

TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2009 – 2010



BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®

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The Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) consists of roughly 24,000 Texas lawyers who are 36 years old or younger or in their first five years of licensure. As the “public service arm” of the State Bar of Texas, TYLA aims to facilitate the administration of justice, foster respect for the law, and advance the role of the legal profession in serving the public. Its programs are designed to assist Texas attorneys in their practice of law and to provide public legal education services to Texans.

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

## Happy 80th Anniversary!

This year the Texas Young Lawyers Association celebrates its 80th anniversary! That's right, the young lawyers are octogenarians. In its 80-year history, TYLA has been recognized as the country's most outstanding young lawyer affiliate for both its public and member service projects. We are proud to say that TYLA continued that tradition this year.



Cori A. Harbour



C.E. Rhodes

TYLA continued its efforts to protect our future: Texas' youth. Education regarding online safety is proving instrumental in the fight against online predators and online bullying. For this reason, the Texas Young Lawyers Association created *R U Safe? Protecting Yourself in Cyberspace*. Made possible by a generous grant from the Texas Bar Foundation, this project is designed to educate children and their parents about online dangers and give them the tools needed to be safe while online.

To address the rise in dating violence, TYLA created a handbook, *Loves Me, Loves Me Not*, to educate teenagers about healthy teen dating, to address the misconceptions of what teen dating violence is, and to encourage teens to seek help if they are ever in an abusive relationship or know someone who is.

TYLA's public service brochures, guides, and pamphlets are by far the most effective way to reach and provide assistance to the largest number of Texans. This year we published 10 new brochures, pamphlets, and guides:

- *Consumer Bankruptcy*
- *Dealing with Dementia*
- *Know Your Rights at Work*
- *Your Employment Rights*
- *Introduction to Mechanic's Liens*
- *Small Business Toolkit*
- *Facing Foreclosure*
- *Name Changes in Texas*
- *Expunctions in Texas*
- *Loves Me, Loves Me Not*

And, we've updated and/or translated to Spanish seven brochures, guides, or pamphlets:

- *Seniors and the Law*
- *Legal Guide for Cancer Patients*
- *To Will or Not to Will*
- *Pro Se Divorce Handbook*
- *Adoption Options*
- *Special Education Laws & the School Environment*
- *TYLA At-A-Glance*

These represent only a few of TYLA's amazing projects. Please take a look through the following pages to find out what else TYLA has accomplished this year!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president and chair. It has been a privilege and an honor. We know TYLA will accomplish just as much, and more, over the next 80 years!

**Cori A. Harbour**  
President 2009–2010  
Texas Young Lawyers Association

**C.E. Rhodes**  
Chair 2009–2010  
Texas Young Lawyers Association



TYLA Executive Committee, 2009-2010

# — BOARD OF DIRECTORS —

The TYLA Board is made up of an Executive Committee, Directors, and Liaisons. The Executive Committee consists of the President, President-elect, Chair, Chair-elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President. The President-elect is elected by TYLA membership while the other officers are elected by the Board of Directors; all serve one-year terms. Each member of the Executive Committee acts as an advisor to at least one TYLA committee.

The 33 Directors represent 21 districts from around the state and serve as liaisons to the local affiliates in their districts. Directors serve as chairs or co-chairs of the various TYLA committees. Directors are nominated and elected by the TYLA members in their districts and serve two-year terms.

Liaisons include a Texas Supreme Court Justice, American Bar Association Young Lawyer Division representatives, a law student, a law school dean, and a member of the Access to Justice Commission.

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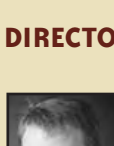
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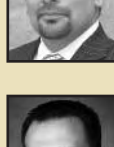
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# EIGHTY YEARS OF SERVING TEXAS CITIZENS

**Winner of the  
2010 LexisNexis  
Community and  
Educational  
Outreach Award!**

## *TYLA in the Community*

### **R U Safe? Protecting Yourself in Cyberspace**

With the advent of social networking sites — and the prevalence of cell phones — today’s children and teens are more open to sharing personal information with online friends, and thus, more open to being exploited by Internet predators, being bullied by their peers, and landing themselves and their parents in legal trouble. Education regarding online safety is proving instrumental in the fight against online predators. For these reasons, TYLA created *R U Safe? Protecting Yourself in Cyberspace*.

*R U Safe?* is a four-part DVD designed to educate children and their parents about online dangers and give them the tools needed to be safe while online. The DVD is intended to serve students at every age level (elementary, middle school, and high school), and also contains a section for parents. It covers such wide-ranging topics as cyber bullying, social networking sites, chat rooms, “sexting,” and online predators. Children are taught how to report suspicious activity and are educated about the legal ramifications of certain online behavior. The common theme throughout the video is the Golden Rule — to treat others as they would like to be treated. The parental section addresses basic safety plans, implementing parental controls, privacy settings and child-safe browsers, the use of cookies and website history, and understanding online abbreviations and acronyms. It also provides parents with useful advice about how they should address the issue of cyber safety with their children.

The DVD includes contributions from a number of experts:

- Lt. Kimberly Bustos of the Attorney General’s Cybercrimes Unit
- Ellen Magnis of the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center
- Darlene Ellison, author and children’s advocate

*R U Safe?* has been introduced in schools and to PTA groups across Texas and is available for viewing and downloading on the TYLA website. The *Texas Bar Journal* published a feature story on the *R U Safe?* project in its February 2010 issue.





