

# KATY BAR ASSOCIATION



Issue 7

March 2016

## KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 2015-2016 BAR YEAR

President – Sarah Springer

First VP – Elizabeth Pratt

Second VP – Kerri Graham

Third VP – Elizabeth Pratt

Treasurer – Christy Theander

Secretary – Alex Hunt

Directors –

Grace Nwanguma, Michael Burg, Charles Knobloch, David Heller, Rehan Alimohammad, and Rebecca Hafner.

### **MARCH MEETING**

**Date:** March 22, 2016

**Topic:** “Business Law”

**Speaker:** Andrew Weisblatt, The Weisblatt Law Firm, PLLC

**Time:** 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

**Place:** Willow Fork Country Club, 21055 Westheimer Parkway, Katy, TX 77450

**Menu:** Delicious salad, entrée and dessert, assorted beverages

**Cost:** \$25 for members

\$30 for non-members or walk-in members

**CLE:** 1 hour participatory, .25 ethics

**RSVP by Friday, March 18, 2016 at 4:00 PM.** You may RSVP by contacting Christy Theander at [christy@gtkatylaw.com](mailto:christy@gtkatylaw.com) (If you RSVP and do not attend or cancel, you must still pay for your meal). **WILLOW FORK IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS SO IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU RSVP by 4:00 PM Friday before the meeting. If you do not RSVP we cannot guarantee you a seat nor a meal.**

### **FEBRUARY MEETING AND CLE**

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> we had a great CLE presentation by Kendall Cockrell of the Cockrell Law Firm, PLLC on “Avoiding Probate Pitfalls in your Personal Injury Case.” The discussion was lively and we learned a lot.

*Photo to Left—Kendall Cockrell, our February CLE Speaker.*



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET TO BE HELD FRIDAY, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> AT WILLOW FORK COUNTRY CLUB. STAY TUNED FOR THE EXCITING DETAILS!**



Pictured above: Kendall Cockrell entertaining us with suing scenarios; John Kelly and Alex Hunt visiting after the meeting. [Make your reservation by 4:00 PM the Friday before the meeting!](#)

Pictured below: Kendall Cockrell and VP Kerri Graham; Directors David Heller and Rebecca Hafner.



## **ANNUAL CLE, PANEL DISCUSSION, AND SOCIAL A GREAT SUCCESS**

We had 22 attendees for our annual full-day CLE program. Live speakers were interspersed with DVD CLE from the State Bar. A big **THANK YOU** to our live speakers, Judge Brenda Mullinix, 387<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge, Judge Rick Bell, 387<sup>th</sup> District Court Associate Judge, Judge Walter Armatys, 328<sup>th</sup> District Court Associate Judge, Rehan Alimohammad (Family Law and Immigration), John Kelly (Mediation), and Jason Hodge, Medical Fitness Pros, on work-life balance. We had a good turn-out for the post-CLE Social as well.

## **Please thank our generous sponsors of this event:**



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## THE MODERN LAWYER

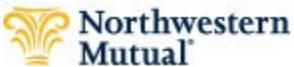
Rik Segal is an attorney in Dallas who found his muse in making web sites. He has done an excellent job in structuring and managing both the KBA website and has the Fort Bend County Bar Association website, among others. Rik offers a free consultation to anyone who might need website assistance. You may contact him at [rik@modernlawyer.com](mailto:rik@modernlawyer.com).



The Springer Law Firm is a local Katy firm offering legal services in the areas of family law, estate, planning, probate and criminal defense. [www.katytxattorneys.com](http://www.katytxattorneys.com)



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David Higgins is a Financial Advisor with Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company. [www.davidhiggins.nm.com](http://www.davidhiggins.nm.com)

### [Mapping Out your Financial Plan, Every Step of the Way](#)

Each of us has a different vision of what it means to be financially secure, and your vision is likely to change throughout your lifetime – when you begin your career, start a family, educate your children and enter retirement. I can help you create a personalized financial plan that has a firm foundation in your beliefs and addresses your hopes for the future.

*Pictured below, Speakers Associate Judge Rick Bell and District Judge Brenda Mullinix of the 387<sup>th</sup> District Court of Fort Bend County.*





*Pictured above, left, Rehan Alimohammad speaking on Family Law and Immigration. John Kelly gave a presentation on Mediation. Below, attentive attendees.*





*Pictured left, Associate Judge Walter Armatys of the 328<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court of Fort Bend County closed out the day. Following his presentation, we retired to the bar for our Social Hour. It was a highly successful day of CLE, mentorship, and networking for the Katy Bar Association.*

## **SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET**



KBA is planning to celebrate the Association's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a banquet to be held on Friday, June 10, 2016, at Willow Fork Country Club. More details to follow. Susan Hutchinson (pictured right) and Rebecca Hafner (left) are heading up the Banquet Committee. If you would like to volunteer to help plan our fabulous 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, please contact Susan at [susan@shutchinsonlaw.com](mailto:susan@shutchinsonlaw.com) or Rebecca at [hafnerlaw@yahoo.com](mailto:hafnerlaw@yahoo.com).

