

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION

Issue 11 July 2016

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2016 Winner of Stars of Texas Bars Awards for Small Bar Newsletter
Sarah Springer, Editor

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 2016-2017 BAR YEAR

President – Elizabeth Pratt
First VP Rehan Alimohammad
Second VP –Charles Knobloch
Third VP – Michael Cramer
Treasurer – Christy Theander
Secretary – Alex Hunt
Past President– Sarah Springer
Directors – Grace
Nwanguma, Michael Burg,
David Heller, Teresa Lechner
Fish, and Rebecca Hafner.

AUGUST MEETING AND CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Date: August 23, 2016
Topic: **Refugee and Asylum Law**
Speaker: Teresa Messer
Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Place: **Salt and Pepper, 811 Avenue D — Old Katy.**
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, August 19th 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). **If you do not RSVP we cannot guarantee you a seat nor a meal.**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR OUR AUGUST MEETING!! WE WILL NOT BE AT WILLOW FORK COUNTRY CLUB NOR AT THE CELLAR DOOR: WE WILL MEET AT **SALT AND PEPPER IN OLD KATY.**

JUNE MEETING AND CLE

On June 28th we had an informative CLE presentation by Hessem Parzivand on employment issues relevant to all of us who have employees. This was our second meeting at the Cellar Door on Mason Road. As we are in the process of choosing a new permanent location for our monthly CLE luncheons, please give your reviews of the Cellar Door as a location for our meetings to any officer or director.

Photo to Left—Hessem Parzivand giving his presentation at the June meeting.



NO MEETING IN JULY!!

KBA ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Katy Bar Association was held on June 28, 2016. The Nominating Committee's slate of officers and directors was unanimously approved, so the officers and directors for 2016-2017 are as follows:

PRESIDENT	ELIZABETH PRATT
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	REHAN ALIMOHAMMAD
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	CHARLES S. KNOBLOCH
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT	MICHAEL CRAMER
TREASURER	CHRISTY THEANDER
SECRETARY	ALEX HUNT
PAST PRESIDENT	SARAH SPRINGER
1 ST YEAR DIRECTOR	REBECCA HAFNER
1 ST YEAR DIRECTOR	TERESA LECHNER-FISH

The following directors will remain in office, serving their second year:

2 ND YEAR DIRECTOR	DAVID HELLER
2 ND YEAR DIRECTOR	GRACE NWANGUMA
2 ND YEAR DIRECTOR	MICHAEL BURG

The Chairs of various standing committees are as follows:

SOCIAL COMMITTEE	KERRI GRAHAM
AUDIT COMMITTEE	ESTELEE GARRISON
MEMBERSHIP	GERALD ZIMMERER
YOUNG LAWYERS	KELLY RIZZO
EDUCATION	STU LEVIN
PUBLIC INFORMATION	DAVID FRISHMAN

Please feel free to contact the Chair of any committee in which you have interest. Participating in Bar activities is a great way to get to know your fellow KBA members and have fun while doing it!

At the June meeting, Grace Nwanguma and Rehan Alimohammad, Chairs of the People's Law School Ad Hoc Committee, gave a preliminary report of plans for this wonderful public service project. They could use volunteers to help with this exciting project. Contact Rehan at rehan@aandzlegal.com or Grace at attorneywanguma@hotmail.com.

Following the election of the 2016-2017 Officers and Directors, newly elected President Elizabeth Pratt made announcements about the upcoming Bar year, and presented outgoing President Sarah Springer with a gift card from the Bar in appreciation for her years of service. The Bar also presented Sarah with a plaque honoring her service at the Jubilee Banquet.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE KATY BAR ASSOCIATION!!

Remember: We do not meet in July!



Rehan Alimohammad attended the Bar Leaders Luncheon at the State Bar Annual meeting, and represented the Katy Bar Association, winner of the 2016 Stars of Texas Bars Award for Small Bar Newsletter. The Katy Bar received a beautiful award commemorating our achievement. Yay KBA!!

Photo to left is the award received by the Katy Bar Association. Rehan Alimohammad presented the award to the Editor of the Newsletter, Sarah Springer.

NO MEETING IN JULY!

Although we were busy counting proxies for the election, we handily made a quorum at the very well-attended annual meeting.