“Aside from being licensed here in Texas to practice law, I am also a high school algebra teacher. I am always impressed and educated with the *Texas Bar Journal*, but this most recent article about protecting our children in cyberspace was something that got my attention more than usual. I am going to present the article to my administrators and would like to request a copy of the video so that we can possibly show it to our faculty and maybe even the students. It is such an important issue for our children that I wanted to say thanks for the information.”

— **Raj Sedani,**  
Algebra Teacher, Humble High School

“I watched the video with my kids last night. With both kids, the video opened the door to conversations, questions and answers. I guess my blessing is the open door of communication where they can share their concerns and we can discuss ways of prevention versus ways of intervention. Luckily, we’ve had many discussions before, but hearing and seeing evidence from another source drove home the ‘realness’ of it all.”

— **Kym Fisher,**  
Parent

“I am a middle school librarian and I am always looking for something on the subjects of cyber bullying, social networking, sexting, or Internet safety. Our young people are in crisis when it comes to these topics. They have no idea how their actions online can affect the rest of their life. A friend sent me a link to your video *R U Safe?* I was absolutely blown away! This video is the most current, hip video out there. It gets the message across without being preachy. I asked my 18-year-old son to watch it and the video had such an impact on him; he has deleted his Facebook page and plans to start fresh with the ideas that were presented in mind. The TMI (TMZ) angle was terrific! Kids will really respond to the fresh ideas presented. I cannot say enough about *R U Safe?*”

— **Beverly Harkness,**  
Adams Middle School,  
Grand Prairie Independent School District

## *TYLA in the Community*

### ***Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System After Surviving Domestic Abuse***

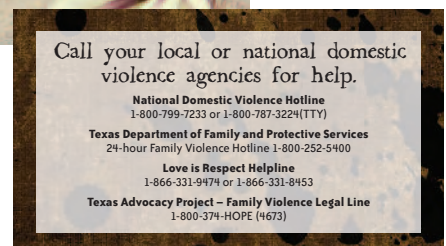
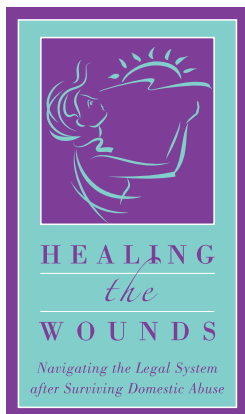
This DVD details what victims of domestic violence can expect when using the courts to obtain a protective order, a temporary restraining order, or a divorce. The goal of the program is to educate victims of family violence about their legal rights.

- TYLA participated in the Texas Council on Family Violence New Worker Institute in Austin, a gathering of new workers for victims' assistance around the state. TYLA presented *Healing the Wounds* to the 200 attendees and distributed copies of the DVD
- TYLA volunteers visited shelters serving victims of domestic violence, including Dallas Genesis Shelter, Houston Area Women's Center, and Waco Women's Shelter. *Healing the Wounds* was presented in both English and Spanish to 120 women. The women were offered legal advice, such as how to obtain a protective order, and received TYLA bags containing toiletry items to make their stay a little easier

### ***Loves Me, Loves Me Not: Teen Dating Violence***

A TYLA pamphlet, *Loves Me, Loves Me Not* modified the *Healing the Wounds* material for a teen audience, discussing teen dating violence. The brochure first identifies what teen dating violence is and what it is not. *Loves Me, Loves Me Not* also describes the different types of abuse that are considered dating violence, including physical abuse; emotional and verbal abuse; sexual abuse; and threats, isolation, or harassment

- TYLA provided a laminated wallet card to teens for quick reference of contact information when they are seeking help
- The pamphlet has been distributed to guidance counselors throughout the state to increase awareness
- Presented at schools around Texas





## *TYLA in the Community*

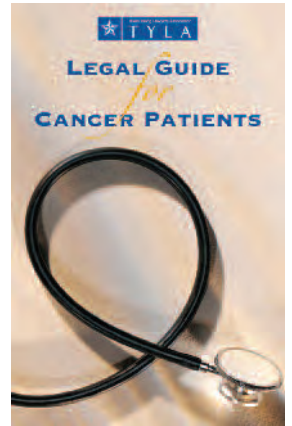
### **Legal Guide for Cancer Patients**

This guide has been updated to reflect significant legislative changes since 2006. During the 2009-10 Bar year, it was distributed to 200 attendees at the Patient and Caregiver Conference in Houston and at Rise to Action, a conference for young adult cancer survivors and their families at MD Anderson in Houston. Guides also were distributed to parents of children with cancer at the Ronald McDonald House in Houston, where TYLA held an ice cream social for youths receiving treatments.

### **Pro Bono Ad Litem Training and Texas Lawyers for Children**

TYLA worked with Texas Lawyers for Children to train and promote the participation of attorneys to serve as guardians and attorneys ad litem for children who have been placed under the permanent managing conservatorship of the State and who no longer have a guardian or attorney ad litem representing their interests.

A CLE training video was produced for the TYLA website so attorneys can obtain the training needed to serve as a guardian or attorney ad litem.



TYLA expanded its Access to Justice initiatives to include online Guardian Ad Litem and Attorney Ad Litem training and numerous joint projects with legal aid providers around the State.



