

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION



Issue 10 June 2016

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

JUNE MEETING AND CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Date: June 28, 2016
Topic: **Employment Issues**
Speaker: Hessam Parzivand
Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Place: **The Cellar Door, 829 S. Mason Road, #280, 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, June 24 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). **If you do not RSVP we cannot guarantee you a seat nor a meal.**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR OUR JUNE

MEETING!! WE WILL NOT BE AT WILLOW FORK COUNTRY

CLUB: WE WILL MEET AT THE CELLAR DOOR, 829 S. MASON ROAD, #280, KATY, TX 77450.

MAY MEETING AND CLE

On May 24th we had an informative CLE presentation by Rehan Alimohamad on programs and services of the State Bar of Texas. Rehan gave valuable information to a rapt group of KBA members.

We had our first visit to The Cellar Door as a prospective location for future meetings. The room was spacious, the food delicious, and there was built-in A/V equipment which was great. It was planned that we would have our June meeting at Salt and Pepper, but flooding has impacted that schedule.

Photo to Left—Rehan Alimohamad giving his presentation at the May meeting.



**PLAN ON ATTENDING THE KATY BAR SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET JUNE 10TH.
TICKETS ARE GOING FAST—DEADLINE JUNE 3!!**

KBA ANNUAL MEETING IS JUNE 28

The Annual Meeting of the Katy Bar Association will be held on June 28, 2016, beginning at 11:30 AM at the Cellar Door on South Mason Road. At the annual meeting, the 2016-2017 Officers and Directors will be elected. If you cannot be present at the Annual meeting, please fill in a proxy and get it to any current officer or director so that your vote will be counted and to ensure a quorum, which is 30% of our Active Members.

The Nominations Committee recommended a slate of Officers and Directors for 2016-2017. We can still take nominations from the floor. The proposed slate is as follows:

PRESIDENT	ELIZABETH PRATT
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT	REHAN ALIMOHAMMAD
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT	CHARLES S. KNOBLOCH
THIRD VICE PRESIDENT	MICHAEL CRAMER
TREASURER	CHRISTY THEANDER
SECRETARY	ALEX HUNT
PAST PRESIDENT	SARAH SPRINGER
1 ST YEAR DIRECTOR	REBECCA HAFNER
1 ST YEAR DIRECTOR	TERESA LECHNER-FISH

The following directors will remain in office, serving their second year:

2 ND YEAR DIRECTOR	DAVID HELLER
2 ND YEAR DIRECTOR	GRACE NWANGUMA
2 ND YEAR DIRECTOR	MICHAEL BURG

The Nominations Committee also made recommendations for Chairs of various committees:

SOCIAL COMMITTEE	KERRI GRAHAM
AUDIT COMMITTEE	ESTELEE GARRISON
MEMBERSHIP	GERALD ZIMMERER
YOUNG LAWYERS	KELLY RIZZO
EDUCATION	STU LEVIN
PUBLIC INFORMATION	DAVID FRISHMAN

Our June meeting will be at the Cellar Door on Mason Road, NOT at Willow Fork Country Club!

SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET IS JUNE 10, 2016, 6 PM AT WILLOW FORK COUNTRY CLUB. TICKET DEADLINE JUNE 3!

KATY BAR SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET

MESSAGE FROM OUR BANQUET CHAIRS, SUSAN HUTCHINSON AND REBECCA HAFNER

Join the members of the Katy Bar Association as they celebrate their Silver Jubilee at a dinner gala event on June 10th, 2016 at the Willowfork Country Club in Katy, Texas. The evening will include a buffet dinner, awards ceremony, music and live entertainment. It will be an evening filled with friends, memories, food, drinks, and laughs. You won't want to miss this opportunity to mingle with fellow attorneys, judges, community leaders, and rising stars in the legal world.

For more information, sponsorship and ticket order forms, please visit our website, www.katybar.org, or contact Susan Hutchinson or Rebecca Hafner. (Susan at susan@shutchinsonlaw.com or Rebecca at hafnerlaw@yahoo.com.) Please consider buying an ad in the event's program.

SALT AND PEPPER NOT AN OPTION FOR JUNE MEETING



In the above image pulled from the Internet, our planned June location is shown in the bottom left corner, Salt and Pepper. They are almost ready to re-open, so we will check back with them later in the year, but for right now, our meeting will be at The Cellar Door, 829 S. Mason Road, #280, Katy.

