

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION



Issue 6

February 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.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Date: February 23, 2016

Topic: “Texas Citizen’s Participation Act”

Speaker: Gerard Harrison, Attorney at Law

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, February 19, 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.**

JANUARY MEETING AND CLE

On January 26, 2016, Teresa Lechner-Fish, Intellectual Property Associate at Gardere, gave an excellent presentation on Trademarks. Among other things, we learned that words in our common vocabulary have lost trademark status because companies failed to consult a lawyer! Nylon, Kerosene, Trampoline, Zipper, Cola, Escalator, Cellophane, Linoleum, Gramophone, Aerobics, Super Glue, Yo-Yo, and Aspirin were all trademarks, but now are just words in our vocabulary.

Photo to Left—Estelee Garrison with law school classmate Teresa Lechner-Fish, our February CLE Speaker.



**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN US FOR OUR
SPRING SOCIAL, 5:00 PM AFTER THE CLE AT
WILLOW FORK, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12. TWO
DRINK TICKETS PER MEMBER, BRING PLUS 1.**



Pictured above: Kerri Graham and David Frishman stand in the back due to our overflow crowd at the February meeting. Even an extra table was not enough. [Make your reservation by 4:00 PM the Friday before the meeting!](#)

ANNUAL CLE, PANEL DISCUSSION, AND SOCIAL—FEBRUARY 12, 2016

Plan on coming to our Annual CLE. This year we are having Family Law 101 from Advanced Family in DVD format interspersed with Judge Panels and lawyer presentations. It will be an informal CLE with plenty of opportunity to ask questions and get a lot of valuable information to help your practice, even if you don't practice primarily family law. The deadline to register is February 10th. We will take registrations at the door, but there will be an additional charge of \$25 for the walk-ins. For \$200 KBA members will receive 6.5 hours of CLE including 2 hours of ethics, light breakfast, a delicious buffet lunch, afternoon snacks, and two tickets for the happy hour.

All Members and their plus-ones are invited to come to the Social beginning at 5:00. Each member will receive 2 drink tickets.

SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET



KBA is planning to celebrate the Association's 25th anniversary with a banquet to be held in the Spring. 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.

HOUSTON BAR ASSOCIATION'S MOILP SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Do you or your law firm need extra help for the Summer of 2016? Are you looking for opportunities to mentor the next generation of lawyers? The Houston Bar Association is putting together a list of prospective employers for 1L minority students to work as interns during the Summer of 2016. More information can be found here: <http://www.hba.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/MOILP-Employer-Packet-2016-.pdf>

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 is the appointed chair 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 attorneynwanguma@hotmail.com if you would like to be involved in this project. The Katy Young Lawyers Committee has been chaired by Kevin Koel who has resigned from the Board of Directors due to his move to College Station, so we need a new chair. Please volunteer for this important committee! An ad-hoc Socials Committee has been proposed to plan our future evening gatherings.

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



**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE FEBRUARY 12 CLE EXPIRES
FEBRUARY 1, 2016. GET YOUR REGISTRATION IN NOW AND SAVE!**

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **Deanna Sinclair** for winning the February 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 \$25 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 \$25, the "on-the-spot" entry will be \$10 for that month's drawing. We will be drawing at the upcoming meeting for the March 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



Alex Hunt has moved his office. His new address is 24630 Kingsland Boulevard, Katy, Texas 77494. (Pictured, far left.) Sign coming!

Rebecca Hafner (pictured left) has been nominated by the Board of Directors to fill the place on the KBA Board vacated by the resignation of Kevin Koel.

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

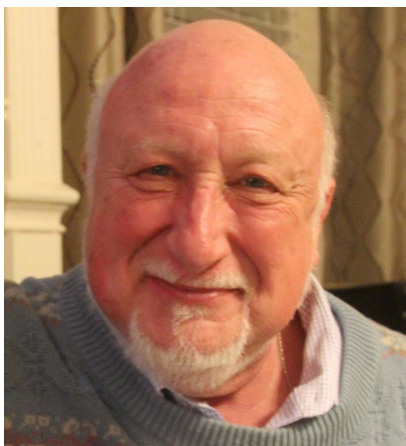
The Board of Directors is accepting nominations for honorees at our Silver Jubilee Banquet. Please submit the names of those individuals who have been of great service to the KBA, and provide a brief description of the reason for your nomination. Once we have a date fixed for our banquet we will have a deadline for submissions.