## *TYLA in the Community*

### **State Council for Offenders Manual**

TYLA assisted in updating materials for the *Legal Handbook* manual published by the State Council for Offenders (SCFO), which was last published in 2006.

The SCFO provides legal counsel to indigent offenders incarcerated in Texas jails. The updated manual is available for use by offenders to assist with various legal matters. Chapters on administrative matters, bankruptcy, immigration, family law, and legal research were updated with recent statutes, case law, and other relevant developments.

### **TYLA/ProBAR Video: Know Your Rights/Conoce Tus Derechos**

South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) is a national effort to provide pro bono legal services to immigrants, including children, who are detained in South Texas. ProBAR attorneys, along with dedicated staff members, represent unaccompanied immigrant children and also recruit, train, and coordinate the activities of volunteer attorneys, law students, and legal assistants.

This year, TYLA updated the TYLA/ProBAR: Know Your Rights video with applicable immigration statutes and broadened the scope of information addressed for the unaccompanied children detained in South Texas that are seeking immigration relief. This video assists in saving the lives of detained minors by:

- Allowing attorneys and assistants to provide immediate and concise outline of laws/regulations at initial intake sessions
- Communicating information in a way the children will understand
- Permitting ProBAR attorneys and staff along with volunteer attorneys and assistants more one-on-one time to interview the children
- Being available for viewing by children multiple times, even after departure of ProBAR and volunteer attorneys
- Serving as an additional training tool for volunteer attorneys and assistants



“Not only will the Know Your Rights video make an instant impact on the number of children we can help, it will also make a great training tool for future volunteers!”

— **Violeta Discua-Salamanca**  
ProBAR Paralegal



- Providing material appropriate for detention facilities in Texas as well as facilities around the country
- Ultimately empowering detained children, as they are more knowledgeable of the applicable laws and regulations

### Access to Justice

TYLA and its affiliates promote equal access to justice to all Texans through many different outlets, including:

- TYLA participation in access to justice (ATJ) community fairs in El Paso
- ATJ Speakers Bureau presentations at young lawyer association meetings
- Waco-McLennan County Young Lawyers Association helping to recruit Prime Partner banks
- Access to justice information now included in TYLA eNews
- Local affiliates whose attorneys contribute the highest rate to ATJ dues statement receive the Hankinson Award
- “Justice for All” license plate sales
- TYLA participation in “An Evening with the Chief,” in conjunction with Uniting Students of Dallas, a student organization at Yavneh Academy, a Jewish college-preparatory high school. The event raised \$15,000 for the Texas Access to Justice Foundation



TEXAS ACCESS to JUSTICE FOUNDATION



### Environment and the Law Symposium

The Environment and the Law Symposium was held on April 22, 2010, the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, at South Texas College of Law. Offering free CLE for TYLA members, the symposium presented a wide variety of topics on environmental law issues, including:

- Green building legal issues on the horizon
- Hot topics in wastewater permitting
- Environmental issues in bankruptcy
- Compliance, regulation, and enforcement of environmental regulations

TYLA’s first “green” symposium: No flyers, no printed materials, and no hard copy course notes; all documents were delivered to attendees electronically.



## *TYLA in the Community*

### **“I Am A Lawyer” Public Service Announcement and Award**

In 2009–2010, TYLA developed radio and Internet public service announcements (PSA) entitled “I Am A Lawyer” highlighting attorney commitment to community improvement and involvement. The TYLA Law Focused Education Committee accepted nominations from attorneys across the state seeking to point out lawyers who exemplified the spirit of service. Six extraordinary individuals were chosen for their public service achievements.



*Kristin Etter  
Austin*



*Elizabeth Cedillo-Pereira  
Dallas*



*Ben De Leon  
Austin*



*Shawn L. Raymond  
Houston*



*Rob Crain  
Dallas*



*Paul Ruiz  
Lubbock*

### **TYLA Liberty Bell Award — Joy Borjes, Central Texas Family Abuse Center, Waco**

Joy Borjes is a Rural Advocate for the Central Texas Family Abuse Center and serves six Central Texas counties not only as an advocate, but also as an educator and a volunteer.

### **Outstanding Mentor — Chief Justice (Ret.) Thomas R. Phillips, Baker Botts L.L.P., Austin**

Chief Justice (Ret.) Phillips truly exemplifies the criteria of an Outstanding Mentor. He serves as a role model to young lawyers, fosters the development of young lawyers, and contributes to the profession and the community in numerous ways.

