



Bulletin

Community Building with Attorney Resources • December 2001

Texas C-BAR Celebrates First Anniversary

Presents Community Builder Awards for Outstanding Service



On October 16, 2001, Texas C-BAR celebrated its first anniversary of providing high quality legal services to community-based nonprofits. The celebration was held at a block party in Austin in front of homes built by



Photo: Alan Pogue

2001 Community Builder Award recipients with Mayor Kirk Watson.

Blackland Community Development Corporation, a Texas C-BAR client. **Austin Mayor Kirk Watson** recognized C-BAR for its critical role in strengthening neighborhoods and increasing housing opportunities for low-income families. After a keynote address by **Texas Supreme Court Justice Wallace Jefferson**, Mayor Kirk Watson presented "Community Builder" awards to **Baker Botts, Brobeck Phleger & Harrison, Locke Liddell & Sapp, and Vinson & Elkins** for their exemplary contributions to Texas C-BAR and low-income communities. "We are very excited about everything we have been able to accomplish in our first year," said C-BAR project director, Heather Way, "but we recognize that our first-year successes would not have been possible without the support of the Bar, including the outstanding contributions of our four Community Builder award recipients."

C-BAR gave a special Community Builder award to **Pineywoods HOME Team** for providing outstanding and innovative services to low-income families in rural East Texas. Since its formation in 1995, Pineywoods has

Continued on page 2.

Texas C-BAR Launches Community Counsel Partnership Initiative

Conoco Corporation Partners with Two Nonprofit Housing Organizations

Throughout this past year, several in-house counsel with corporations have expressed to C-BAR staff an interest in partnering with one nonprofit to serve as legal counsel on a long-term basis. At the same time, several nonprofit clients have stated they prefer to have one team of lawyers they can contact on a day-to-day basis with different



legal needs that come up in their work. To match these requests, Texas C-BAR has launched a **Community Counsel Partnership Initiative**. As a Community Counsel partner, attorneys in a corporate legal department or law firm commit to serving as general counsel for a community-based nonprofit for at least a year. Several corporations have also expressed an interest in partnering with a law firm to serve as joint general counsel for a nonprofit. "These types of relationships are invaluable for community-based nonprofits," says Heather Way, the director of Texas C-BAR.

Continued on page 2.



Continued from Texas C-BAR Celebrates First Anniversary.

constructed more than 45 new homes in East Texas for low-income families and provided 68 families with down-payment and closing-costs assistance. With the assistance of C-BAR volunteers **Phil Svahn** and **Jose Padilla**, Pineywoods recently set up a community development financial institution that will enable hundreds of more families to realize their dream of home ownership.

Through the generous support of sponsors and individuals, Texas C-BAR raised over \$30,000 in conjunction with the block party. This revenue will enable our staff and volunteers to continue providing high quality services to nonprofit organizations working in the areas of affordable housing. 🏠



Photo Alan Pogue

Justice Wallace Jefferson

Special thanks to the following 2001 sponsors:

Cornerstones: Texas Bar Foundation; Bank of America

Block Captains: Bank One; Conoco; Real Estate, Probate & Trust Law Section; Skadden Arps; Washington Mutual

Block Party Chairs: Baker Botts; Bowne; Bracewell & Patterson; Chase Manhattan; Enron

Framers: Fulbright & Jaworski; Haynes & Boone; Locke Liddell & Sapp; Patton Boggs



Photo Alan Pogue



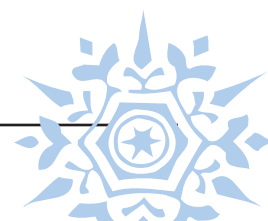
Continued from Texas C-BAR Launches Community Counsel Partnership Initiative.

“At the same time, these relationships are also very rewarding for in-house counsel and law firm lawyers. By working together as a team, they are able to have long-term impact in the fight to end poverty in an individual neighborhood.”


Conoco Corporation in Houston—the first C-BAR Community Counsel Partner—is partnering with two community-based nonprofits in Texas. Conoco’s legal team is already providing one of the nonprofits, Acres Home CDC in Houston, with the legal tools the nonprofit needs to create affordable housing opportunities for low-income families, including reviewing contracts, drafting real estate documents, and providing basic nonprofit advice. And early

next year, Conoco will be partnering with a second nonprofit in South Texas. Rick Harrington, the general counsel of Conoco, says that the attorneys in his legal department are “excited about the opportunity to work together as a team to provide pro bono assistance within their areas of expertise. Serving as a Community Counsel Partner is an excellent opportunity to bring the strong skills of our people to bear on one of the greatest needs of the communities where we are located.”

