

KATY BAR ASSOCIATION



Issue 9

May 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.

MAY MEETING AND CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

Date: May 24, 2016
Topic: "Programs and Services Provided by the State Bar"
Speaker: Rehan Alimohammad
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

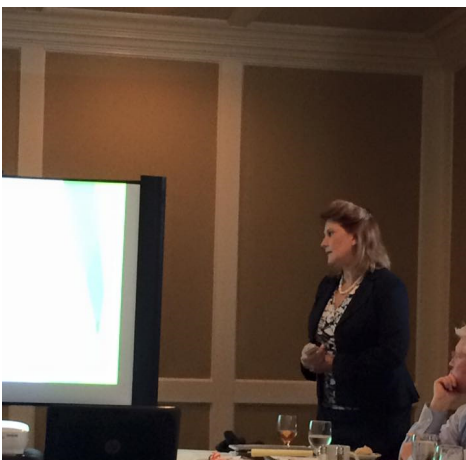
RSVP by Friday, May 20 at 4:00 PM. You may RSVP by contacting Christy Theander at christy@gtkatylaw.com (If you RSVP and do not attend or cancel, you must still pay for your meal). **If you do not RSVP we cannot guarantee you a seat nor a meal.**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION FOR OUR MAY MEETING!! WE WILL NOT BE AT WILLOW FORK COUNTRY CLUB: WE WILL MEET AT THE CELLAR DOOR, 829 S. MASON ROAD, #280, KATY, TEXAS 77450. THE CELLAR DOOR IS IN THE SAME SHOPPING CENTER AS EINSTEIN'S PUB.

APRIL MEETING AND CLE

On April 26th we had an informative CLE presentation by Georgia Walker, Attorney at Law, on Temporary Orders in a Family Law case. Georgia offices in Sugar Land and practices family law.

Photo to Left—Georgia Barker giving her presentation in April 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!



At left is our Featured Attorney drawing winner, new member John Okonji, who practices in the areas of family law, personal injury, wills and trusts, consumer protection and contract. Congratulations to John, and welcome to the Katy Bar Association!



Pictured above right are our April speaker, Georgia Barker, and our May speaker, Rehan Alimohammad. Rehan is a Minority Director of the State Bar of Texas. He practices immigration law and offices in Sugar Land.

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.



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

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@slhutchinsonlaw.com or Rebecca at hafnerlaw@yahoo.com.) Please consider buying an ad in the event's program.

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. Estelee Garrison has volunteered to chair the Audit Committee and she has authority to appoint members to her committee. If you would like to serve on any of the various committees, please contact the chair of that committee. Committee work is a great way to get involved in your Bar Association and to get to know your fellow Bar members. It is also a great way to give back. Get involved!!

The Scholarship Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Pratt. Grace Nwanguma has volunteered to chair the committee to plan our "People's Law School" which will be scheduled sometime in the next Bar year. Please contact Grace at attorneywanguma@hotmail.com if you would like to be involved in this project.

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 Kerri Graham at kerri@gtkatylaw.com or 1st and 3rd Vice President Elizabeth Pratt at elizabeth@elizabeth-pratt-legal.com.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SILVER JUBILEE BANQUET:

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2016

WILLOW FORK COUNTRY CLUB

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

FEATURED LAWYER

Congratulations to **John Okonji** 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 \$10 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 \$10, 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 visibility and optimization of our website, so please consider participating and supporting our Bar.

MEMBER NEWS—



It is with sadness that we say goodbye to **Deanna Sinclair** who is leaving Katy this month and moving to Denver, Colorado. Deanna is the mother of the "Twinclairs" who were pictured in last month's issue featuring the twins among us. A former prosecutor, Deanna has been handling criminal defense matters and family law during her tenure in Katy. Her husband is moving the family with a transfer in his employment, so Deanna is leaving her position with the Springer Law Firm mid-month. We wish Deanna all the best as she continues with her career in Denver. She has applied for reciprocity with the Colorado Bar.

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.



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

Sherrie Travers' ducks to the left—every year there are baby ducks... See below article on KBA fauna.

KBA FAUNA

This month's feature is fauna of the Katy Bar. Founding member Sherrie Travers adopted her mother's cat Scarface when Sherrie's mother, Pauline (Mz Pauline) Walker passed away in December 2014. Scarface has adjusted well to life at the Travers' home and has entertainment from his perch at the window because there is a duck with babies who loves to parade the offspring as a showcase for Sherrie and Mack. Granddaughter Abby is entertained as well!