## **CALL FOR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS**

The Katy Bar Association, as of now, has five standing committees, being the Programs, Education, Audit, Judicial Candidate, and Public Information Committees. Kerri Graham, as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the KBA, is the chair of the Programs Committee, Elizabeth Pratt, as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of the KBA, is the chair of the Education Committee, David Frishman is the appointed chair of the Public Information Committee, and Michael W. Cramer and John Kelly are the appointed chairs of the Judicial Candidate Committee. The Audit Committee chair is currently vacant.

The Scholarship Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Pratt. Grace Nwanguma has volunteered to chair the committee to plan our "People's Law School" as part of our Silver Jubilee celebration. Please contact Grace at [attorneywanguma@hotmail.com](mailto:attorneywanguma@hotmail.com) if you would like to be involved in this project, which will get off the ground in our next Bar year.

The Katy Young Lawyers Committee has been chaired by Kevin Koel who has resigned from the Board of Directors due to his move to College Station, so we need a new chair. Please volunteer for this important committee! An ad-hoc Socials Committee has been proposed to plan our future evening gatherings.

If you would like to volunteer to be a chair and/or member of any of the standing and/or ad-hoc committees (or propose your own ad-hoc committee), please contact KBA President Sarah Springer at [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com) or KBA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Keri Graham at [kerri@gtkatylaw.com](mailto:kerri@gtkatylaw.com) or 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Elizabeth Pratt at [elizabeth@elizabeth-pratt-legal.com](mailto:elizabeth@elizabeth-pratt-legal.com).



Chairs of the Judicial Candidate Committee are pictured at left. John Kelly (L) and Michael Cramer. If you would like to help with the planning for next fall's pre-election event, please contact Michael at [info@michaelcramerlaw.com](mailto:info@michaelcramerlaw.com) or John at [kelly.mediation@swbell.net](mailto:kelly.mediation@swbell.net).

Grace Nwanguma, pictured left, is the Chair of the People's Law School Committee. If you would like to help, contact Grace at [attorneywanguma@hotmail.com](mailto:attorneywanguma@hotmail.com).

## **SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET:**

FRIDAY, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2016

### **FEATURED LAWYER**

Congratulations to **Christy Theander** for winning the March 2016 Featured Lawyer. Take a look at our web site--the Featured Lawyer is everywhere! The website is optimized and comes up when people are looking for a lawyer in Katy, so it's a great opportunity. To be in the drawings for the remainder of the bar year, please pay \$20 to the Katy Bar Association and send your payment to Christy Theander at 21559 Provincial Blvd., Suite A, Katy, TX 77450. If you come to the meeting, want to be in the drawing, and you haven't paid the \$20, the "on-the-spot" entry will be \$10 for that month's drawing. We will be drawing at the upcoming meeting for the April 2016 Featured Lawyer. The lucky winner will have 1 month as Featured Lawyer, so please send your money in. The proceeds from our website ads and the Featured Lawyer drawings help support the continued viability and optimization of our website, so please consider participating and supporting our Bar.

## MEMBER NEWS



Pictured to our left is Eloise Olivia Hunt, the newest member of the Alex Hunt family, born July 1, 2015. Eloise is happy to have her first public appearance in the KBA Newsletter.



Pictured above: Grandchild of Sarah Springer, due September 15, 2016 to Colin and Jennifer Doherty who reside in Yokosuka, Japan where Colin serves as Navigator on the USS Benfold, a guided missile destroyer. Guess where Sarah will be in September... Pictured below, David Frishman with grandson Noah Zachary Frishman Cahill, born October 30, 2015.



If you have news or photos you would like to see in the KBA Newsletter, please contact any member of the Board of Directors, or send an email to [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com).

## **OBITUARY**

Sincerest sympathies to Carl Dore on the passing of his father, **Paul Carlton "Carl" Dore, Sr.**, March 27, 1935 – February 24, 2016. Those wishing to make memorial contributions may do so to the St. Vincent DePaul Society, c/o Epiphany of the Lord Catholic Church, 1530 Norwalk Drive, Katy, Texas 77450, or to the National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 1848, Longmont, CO 80502. For more information, click the link below.

[http://www.schmidtfuneralhome.net/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o\\_id=3610163&fh\\_id=12208](http://www.schmidtfuneralhome.net/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=3610163&fh_id=12208)

## **SILVER JUBILEE YEAR**

If any member has stories to tell about the history of the Katy Bar Association, please share by sending your vignette, photos, special memory, historic moment, or poignant thought to Sarah Springer at [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com) for inclusion in a future newsletter.

## **NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR HONOREES AT SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET**

The Board of Directors is accepting nominations for honorees at our Silver Jubilee Banquet. Please submit the names of those individuals who have been of great service to the KBA, and provide a brief description of the reason for your nomination. Elizabeth Pratt is the Chair of the Committee to review nominations. Please get your nominations in to Elizabeth at [elizabeth@elizabethpratt-legal.com](mailto:elizabeth@elizabethpratt-legal.com). The nomination form is included with this newsletter, but you can just send an email to Elizabeth with your nominee and a brief summary of why that person should get an award.