For more information about becoming a Community Counsel Partner or C-BAR volunteer, please call Heather Way at 512-447-7707, ext. 370. 🏠




Check out the New Additions to Our On-Line Resource Center: Employment Law and Clearing Title

Texas C-BAR continues to add important legal tools to the C-BAR on-line resource center. This month we are featuring C-BAR's new employment law folder, which contains a wide array of useful legal forms and information for nonprofits with employees, including: a sample employee manual; information on work-related injuries and risk management; and important employment-related links. At the request of our clients, C-BAR has also added a folder on clearing title, which includes a manual on clearing title, sample forms, and relevant state statutes. Available now at the C-BAR on-line resource center, www.texasbar.org. 


Texas C-BAR Sponsors Training Seminars for Pro Bono Attorneys and Nonprofits

On March 1, 2002, the Texas State Bar, with the assistance of Texas C-BAR, will sponsor its first CLE for attorneys on community economic development law, which will cover topics such as how to form a nonprofit and a special session on helping low-income communities create affordable, quality child care centers. For more information, or to register for the CLE, contact Texas Lawyers Care, at 512-463-1463, ext. 2155.

Texas C-BAR is also preparing an exciting 2002 training agenda for nonprofits. Training will be offered statewide on a wide array of topics, including understanding how to clear title, employment law 101, risk management, and partnering with a for-profit entity. More information will be available in January on the C-BAR website, www.texasbar.org. You can also contact our Legal Services Coordinator, D'Ann Johnson, at 512-447-7707, ext. 379. 

Texas C-BAR's Newest Staff Member



Texas C-BAR is pleased to announce its newest staff addition, attorney D'Ann Johnson. As Legal Services Coordinator, D'Ann will be leading C-BAR's work with community-based nonprofits seeking to provide new affordable housing opportunities in rural communities. She will also be creating a series of legal trainings for nonprofits and legal materials for the on-line resource center. D'Ann brings 14 years of legal experience in the areas of nonprofit management, banking policy, county government, and the development of legal resources and trainings. Her broad legal and nonprofit experience will help Texas C-BAR continue to provide quality pro bono legal services to our clients. D'Ann says that she is excited about traveling to meet with rural communities and, in her travels so far, reports that she is learning to love the lyrics of country western songs. 

Texas C-BAR Staff

Heather Way
Project Director

D'Ann Johnson
Legal Services Coordinator


Wendi White
Development and Outreach Coordinator

Sissy Bowers
Administrative Assistant



About Texas C-Bar

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources ("Texas C-BAR") was founded in 2000 as a special project of Legal Aid of Central Texas, in collaboration with the nine other legal services programs in Texas. Through Texas C-BAR, volunteer attorneys provide free transactional legal assistance to community-based nonprofits pursuing affordable housing initiatives and other community development activities in low-income neighborhoods. In accepting pro bono referrals from Texas C-BAR, lawyers help these nonprofits build communities and ultimately better the lives of thousands of low-income families throughout the state. Texas C-BAR is funded in part by the Texas Bar Foundation.

For more information about Texas C-BAR, or to participate in our pro bono program, please contact the staff of Texas C-BAR at 512-447-7707, ext. 370; email: txcbar@lact.org; www.texasbar.org. 

Texas C-BAR Advisory Board:

Sarah H. André
Program Director
Enterprise Foundation

Cynthia Bast
Locke Liddell & Sapp, LLP

Richard Black
Stewart Title Guaranty Company

Genora Kendrick Boykins
Reliant Resources, Inc.

Frank B. Burney
Martin, Drought, & Torres

Mia Ford
Executive Director
Texas Development Institute

Eden Harrington
Director, Public Interest Law Center
University of Texas School of Law

Michael C. Li
Baker Botts, LLP

Lloyd Lochridge
McGinnis, Lochridge, & Kilgore, LLP

Rudy Mata
Delgado Acosta Braden & Jones

J. Reymundo Ocañas
Executive Director
Texas Association of Community
Development Corporations

Frank Oliver
Law Office of Frank Oliver, P.C.

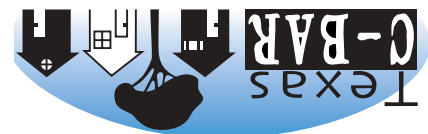
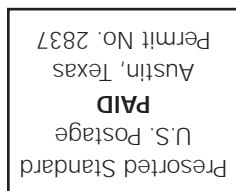
Debbie Ramirez
Vinson & Elkins, LLP

Veronica Rodriguez
Staff Attorney, Colonias Project
Texas Rural Legal Aid

Regina Rogoff
Executive Director, Legal Aid
of Central Texas

Kathy Tyler
Regional Program Manager
McAuley Institute

Steven Tyndall
Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison, LLP



Legal Aid of Central Texas
2201 Post Road, Suite 104
Austin, Texas 78704
phone: 512/447-7707, ext. 370
fax: 512/447-3940
email: txcbar@lact.org
web: www.texasbar.org