

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION



Issue 5 January 2016

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 2015-2016 BAR YEAR

President – Sarah Springer

First VP – Open Position

Second VP – Kerri Graham

Third VP – Elizabeth Pratt

Treasurer – Christy Theander

Secretary – Alex Hunt

Directors – Grace
Nwanguma, Michael Burg,
Charles Knobloch, David
Heller, and Rehan
Alimohammad

JANUARY MEETING

Date: January 26, 2016

Topic: “Trademarks”

Speaker: Teresa Lechner-Fish, Intellectual Property Associate at Gardere.

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, January 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).

NOVEMBER MEETING AND CLE

On November 24, 2015, Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan and Assistant County Attorney Celena Cavazos Vinson gave a very interesting presentation on Nuisance Abatement Through Civil Action.

Bar Members also voted on the Bylaws Amendments, in person and through proxies. The amended bylaws were adopted by the requisite percentage of the membership.

VETERANS CLINIC HELD ON DECEMBER 5, 2015

A very successful Veterans Legal Clinic was conducted on December 5th by the KBA in conjunction with the Houston Bar Foundation. Participating KBA lawyers included Drew Zimmerman, Grace Nwanguma, David Frishman, Ken Burton, Sarah Springer, Susan Hutchinson, Georgia Barker, John Jones, Stu Levin, and Michael Burg. Thank you so much for coming out on a Saturday to give back to our area Veterans. Please see our Katy Bar Association Facebook page for photographs of the participants. Our next Veteran's Legal Clinic will be in April, 2016. Stay tuned for updates! (Selected photos below.)



Theresa Lechner-Fish is our January speaker. Topic: Trademarks. Don't miss it!!



Pictured above at the Veterans Clinic are Sarah Springer, David Frishman, Ken Burton, Stu Levin, Grace Nwanguma, Susan Hutchinson, and Georgia Barker.

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. Please contact Sarah Springer if you would like to serve on the Banquet Committee.

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 information went out via email on the 7th—reminders will be sent. The Early Bird deadline is February 1st. Otherwise 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. Members who want to come to the Social only are welcome to come out beginning at 5:00; bring your spouse/plus-one and as a member you will receive 2 drink tickets.

HOLIDAY PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS

Kerri Graham and her husband Joe graciously hosted our annual holiday party at their home. 26 Daisies catered and wonderful food and assorted beverages were enjoyed by all. Photos of the event have been posted on the KBA FaceBook page. Here are a few.



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 attorneywanguma@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.

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **Sarah Springer** for winning the November 2015 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 \$30 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 \$30, the "on-the-spot" entry will be \$10 for that month's drawing. We will be drawing at the upcoming meeting for the January 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.

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>

MEMBER NEWS

Kevin Koel has really done it: he has left Katy for College Station and has resigned from the Katy Bar Association Board of Directors, leaving his position as 1st Vice President. We are also losing Kevin's wife Claire, who was doing a great job keeping up our newsletter. Best wishes to Kevin and his family as they begin their next adventure.

Susan Hutchinson has opened her law office at 21320 Provincial Blvd, Suite 210, Katy, Texas. Check out her website: <http://www.slhutchinsonlaw.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.

MEMORIES OF THE KBA



I've been a member since 2002 and I have enjoyed seeing the organization grow, and grow out of several spaces. When I first joined there were less than 30 members and now there are in excess of 100. My favorite memory is of the candidate forum we held in 2012. One participant, who is now an elected official, did not understand the purpose of the forum. I spoke with him prior to his speech and he was planning on slamming the opposite political party and his opponent in hopes of getting our endorsement. I explained to him the non-partisan nature of our event and he understood and acquitted himself quite well. He thanked me afterwards and we've gotten to know each other since then. I've also enjoyed the opportunity to refer clients to members of KBA and to receive referrals in return. It's been an excellent organization and I'm pleased to have played my small part in it.

Michael S. Burg, Director, Former Treasurer

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

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

FUTURE MEETINGS 2015-2016

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC
January 26, 2016	Teresa Lechner-Fish, Gardere Trademarks
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