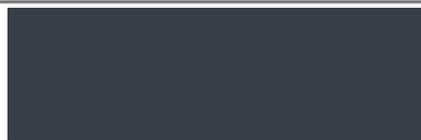
## **NEW VENUE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR CLE LUNCHEONS**

We are having amazing attendance at our fabulous CLE luncheons and we are outgrowing our current space at Willow Fork Country Club. We are considering alternatives for our luncheon venues. If you have a recommendation of a favorite spot, please submit your suggestion to any member of the Board of Directors. In the meantime, **make your reservations for the luncheons by 4:00 p.m. the Friday before the event.**



## MEMORIES OF THE KBA

*Sarah Springer, current President of the Katy Bar Association shares her memories of her time with the KBA.*



During our Jubilee Celebration year, we will be sharing any memories or special moments you have enjoyed as a member of the KBA. Please email your submission to [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com)



I joined the KBA in 2007 after I moved to Katy from Mississippi, where I had just been un-elected to the Chancery Court Judgeship I had held since 1994. I knew no one, and I wanted to find my place in Katy's legal community. The meetings were held at Landry's at the time, and I saw then President Kathy Black running the meeting and taking minutes. I volunteered to take the minutes on one condition: everyone who spoke had to first identify themselves. Pretty soon I was in the fold and found wonderful friendships in the Katy Bar.

I served as secretary for the next six years, then I was first Vice President under former President Nick Nicholas, and I was honored to be elected President three years ago, following in the giant footsteps of past President John Kelly. Over the years, I have seen the Katy Bar grow in positive ways, and I have seen colleagues forming friendships and alliances as we promote the image of lawyers in the Katy area.

Whenever I find a "West Houston" lawyer representing Katy folks, I always urge them to join the KBA. I have been told by many members that they get more referrals from KBA lawyers than any other group.

My favorite CLE meeting was when our scheduled speaker did not show up, and the members at the meeting took turns discussing different aspects of each one's area of practice. We learned more that day I believe than in any other CLE presentation—a testament to the diversity and excellence of our members in the practice of law and the willingness of our members to support each other in achieving excellence.

It is wonderful to be a part of the celebration of the Katy Bar's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Founding member Stu Levin has been a stalwart supporter of the Katy Bar throughout its long history, and I hope we can all follow his example in supporting our valuable organization.

**INSIGHTS**---No articles were submitted for the March Newsletter. Should you have an issue you are exploring which you would like to share in the newsletter, please email it to Sarah Springer, [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Thank you to Michael Elliott for the article on proving up attorney fees which was included in the February newsletter.

### SPONSORSHIPS

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a Katy Bar Association meeting or event, please contact Kerri Graham at [kerri@gtkatylaw.com](mailto:kerri@gtkatylaw.com), Elizabeth Pratt at [elizabeth@elizabethpratt-legal.com](mailto:elizabeth@elizabethpratt-legal.com), or Sarah Springer at [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com).

### WEBSITE ADS

The Katy Bar Association website is a great place to get your name out there! Ad space can be purchased for \$100 and will run for a whole year. If you are interested in purchasing an ad, please contact Sarah Springer at [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com)

### NEWS!

Send your news and events to Sarah Springer at [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com) for inclusion in future newsletters. We also invite our members to write and submit short posts on recent case law updates or areas of practice, or anything else you think might be a benefit for our members.

Editor: Sarah Springer

### UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

The New Katy City Hall dedication will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Fort Bend County Bar Association is having a Probate, Trusts and Estates Section Kick Off on Monday, March 21, 2016 from noon to 1:30 PM in Fort Bend County Court at Law Number One. RSVP to [probate@fortbendbar.org](mailto:probate@fortbendbar.org). For more information, contact Kerri Graham, [kerri@gtkatylaw.com](mailto:kerri@gtkatylaw.com), 281-940-3000.

## FUTURE MEETINGS 2015-2016

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC
March 22, 2016	Andrew Weisblatt, The Weisblatt Law Firm, PLLC <b>Business Law</b>
April 26, 2016	Georgia Barker, Attorney at Law <b>Family Law</b>
May 24, 2016	Rehan Alimohammad, Alimohammad & Zafar, PLLC <b>Immigration Law Collides with Family Law</b>
June 28, 2016	Hessam Parzivand on <b>Employment Issues</b>
July 2016	NO MEETING

It is never too early to start planning and we are already booking presentations for next year. If you or someone you know is interested in presenting for our monthly luncheons for the 2015-2016 cycle and beyond, please contact Kerri Graham at [kerri@gtkatylaw.com](mailto:kerri@gtkatylaw.com).

**If you know someone who may be interested in joining the Katy Bar Association, please forward this PDF to them. The more we grow our local bar, the more it will be able to provide a useful service to our members, community, and potential clients.**

[www.katybar.org](http://www.katybar.org)