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **Charles S. Knobloch** for winning the May 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 \$5 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 \$5, the "on-the-spot" entry will be \$10 for that month's drawing. We will be drawing at the upcoming meeting for the June 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 visibility and optimization of our website, so please consider participating and supporting our Bar.

MEMBER NEWS—



FORT BEND LAWYERS CARE JUSTICE FOR ALL LUNCHEON

Katy Bar President Sarah Springer was recognized at the Fort Bend Lawyers Care Justice For All Luncheon on May 5th. Sarah was honored to receive the Suzanne Bartholomew Service Award in appreciation for her dedication and service to Fort Bend Lawyers Care. Congratulations, Sarah!

(Editor's Note: I know I am blowing my own horn here, but any time the Katy Bar is represented by our members in other organizations, we need to say "Way to Go!" and talk about it in our Newsletter.)

MORE FAUNA OF THE KATY BAR--



The Fat Cat to our left is Mike Elliott's kitty, Chris. He weighs 23 pounds and excels at eating and sleeping. He is toddler friendly. Mike and Emily have one son, Martin, and are expecting another boy in July.

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.

LOCAL FLOODING IMPACTS KBA MEMBER KALEN MALONE



The Simonton area was evacuated this past weekend due to the flooding of the Brazos River. Kalen Malone and her family were evacuated from their home due to the flooding. We send our thoughts and prayers to the Malone family and others in our community impacted by the floods.

MALONE PETS ALSO IMPACTED



The pets were left with food and water—hopefully they will get rescued soon too!

Our June meeting will be at the Cellar Door on Mason Road, NOT at Willow Fork Country Club and definitely not at Salt and Pepper!

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. We will be visiting the **Cellar Door at 829 Mason Road for the June luncheon**. A visit to **Salt and Pepper** is delayed due to flooding in Old Katy.

VETERANS' LEGAL CLINIC JUNE 18, 2016

Our Veterans' Legal Clinic has been rescheduled for **SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2016**, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 NOON at the **KATY VA OUTPATIENT CLINIC**, 750 Westgreen Blvd., Katy, Texas 77450. This is the rescheduled date from the Clinic which was to be held in Old Katy at the VFW Park which has suffered from flooding. Please make every effort to come out and volunteer to give one-on-one legal advice and counsel to our area Veterans, and give them a big THANK YOU for their service to our country. This is a public service of the Katy Bar Association and the Houston Bar Foundation. If you have any questions, contact Andrew Lehmann at Andrew.Lehmann@hvlp.org.

JUNE FEATURED ARTICLE

Design Patents The New Frontier for Protecting Products

Charles S. Knobloch
October 2015

May 13th, 2015 brought a whole new world of design protection for companies operating in the United States. Design protection is a fraction of the cost of a utility patent and has a much different scope of coverage. Design patents protect the ornamental aspects of a commercial item. For example, take a design patent issued last year for an air filter frame fascia: With this issued patent, the owner is able to register their patented product with Customs and Border Patrol to control imported knock-offs. Customs and Border Patrol intercepts counterfeit and pirated goods. Since many goods are sold based on appearance and/or trademark, even oil patch hardware, a design patent can be a cost-effective tool to prevent loss of market-share and quality reputation. This past May, both the United States and Japan coordinated together to join the "Hague System" to make it easier (and cheaper) for designers and companies to extend their design patent applications to over 60 other countries. In 2014, before the joining of Japan and the United States, over 14,000 filings were made under the "Hague System" for design patent protection. These foreign filers now have the opportunity to extend their applications for protection into the United States – increasing the importance for U.S.-based companies to seek design protection for their own products and relative market-share. The take-away is that design patent protection is a hidden gem for designers and companies – a hidden gem that has gained added luster for designers and companies operating in the United States. Given the relatively low cost to seek design patent protection, and the new ability to extend the application to other countries with relative ease and expense, all designers and companies should consider setting up guidelines or policy to build their design patent portfolio. Companies may also desire to set guidelines and budget for trademark protection, as many products also use branding to establish market-share and quality reputation. Both of these protections may be registered with Customs and Border Patrol.

Thanks to Charles Knobloch for sharing this interesting up-date on patent law. Through our membership, all of us can gain a wealth of knowledge about each other's areas of practice. If you have an article or a thought you wish to share through the Newsletter, please send your contribution to Editor Sarah Springer, sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com.