To the left is Turbo Sinclair. He and the Twinclairs will be relocating from Katy to Denver, Colorado. Better get that puppy a sweater!



This fluffy white cutie is Molly whose people are John and Bobbi Kelly. Rumor has it that this gal never gets dirty and is extremely prissy.

If any of your four-legged friends are upset not to be included in this month's newsletter, just send their photos to sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com for inclusion in a future issue. There is always room for a cute pet pic!

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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 May luncheon and Salt and Pepper will be the location of our June luncheon and annual meeting.

VETERANS' LEGAL CLINIC APRIL 23

The Veteran's Legal Clinic which was scheduled for April 23 was cancelled due to flooding at the VFW Park in Old Katy. The event will be rescheduled, so stay tuned for future announcements. We usually partner with the Houston Bar Association—it is a great way to give back to those who have sacrificed so much for our country and our way of life.

Photos below are from www.chron.com showing the flooding at the park.



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



This month's article is submitted by David Frishman, founding member of the Katy Bar Association. David currently serves as Publicity Chairman of the KBA and gets us great coverage in local media.

Once upon a time, Harvey Betts, Charles Karisch, William Jackson, Joe Dunlap, and Oliver Ktizman were the lawyers on the prairie, serving Harris, Waller and Fort Bend Counties. They met regularly over the decades to resolve important questions. Joining them in 1974 was Karl Micklitz, and

then David Frishman, a young, aspiring, and idealistic young lawyer. Ultimately, this group formed the Waller County Bar Association, and I recall one of my primary duties as Secretary was to bring the bar to the meetings.

In 1993, the eminent Stuart I. Levin, Phi Beta Kappa and Connecticut Yankee, having served as Air Force JAG, began making the rounds to form a Katy Bar. Stu organized the first get-together, styled an Informational Meeting, in March 1994 at Landry's, and conducted the initial election of Directors: Stu Levin, Joe Hegar, Sherrie Travers, Ric Pacquette, and David Frishman, and election of officers, President Stu Levin, First VP Carl Dore, Second VP Charles Cate, Secretary Camille Cain, and Treasurer Don Berman. We incorporated on June 8, 1994.

While a handful of those lawyers exist only in memory, the Katy Bar Association has grown and over the years completed public good deeds, ranging from Law Day, free legal clinics, moot court judges, student speech contest mentors, VFW legal support, student scholarships, and book drives—delivering shipping cartons of books overseas. In years past, the Bar assisted the Katy Rotary Club's annual toy drive: this is Christmas for many of these student.

Our Christmas Banquet was a formal event, collecting food cans for Katy Christian Ministries and toys for those Katy ISD students. During my Presidency, my Keynote Speaker was none other than Greg Abbott at the Westlake Club. The Brookshire Katy Times, the local newspaper, regularly printed news about the Katy Bar. All in all, well done, and these days the Bar is captained by the ever resourceful Sarah Springer.

KATY BAR SCHOLARSHIP WINNER IN AUSTIN FOR STATE-WIDE AWARD



Alex Pratt of Seven Lakes High School was one of the Katy Bar's scholarship winners. Alex's winning entry was submitted by the scholarship committee to the State Bar of Texas for the state-wide competition and Alex's essay on Miranda rights was awarded 2nd place. Alex received a \$1000 scholarship from the Katy Bar Association, and another \$500 scholarship in the state-wide contest. Alex is the son of KBA member Elizabeth Pratt and her husband Ford. Alex will be attending Baylor in the fall. Alex is pictured here with State Bar President Allan DuBois.

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
May 24, 2016	Rehan Alimohammad, Alimohammad & Zafar, PLLC State Bar of Texas Programs and Services
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

AD DEADLINE FOR BANQUET PROGRAM

The deadline for ads in the Banquet Program has been extended to May 16th. Please get your order in for your firm's ad, and please get your favored vendors and folks you do business with to get their ad in the program. We want to have a stellar event and everyone's participation is appreciated.

There are still sponsorships available as well, so please consider being a sponsor for this great event. The Springer Law Firm is our Diamond Sponsor, the State Bar of Texas is a Pearl Sponsor.

Get your order in for your tickets! Invites have been mailed to our members and more invites are going out to community leaders, political candidates, the Katy Chamber, and others. Seating is limited to 150, so get your order in early!

DEADLINE FOR TICKET RESERVATIONS IS JUNE 1ST.

DEADLINE FOR ADS IN THE PROGRAM IS MAY 16TH.

BANQUET IS JUNE 10TH.

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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 :

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SUSAN HUTCHINSON

SUSAN@SLHUTCHINSONLAW.COM

KATY
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