

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION



Issue 4 November 2015

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 2015-2016 BAR YEAR

President – Sarah Springer

First VP – Kevin Koel

Second VP – Kerri Graham

Third VP – Elizabeth Pratt

Treasurer – Christy Theander

Secretary – Alex Hunt

Directors – Grace Nwanguma, Michael Burg, Charles Knobloch, David Heller, and Rehan Alimohammad



Harris County Attorney, Vince Ryan, to Speak at November meeting. Don't miss it! "Nuisance Abatement Through Civil Action".

NOVEMBER MEETING

Date: November 24, 2015

Topic: "Nuisance Abatement Through Civil Action"

Speakers: Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney and Celena Cavazos Vinson, Assistant County Attorney

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, November 20, 2015 at 4:00 PM. You may RSVP by contacting Christy Theander at christy@gtkatylaw.com (If you RSVP and do not attend or cancel, you must still pay for your meal).

OCTOBER MEETING AND CLE



On October 27, 2015, Jane Moughton of RETAINability and Elizabeth Pratt of Elizabeth Pratt, PLLC gave a fascinating presentation on Millennials and Generation Z in the workforce: legalities we all need to know. Charles Knobloch filled in the extra seating as we had an overflow crowd.

OCTOBER MEETING INCLUDED RENEWING OUR ATTORNEY OATH

The Texas Supreme Court has invited all attorneys to recite the newly revised Oath of Office for New Attorneys. The oath was revised in the most recent 84th Legislature in order to stress civility and professionalism amongst lawyers and judges, and will be used by newly admitted attorneys starting in November. KBA President Sarah Springer had members attending the October KBA meeting join her in reciting the new oath. The oath is as follows:

I, [state your name], do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitutions of the United States, and of this State; that I will honestly demean myself in the practice of law; that I will discharge my duties to my clients to the best of my ability; and, that I will conduct myself with integrity and civility in dealing and communicating with the court and all parties. So help me God.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Save the date for the holiday party on **December 12, 2015!** KBA Vice President Kerri Graham has graciously agreed to host the annual KBA Holiday Party in her home and it will be catered by 26 Daisies. Volunteers are welcome to assist with preparations. If you are interested in assisting Kerri, please contact kerri@gtkatylaw.com. Please make your reservation for the party by emailing our Treasurer, Christy Theander, at christy@gtkatylaw.com. The cost is \$35 per person. You can pay through the payment portal on our website, www.katybar.org or by sending Christy a check. Her address is 21559 Provincial Blvd., Suite A, Katy, TX 77450.

SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET

KBA is planning to celebrate the Association's 25th anniversary with a banquet to be held in the Spring. More details to follow.

ANNUAL CLE, PANEL DISCUSSION, AND SOCIAL—FEBRUARY 12, 2016

The date for our annual full-day CLE has been set! **SAVE THE DATE: Friday, February 12, 2016** at Willow Fork Country Club. We will have morning refreshments, a lovely buffet lunch, afternoon snacks, and a full day of CLE. 4.5 hours of the CLE will be Family Law 101 in a DVD CLE format, and the balance will include a Judge's Discussion Panel, and family law practitioners who will discuss aspects of family law and office management raised by the video. Family law is relevant in many areas, including criminal matters, estate planning, probate... so come one, come all. It will be a great day with a lot of opportunities to network and learn a lot about a very important area of law which affects all of us in our personal lives and in our work. After the CLE, we will have a Happy Hour Social. You are invited to attend even if you don't attend the CLE, and our plus ones are welcome as well. Once we get CLE approval for the practitioners and Judges who will be participating as speakers, we will notify you of the cost and the number of CLE hours we are offering.

