



Bulletin

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources

Summer 2009

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 and LAMP, or to participate in our pro bono program, please contact Texas C-BAR.

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DLA Piper's Commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility Strengthens Texas Communities

During the spring 2009 semester, **DLA Piper, LLP**, and the **University of Texas School of Law Community Development Clinic**, through the clinic's collaboration with Texas C-BAR represented the Pasadena Trails Resident Owned Community, Inc., during the purchase of a manufactured housing park in Pasadena, Texas. In the first transaction of its kind in Texas, the residents of the park formed a corporation to purchase the park and take over management. DLA Piper LLP's expert guidance and strong commitment to pro bono allowed the UT Community Development clinic to undertake such a complex project. **Phil Weller**, managing partner of DLA Piper's Dallas office who has over 30 years of experience practicing real estate and finance law, **Adam Krueger**, an associate in the Austin office, **Jonathan Kohl**, an associate in the Dallas office, served as co-counsel during the negotiation and preparation of the purchase and sales agreement. The DLA team served as closing counsel when the corporation purchased the park during the summer, reviewing the real estate and financing agreements to purchase the park, and ensuring that park residents finalized the transaction within the time constraints set by the seller of the park. Frances Leos Martinez, praised DLA Piper's commitment, "The DLA Piper team demonstrated an extraordinary commitment as their co-counsel role involved not only the time sensitivity of a traditional complex real estate transaction but also a mentorship role to the UT Community Development Clinic students and Texas C-BAR staff in the purchase and closing process." In reflecting on his involvement, Weller wrote, "It was nice using my real estate experience to help"

DLA Piper has long valued corporate social responsibility. This sense of commitment first brought the firm to volunteer for Texas C-BAR in 2005, DLA Piper assisted a San Marcos youth club with its corporate formation. Over the years DLA Piper attorneys have assisted nonprofits by taking on individual nonprofit matters, volunteering to advise a LAMP client, participating in a community counsel partnership, and developing training materials regarding title issues for attorneys working with families still struggling to find assistance after Hurricane Rita, and serving as the sole national sponsor for the popular **Pfizer Inc.**, Strategic Thinking for Nonprofit Executives national legal seminar series, for which Texas C-BAR serves as the Texas co-host. With such a strong pro bono foundation, the collaboration between DLA Piper and Texas C-BAR has deepened into an ongoing, shared commitment to better Texas communities, and looks to continue far into the future.

Strategic Legal Thinking Seminars for Nonprofit Executives

Fundraising Activities:
Getting All the Legal Ins and Outs Right
May 13, 2009

Location:
Pfizer Conference Center
130 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10017
with videoconferencing sites at:
Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago,
Dallas, East Palo Alto, Houston, Los Angeles,
Northern Virginia, Philadelphia, San Diego,
San Francisco, Tampa, & Washington, DC.

Sponsored by:

“Thank you!” to On-going Supporters

The **Travis County Women Lawyers’ Foundation** recently provided a grant to print a 2009 edition of LAMP’s *Record Keeping and Taxes: A Toolkit for Micro-Entrepreneurs*. Last year they provided funding for a manual for domestic violence shelters. The year before, they provided the original seed funding for the Texas Foster Youth Justice Project.

The **State Bar of Texas’ Tax Section** has provided its ongoing funding to the general program expenses of both Texas C-BAR and LAMP. Their 2009 donation is going a long ways towards supporting the trainings and seminars that were developed to go along with LAMP’s tax toolkit.

ExxonMobil has become another regular donor with their recent donation underwriting Texas C-BAR’s state-wide corporate counsel initiative. Previously, the corporation has given it’s financial support in the publications of Street Smart guides for both Houston and Dallas.

We appreciate all of these organizations’ support and look forward to continuing to partner with them to improve the lives and communities of low-income and endangered Texans.

Legal Resources Library Updates

1/1/09-7/14/09

The Texas C-BAR Legal Resource Library at www.texasbar.org/legal_library/toc.php has been updated with:

Zoning in Austin: A Guide for Individuals, Small Businesses, and Nonprofits. This guide is intended to be the first in a series of zoning guides prepared for a number of cities around Texas.

The LAMP Legal Resource Library at <http://lamp.texasbar.org/resource-library/index.html> has been updated with:

Record Keeping and Taxes: A Toolkit for Micro-Entrepreneurs. This guide is an updated version of the tax toolkit that was originally created and printed in 2007. In addition to updating the guide, a Spanish-language version is now available, *Sistema de Registro y Impuestos: Una Herramienta para Micro-Emprendedores*.

Also added to the LAMP resource library are Spanish-language versions of guides to the different types of business entities, *Entidades de Negocio en Texas: Que forma de negocio es mejor para usted?:*

Sociedad General

Compania de Liabilidad Limitada (LLC)

Propietario Unico

Corporacion

Texas C-BAR Welcomes New and Returning Attorney Volunteers

From 2/4/09 – 7/14/09

Dustin Almaguer, *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
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Philip Weller, *DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary LLP*

University of Texas School of Law Community Development Clinic

Heather Way, *Supervising Attorney*
Anastasia Cunningham-Thomas, *Advanced Student Attorney*
Courtney Davis, *Advanced Student Attorney*
Robin Angela Brem, *Student Attorney*
Robert Seth Daniel, *Student Attorney*
Rebecca Ann H. Diffen, *Student Attorney*
Pablo Husayn Nossa, *Student Attorney*
David Ortigoza, *Student Attorney*
Deanna E. Whitaker, *Student Attorney*