

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION

Issue 17 FEBRUARY 2017

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

2016 Winner of Stars of Texas Bars Awards for Small Bar Newsletter

Sarah Springer, Editor

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FEBRUARY MEETING AND CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Date: February 28, 2017
Topic: **Reviewing a Commercial Lease—A Practical Guide for the General Practitioner**
Speaker: Andrew Weisblatt and Richard Nguyen
Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Place: Hasta La Pasta, 1450 West Grand Parkway South, Katy, TX
Menu: Delicious salad, entrée, assorted beverages
Cost: \$25 for members \$30 for non-members or walk-in members
CLE: 1 hour CLE credit including .25 hour ethics

IMPORTANT: RSVP NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM on Friday, February 24, 2017. You may RSVP by email to christy@gtkatylaw.com and pay at the meeting, or you may register on line and either pay via credit card or at the meeting with cash or check. You will also have the opportunity to register for the Featured Lawyer drawing for an additional \$5 paid in advance of the meeting. Entering the drawing at the meeting will cost you \$10. 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.**

FEBRUARY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Richard D. Nguyen, Associate Attorney with The Weisblatt Law Firm, L.L.C., who will present “Reviewing A Commercial Lease: A Practical Guide for the General Practitioner.” His presentation will primarily focus on examining general commercial building leases from the tenant’s perspective. He will reveal a checklist addressing critical clauses commonly found in contemporary “triple net” leases.

He represents plaintiffs and defendants in all stages of complex commercial litigation. He advises clients on a variety of legal issues concerning state and federal law. His relevant experience includes countless hours reviewing, drafting, and negotiating terms of commercial leaseholds on behalf of individuals and corporate entities. He has also managed commercial real estate properties in and around Houston for over fifteen years.



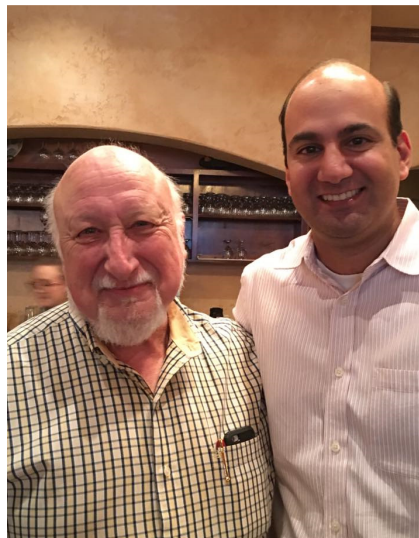
Richard Nguyen, (continued).....His professional affiliations include the Katy Bar Association and the Texas Bar College. He has a Bachelor of Science in Political Science degree from the University of Houston. In 2013, he graduated Attorney at Law and received his Juris Doctorate degree from Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

Richard and his wife Katie, live in Fort Bend County, Houston, Texas.

*Don't miss out on what is sure to be an excellent CLE presentation. Come out for our sixth meeting of the 2016-2017 Bar Year at **11:30, February 28th, 2017 at Hasta La Pasta, 1450 West Grand Parkway South, Katy, TX, and get a FULL HOUR OF CLE CREDIT INCLUDING .25 HOUR OF ETHICS CREDIT.***

JANUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

KBA member Theresa Lechner-Fish gave a stellar CLE presentation on the basics of copyright law, stimulating an active discussion and question and answer session. Andrew Weisblatt was the lucky winner of the "Featured Lawyer" drawing.



VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!
BE SURE TO "LIKE" US AND
YOU CAN SEE PHOTOS OF
OUR MEETINGS AND OTHER
SPECIAL EVENTS THROUGH
THE YEAR.

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Pictured to the left is
our CLE Luncheon
Speaker Teresa
Lechner-Fish (far left),
Stu Levin and Rehan
Alimohammad to
Teresa's right; second
row left, Sarah
Springer and Alex
Hunt, and Andrew
Weisblatt, all smiles
after winning
featured lawyer.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH IS OUR SIXTH 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, FEBRUARY 24TH.