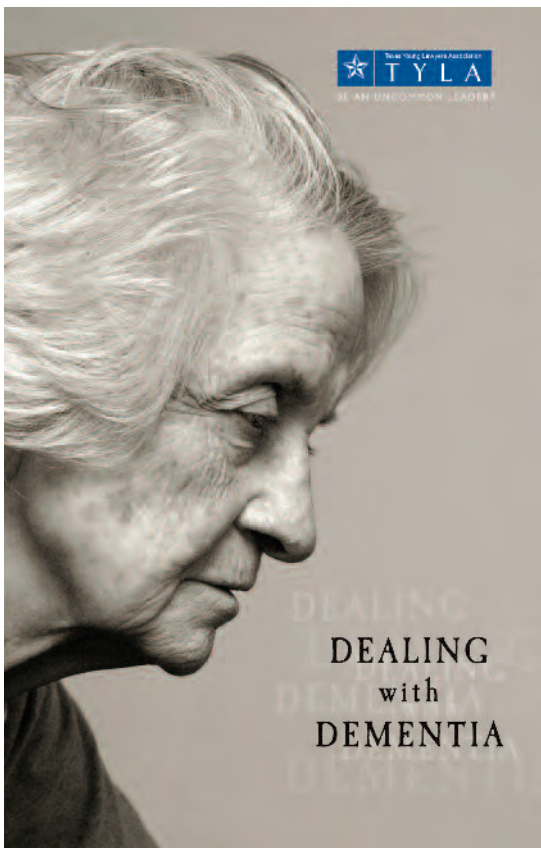
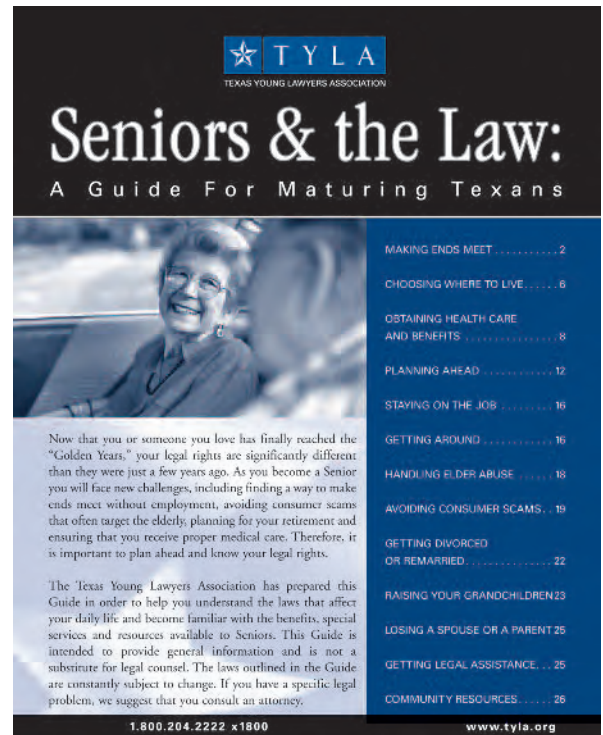
### **Outstanding Young Lawyer — David Evans, Langley & Banack, Inc., San Antonio**

David Evans was selected as the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas because of his selfless contributions made to the profession and to the community, and because of his outstanding qualities as a lawyer.

## *TYLA in the Community*

### **Seniors and the Law: A Guide for Maturing Texans**

- This popular booklet was fully revised to make the guide more current and user-friendly
- Provides updates on resources available to seniors
- Topics addressed include:
  - Special tax relief for seniors
  - Housing options
  - Estate planning and wills and trusts
  - Guardianships
  - Disability planning
  - Social Security benefits and health insurance
  - Warning signs for senior abuse and scams
  - financial assistance
- Intended distribution at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other elder community centers



### **Dealing with Dementia**

- Includes information on Alzheimer's disease and a general discussion of dementia
- Provides resources for those with dementia, as well as their caregivers
- Includes an explanation of the early signs of dementia
- Topics addressed include:
  - Guardianships
  - Estate planning
  - Disability planning
  - Long-term care and hospice care options
  - Medicaid and Medicare

## *TYLA in the Community*

### **Consumer Bankruptcy Booklet**

- Step-by-step layperson's guide to bankruptcy and the steps leading up to bankruptcy
- Includes descriptions of secured debt, unsecured debt, foreclosure, repossession of vehicles, understanding credit scores, and working with creditors
- Provides an initiation to the types of Consumer Bankruptcy — Chapters 7 and 13 — including an explanation of what property is exempt from bankruptcy proceedings
- Lists options for small businesses that are headed towards insolvency
- Contains helpful information on locating an attorney, life after bankruptcy, and directions to other third party resources



### **Introduction to Mechanic's Liens**

- Explains the most important and basic aspects of Texas lien law as set forth in Chapter 53 of the Texas Property Code and Article XVI, Section 37 of the Texas Constitution
- Highlights the rights, protections, and remedies afforded by the Texas Property Code and Texas Constitution, as well as the complex assertion and enforcement procedures under the Texas Property Code
- Directed toward both providers and recipients of labor and/or materials liens
- English and Spanish versions, in both brochure and electronic format



### **Small Business Tool Kit**

- Created to provide guidance to small business owners as a consciousness-raising tool focusing on business formation, marketing, and laws related to loans, employment, taxes, contracts, leases, trade secrets, and strategic alliances
- Presented to local chambers of commerce and local business initiatives



### **Know Your Rights at Work**

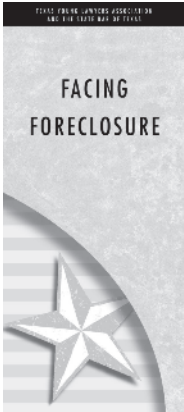
- Designed in partnership with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, this guide provides information on rights to equal treatment while at work, rights under the Family Medical Leave Act, rights under Occupational Safety & Health Administration laws, and rights to unemployment benefits



### **Your Employment Rights**

- Designed in partnership with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, this guide provides information to seasonal agricultural workers on such topics as wages, housing, transportation, and other benefits