KATY BAR NEWSLETTER WINS STATE BAR AWARD

Stars of Texas Bars Awards

---2016---

Katy Bar Founding Member **Sherrie Travers** submitted the Katy Bar Association Newsletter for consideration in the State Bar of Texas Stars of Texas Bars Awards in the Publication Awards category. Our newsletter won **BEST OVERALL NEWSLETTER** in the Small Bars category. In addition to Sherrie's explanation of the purpose of the newsletter and how the newsletter meets that purpose, the following were considered in making the award:

- Overall Quality of Publication—e.g. overall design, content, originality, informative (25 points)
- Overall Quality of Writing – e.g., clear, concise, focused, organized, well-developed, eloquent, and proper grammar/punctuation (25 points)
- Meets purpose of publication (15 points)
- Graphics Originality – cover and throughout the publication (10 points)
- Contributions by Membership (10 points)
- Interest to Membership (10 points)
- Ease of Locating Information (5 points)

A big **THANK YOU to Sherrie Travers** for submitting our newsletter for consideration in the competition, and **CONGRATULATIONS to the KBA on its AWARD WINNING NEWSLETTER!**

The award will be presented to the Katy Bar Association at the Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Texas in Fort Worth later this month at the Bar Leaders' Luncheon.

KATY AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

The Katy Bar Association was invited to visit a meeting of the Katy Area Economic Development Council to investigate possibilities for the KBA to become an Associate Member. Andrew Weisblatt and Mike Elliott attended a meeting and reported back that such a membership would be advantageous for Katy Bar Members. At our last CLE luncheon, there was a vote approving our membership in the KAEDC.

MEMORIES OF THE KBA



This month's article is submitted by Sherrie Travers, founding member of the Katy Bar Association. Sherrie currently serves as President of the Fort Bend County Bar Association.

Sherrie was tied up with mediations and was unable to complete her article on time for the release of this Newsletter. Stay tuned for our next issue which will include Founding Member Sherrie Travers' ruminations on the formation of the Katy Bar Association.

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 2016-2017

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC
June 28, 2016	Hessam Parzivand on Employment Issues
July 2016	NO MEETING
August 25, 2016	Teresa Messer: Refugee and Asylum Law
September 27, 2016	Gerald Zimmerer, Medical Futility and the Texas Futility Statutes
October 25, 2016	TBA
November 22, 2016	TBA
December 2016	NO MEETING
January 24, 2017	Teresa Lechner Fish & Terrell Miller
February 2017	TBA
March 2017	TBA
April 2017	TBA
May 2017	TBA
June 2017	TBA

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

PLAN ON COMING TO THE KBA SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET:

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2016

WILLOW FORK COUNTRY CLUB

Our June meeting will be at the Cellar Door on Mason Road, NOT at Willow Fork Country Club!

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THE KATY BAR ASSOCIATION
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO

COMMEMORATE OUR

SILVER JUBILEE

TICKETS AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
PLEASE VISIT WWW.KATYBAR.ORG
{TICKET DEADLINE : JUNE 1, 2016}

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH
DINNER, AWARDS & ENTERTAINMENT
6 P.M. - 10 P.M.
WILLOWFORK COUNTRY CLUB
21055 WESTHEIMER PKWY | KATY, TX 77445
CO-CHAIRS
REBECCA HAFNER | SUSAN HUTCHINSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT :

REBECCA HAFNER

HAFNERLAW@YAHOO.COM

SUSAN HUTCHINSON

SUSAN@SLHUTCHINSONLAW.COM

KATY
BAR ASSOCIATION



KATY BAR ASSOCIATION PROXY VOTE 2016-2017 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

SLATE OF CANDIDATES:

President: Elizabeth Pratt
1st VP: Rehan Alimohammad
2nd VP: Charles S. Knobloch
3rd VP: Michael Cramer
Secretary: Alex Hunt
Treasurer: Christy Theander

Directors:

1st Year Rebecca Hafner
1st Year Theresa Lechner-Fish

_____ I cast my vote to elect the slate of candidates recommended by the Nominations Committee.

_____ I vote for the slate of candidates except for the following write in votes for the open offices:

President: _____

1st VP: _____

2nd VP: _____

3rd VP: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Directors:

I, _____, member in good standing of the Katy Bar Association, cast my vote by proxy for the election of 2016-2107 Officers and Directors.