

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION



Issue 8

April 2016

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 2015-2016 BAR YEAR

President – Sarah Springer

First VP – Elizabeth Pratt

Second VP – Kerri Graham

Third VP – Elizabeth Pratt

Treasurer – Christy Theander

Secretary – Alex Hunt

Directors –

Grace Nwanguma, Michael Burg, Charles Knobloch, David Heller, Rehan Alimohammad, and Rebecca Hafner.

APRIL MEETING AND CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Date: April 26, 2016
Topic: "Family Law"
Speaker: Georgia Barker
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, April 22, 2016 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). **WILLOW FORK IS CLOSED ON MONDAYS SO IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU RSVP by 4:00 PM Friday before the meeting. If you do not RSVP we cannot guarantee you a seat nor a meal.**

MARCH MEETING AND CLE

On March 22nd we had a great CLE presentation by Andrew Weisblatt, The Weisblatt Law Firm, PLLC on Business Law.

Photo to Left—Andrew Weisblatt giving his presentation at our March meeting.



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SILVER JUBILEE
BANQUET TO BE HELD FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH AT
WILLOW FORK COUNTRY CLUB. STAY TUNED
FOR THE EXCITING DETAILS!**

SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET



KBA is planning to celebrate the Association's 25th anniversary with a banquet to be held on Friday, June 10, 2016, at Willow Fork Country Club. More details to follow. Susan Hutchinson (pictured right) and Rebecca Hafner (left) are heading up the Banquet Committee. If you would like to volunteer to help plan our fabulous 25th Anniversary event, please contact Susan at susan@shutchinsonlaw.com or Rebecca at hafnerlaw@yahoo.com.

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 and John Kelly are the appointed chairs of the Judicial Candidate Committee. The Audit Committee chair is currently vacant.

The Scholarship Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Pratt. Grace Nwanguma has volunteered to chair the committee to plan our "People's Law School" as part of our Silver Jubilee celebration. Please contact Grace at attorneywanguma@hotmail.com if you would like to be involved in this project, which will get off the ground in our next Bar year.

We need a volunteer to chair a **Young Lawyers Committee** for the Katy Bar. TIP: You don't have to be young! There are a lot of advantages to having a Young Lawyers branch in our Bar, so those of us in mid to late youth should volunteer for this valuable committee. If you would like to serve or you want to nominate someone to serve, send an email to sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com

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 KBA President Sarah Springer at sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com or KBA 2nd Vice President Keri Graham at kerri@gtkatylaw.com or 1st and 3rd Vice President Elizabeth Pratt at elizabeth@elizabeth-pratt-legal.com.



Chairs of the Judicial Candidate Committee are pictured at left. John Kelly (L) and Michael Cramer. If you would like to help with the planning for next fall's pre-election event, please contact Michael at info@michaelcramerlaw.com or John at kelly.mediation@swbell.net.

Grace Nwanguma, pictured left, is the Chair of the People's Law School Committee. If you would like to help, contact Grace at attorneywanguma@hotmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET:

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2016

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **Estelee Garrison** for winning the March 2016 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 \$20 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 \$20, the "on-the-spot" entry will be \$10 for that month's drawing. We will be drawing at the upcoming meeting for the April 2016 Featured Lawyer. The lucky winner will have 1 month as Featured Lawyer, so please send your money in. The proceeds from our website ads and the Featured Lawyer drawings help support the continued viability and optimization of our website, so please consider participating and supporting our Bar.

MEMBER NEWS—there are twins in the house!

Pictured below are Serena and Ariana, newest members of the Rehan Alimohamad family, born June 30,

Pictured Right: Deacon Sinclair and Locklin Sinclair, born July 26, 2012, son and daughter of Deanna Sinclair.





Pictured to the left are KBA member and former President John Kelly with his twin brother, James Kelly MD. They are celebrating their birthday on July 21, 2015. John and his wife Bobbi are proud grandparents of twins, Julian and Nathan Kelly, born July 25, 2013.

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.

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.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR HONOREES AT SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET

The Board of Directors is accepting nominations for honorees at our Silver Jubilee Banquet. Please submit the names of those individuals who have been of great service to the KBA, and provide a brief description of the reason for your nomination. Elizabeth Pratt is the Chair of the Committee to review nominations. Please get your nominations in to Elizabeth at elizabeth@elizabethpratt-legal.com. The nomination form is included with this newsletter, but you can just send an email to Elizabeth with your nominee and a brief summary of why that person should get an award.