KATY BAR SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET

The Katy Bar Silver Jubilee Banquet was held on June 10th, 2016 and was a great success. The event was well attended by KBA members and guests and included a cocktail hour, an entertaining magician, a lovely dinner, award presentations and some great speeches. The celebration was sponsored by The Springer Law Firm, PLLC, Cadence Bank, the State Bar of Texas, Independence Title, and Levin and Attwood, LLP.

The Silver Jubilee Service Awards were awarded to David Frishman, Michael Burg, Sarah Springer, and Stu Levin. Award winners were introduced by Jim Rensimer and Lilian Audu who had worked with Elizabeth Pratt and others on the Awards Committee. The Awards were lovely plaques with the following dedication: "The Katy Bar Association honors you for your dedicated, creative, and selfless service and leadership. We thank you for your exceptional contributions through the years. Your commitment has benefitted many." Stu Levin topped the

evening by giving a magnificent speech, and was gracious enough to reduce it to writing to be published in our Newsletter.

The KBA also honored Jean Burg with a special surprise award. She worked behind the scenes for years, doing so much for our Bar. The plaque presented to Jean read, "The Katy Bar Association honors you for your many energetic, creative, and selfless volunteer contributions over the course of many years. You are one of a kind!" Rebecca Hafner also presented a President's plaque to Sarah Springer. Congratulations to all of the Silver Jubilee Service Award recipients!



Pictured left are Banquet Co-Chairs Susan Hutchinson and Rebecca Hafner. These two ladies did a stellar job putting together a memorable event to celebrate twenty-five years of the Katy Bar Association. A big THANK YOU goes out to you, Susan and Rebecca!

Pictured right are (Past) President Sarah Springer and her husband Rusty Riese. Sarah was one of the Silver Jubilee Award Winners.



Pictured left are the Award Winning Couple: Both Michael Burg, long-time serving Treasurer and his wife Jean Burg were recognized for their selfless service to the Katy Bar Association.



To the right we see Jim Rensimer and Rebecca Hafner presenting a Silver Jubilee Service award to long-time member David Frishman, who has worked tirelessly over many years to promote the Katy Bar Association. David currently serves as Publicity Chairman.





Stu Levin, pictured above, one of the Founders of the Katy Bar Association, was awarded a Silver Jubilee Service Award. Stu delivered a speech which was one of the highlights of the evening. He has graciously given permission for us to publish his remarks in the Katy Bar Newsletter.

**REMARKS ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF
A SILVER JUBILEE AWARD
KATY BAR ASSOCIATION
JUNE 10, 2016**

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My heart is full upon being presented with this award. I will begin and end my remarks with a thank you to all. My first thank you is for giving me the opportunity to prove to my friend, David Frishman, that I actually own a necktie.

Law is one of the classical “learned professions.” The learned professions were devised to provide second and later born children of the nobility a way to be gainfully employed. So, if you were not Lord Grantham, seized with lands and title, you were hustled off to a university with the expectation that you would become a lawyer, a doctor, an engineer, teacher, military officer, or member of the clergy. It is truly humbling to consider that we constitute an original class of professional “second raters.”

But, there is nothing second rate about our beloved legal profession. At root, the enterprise of law is about drilling down to the truth. You know, lawyers are not held in the highest esteem as among the professions and I think the reason for this is that we constantly force our clients and adversaries to confront the truth- about themselves and their circumstances. I am reminded of Jack Nicholson’s line in the movie *A Few Good Men*, when he said to Tom Cruze, “You cannot handle the truth!”

Our duties to our clients comprise but half of our responsibilities. As officers of the court we also have an obligation to do justice and insure fairness. We must always remain vigilant to protect due process and insure that the levers of power are never subverted to unfair ends. We embrace this responsibility with full awareness that our system of justice is not perfect, but that we always have the obligation to make it better. The unique contribution of American jurisprudent is contained in phrase, "Equal justice under the law" to which we are committed in extending the blessings of peace and order for all.