### Facing Foreclosure

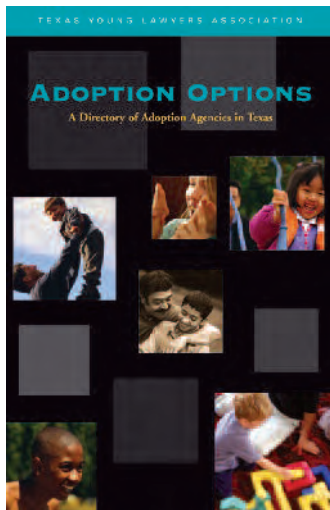
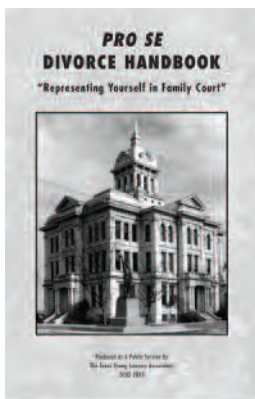
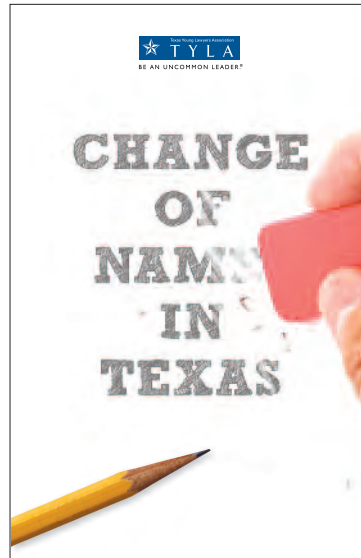
- Answers basic questions about the foreclosure process and provides helpful information on available resources

### Name Changes in Texas

- Provides an overview of the process for changing one’s name

### Expunctions in Texas

- Provides an overview of the expunction and non-disclosure processes in Texas



“The efforts of TYLA are to be commended. The benefits to the public are outstanding. TYLA puts the profession in a shining light. Thanks for all the marvelous work that TYLA does!”

— Lynn Sanchez  
Head Librarian  
El Paso County Law Library

### Pro Se Divorce Handbook

- Revised to reflect all of the legislative changes that have occurred to the Texas Family Code since 2001 and the current procedures for obtaining a Texas divorce
- Includes the most recent version of forms for a Standard Possession Order, Original Petition for Divorce, Final Decree of Divorce, Affidavit of Inability to Pay Costs, Waiver of Service, and prove up questions for a divorce with and without children

### Adoption Options Handbook

- Revised and updated with information on foster parenting and adoption through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, social studies, and information received from various adoption agencies around the State of Texas that will be helpful for parents wishing to adopt
- Provides information regarding the differences between foster parenting and adopting and the processes for both
- Additional information on the necessity and procedure for the social study and updated contact information for adoption agencies



# EIGHTY YEARS OF SERVING TEXAS STUDENTS

## *TYLA in Schools*

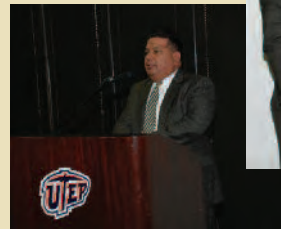
### **They Had a Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement**

- An Emmy Award-winning project that educates students about the role that young people played in the civil rights movement and encourages students that they too can make a difference
- Presented on Constitution Day at Texas High School and Liberty Eylau High School in Texarkana
- Presented at Wilson Junior High in Dayton



### **Pre-Law Diversity Summit**

- TYLA partnered with the University of Texas at El Paso to present a Pre-Law Diversity Summit
- Aimed at addressing the stagnant law school matriculation figures of Hispanics in Texas
- Several judges and attorneys, including State Bar President Roland Johnson, spoke to more than 180 students from El Paso-area high schools about various careers and opportunities that are open to lawyers and how to prepare adequately for law school



### **St. Mary's Pre-Law Symposium**

- TYLA co-sponsored St. Mary's University School of Law's ninth annual Minority Pre-Law Symposium
- Interactive program that brought together more than 300 minority high school and college students from the state of Texas
- Students viewed *They Had a Dream Too*





## Central Texas Diversity Forum

- TYLA and Baylor Law School collaborated to create the first annual Central Texas Diversity Forum
- Eighty students from seven Central Texas high schools participated
- Designed as a pilot project to be implemented in all nine Texas law schools
- Emphasized hands-on experiences and opportunities
- Five-hour program divided into three sessions:
  - A showing of *They Had a Dream Too* supplemented by featured talks from TYLA Board members
  - Lunch session with a panel of six socially, racially, and economically diverse attorneys discussing issues pertaining to their personal experiences in the practice of law and society as a whole
  - Students divided into three breakout sessions that included a student debate on affirmative action in education, a 30-minute mock trial featuring Baylor Trial Advocacy members, and a mock law school class taught by Baylor law professors



## Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right

- Educates students about heroic efforts of the past relating to voting rights — including the enactments of the Fifteenth, Nineteenth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution — and the struggles associated with the 1965 Voting Rights Act
- Encourages understanding of each citizen's role in defending democracy today
- In conjunction with the Corpus Christi Young Lawyers Association, TYLA presented the Vote America curriculum at Collegiate High School and Moody High School in Corpus Christi
- The Moody High School presentation was held on Constitution Day, and the American Board of Trial Advocates joined TYLA and CCYLA in the rollout by handing out pocket U.S. Constitutions to each of the students
- Presentations for the government and history classes at Dayton High School