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. In the meantime, **make your reservations for the luncheons by 4:00 p.m. the Friday before the event.** In the meantime, Willow Fork will arrange the tables differently at our next meeting so that our seating will be more comfortable.

VETERANS' LEGAL CLINIC APRIL 23

We have another opportunity to give back to our community coming up April 23rd. There will be a Veterans' Legal Clinic on Saturday, April 23 at the VA Clinic on Westgreen from 9:00 AM to noon. We will be partnering with the HBA, so plan on coming out and serving our area Vets who have sacrificed so much for our way of life. Believe me, you will never regret giving a few hours of your time at this event. The Vets are a lot of fun to talk to

and it's also a great opportunity to get to know fellow KBA members. Below are some photos from last spring's Vet Clinic which was held at the VFW Park.



MEMORIES OF THE KBA

Founding member Stu Levin has submitted his reflections on the impact the Katy Bar Association has on our lives, not only professionally, but also personally.

Hope as a Bar

By: Stu Levin

I recently read an interesting article in the Wall St. Journal about hope. This article ascribed four qualities to people who have hope, qualities that all hopeful people possess and all hopeful institutions share.

The first quality is *competence*. Hopeful people are confident in their abilities, their capacity to acquire new skills, and refine the skills that they possess. The basis of our profession is grounded on competence, that is why they call what we do a practice. The operative premise is that we build on our skills and the more we do it the better we become.

The second quality is *survival*. Hopeful people are people that prevail, often against great odds. Law exemplifies survival as a central tenant of what we do. Whether it is the contest of litigation, the exercise of negotiation, or the persuasion of an argument, we lawyers are our clients' fiduciaries helping to assure their well-being, their security, their freedom- indeed their figurative if not literal survival often against great odds. In turn, we diligently prepare our cases, expecting to prevail and be even better prepared to handle the next case. In this sense, our Katy Bar Association helps to promote and insure the survival of our profession and not merely the propagation of law as a mere business.

The third quality is *attachment*. People are social animals- we do not operate in a vacuum. We need others and reach out to others. We relate to judges, juries, clients, staff, and our peers daily. Our Bar Association facilitates professional attachment on many levels: professional, educational, and interpersonal. Our hopes are validated by those that we serve

and those whom we love. We accept these attachments because we share a belief that we are called to the law. It is what the ancient Romans called a “vocation,” that which we are called to do.

The final quality is *spirituality*. Every interview I have ever read or seen with an astronomer or astrophysicist always starts with the tale of a woman or man who stared into the night sky as a child and wondered at what all this meant. Without reference to any particular religion, belief, or creed, spirituality imparts to each of us a sense of humility that starts with the realization that life is finite and thus defines our limits and place in the universe. Our Bar Association enables each of us to better make use of our abilities in a sphere beyond ourselves, that is, in the service to our profession and to others.

So, the Katy Bar is no bar to hope, it exemplifies hope. My hope is that we can build upon what we have created and improve it and ourselves in the service of our chosen profession and the public trust in which we have been invested.

REPORT FROM SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

2016 KBA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM REPORT

KBA's 2016 scholarship program combined KBA's desire to assist deserving KISD 2016 seniors in paying future educational expenses with the State Bar's Law Day competition. On February 3, 2016, KBA provided descriptions of the program requirements to all KISD high schools, soliciting submissions of posters, photographs, and editorials meeting the requirements of the State Bar's contest.

KBA received only editorial submissions. Though the original plan had been to award scholarships of equal amounts to the winner in each category, the Scholarship Committee decided to award the three scholarships to three students who had submitted editorials, having determined that all three entities were worthy. The scholarships were awarded to these three KISD seniors:

Jennifer Martin – Taylor High School

Alex Pratt – Seven Lakes High School

Pranay Tamminayana – Seven Lakes High School

Jennifer will attend college at Texas A&M in College Station, where she plans to earn a degree in Biomedical Sciences, with a planned advanced degree and career in Veterinary Sciences. Pranay plans to double major in Business and Public Health at University of Texas in Austin, after which he aspires to earn M.D. and M.P.H advanced degrees and enter a career in public health. Alex will attend Baylor University, where he plans to major in Communications and English, with the intent to attend law school following graduation.

The Scholarship Committee selected Alex Pratt's editorial for submission to the State Bar competition. (Only one entry could be submitted.)

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.

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.

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

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

The New Katy City Hall dedication will be held on June 10th.

FUTURE MEETINGS 2015-2016

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC
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	Hessam Parzivand on Employment Issues
July 2016	NO MEETING
August 2016	Teresa Messer Refugee and Asylum Law

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 2016-2017 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