To these ends, we sometimes form groups organized as *bar associations* to improve our knowledge and skills, educate the public, and otherwise further the ends of justice in the pursuit of truth. This is why we organized the Katy Bar Association. A reporter once asked a lawyer by the name of Paul Harris, the principal cofounder of Rotary International, what his dreams for his organization were. Harris said, "When I was a young man, I planted a sapling. While I had high hopes for my little tree, I was conscious that the vicissitudes of nature and the elements made its future uncertain. But as the seasons passed, I noticed that my young sapling began to sprout branches, it was then that I felt that I could dream of shade."

I am proud that our Bar Association provides continuing legal education for us, education for the public, free legal clinics for veterans, speakers for our schools, essay prizes for students, and support for the Texas Bar among its activities. I can only dream of yet more avenues of future service.

This honor is not my honor alone, but is a testament to all of you for your hard work and effort. With your permission, I would like to also dedicate my award to the memory of my son, Todd, who has killed by a drunk driver almost 9 years ago. Todd's life taught me that: life is short, good works endure, and that service is the root of the tree of good deeds. As we extend our efforts to serve, the tendrils of the tree spread out and support the canopy of good works above to the benefit of many and ultimately to the multitudes.

Shy of the unconditional love of my wife, Carol, the devotion of my son, Jason and his lovely wife, Stacey, the friendship of Bob and Melinda Vanzant and our other friends, there is no greater honor that I shall ever receive than the recognition of my peers.

So, thank you for helping to nourish this tree of ours. Finally, with fullness of heart, I sincerely thank you all for permitting this old lawyer to serve.

More photographs from the Silver Jubilee Banquet can be found on the Katy Bar Association's FaceBook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Katy-Bar-Association-206976949484743/>.

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **Teresa Lechner-Fish** for winning the June 2016 Featured Lawyer drawing. Take a look at our website--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 upcoming bar year. To participate, please pay \$50 to the Katy Bar Association and send your payment to Christy Theander at 21559 Provincial Blvd., Suite A, Katy, TX 77450. Alternatively, you may also pay \$5.00 per meeting to enter at the time you register online for the meeting. If you come to the meeting, want to be in the drawing, and you haven't paid in advance, the "on-the-spot" entry will be \$10 for that month's drawing. We will be drawing at the upcoming meeting for the September 2016 Featured

Lawyer winner. The lucky winner will have one month as Featured Lawyer, so please give yourself this opportunity for great publicity! The proceeds from our website ads and the Featured Lawyer drawings help support the continued visibility and optimization of our website, so please consider participating and supporting our Bar.

MEMBER NEWS—



Congratulations to KBA Member Michael Elliott and his family on the birth of a second son on July 3, 2016. This Little One came early and weighed in at a whopping nine pounds eight ounces.



THOMAS PRATT WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

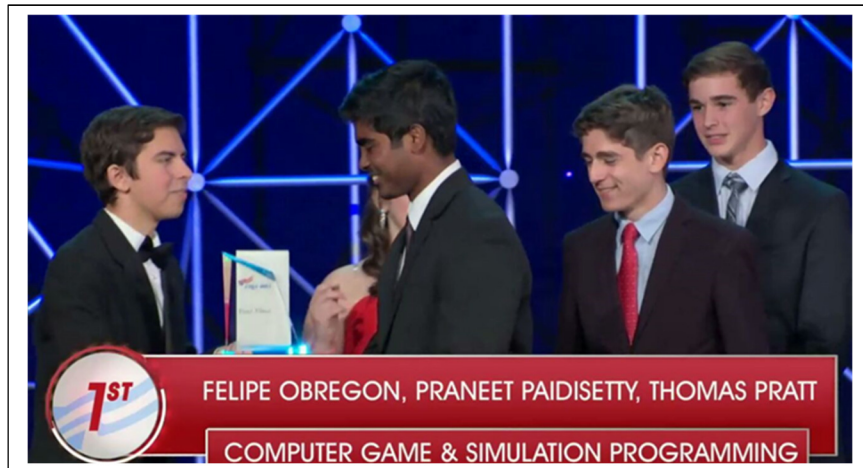


Photo Credit: Screen grab from the video stream of the award presentation at the National Convention in Atlanta in late June.

Katy Bar Members have accomplished children. Whether that is because they are associated with the Katy Bar may be debated, but we know your families are filled with talent.