# EIGHTY YEARS OF SERVING TEXAS LAWYERS

## *TYLA Helping Lawyers*

### Leadership SBOT

- Created to expand the State Bar into areas historically marked by low participation
- This year's class included 20 lawyers from diverse backgrounds
- Tasked with learning the many functions of the State Bar, the participants commit to take what they learn back to their colleagues and communities
- The class divided into four committees, with each tasked with developing a project benefiting the bar. The group projects included the following:
  - A DVD box set containing the "Transition to Practice" curriculum recently developed by the State Bar to be distributed to less populated areas of the state to allow the curriculum to flourish
  - "Know Your Rights" videos and literature on search-and-seizure, consumer credit, and unemployment compensation
  - Working with access to justice organizations to produce a self-help online pro bono divorce kit with forms. This is designed to be a user-friendly interface that allows the user to simply answer a set of questions
  - Organizing a pilot program to match third-year law students without solid job prospects with participating firms for a Spring Break internship. The goal is to open a door for the students and allow them to shine in a setting previously not open to them.



*Leadership SBOT Class of 2009-2010*

### New Lawyer Course 2009

- Presented in Houston, the course focused on success strategies for new lawyers
- Topics included:
  - How to succeed in your first trial or transaction
  - 21 tips and tricks for the new practitioner
  - How to practice law in different courts
  - Ethical marketing techniques and resources
  - Wills and estate planning
  - How to deal with the DA's office

## *TYLA Helping Lawyers*

### **New TYLA Website ([www.tyla.org](http://www.tyla.org))**

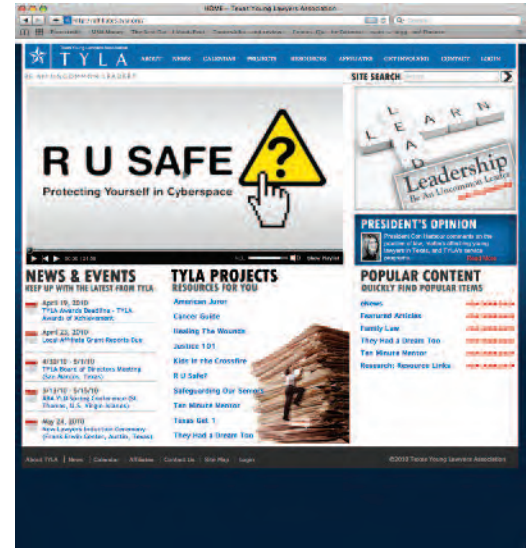
- The new TYLA website was launched in May 2010
- Includes the same material and resources as the previous site, as well as a new website generator for local affiliates

### **Online Forms Bank**

- Meets the needs of young lawyers looking for ways to market their skills and develop clients
- Includes prepared presentations on various legal topics of importance to civic and business groups for young lawyers to use when presenting to those groups
- TYLA members can choose the presentation that best matches the audience, download the presentation, and start building their business

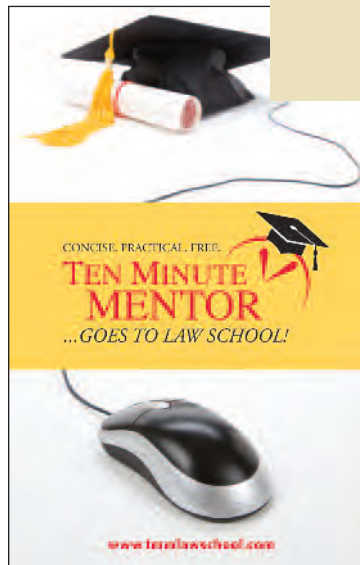
### **Ten Minute Mentor ([www.tenminutementor.com](http://www.tenminutementor.com))**

- Website dedicated to short, instructional videos designed to assist young lawyers in all aspects of the law from transactions to litigation to law practice management
- Approximately 25 new segments have been added throughout the year
- Viewership has increased nearly 25 percent since July 2009
- *Ten Minute Mentor Goes to Law School* ([www.tmmllawschool.com](http://www.tmmllawschool.com)) videos are an extension of Ten Minute Mentor and assist aspiring and current law students, with segments covering topics including admission requirements of Texas law schools, student loan advice, how to succeed in law school, practice areas, and job searching tips
- The websites total approximately 3,000 visitors per month
- Videos can also be accessed through [AfterTheBarExam.com](http://AfterTheBarExam.com), a State Bar program that targets those who have taken the Texas Bar exam and are awaiting the results



TYLA also increased the benefits to its members, local affiliates, and the public by debuting its completely redesigned, user-friendly website:

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



**TEN MINUTE MENTOR**

### **eNews**

- TYLA's monthly electronic newsletter is distributed to more than 24,000 lawyers each month
- Provides substantive legal articles and tips for young lawyers
- Highlights TYLA projects, as well as local affiliate projects and leaders
- Provides young lawyers the opportunity to author substantive legal articles and tips for young lawyers

