

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION

Issue 12 AUGUST 2016

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

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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

IMPORTANT: Salt and Pepper requires a final head count three days before our meeting, so it is **CRITICAL** that you **RSVP NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM on Friday, August 19th**. We need at least thirty attendees to keep our reduced price, so plan on coming and RSVP early! You may RSVP by email to christy@gtkatylaw.com and pay at the meeting. You may also register on line and either pay via Pay Pal or at the meeting. **Salt and Pepper is not flexible on this point, so weekend and Monday RSVP's will not work!** If you RSVP and do not attend or cancel, you are still responsible for your meal's cost. **If you do not RSVP the meeting cost is \$30.00, but we cannot guarantee you either a seat or a meal.**



AUGUST CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Pictured Left is Teresa Messer, our CLE Speaker for the August CLE Luncheon.

Teresa practices exclusively in the area of U.S. Immigration and Nationality law. Her immigration legal experience, commitment to her clients, and dedication to the legal profession has been recognized and awarded by the State Bar of Texas, AVVO, Lead Counsel, and The National Advocates. Ms. Messer has guest lectured a family immigration course at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and supervised law students at the South Texas College of Law Asylum and Human Trafficking Clinic. She has also presented several CLE's on US refugee and asylum law for various bar associations and organizations. She has also written several immigration legal articles which have appeared in publications such as Law360 Expert Analysis, the University of Houston's Online Law Journal, and Houston Young Lawyers Association Pocket Parts. She is a graduate of South Texas College of Law and is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

REFUGEE AND ASYLUM LAW—TOPIC FOR OUR AUGUST CLE

Brief Course Description:

Asylum law practice is relevant to attorneys representing individuals fleeing persecution. This persecution might include a child from Central America fleeing gang violence, a woman from Kenya afraid of female genital mutilation being performed on her, or a man from Syria being tortured by a terrorist group. Asylum is a protection granted to foreign nationals already in the United States or at the border who meet the international definition of a "refugee." This CLE is ideal for attorneys who are interested in representing asylum seekers in their law practice or attorneys who wish to offer pro bono services to asylum seekers through non-profit organizations. Attend this program to receive practical training for representing immigrant survivors seeking asylum protection via affirmative asylum. This CLE will also provide a brief overview of the refugee admissions process.

Don't miss out on what is sure to be an excellent CLE presentation. Come out for our first meeting of the 2016-2017 Bar Year at 11:30, August 23, 2016, Salt and Pepper, 811 Avenue D. in Old Katy.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



Photo at left shows KBA Director Rebecca Hafner presenting Scholarship winner Jennifer Martin one of the KBA Scholarships. Jennifer just graduated from Taylor High School and she has plans to major in Veterinary Science at Texas A&M University. Congratulations, Jennifer!

If you would like to be a part of the scholarship process for the 2016-2017 Bar year, please contact President Elizabeth Pratt at elizabeth@elizabethpratt-legal.com to volunteer. The Scholarships are awarded in May to graduating seniors. We need to begin planning now so that we can have even more participation from area high school seniors.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23 IS OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE 2016-2017 BAR YEAR. PLAN TO ATTEND! RSVP'S ARE DUE TO christy@gtkaty.com NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 19TH. PLAN ON COMING FOR THE EXCITING LAUNCH OF OUR NEW BAR YEAR!! WE NEED TO HAVE 30 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE TO PRESERVE OUR DISCOUNTED PRICE FOR LUNCH. RSVP NOW!!

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Grace Nwanguma, Rehan Alimohammad and Drew Zimmerman are working on plans for our People's Law School. If you would like to help on this committee, please contact Grace at attorneywanguma@hotmail.com, Rehan at rehan@aandzlegal.com, or Drew at drewzim@sbcglobal.net.

OTHER COMMITTEES

Committee work is a great way to get involved in your Bar Association, and it's fun! From time to time, ad hoc committees will be formed, so be ready to volunteer to staff those committees. In addition, there are standing committees which always are in need of additional help. These committees and their chairs 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.

