

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION

Issue 18 MARCH 2017

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

Sarah Springer, Editor

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MARCH MEETING AND CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Date: March 28, 2017
Topic: **That Qualifies? The Legal Evolution of the Federal Research and Experimentation Tax Credit**
Speaker: Geoff Garber, Partner, BRAYN Consulting LLC
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, March 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.**

MARCH CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Geoff Garber will present a program on the legal evolution of the Federal Credit For Increasing Research Activities, also known as the Federal Research and Experimentation Tax Credit or R&D Tax Credit. Geoff expects to surprise us with how many activities and expenses arguably qualify for the intentionally broad tax credit. This program will be related to general corporate matters with a focus on case studies from the manufacturing and software industries, among others. The presentation will also provide relevant legislative updates and implications for families with company ownership who should consider the effects of claiming R&D tax credits that flow through their tax returns, especially in times of a divorce or other life events. The most immediate benefit would be for tax and IP attorneys and anyone serving clients in the manufacturing, engineering, architecture, construction, software, or technology industries.



(Geoff Garber, continued) Geoff supports CPA firms and their clients in taking full advantage of specialty tax credits and incentives, including research & development (R&D) tax credits, cost segregation, fuel excise tax recovery, and other production and construction incentives. He received his Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from The University of Texas at Austin and his Juris Doctorate from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where he focused on intellectual property.

Geoff and his family are considering a move to Katy in the next few months, and we anticipate he will be joining the KBA at our March meeting.

*Don't miss out on what is sure to be an excellent CLE presentation. Come out for our seventh meeting of the 2016-2017 Bar Year at **11:30, March 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.***

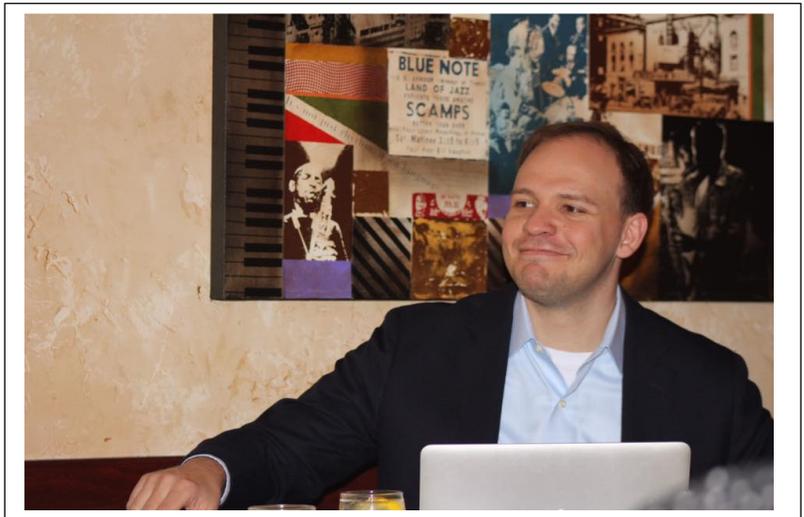
MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

KBA member Richard Nguyen gave us a new understanding of commercial leases. The attentive crowd actively engaged our speaker and each other in an active question and answer session. Kalen Malone of the Springer Law Firm 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.

<https://www.facebook.com/Katy-Bar-Association-206976949484743/>



Pictured here are our March Speaker, Richard Nguyen (top left), Harry Herzog (top right), David Heller (left) and Alex Hunt, (above.) The relative sizes of the photographs does not mean anything except that your editor has difficulty with formatting.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28TH IS OUR SEVENTH MEETING OF THE 2016-2017 BAR YEAR. PLAN TO ATTEND! RSVPs ARE DUE TO christy@gtkaty.com NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM ON FRIDAY, MARCH 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.

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL COMMITTEE FIRST EVENT A BIG SUCCESS



Pictured above left to right are Katrina Rogers, Harry Herzog, and Kate Marinacci presenting at the February People's Law School, which focused on estate planning and powers of attorney. The next program will again be at the Maud Smith Marks Library, May 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. The topic will be Family Law and will be presented by Alex Hunt and Sarah Springer.

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.

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

KATY YOUNG LAWYERS -- SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 18!

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.

Plans are formulating for an April 18 post-tax day/crawfish/happy hour event. Contact Kelly Rizzo with suggestions or if you want to help plan this event.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following winners of our 2017 essay competition:

Jun-Yong Kim	First Place	\$1500	Seven Lakes
Parisa Jesudasem	2 nd Place	\$1000	Tompkins
Emily Palmer	3 rd Place	\$500	Cinco Ranch
Iyanla Smith	Honorable Mention		Mayde Creek

The competition focused on the equal protection theme of the State Bar's Law Day contest, and each participant submitted an essay which judged by the scholarship committee. Congratulations to our winners! Jun-Yong Kim's winning essay will be entered in the state-wide competition.

Thank you to all of the hard work of our scholarship committee: Chair Stu Levin, Elizabeth Pratt, David Frishman, Teresa Lechner-Fish, Rehan Alimohammad, Andrew Weisblatt, and Gerald Zimmerer.

VETERANS CLINIC

Our next Veterans' Legal Clinic will be held APRIL 1, 2017, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The clinic will be part of the Greater Katy Area Veterans Family Fun and Resource Day, an event which is a partnership between the VA and local veteran service providers. The legal clinic will be inside the Elks Lodge, 1050 Katy Fort Bend Road, Katy 77493. These family resource days are very well attended and we anticipate serving a high number of people. Many KBA members routinely volunteer for these Veterans clinics. Unfortunately, many of our "regulars" are unavailable for this date, so we really need the rest of us to step up and volunteer. If you can come for even one hour, we need you. Please contact President Elizabeth Pratt at elizabeth@elizabethpratt-legal.com and let her know you can help out. If you have never volunteered before, you will find this an invaluable experience. It is a great opportunity to get to know other KBA Members. Usually we work in teams, so you will view another attorney's style with clients, learn some things outside your usual area of practice, and feel really good about giving back to those who have sacrificed so much for our way of life.

VOLUNTEER TODAY FOR APRIL 1 VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC. YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID!

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
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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.

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 **KALEN MALONE** 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

We love to feature member scholarship! Should anyone be inspired to write one or share a blog post, please send your article in Word to sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com.

MEMBER NEWS—

BIRTHDAYS: We are starting a new feature to wish our members HAPPY BIRTHDAY each month. If you have not sent me your birthday day/month, please do so and you will be included in Happy Birthday wishes in our Newsletter. We only have one person fess up for a March Birthday shout:

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO KALEN MALONE!!!

I have only two people coming up with birthdays in April, so if you don't want to be left out, please let me know if you have a birthday next month.

OTHER NEWS: Sarah Springer is happy to announce that her son Colin, wife Jennifer, and baby Audrey will be returning to the Continental US after a tour on the USS Benfold in Yokosuka, Japan. Colin will be stationed in Newport RI where he will teach navigation at the Navy's Division Officer School.

APRIL 25, 2017 CLE LUNCHEON

Our April CLE Luncheon will feature a program on conflicts presented by Sarah Springer. We may have a full hour of ethics for this program; pending approval!

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.

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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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