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.**

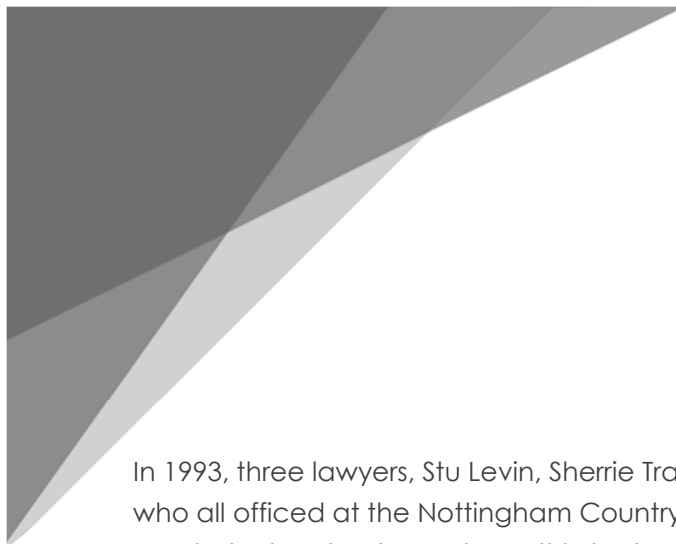
A BIG THANKS TO THE SPONSORS OF OUR UPCOMING CLE:

CADENCE BANK
THE MODERN LAWYER
THE SPRINGER LAW FIRM, PLLC
INDEPENDENCE TITLE COMPANY
DAVID A. HIGGINS, CLTC, NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL



MEMORIES OF THE KBA

Stu Levin, founding member of the Katy Bar Association shares his memories of the origins and history of the KBA.



In 1993, three lawyers, Stu Levin, Sherrie Travers, and Ben Fiedler, who all officed at the Nottingham Country Building decided to meet at a local restaurant monthly to share news, discuss practice in the Katy area, compare practice notes, and better educate us about the diverse areas of law in each of our practices. It soon occurred to us that other Katy area attorneys might have a similar interest and that we could apply for CLE credit that could be offered conveniently and inexpensively in Katy. We were all impressed by the fact that the rapid growth of the Katy area had attracted new lawyers to the area with ties to Katy.

By 1994, we were attracting a significant number of lawyers for our luncheons and decided to formalize our structure which gave rise to the formal incorporation of the Katy Bar Association in 1994. At that time we also registered as a local bar association with the State Bar of Texas. I was honored to have been elected as the Association's first President and have served as a director (off and on) for many years.

I am constantly impressed not only by the growth of the organization and the depth of our members, but by the service we provide to our profession and to the community. This is exactly that we founders of the Association had in mind when we organized the Katy Bar Association. I can think of no greater honor than to have been recognized by peers for this work.



During our Jubilee Celebration year, we will be sharing any memories or special moments you have enjoyed as a member of the KBA. Please email your submission to sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com

INSIGHTS

If any member would like to share an aspect of the law or a recent development with fellow members, please submit your articles to Sarah Springer, sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com and I'll get them in the next newsletter. I prevailed upon Michael Elliott to do a brief article on attorney fees you should find helpful.



PROVING UP ATTORNEY FEES

by
Michael Elliott

It's easy to make attorney's fees an afterthought at trials. With so many facts, witnesses, and legal issues in focus, a cursory showing of attorney's fees ensues. No matter how busy we get, however, attorney's fees have to be proven correctly to withstand objections and appellate challenges. Make sure that you bring the proper exhibits with you, including your resume and the resumes of any other attorneys or paralegals that worked on the case. Then, testify to everyone's qualifications using the resumes as exhibits. Also, bring and introduce as evidence a redacted invoice that clearly states the work done broken out by activity, by whom it was done, on what date the work was done, the billing person's hourly rate, and the hours worked. You should also consider bringing an unredacted invoice in case the Court wants to review it *in camera*. Don't forget to present evidence to the Court that a paralegal was supervised by an attorney. Finally, prepare a summary for the Court with an explanation of the attorney's fees billed and a total of the fees requested. This might seem like a lot of hassle when you think you have more important things to do—namely, win a case. But losing out on a potential attorney's fees award makes taking the extra step worth the effort.

If your client might get tagged with having to pay the opposing party's attorney's fees, do the opposite. Object to any request for attorney's fees that does not check-off every item above. Your opponent may not have taken the time to properly request attorney's fees, and your client can benefit from that failure. Remember, whether the evidence supported the amount of attorney's fees awarded can be brought for the first time on appeal. *Young v. Terral*, No. 01-14-00591-CV, 2015 WL 8942625, at *5 (Tex. App. Houston [1st Dist.]—Dec. 8, 2015) (citing TEX. R. APP. P. 33.1 (d)).

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

FUTURE MEETINGS 2015-2016

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC
February 23, 2016	Gerard Harrison, Attorney at Law Texas Citizen's Participation Act
March 22, 2016	Andrew Weisblatt, The Weisblatt Law Firm, PLLC Business Law
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	TBD
July 2016	NO MEETING

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 2015-2016 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