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **Teresa Lechner-Fish** for winning the June 2016 Featured Lawyer drawing. Because we have a hiatus in August, Teresa has the luck to be Featured Lawyer for two months! 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.

WEBSITE ADS

As we are starting our new Bar year, it is time for you to renew your ad on our website, or to purchase an ad on our website. For a mere \$100, you will be front-and-center with an ad promoting your law practice on the optimized and wonderfully maintained Katy Bar website. If you wish to renew your ad, please send your check for \$100 to Christy Theander, KBA Treasurer, 21559 Provincial Blvd., Suite A, Katy, TX 77450. You may also pay for your ad on line. Please provide ad copy for our use in setting up your ad. The ads are rotated in position, so your ad will change in position each time the website is loaded. What a great bargain! Reserve your space now, and help support our website.

NEW VENUE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR CLE LUNCHEONS

We are having amazing attendance at our fabulous CLE luncheons and we are outgrowing the space we have enjoyed at the 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 the August meeting will be at Salt and Pepper in Old Katy. To keep the price of our meals at Salt and Pepper at \$25 per person, we must have at least THIRTY PEOPLE in attendance. Please plan on coming to this important first meeting of our Bar year, and RSVP early so that we can breathe easy on our cost. Remember to RSVP by 1:00 pm on Friday, August 19, 2016.

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.

FEATURED ARTICLE

IS MENTORING REQUIRED BY THE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT?

By Rehan Alimohammad, Guest Blogger on March 7, 2016

Most lawyers have a story of how someone or something affected them and gave them a reason to become a lawyer. What about after you became a lawyer? I have been practicing for almost 15 years and owe my career path to two attorneys who had a great impact on my career—and they do not even fully know the level of impact that they had. There was also another attorney who reminded me that not all attorneys believe that they should help other attorneys.

In 2003, I was bored of working in international tax law and needed a change. I took a pro bono asylum case and received one-on-one training in removal proceedings from late professor Joseph Vail, a former immigration judge. That training was something I used every day in removal proceedings for the next two years. He was there whenever I had a question. But, how did I end up doing removal cases every day? I went to breakfast one day with an attorney who had been licensed since 1969. I discussed with him how I really wanted to do immigration law but could not find a job with no experience. He said "Rehan, just do it yourself, and if you get an issue you cannot handle, I'll help you." These two lawyers made a tremendous difference in my career. But why did they do it? What did they get out of it?

A little later in my career, I got a reminder of how other attorneys view mentorship. As a young and inexperienced attorney in immigration law working on a family-based case, I asked an experienced attorney who had a bustling employment immigration practice a question. The response I got? "Why should I help you? You are my competition." Fortunately, this has been the exception rather than the rule, in my experience. Why should we mentor or help other attorneys? The Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct states, in the first paragraph of the Preamble, that a lawyer has a special responsibility for justice. In the fifth paragraph of the Preamble, there is more specificity when it states, "... a lawyer should seek improvement of the law, the administration of justice and the quality of service rendered by the legal profession." Is there a better way to impact the quality of the entire legal profession than mentoring or giving advice to a young attorney? The Preamble does state later that use of the word "should" in the rules means the lawyer has professional discretion. So, there may be no violation of the rules for failure to mentor. But, should it not be our duty as attorneys to raise the quality of the field as a whole? The next time you see a client who is wronged by a young and inexperienced attorney's mistake, imagine if that young attorney was mentored or advised by a more seasoned attorney and the mistake and harm was avoided?

RSVP TO christy@gtkatylaw.com FOR OUR AUGUST 23 KICKOFF MEETING AT SALT AND PEPPER IN OLD KATY BY 1:00 PM ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016. WE NEED AT LEAST 30 MEMBERS TO ATTEND!



