



Bulletin

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources

Summer 2008

A Partnership to Provide a Corporate Counsel Initiative

Texas C-BAR and Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program (HVLP) have joined efforts to create an exciting new program. The Corporate Counsel Initiative is a program that matches up nonprofits, law firms, and corporate legal departments, allowing the volunteer lawyers to connect with each other as well as with their community. This initiative is the brainchild of Peggy Montgomery, an **ExxonMobil** attorney, a former HVLP Board Chair, and a current member of the Texas C-BAR Board. "Both HVLP and Texas C-BAR previously offered slightly different versions of community counsel partnerships," explained Frances Leos Martinez of CBAR, "but Ms. Montgomery encouraged us to expand our programs by partnering both a corporate legal department and law firm with the nonprofits."



From left to right: Linda Glover of Baker Botts L.L.P., Peggy Montgomery of ExxonMobil, David Mandell of HVLP, and Jason Ryan of Baker Botts L.L.P.

ExxonMobil and **Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P.** have successfully utilized this format for the last several years to support the legal needs of Avenue CDC, an award winning nonprofit organi-

zation that builds affordable housing in the Washington Avenue and Near Northside communities of Houston. This successful partnership proved to be the inspiration for what was to come. "Our partnership works so well, how could we not try to expand it?" Peggy Montgomery recounted. "With the long-term experience I have with Texas C-BAR, with their background in helping nonprofits, and HVLP, with their access to focused Houston volunteers, how could I not expand our partnerships to reach more nonprofits, more low-income people, and more attorneys trying to help their community?"

Texas C-BAR and HVLP agreed whole-heartedly. "The Houston Volunteer Lawyers Program is excited about working with Texas C-BAR to deliver this new program," said HVLP executive director David Mandell, "and both our organizations are extremely grateful for the generous donation from the program's title sponsor, **Sutherland**." With the assistance of a \$20,000 donation from the law firm, **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP**, HVLP and C-BAR launched the new program, the Corporate Counsel Initiative, to develop similar partnerships to more nonprofits. The program has two key objectives – to provide nonprofit organizations with sustained access to legal counsel and to provide rewarding pro bono opportunities to in-house counsel. The initiative achieves these goals by matching nonprofit organizations with attorney teams composed of corporate legal departments and law firms. Together, the team of attorneys agrees to serve as general counsel to the nonprofit for a year.

The program is also partnering with the **Houston chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel ("ACC")** and **Jackson Walker, L.L.P.** to accommodate attorneys who work for organizations with small legal departments but who would still like to participate. AAC creates five-person teams that partner with Jackson & Walker to support a nonprofit organization. During this initial pilot phase of the program, five partnerships were

created. In addition to the Avenue CDC partnership, the following partnerships have been formed:

- Houston Habitat for Humanity, an ACC team, and **Jackson Walker L.L.P.**;
- Phillip Cares Foundation, an ACC team, and **Jackson Walker L.L.P.**;
- Project Row Houses, **AIG's Retirement Services**, and **Jackson Walker LLP**; and
- The Women's Home, **Marathon Oil Company**, and **Baker Botts L.L.P.**

So far, these partnerships have dealt with everything from negotiating deed restrictions and terminating an existing con-

tract, to reviewing construction contracts, commercial leases and liability waivers. As these partnerships demonstrate the strengths of such relationships this year, Texas C-BAR and HVLP is in the process of creating three more partnerships—involving **Shell Oil Company**, **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP**, **ConocoPhillips**, and **ExxonMobil**—and plan to form more in the coming years.

“The Home is very grateful to these community-minded legal organizations for providing brain-power and expertise at a most auspicious time,” wrote Pam Stockton of The Women's Home. “[We are] honored to have been selected by two top legal organizations, the law firm of **Baker Botts L.L.P.** and the Law Department of **Marathon Oil Company**, to receive pro bono legal representation.”

Texas C-BAR in the Community

Over the summer months, some of Texas C-BAR's clients from around the state have written us, letting us know how they're doing and how our volunteer attorneys have helped them strengthen their communities.

Dear Texas C-BAR,
Thank you for setting up Girls Rock Camp Austin with a great lawyer—Sandra Griffin of Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody. She has been invaluable in helping us get off the ground and incorporated and continues to guide us through the 501(c)(3) process. We had a fantastic camp this year—we were able to serve a diverse group of 100 girls and to give financial aid to almost half of them. Thank you so much for your help & support!

Sincerely,
Cindy Widner
Girls Rock Camp Austin

Thank you so much for providing the Saint Jo Public Library with volunteer legal services. Emily Malandra [of Vinson & Elkins LLP] gave us great advice on our non-profit status, and we were very pleased with the whole experience. We have opened for a weekly book exchange program, and are raising funds for building renovation so we can become a full service library. Please see attached photo of a young patron. We will always remember your gracious assistance and encouragement. Texas C-BAR helped us begin to realize the dream of developing the first public library in Saint Jo, Texas.

Best wishes,
Anita Harkey
Saint Jo Public Library

Dear Texas C-BAR,
I had peace of mind knowing that our founding documents (bylaws, articles, 501c3 application) were correctly filled out and filed. It also saved me a lot of time. Both of these allowed me to focus on growing our organization: tripling the number of immigrants served in 1 year.
Having a C-BAR volunteer attorney [Jeff Raley of Baker Botts L.L.P.] prepare our incorporation and 501c3 paperwork saved me hours of work and worry. Mitigating the learning curve and stress that nonprofit leaders experience is an enormous gift. In the end, it helped me serve our clients better.