BYLAW VOTE ON NOVEMBER 24, 2015

The Board of Directors approved the amendments to the Bylaws of the Katy Bar Association and the amendments have been submitted to the membership. In order for the amendments to be adopted by our organization, we have to vote, and the vote will be taken at our next meeting, November 24, 2015. This meeting is during Thanksgiving Week, and for some reason folks tend to skip this one. This is a very important vote, so if you are not planning to attend the meeting next week, please send your proxy to our Secretary, Alex Hunt, ahunt@huntlawtexas.com, or mail it to him (in time for Tuesday's meeting!!) at 1846 Snake River Road, Suite B, Katy, TX 77449. A proxy ballot is included in this newsletter for your convenience. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU SEND IN YOUR PROXY ON TIME FOR TUESDAY'S MEETING.**

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 2nd Vice President of the KBA, is the chair of the Programs Committee, Elizabeth Pratt, as 3rd 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 is the appointed chair of the Judicial Candidate Committee. The Audit Committee chair is currently vacant. The ad-hoc Bylaws Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Pratt, the Holiday-Party Committee is chaired by Kerri Graham, the Scholarship Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Pratt, and the Katy Young Lawyers Committee is chaired by Kevin Koel. Additionally, 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 either KBA President Sarah Springer at sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com or KBA 1st Vice President Kevin Koel at kevin.koel@hotmail.com.

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **Georgia Barker** for winning the October 2015 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 \$35 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 \$35, the "on-the-spot" entry will be \$10 for that month's drawing. We will be drawing at the upcoming meeting will be for the December 2015 Featured Lawyer. Thus the lucky winner will have 1 month as Featured Lawyer, so please send your money in. The proceeds from the ads and the Featured Lawyer drawings help support the continued viability and optimization of our website, so please consider participating and supporting our Bar.

HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION'S MOILP SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Do you or your law firm need extra help for the Summer of 2016? Are you looking for opportunities to mentor the next generation of lawyers? The Houston Bar Association is putting together a list of prospective employers for 1L minority students to work as interns during the Summer of 2016. More information can be found here: <http://www.hba.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/MOILP-Employer-Packet-2016-.pdf>

MEMBER NEWS

Happy News for Kevin Koel and his family, sad news for the KBA. Our First Vice President, Kevin Koel after proving himself invaluable to our Bar has accepted a job in Bryan, Texas. He has already started, and although he does plan to complete his year with the KBA we know it is difficult for him to fully participate. About his new job: *"I am VP Attorney of Loan Processing with Capital Farm Credit. This position entails providing legal and guidance to the organization's employees, officers, and directors, including the general counsel, to maintain adequate legal and regulatory compliance in making and servicing loans. I began in October after leaving Jones Gill LLP in Houston, where I worked for over the last 2 years. Capital is headquartered out of Bryan, Texas. It is the largest farm credit association in Texas assisting farmers, ranchers, and others obtain their credit needs. My family and I will be relocating to College Station from Katy in the coming months. Until then, I will be splitting my working time out of the local Katy credit office and the Bryan headquarters."*

Kevin and his family will be greatly missed in the Katy community, and we at the Katy Bar will feel his absence keenly. Best of luck to Kevin and his family as they start this new and exciting chapter in their lives.

VETERANS' CLINIC DECEMBER 5, 2015

In conjunction with the Houston Bar Foundation the Katy Bar Association is offering free legal services to area Veterans and spouses of deceased Veterans on SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016 from 9:00 AM to noon at the Katy VA Outpatient Clinic, 750 Westgreen Blvd in Katy. Please consider coming out to volunteer and give back to the

folks who have sacrificed so much for our way of life in this country. If you can participate please send an email to Sarah Springer at sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com. Let's have a big turnout for this important public service project of the Katy Bar.

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 for inclusion in a future newsletter.

AUSTIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION INVITATION

Austin County Court At Law Judge Dan Leedy has asked that we spread the word that two Texas Supreme Court Justices and one candidate for the Supreme Court will be at Tony's Restaurant in Sealy on December 3rd at 7:00 PM. They will make short speeches and will also take questions and meet and greet. All members of the Katy Bar Association are invited to join the Austin County Bar for this event.