Thomas Pratt and his teammates, Felipe Obregon and Praneet Paidisetty, recently won first place **NATIONALLY** in the Computer Game and Simulation Programming competition of the Future Business Leaders of America, a national organization for high school students. To compete at the national level, they had to win the regional competition and then place in the top two at the State competition. The team had to create a complete game, write up a users' manual, present the game, and field questions from the judges. They received

\$400 each and a trophy. (Woo hoo!) The team plans to stay together and enter the mobile application competition next year. They are all incoming juniors at Seven Lakes High School.

Thomas is the son of Ford Pratt and KBA member Elizabeth Pratt.

KYLE DOHERTY GRADUATES WITH HONORS FROM UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER

Kyle Doherty, son of KBA member Sarah Springer, was part of the 2016 Law School graduating class from the University of Houston. Kyle received many awards while in law school, and served on the Houston Law Review as Chief HLRe Editor. Kyle graduated *magna cum laude*. He is taking the Texas Bar this month, and will be working with Baker Botts LLP in Houston in the fall.

Kyle is pictured here in his academic regalia receiving applause for his accomplishments.



We want to brag about all of the honors and achievements of our members and their families! 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.

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. We visited the Cellar Door in May and June, and it is anticipated that the August meeting will be at Salt and Pepper in Old Katy. Stay tuned for further details as the Board of Directors will be making plans over the summer. If you have feedback about the Cellar Door or Willow Fork, please send your comments and suggestions to any member of the Board of Directors.

KATY AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Katy Bar Association has paid dues to the Katy Area Economic Development Council and we are waiting for our associate membership to be officially approved at the KAEDC's next board meeting. Stay tuned for more information on how you can participate as a member of the Katy Bar Association.

NO MEETING IN JULY! NO MEETING IN JULY!



UPCOMING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION AT KBA LUNCHEON MEETINGS

Be sure not to miss our August 23 meeting when Teresa Messer will educate us on Refugee and Asylum Law. Upcoming in September is Gerald Zimmerer's presentation on medical futility and the Texas futility statutes. Our meetings are a wonderful opportunity not only to network with Katy area lawyers, but also to learn about areas of law outside our usual areas of practice. Our programs cover a very broad array of topics, including but not limited to immigration, tax, disposal of bodies, cutting edge policing programs, employment law, personal injury, professional malpractice, end of life choices, estate planning, family law....you name it, you have learned about it at a KBA meeting or you will learn about it! We walk away from every single meeting having learned interesting and useful information, even if it is well outside our usual silo!

If you or someone you know is interested in presenting for our monthly luncheons for the 2016-2017 cycle and beyond, please contact Charles Knobloch, our incoming Second Vice President.

If you know someone who may be interested in joining the Katy Bar Association, please forward this Newsletter 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.

DUES NOW DUE FOR 2016-2017 BAR YEAR

It is time to renew your membership in the Katy Bar Association. Please visit our website at www.katybar.org and renew your membership. You may also pay for ad space on the website—it's only \$100 for a full year of exposure on our fabulous website—don't miss out! Also, each month you can make your reservation for our luncheons on the website and you will be offered the option to pay for our Featured Lawyer drawing at the reduced rate of \$5.00 paid in advance of the meeting. Proceeds of the Featured Lawyer drawing help to support the maintenance of our website.

The membership renewal page is attached to this newsletter. You can fill this in and pay on line, or you can print off the page, fill it in, and mail it to Treasurer Christy Theander along with your check. Don't miss out on a great Bar Year with the KBA!

www.katybar.org



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name_____

Address_____

Email_____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

Bar Number_____

Preferred Areas of Practice:_____

Board Certification:_____

Jurisdictions:_____

Other Professional Credentials:_____

Annual Dues: July 2016—June 2017.....\$50.00

Please make your check payable to Katy Bar Association and mail to

Katy Bar Association
Christy Theander, Treasurer
21559 Provincial Boulevard, Suite A,
Katy, Texas 77450,

Or you can renew or join on line, and pay your dues on our website, www.katybar.org.

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, Elizabeth Pratt at elizabeth@elizabethpratt-legal.com, or Sarah Springer at sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com.

NEWS!

Send your news and events to Sarah Springer at 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

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 visit www.katybar.org and click on the payment link.