important training and pass the information along to anyone else who may be interested. RSVP to info@janesdueprocess.org or (512) 444-7891.

Location: Reproductive Services of El Paso
 730 E. Yandell El Paso, TX
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

CLE approval for 1 hour, second ½ for question and answer, local information and discussion.

This training is made possible by a Texas Bar Foundation Grant.

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It's Quality, Not Quantity that Today's Lawyers Seek

Because men and women lawyers want a balanced life and are becoming increasingly willing to voice their discontent, firms must respond with workable solutions.

■ By **KATARI BUCK**,
President of EPWBA

This year, for the first time in El Paso's history, all of El Paso's local bar presidents are women. Therefore, I thought this would be the perfect time to take a look at the state of women in the profession. Much talk has been made about the fact that women are entering law school in record numbers. And, almost half of all summer associates at law firms are women. But, where do women lawyers stand in the profession? Let's take a look.

In 2006, 30.2% of lawyers in the United States are women, up 1.3% from 2000. 44.1% of law firm associates are women, compared to only 17.3% of firm partners. The median weekly salary for women lawyers is \$1,354, compared to \$1,748 for their male counterparts. And despite the buzz about women in law school, women made up 46.9% of this year's first year enrollment, down slightly from 47% in 2000.

Of course, statistics only tell us so much. What are the real issues affecting women in the profession? This is where it gets complicated. Or not. Women want the same thing all lawyers want—the perfect balance between their careers and

In numbers...

30.2%

of lawyers in the United States are women, up **1.3%** from 2000

\$1,354

is the median weekly salary for women lawyers, compared to **\$1,748** for their male counterparts.

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of law firm associates are women, compared to only **17.3%** of firm partners

Women made up **46.9%**

of this year's first year enrollment in law school, down slightly from **47%** in 2000.

personal lives. In fact, balance is becoming increasingly important, to both male and female lawyers. Many who don't find what they're seeking just move on. Gone are the days when lawyers spend 30 or 40 years at the same firm. If a lawyer feels that her personal life is suffering because of her career, or vice versa, she will probably look elsewhere to try to find the perfect balance.

Law firms that don't offer help in finding balance are likely to suffer attrition, increased recruiting and training costs, and potentially unhappy clients. This is bad news for everybody. So, how do firms help lawyers find balance and still watch the bottom line? By understanding what makes today's lawyers tick.

Today's lawyers often prioritize their families and personal lives over their careers. This is not to say that these lawyers aren't willing to work hard. Rather, the signs of success that used to define lawyers, such as high salaries and firm partnership, are just not as important to today's associates.

According to Jack Hopper, managing partner of Lucas Group Legal in Atlanta, in his recent article, *Trends in Lateral Associate Moves*, today's associates value such things as mentorship programs, a positive social and cultural environment, peer interaction, and overall collegiality of the office, in addition to personal time outside the office. The result is a trend of large firms losing top talent to smaller, boutique firms that provide a more relaxed environment and more mentorship opportunities.

Larger firms are beginning to catch on, though. According to Hopper, firms are beginning to focus more on mentorship programs, open-door policies, diversity initiatives, encouragement of pro bono work and outside activities, and recognizing and encouraging the importance of family. Many

Continued on page 17

firms now offer flextime and alternative work arrangements, such as telecommuting, part-time schedules, and job sharing. Some firms even provide on-site daycare.

Unfortunately, there is still much to be done. While many firms offer alternative work arrangements, there is no guarantee that the firms' partners won't look down on attorneys who choose them. In some firms, lawyers who work part-time are viewed less seriously than full-time lawyers and may be removed from the partnership track. In other firms, part-time doesn't really mean part-

time, causing even more frustration for attorneys who end up working full-time hours and getting the most undesirable work.

Because men and women lawyers want a balanced life and are becoming increasingly willing to voice their discontent, firms must respond with workable solutions. Balanced lawyers are more likely to avoid the pitfalls of addiction and depression that are all too common in our profession. And, of course, balanced lawyers = happy lawyers = productive lawyers. That's a formula we can all get behind.

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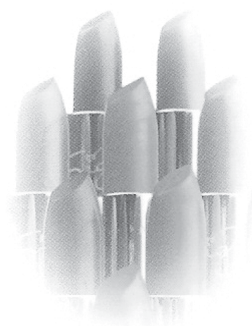
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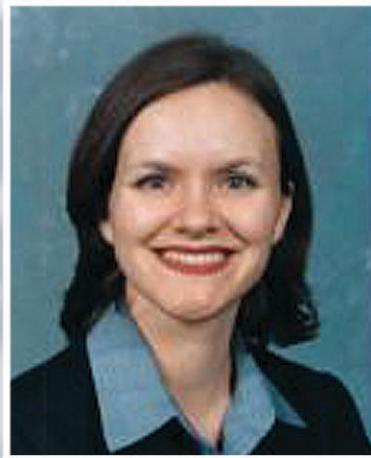
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Letters to the Editor feature begins in November.



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