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. Current 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
PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL	KATRINA ROGERS

Please feel free to contact the Chair of any committee in which you have interest.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

If you would like to be a part of the scholarship process for the 2016-2017 Bar year, please contact Education Chairman Stu Levin at stulevin@levinandatwood.com to volunteer. Our scholarships this year will be tied to the State Bar's Law Day contest, as was done for the 2016 scholarships. All KISD high school students are eligible to submit an editorial meeting the Law Day contest requirements by March 1, 2017. If you need details to pass on to students, please let Stu know.

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL COMMITTEE FIRST EVENT WELL ATTENDED

On February 11, 2017, the first People's Law School program "Estate Planning" was presented at the Maud Smith Marks Library. KBA's own Kate Marinacci and Harry Herzog gave excellent presentations that were very well received by the approximately 30 people in attendance. Many people had questions and said it was a very worthwhile program. The next program will again be at the Maud Smith Marks Library on May 13, 2017 at 10:00am. The topic will be Family Law and will be presented by Alex Hunt.

The next sessions will be held on August 12, and November 11, all from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

If you are interested in helping to plan these sessions, assisting on the day of the event, or being a speaker, please contact Alex Hunt at ahunt@huntlawtexas.com. The Committee also welcomes additional members. The People's Law School committee is led by Katrina Rogers. Other committee members are Rehan Alimohammad, Tiffany Garraton, Alex Hunt, Kate Marinacci, and Drew Zimmerman.

KATY YOUNG LAWYERS

The Katy Bar Association now has a Katy Young Lawyers group! If you are interested in joining the KBYLA or serving on the committee, contact Kelly Rizzo, krizzo@huntlawtexas.com.

Stay tuned to the Newsletter for announcements of future events. The purpose of the KBYLA is to provide opportunities for young attorneys who live and/or work in the Katy area to meet other attorneys of similar ages and experience levels.

RSVP TO christy@gtkatylaw.com FOR OUR FEBRUARY 28TH MEETING AT HASTA LA PASTA BY 1:00 PM ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH.

THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS SUPPORT THE KBA THROUGH THEIR ADS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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**MODERN
LAWYER**

RIK SEHGAL of Modern Lawyer maintains the Katy Bar Association website and would be glad to give any member a free consultation on their current website. Contact him at rik@modernlawyer.org.

DONE-IN-A-DAY ETHICS PROGRAM A SUCCESS!

The KBA Done-In-A-Day was a rollicking rumble out at the Swinging Door in Richmond. The well-attended event supplied five full hours of ethics by way of a succession of dynamic speakers, including Heather Hughes from U.S. Legal Support, Inc., Jett Hanna of the Texas Lawyers Insurance Exchange, Alistair Dawson of Beck Redden, LLP, and our own Michael Burg. Chase Bank sponsored a happy hour following the CLE and mid-afternoon dessert. The BBQ lunch served by the Swinging Door was delicious, and thankfully the speakers were sparkling so we did not fall asleep after that indulgence. Those in attendance would agree that we should make this an annual event. Kudos to KBA President Elizabeth Pratt for putting the program together.





As you can see by the above pictures, those in attendance had a painless day of CLE and satisfied their ethics requirement in one fell swoop while having a good time with colleagues and friends. More photos can be found on the KBA Facebook page.

BENEFITS OF BAR MEMBERSHIP

Take advantage of the many opportunities available to our members to get involved in our Bar. Volunteer for a committee! Come out for a Veterans' Clinic! Volunteer to give a CLE presentation in your field of practice. Involvement in your Bar Association is beneficial for your professional and your personal lives. There are great people in the KBA who live and work in Katy.

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **ANDREW WEISBLATT** for winning the February 2017 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 this bar year. You may 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 March 2017 Featured Lawyer winner. 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

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 purchase an 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 online. Please provide full ad content for our use in setting up your ad. If needed, you must secure Bar approval of your content. 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.