Maile Broccoli-Hickey
English at Work / Ingles en Trabajo

We have closed 13 subordinate loans to assist low-income homebuyers using the documents developed with this assistance [provided by Scott Sheehan, Tamora Ruen, and Julie Rystad of Greenberg Taurig].

Mary Lawler
Avenue CDC

written ten months after the contracts were drafted

Texas C-BAR's Supporters:

April 25, 2008 – July 24, 2008

SBOT Corporate Counsel Section
SBOT Environmental & Natural Resources Law Section
SBOT Real Estate, Probate & Trust Law Section
Travis County Women Lawyers' Association

Legal Resource Library Updates

Legal Assistance to Microenterprises Project has added a set of resources:
Business Entities in Texas: What form of business is right for you?:

Sole Proprietorship
Limited Liability Company
General Partnership
Corporation

These documents and more are available online at
<http://lamp.texasbar.org>.

2008 Legal Workshop Calendar

The following is a list of Texas C-BAR and LAMP's workshops scheduled for June through August 2008. This list may be updated as new workshops are scheduled. For more information about any of these workshops or to request a workshop in your area, call (512) 374-2760, or email info@texasbar.org

Managing Volunteers — Understanding the Legal Impact

October 30, 2008 — Austin, Dallas, and Houston

This workshop is sponsored by Pfizer. For more information, please download the brochures from our website at www.texasbar.org/workshops/.

The Revised Form 990--Preparing for a New World

December 5, 2008--Austin, Dallas, and Houston

This workshop is sponsored by Pfizer. For more information, please download the brochures from our website at www.texasbar.org/workshops/.

Texas C-BAR Welcomes New and Returning Attorney Volunteers

From 4/25/08 – 7/24/08

Cynthia Bast, *Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP*
Scott Beech, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Sarah Bremer, *Vinson & Elkins LLP*
Gerald Buechler, *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
Christian Callens, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*
Raj Choudhary, *Baker & McKenzie LLP*
Harlan Cohen, *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
Will Dibrell, *Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C.*
Norman Ewart, *Rosetta Resources*
Edward Getz, *Marathon Oil Corporation*
Wallis Hampton, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*
Jeffrey Harrison, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*
David Herndon, *Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C.*
Dianna Jones, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP*
Leann Karim, *Wilson, Cribbs, Goren & Flaum, PC*
Paul Landen, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Emily Leung, *King & Spalding LLP*
Staci Lowman, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
William McClain, *ConocoPhillips*
Christine Miller, *McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore L.L.P.*
Marla Moore, *Marathon Oil Corporation*
William Murphy, *Dwyer Murphy LLP*
Kent Newsome, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP*
R.B. Ramsey, *Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP*
Matthew Reed, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Alex Roberts, *Beck, Reden & Secrest, L.L.P.*
Kent Robinson, *Andrews & Kurth*
Katie Ryan, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Kelly Sandill, *Greenberg Traurig, LLP*
Nick Sorensen, *Porter & Hedges, LLP*
Brad Stein, *Temple-Inland*
Carl von Merz, *Vinson & Elkins LLP*
Renee Wells, *Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP*
Tammy Wilbon, *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
Reid Wilson, *Wilson, Cribbs, Goren & Flaum, PC*



Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
4920 N. IH-35, Austin, Texas 78751

phone: (512) 374-2710 or (800) 369-9270, ext. 2710

fax: (512) 447-3940

email: info@texasbar.org

web: www.texasbar.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Austin, Texas
Permit No. 2837

About Texas C-BAR

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (Texas C-BAR) is a statewide business pro bono project that provides nonprofits with the legal tools they need to enhance the quality of life in Texas communities. Legal Assistance Microenterprises Project (LAMP) provides legal assistance to very small business owners. As a special project of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Texas C-BAR currently partners with law firms and corporations throughout Texas to help nonprofits better the lives of thousands of low-income families throughout the state. For more information about Texas C-BAR, LAMP, or to participate in our pro bono program, please contact Texas C-BAR.

4920 N. IH-35, Austin, Texas 78751

phone: (512) 374-2710 or (800) 369-9270, ext. 2710

fax: (512) 447-3940

email: info@texasbar.org

web: www.texasbar.org

Texas C-BAR Board of Directors

Andrés Almanzán
Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi & Galatzan, P.C.

Cynthia Bast
Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP

Jennifer Bligh
Valero Energy Corporation

Genora Kendrick Boykins
Reliant Energy, Inc.

Brandy Copley
Dynergy, Inc.

Michael S. Forshey
Patton Boggs LLP

Michael C. Li
Ryan, Inc.

Bryce Linsenmayer
Haynes and Boone, LLP

Daniel Micciche
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Peggy Montgomery
Exxon Mobil Corporation

Debbie Ramirez
Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C.

Susan San Martin
Bank of America

Robert "Doc" Watson
Fidelity National Title Insurance Company

Texas C-BAR Staff

Frances Leos Martinez
Executive Director

D'Ann Johnson
Legal Services Director

Andrea Beleno
"LAMP" Attorney

Amber VanSchuyver
Law Clerk

Rebecca Kuipers
Operations Coordinator