## *TYLA Helping Lawyers*

### **Bar Leaders Conference**

- Brings together lawyers in various leadership positions with local bar organizations and young lawyer affiliates from across the state to exchange ideas on projects
- Fosters leadership in the legal profession
- In 2009, more than 90 young lawyers from 20 local young lawyer affiliates attended the program

### **Local Affiliate Grants**

- TYLA supports its affiliated young lawyer bar associations by providing funding to support their local programs and projects
- In 2009–2010, TYLA awarded \$21,187 to 17 local affiliates to fund creative and worthwhile projects in their respective communities

### **TYLA Roadshows**

- Designed to assist small- to medium-sized bar associations in providing quality leadership and CLE programs to their members at no cost
- This year, TYLA hosted roadshows for the Cameron and Hidalgo county bar associations. Thirty-five attorneys attended the roadshows in Brownsville and McAllen, where TYLA presented Ethics Jeopardy at each of the stops, along with a general overview of TYLA and its projects.

TYLA continued to provide free and low-cost CLE for its members through its partnership with TexasBarCLE and through its Roadshows for local affiliates.



## Local Affiliate Awards of Achievement Winners

The Awards of Achievement Program provides TYLA affiliates the opportunity to submit their best project for evaluation and recognition.

The awards are designed to encourage project development by recognizing the time, effort, and skills expended by these affiliates in implementing public service and professional service projects in their communities.

This year, TYLA recognized the following young lawyer organizations for finding time to make a difference.

### LARGE CITY

#### Comprehensive

- 1st — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
- 2nd — Houston Young Lawyers Association
- 3rd — Austin Young Lawyers Association

#### Service to the Bar

- 1st — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers – Lunch and Learn
- 2nd — Fort Worth – Tarrant County Young Lawyers Association – Salary Benefits Survey of Young Lawyers
- 3rd — Houston Young Lawyers Association – HYL A Swearing In Ceremony

#### Service to the Public

- 1st — Austin Young Lawyers Association – Reentry Resource Guide
- 2nd — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers – !Protejase! Luche Contra el Fraude
- 3rd — Houston Young Lawyers Association – What’s So Special About Special Education?

#### Minority Project

- 1st — Houston Young Lawyers Association – HYL A Urban Debate League
- 2nd — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers – Diversity and Inclusion Forum

#### Newsletter

- 1st — Dallas Association of Young Lawyers – The Dicta
- 2nd — Houston Young Lawyers Association – Pocket Parts

### SMALL CITY

#### Comprehensive

- 1st — Collin County Young Lawyers Association
- 2nd — Greater Denton County Young Lawyers Association
- 3rd — Texarkana Young Lawyers Association

#### Service to the Bar

- 1st — Texarkana Young Lawyers Association – Adoption Day and Ad Litem Training
- 2nd — Greater Denton County Young Lawyers Association – Mentor Tailgate Party
- 3rd — Collin County Young Lawyers Association – Collin County Young Lawyers Judicial Reception

#### Service to the Public

- 1st — Jefferson County Young Lawyers Association – Free Legal Seminars to Parents of Special Needs Children
- 2nd — Cameron County Young Lawyers Association – Lawyers Lending Hands
- 3rd — Collin County Young Lawyers Association – High School Scholarship Project

#### Minority

#### No Applications

#### Newsletter

- 1st — Cameron County Young Lawyers Association – Sidebar
- 2nd — Collin County Young Lawyers Association – Collin County Young Lawyers Association



# EIGHTY YEARS OF SERVING TEXAS LAW SCHOOLS

## *TYLA Mentoring Law Students*

### **Law Student Outreach**

- Expanded *Ten Minute Mentor Goes to Law School*
- Website has been viewed approximately 575 times per month
- TYLA representatives and TYLA law student liaisons attended every Texas law school's orientation in Fall 2009
- Through these efforts and the continued efforts of the Law Student Division Board, Law Student Division membership increased by more than 100 members
- Focused on educating law students regarding the many benefits of State Bar of Texas and TYLA membership, including gaining CLE credit with their law student bar card during their third year

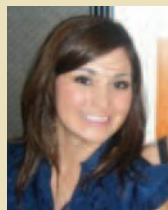


### **TYLA Minority Scholarship Program**

- Promotes diversity in the legal profession by assisting members of minority populations within the State to enter the legal profession and participate in the programs and activities of TYLA and the State Bar of Texas
- TYLA awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to one minority student at each Texas law school that submitted an application
- The 2009–2010 scholarship recipients are:



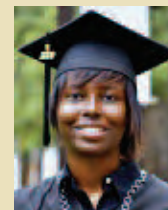
**Nicholas Patrick Chu**  
*Baylor Law School*



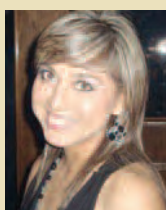
**Sylia Gallegos**  
*South Texas College of Law*