Ads purchased now will remain on the website through September 30, 2017, so the sooner you purchase, the more time you have to display your ad.

KATY AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Katy Bar Association has paid dues to become an Associate Member of the Katy Area Economic Development Council. If you are interested in attending KAEDC events as a representative of the KBA, please contact Elizabeth Pratt to advise of your interest. We rotate attendance among KBA members due to the participation limits of our membership.

FEATURED ARTICLE

No Featured Article for February. Should anyone be inspired to write one or share a blog post, please send your article in Word to sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com.

MEMBER NEWS—

We are starting a new feature to wish our members HAPPY BIRTHDAY each month. Believe it or not, we have NO ONE who has confessed to a February birthday. So I will take the editorial license to wish my mother a very Happy Birthday. My mother, Mary Jean O'Donnell Springer, was born on February 20, 1919, so she turned NINETY-EIGHT YEARS YOUNG this month. She spent her early years growing up in Chicago, and graduated from the University of Michigan with a Degree in History. She worked as a Pan American flight attendant and her route was from San Francisco to Honolulu. Tough times! She subsequently got her Master's Degree at Stanford University in Chinese History. Quite a trailblazer for her time! She met my father in 1950 in Saigon, Vietnam, and had seven children in the nine years following their marriage. She taught history in the public schools once back in the U.S. She resides at the Plaza at the Buckingham in Houston. Happy Birthday, Mom!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Belated Birthday wishes to our January birthdays:

Susan Hutchinson
Mack Travers

If you would like to have warmest birthday wishes, please send me your birthday – just month is good if you don't want to reveal the day, and we definitely will not be revealing years, unless you are NINETY-EIGHT!!

P.S. I have no March respondents either. And if I missed your birthday, please send it to me again....



As I was tardily finishing up this Newsletter due to a Valentine's Road Trip with Santa, Alex Hunt reminded me that I have a news-worthy event to brag about. Rusty and I were enjoying a cocktail at the US Grant Hotel in San Diego, CA, when Big Military Brass filtered in from all branches of service. They were very impressive, and we picked up their tab. Who should be there but my son's Big Boss, Admiral Harry Harris, the Commander of the US Pacific Command, pictured far left. On the right is the Senior Enlisted Leader of the US Pacific Command.

RSVP TO christy@gtkatylaw.com FOR OUR FEBRUARY 28TH MEETING AT HASTA LA PASTA BY 1:00 PM ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH.

UPCOMING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION AT KBA LUNCHEON MEETINGS

Be sure not to miss our **February 28th** meeting, when KBA Member Richard Nguyen will present a program on commercial leases.

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!

All CLE luncheons offer 1.0 hour of CLE, and usually at least .25 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 and 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).

UPCOMING CLE SCHEDULE:

2-28-17	Robert Nguyen	Reviewing a Commercial Lease—a practical guide for the general Practitioner.
3-28-17	Geoff Garber	That Qualifies: The Legal Evolution of the Federal Research and Experimentation Tax Credit

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.

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.

ADVERTISE IN YOUR NEWSLETTER

The KBA newsletter is now accepting ads! If you would like to advertise a service you provide or if you have a Vendor who would like to advertise in our newsletter, please submit ad copy to Sarah Springer, Editor, at sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com. The cost of the ad will be \$10 per issue, and you can buy several months of ads at a time or just buy a one-time ad.

RSVP TO christy@gtkatylaw.com FOR OUR FEBRUARY MEETING AT HASTA LA PASTA BY 1:00 PM ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017.

SPONSORSHIPS

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a Katy Bar Association meeting or event, please contact Social Committee Chair 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 through September 30, 2017. If you are interested in purchasing an ad, please visit www.katybar.org and click on the payment link.

ADVERTISE IN THE NEWSLETTER!!

Provide ad copy to Editor Sarah Springer and pay \$10 to Christy Theander and you can have an ad in our Award Winning Newsletter!! You may purchase several months of ads at a time or advertise in a single issue.

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