

# KATY BAR ASSOCIATION

25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Issue 2      September 2015

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS - 2015-2016 BAR YEAR

President – Sarah Springer

First VP – Kevin Koel

Second VP – Kerri Graham

Third VP – Elizabeth Pratt

Treasurer – Christy Theander

Secretary – Alex Hunt

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

## KATY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

### SEPTEMBER MEETING

- Date:** September 22, 2015  
**Topic:** SBA Lending  
**Speaker:** Stu Levin of Levin & Atwood, and Mitchell Williams, Jennifer Barker, and Kris Reeder of Chase Small Business Banking  
**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

RSVP by Friday, September 18, 2015 at 4:00 PM. You may RSVP by contacting Christy Theander at [christy@gtkatylaw.com](mailto:christy@gtkatylaw.com) (If you RSVP and do not attend or cancel, you must still pay for your meal).

### AUGUST CLE AND SOCIAL

On August 25, 2015, Heather Hughes of US Legal gave a great speech about HIPAA Compliance. After this informative CLE, we had our first Social for the bar year. Spouses and guests joined us, and we were honored to have Judge Maggie Jaramillo present. We want to thank everyone who made it out to the KBA CLE and Social and helped us kick off our Silver Jubilee! Special thanks to Georgia Barker and Kerri Graham for all of their hard work in making the social happen!



August CLE – HIPAA Compliance  
Speaker Heather Hughes of US Legal  
Support



(Left) Georgia Barker and Judge Maggie Jaramillo; (Right) Susan Spann, Karen Sparks & Sherri Travers



*(Left) Stacey Skillman and David Frishman; (Middle) Carl Doré; (Right) Susan Hutchinson and Sarah Springer*

## **HOLIDAY PARTY**

Save the date for the holiday party on **December 12, 2015!** KBA Vice President Kerri Graham has graciously agreed to host the annual KBA Holiday Party in her home. More details to follow.

## **BYLAW COMMITTEE ACTIVITY**

On Tuesday, September 1, 2015, the Bylaw Committee (Elizabeth Pratt, chair; Sarah Springer, Stu Levin, Grace Nwangukma, and Kevin Koel, members) met to review and revise the current bylaws. Many revisions were discussed including limiting the number of consecutive terms for a person to be the KBA president and the quorum requirements to conduct regular business. A final draft of the revised bylaws is still being considered by the Committee. Once completed, any revisions to the bylaws would still have to be approved by the Board of Directors and then, after providing advanced notice, by a vote of the full membership.

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the KBA, is the chair of the Programs Committee, Elizabeth Pratt, as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of the KBA, is the chair of the Education Committee, and David Frishman is the appointed chair of the Public Information Committee. The Audit and Judicial Candidate Committee chairs are currently vacant. As noted above, there is currently an ad-hoc Bylaws Committee (chaired by Elizabeth Pratt) and a Holiday-Party Committee (chaired by Kerri Graham). There has also been proposed: an ad-hoc Scholarship Committee to look into how the KBA should award scholarships from its Scholarship Fund; an ad-hoc Katy Young Lawyers Committee to discuss ways to attract and engage the newest of our fellow attorneys; and an ad-hoc Socials Committee 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 either KBA President Sarah Springer at [sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com) or KBA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Kevin Koel at [kkoel@jonesgill.com](mailto:kkoel@jonesgill.com).

## **FEATURED LAWYER**

Congratulations to Michael Elliott for winning the September 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 \$45 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 \$45, the "on-the-spot" entry will be \$10 for that month's drawing. We will be drawing at the upcoming meeting will be for the October 2015 Featured Lawyer. Thus the lucky winner will have 1 month as Featured Lawyer, so please send your money in. The proceeds from the ads and the Featured Lawyer drawings help support the continued viability and optimization of our website, so please consider participating and supporting our Bar.

## 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](mailto:sarah@sarahspringerlaw.com)

## SPONSORSHIPS

If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a Katy Bar Association meeting or event, please contact Kevin Koel at [kkoel@jonesgill.com](mailto:kkoel@jonesgill.com).

## KBA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

At a previous meeting, the Katy Bar Association voted to increase the amount given as a scholarship to one deserving student from each of the Katy ISD High Schools. Any donation to the KBA Scholarship Fund is tax deductible and we would appreciate your assistance in making this an established and ongoing tradition for years to come. Our thanks to those who have recently donated, including Kent Beard of Edward Jones, Rik Sehgal with Modern Lawyer, Mark Wilson, and Medical Fitness Pros.

## IN THE NEWS



KBA Member and Director Charles Knobloch recently filed an Amicus Brief at the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit on a trademark matter affecting the local restaurant chain, "Churrascos". The mark at issue is whether the stylized logo *Churrascos* is eligible for trademark registration. What makes this case interesting is that the restaurant chain already enjoys as "incontestable" trademark registration for the word "Churrascos". However, the US Patent and Trademark office recently refused registration of the stylized logo. [A link to the Amicus Brief can be found here.](#)

## AD LITEM TRAINING

The Austin County Bar is hosting a Guardianship Ad Litem CLE. As you are probably already aware, the Legislative updates now require this training for appointments as Ad Litem in guardianship cases. The seminar will be held on Tuesday, September 29th starting at 9:00 am on the second floor of the Austin County Courthouse. Please contact John Harle or Jerry Scheff for further information and the fee for attending.

**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.**

Send your news and events to Kevin Koel at [kkoel@jonesgill.com](mailto:kkoel@jonesgill.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.

Editor: Claire Lakin-Koel

## FUTURE MEETINGS 2015-2016

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC
September 22, 2015	Stu Levin, Levin & Atwood Mitchell Williams, Chase Small Business Banking Jennifer Barker, Chase Small Business Banking Kris Reeder, Chase Small Business Banking <b>SBA Lending</b>
October 27, 2015	Dawn Zell Wright, Attorney at Law <b>State Bar of Texas's Victims' Rights Program</b>
November 24, 2015	Hon. Vince Ryan, Harris County Attorney <b>Topic TBD</b>
December 2015	NO MEETING
January 26, 2016	Teresa Lechner-Fish, Gardere <b>Trademarks</b>
February 23, 2016	Gerard Harrison, Attorney at Law <b>Texas Citizen's Participation Act</b>
March 22, 2016	Andrew Weisblatt, The Weisblatt Law Firm, PLLC <b>Business Law</b>
April 26, 2016	Georgia Barker, Attorney at Law <b>Family Law</b>
May 24, 2016	Rehan Alimohammad, Alimohammad & Zafar, PLLC <b>Immigration Law Collides with Family Law</b>
June 28, 2016	TBD
July 2016	NO MEETING

It is never too early to start planning and I am 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, please contact Kerri Graham at [kerri@gtkatylaw.com](mailto:kerri@gtkatylaw.com).

[www.katybar.org](http://www.katybar.org)