**Amber Hamilton**  
*Texas Wesleyan School of Law*



**Tiffany Jackson**  
*Thurgood Marshall School of Law*



**Susana Silva**  
*St. Mary's University*



**Ron Yun Sung**  
*University of Houston Law Center*



**Lacey Watson**  
*Texas Tech University School of Law*

## *TYLA Mentoring Law Students*

### **National Trial Competition**

- TYLA partnered with the American College of Trial Lawyers to host the 35th Annual National Trial Competition this year in Dallas
- The National Trial Competition was established in 1975 to encourage and strengthen students' advocacy skills through quality completion and valuable interaction with members of the bench and bar
- 300 teams from more than 150 law schools participated in Regional Rounds across the country
- Quarterfinalists — Duquesne University School of Law, University of Kentucky College of Law, Washington University in St. Louis, and Yale Law School
- Semifinalists — Chicago-Kent College of Law and Northwestern University School of Law
- Finalists — Stanford Law School and Stetson University College of Law
- National Trial Competition Champions — Stetson University College of Law. Stetson's team of Brock Johnson, Katelyn Knaak, and Trina Sams was coached by Roberta Flowers and Petra Justice
- George A. Spiegelberg Award for Best Oral Advocate — Rakesh Kilaru, Stanford Law School



*The Stetson University team won in the 2010 National Trial Competition. ACTL President Joan A. Lukey (far left) and Cori A. Harbour (far right) with Stetson team members Katelyn Knaak, Brock Johnson, and Trina Sams. The team was coached by Roberta Flowers and Petra Justice.*



*ACTL President Joan A. Lukey (far left) and Cori A. Harbour (far right) with Stanford University team members Rachel Juarez, Rakesh Kilaru and Samantha Bateman.*

## *TYLA Mentoring Law Students*

### **State Moot Court Competition**

- TYLA hosted its annual State Moot Court competition in June 2009 during the State Bar Annual Meeting in Dallas
- Participants:
  - Baylor Law School
  - University of Houston Law Center
  - St. Mary's University School of Law
  - South Texas College of Law
  - Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law
  - Texas Tech University School of Law
  - Texas Wesleyan School of Law
- Semifinalists — University of Houston Law Center, South Texas College of Law, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, and Texas Tech University School of Law
- Finalists — Texas Tech University School of Law and Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, who argued before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and “visiting judge” Rob Cañas of the Dallas County Court at Law Number 10
- Champions and Best Brief — Texas Tech University School of Law
- Best Oral Advocate — Rickie Cayton, Texas Tech University School of Law; 2nd Place — Randy Macchi, University of Houston Law Center; 3rd Place — Ryan King, South Texas College of Law



*Sylvia A. Cardona, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Judge Rob Cañas and Southern Methodist University Team*



*Sylvia A. Cardona and Texas Tech University School of Law Winning Team*



*Texas Tech University School of Law Winning Team, Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Judge Rob Cañas, and Sylvia A. Cardona*





# EIGHTY YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

## *TYLA Leading the Way*

### **TYLA Honored**

- The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division recognized TYLA as the Best Young Lawyer (State Affiliate) in the country for an organization of its size (more than 8,000 members) with first place for the Comprehensive Award
- The ABA YLD also awarded first place in the Service to the Bar Category to TYLA for *Ten Minute Mentor Goes To Law School*
- TYLA received second place in the Service to the Public Category for *Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System after Surviving Domestic Abuse*
- TYLA's monthly *eNews* took second place in the Newsletter Category
- TYLA's Corporate Diversity Dinner received a Certificate of Performance in the Minority Project Category



### **El Paso Rescue Mission Homeless Shelter**

- TYLA directors and volunteers served meals to El Paso's homeless
- Shelter workers got a helping hand as directors and volunteers organized the shelter's food pantry
- More than 100 people were served



### **TYLA Donations to Haitian Relief**

- In the wake of the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti, TYLA directors donated needed supplies, including:
  - Canned goods and other non-perishable foods
  - Flashlights
  - Batteries
  - Clothes
  - Blankets
  - Bottled water
  - Tents and sleeping bags
- Donations were delivered to the Haiti Relief Headquarters at the Haitian cultural facility in Houston, which shipped the supplies to Haiti





TYLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2009-2010

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## *What's on TYLA's horizon?*

TYLA's focus in 2010–2011 is on offering practical resources to help deal with how the economy has affected us all. You will see an emphasis on projects that increase access to justice, provide job opportunity tools to young lawyers, and educate the public about important legal issues. TYLA will continue its commitment to educating young people about the rule of law. A few highlights for the next year include:



- **Office in Your Pocket** will provide everything you need to know to start your own law practice — all on a flash drive!
- **Partnering for Pro Bono** will increase the provision of legal services to those who need it most by partnering law firm lawyers with in-house counsel to handle pro bono matters together.
- **TYLA Job Board** will allow young lawyers to communicate statewide about job opportunities and other practice issues.
- A **Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting** project will educate the public about Texas citizens' obligation to report child abuse and will provide tools to recognize abuse when we see it.
- **Civics for Students** will continue TYLA's tradition of educating students about important legal issues and their rights and responsibilities.
- TYLA will partner with the State Bar of Texas on its **Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans** project in an effort to increase the provision of legal services to veterans. TYLA will also partner with the State Bar of Texas as we strive to address depression and substance abuse.

As you can see, TYLA provides a unique opportunity to not only make a difference in the community but to also enhance your career through skills development and networking. I hope that you will join us in these efforts and more. Please visit [www.tyla.org](http://www.tyla.org) to sign up for a committee (or two) today! I look forward to serving this year.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Evans Morris'.

Jennifer Evans Morris  
President 2010–2011  
Texas Young Lawyers Association



BE AN UNCOMMON LEADER.®

Texas Young Lawyers Association

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