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

SPONSORSHIPS

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a Katy Bar Association meeting or event, please contact Kevin Koel at kevin.koel@hotmail.com or Sarah Springer at sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com.

NEWS!

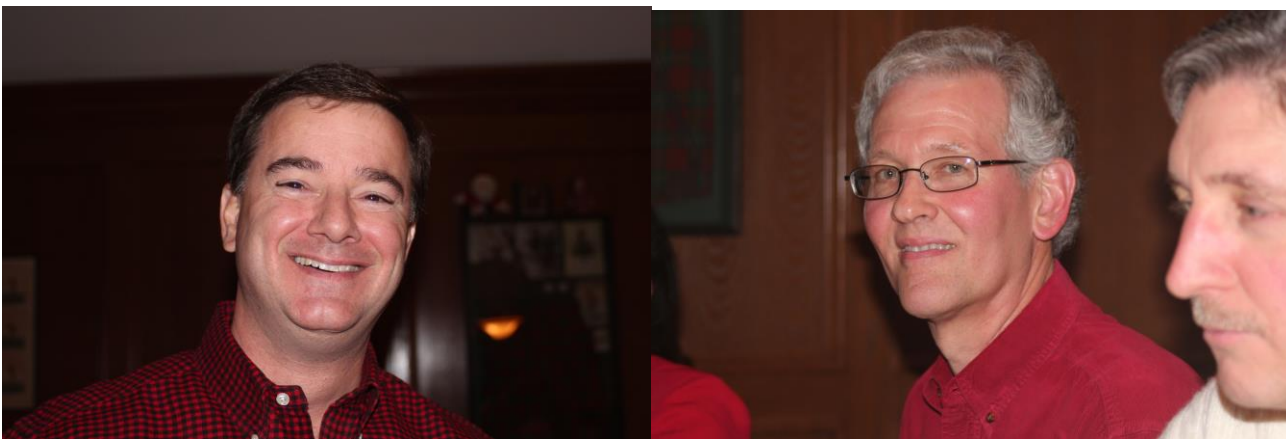
Send your news and events to Kevin Koel at kevin.koel@hotmail.com for inclusion in future newsletters. We also invite our members to write and submit short posts on recent case law updates or areas of practice.

Editor: Claire Lakin-Koel

Editor of this edition: Sarah Springer



GET IN THE MOOD FOR OUR HOLIDAY PARTY!!! See Elizabeth Pratt, Joycelyn Urech, Jean & Michael Burg at the holiday party we had in 2011 at John and Bobbi Kelly's home.



PLUS ONES ARE A BIG PART OF THE HOLIDAY FUN—be sure to include your spouse/significant other in our gathering. Here see the happy faces of Ford Pratt and Dennis Urech. (Drew Zimmerman in the foreground.)



Our 2011 hosts, John and Bobbi Kelly, and Stu Levin also enjoyed the festivities. This was the first year we had the party at a member's home.

FUTURE MEETINGS 2015-2016

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC
November 24, 2015	Hon. Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney Nuisance Abatement Through Civil Action
December 2015	NO MEETING—CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 12
January 26, 2016	Teresa Lechner-Fish, Gardere Trademarks
February 23, 2016	Gerard Harrison, Attorney at Law Texas Citizen's Participation Act
March 22, 2016	Andrew Weisblatt, The Weisblatt Law Firm, PLLC Business Law
April 26, 2016	Georgia Barker, Attorney at Law Family Law
May 24, 2016	Rehan Alimohammad, Alimohammad & Zafar, PLLC Immigration Law Collides with Family Law
June 28, 2016	TBD
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.

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

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION PROXY VOTE

_____ I cast my vote to amend the ByLaws of the Katy Bar Association as proposed by the Bylaws Committee.

_____ I cast my vote against the proposed amendments.