I have met with many young attorneys in my career, either inviting them to the office or taking them to lunch. When they thank me, I respond with, "There were many who helped me, and I am just returning the favor." But in fact, these young attorneys also help me. Whenever I meet with someone, I always try to learn something from them. There can always be a different way to look at something, or a different tool that you may not know about. The rules may not require us to mentor, but I would implore all of my colleagues to do so, not only for the entire profession and the public but also for yourself.

[Rehan Alimohammad](#) is a minority director of the State Bar of Texas Board of Directors and a partner in [Alimohammad & Zafar](#), where he is in charge of immigration matters. He has been named one of the 5 Most Outstanding Young Texans in 2011 by the Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce for outstanding pro bono legal service. He serves on the State Bar's Committee on Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality and is the board adviser to the State Bar of Texas Immigration and Nationality Law Section. He can be reached at rehan@aandzlegal.com or (281) 340-2074.

MEMBER NEWS—



Kerri Graham and Christy Theander were recently featured in the August Spotlight for a local gym. They started working out together in January of this year and report longer stamina, better sleep, and great enjoyment from their workouts. Congratulations Kerri and Christy!!

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Michael Burg's better half, Jean Burg, has taken a permanent position with our local fire department, ESD 48 and EMS Training Division as chief of administrative services for training. You may see her around in her tidy black uniform. She is much missed by the KBA as she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to help our organization run smoothly. Congratulations, Jean, and we all wish you well and hope you are appreciated and successful with your new endeavor.

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.

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!

Stanley Santire, former chief counsel for Lockheed Aircraft International, A.G., will speak in **October** concerning the new federal trade secrets law and its impact on both employers and employees.

At our **November** meeting, Michael Burg will present a humorous, incisive, and insightful update on ethical issues confronting lawyers.

All CLE luncheons offer 1.0 hour of CLE, and usually at least .25 Ethics credit. Our November meeting featuring KBA Member Michael Burg will provide a full hour of ethics credit.

KBA Second Vice President Charles Knobloch (713-335-3021) is seeking Katy Bar members and/or others who wish to give presentations during 2017 at the Katy Bar monthly meetings. We would like to have a broad variety of topics and especially topics that are relevant to the practice areas of our members. Judges at all levels are very much welcome to share with us their insights and peeves so that we may improve our litigation & appeal practice skills. If you are not the speaking type, let us know your topic and/or speaker suggestion. All input is most welcome. You may email Charles at: charles@aklaw.com or CKnobloch@arnold-iplaw.com with a cc: to DBena@arnold-iplaw.com (713-335-3022).

OUR FALL CLE SCHEDULE:

8-23-16	Theresa Messer	Refugee and Asylum Law
9-27-16	Gerald Zimmerer	Medical Futility and the Texas Futility Statutes
10-25-16	Stanley Santire	The New Federal Trade Secrets Law: Impact on Employees and Employers—with discussion of the current Texas Trade Secrets law and (lack of) pre-emption.
11-25-16	Michael Burg	Update on Ethics
DECEMBER	NO MEETING	HOLIDAY PARTY!!

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.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sincere condolences to Grace Nwanguma on the passing of her older sister who passed away unexpectedly recently.

TEXAS BAR BENEFITS

There are many benefits available to members through the State Bar of Texas. Did you know that TLAP (Texas Lawyer Assistance Program) has wellness classes for free on line? You can get on the blind notice list by contacting cameron.vann@texasbar.com. Classes include: Anger and Boundaries; Dealing with Grief and Loss, Lawyer Addiction and Recovery, Lawyers Fighting Back Against Burnout and Depression, Lawyer Happiness, Practical Tips for Lawyer Self-Care, Taking Care of You and Your Colleagues: Donald Davis Story, Unstuck from Depression. There are also in-person wellness groups which are confidential and all lawyers are welcome. In Houston, the meetings are the first Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., 303 Jackson Hill, Houston. The telephone number for TLAP is 800-343-8527, website is www.texasbar.com/TLAP.

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!



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

www.katybar.org

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.