



Bulletin

Community Building with Attorney Resources • August 2003

Attorney Volunteer Spotlight: Jeff Walsh, Jenkens & Gilchrist

Jeff Walsh, an attorney with Jenkens & Gilchrist, finds time in his busy real estate practice in San Antonio to give back to his community. He serves as his firm's local contact for Texas C-BAR referrals, serves as a member of the



Jeff Walsh

Austin/San Antonio Regional Advisory Council for Texas C-BAR, and provides direct representation for Texas C-BAR clients in San Antonio.

Jeff was the Editor-in-Chief of St. Mary's Law Journal, graduating in 1999. Following graduation, he served as Briefing Attorney to the Chief Justice for the Fourth Court of Appeals in San Antonio.

Over the past year, Jeff has been donating his legal expertise to a remarkable group called Los Vecinos de las Misiones, formed in 1994 by a group of residents to improve the housing conditions of families located around the San Antonio missions. Near the aqueduct of the Mission Espada, within the San Antonio city limits, lies a small community with no sewer connections. Outhouses and septic tanks fill the waste management needs of these neighbors of the San Antonio missions. Los Vecinos first set a goal to obtain funding for the rehabilitation of some homes in the community—only to discover that federal funds can't be used to improve houses that don't have basic utilities. Jeff worked with the non-profit, helping it to understand the legal issues regarding the utility issues, and recruited attorney Jon Vinson, then with Jenkens & Gilchrist, to help out.

Roberto Anguiano, President of Los Vecinos remains hopeful. "With the help of Texas C-BAR and Jeff Walsh from Jenkens & Gilchrist, I believe we



Outhouse in Los Vecinos

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Save the Date: October 15th

Texas C-BAR Third Anniversary Block Party and Community Builder Awards

Mark your calendars now for Texas C-BAR's Third Anniversary Block Party on Wednesday, October 15, 2003, from 5:30-7:30 at the Café Azul in Austin. We will be recognizing our pro bono attorneys and numerous supporters who have partnered with us to offer critical legal services to low-income communities across the state. We will also be presenting our annual Community Builder awards to honor four attorneys and law firms who have made outstanding pro bono contributions to Texas C-BAR's clients. Invitations will be sent out in September, or look on our website for the latest information: www.texasbar.org.

We have a lot to celebrate, including the delivery of legal services to more than 180 nonprofits across the state. Please bring your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you at the block party on October 15th.

Spotlight continued on page 2...

Texas C-BAR Welcomes New and Returning Attorney Volunteers

April 16, 2003 - July 1, 2003

John Ale - *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

Mary Allen - *Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody*

James Alsup - *Jackson Walker L.L.P.*

Wendy Aycock Howard - *Jackson Walker L.L.P.*

Lane Brindley - *Clark, Thomas & Winters, P.C.*

Donald Buckman - *Cantey & Hanger, L.L.P.*

Jeffrey Burnett - *Vinson & Elkins*

Cheryl Camin - *Gardere Wynne Sewell, LLP*

Denise Cheney - *Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan Kever & McDaniel*

Darren Collins - *Patton Boggs*

Adam Connatser - *Patton Boggs*

D. Todd Davenport - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*

Joseph Dirik - *Jenkins & Gilchrist, PC*

Deborah English - *Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP*

Randal Farber - *Jackson Walker L.L.P.*

Jana Ferguson - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*

Ted Gilman - *Andrews & Kurth L.L.P.*

Randall Glover - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*

James Gordon - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*

Judith Gray - *Matthews & Branscomb*

Michael Hicks - *Vinson & Elkins*

Wade Hoefling - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*

Justin Hoover - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*

Barrett Howell - *Haynes and Boone, LLP*

Sheri Hunter - *Jackson Walker L.L.P.*

Shelley Jewett Davidson - *Matthews & Branscomb*

Rhonda Jolley - *Matthews & Branscomb*

Noelle LeClair Garcek - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*

Bryce Linsenmayer - *Haynes and Boone, LLP*

Bonnie Lockhart - *Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan Kever & McDaniel*

Laura Merritt - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*

Troy Miller - *Cantey & Hanger, L.L.P.*

Chad Mills - *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

Nathan Murphy - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*

Phillips Nazro - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*

Christian Otteson - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*

Debora Ramirez - *Vinson & Elkins*

Jay Reddien - *Baker Botts L.L.P.*

Alissa Rubin - *King & Spalding LLP*

Lee Schwartz - *Haynes and Boone, LLP*

Morgan Sheinberg - Warren - *King & Spalding LLP*

Eden Sholeen - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*

David Sladic - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*

Justin Switzer - *Haynes and Boone, LLP*

Michaela Wei - *Haynes and Boone, LLP*

William Weinberg - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*

Eric White - *Patton Boggs*

Lorin Williams Combs - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*


Ellen Witt - *Vinson & Elkins*

John Wittenberg - *Holland & Knight, LLP*

Spotlight, continued from page 1:


will have usable water delivered in state-of-the-art fashion, like the aqueduct of 300 years ago.” Recently, the San Antonio Water System and the City of San Antonio have made this project a higher priority and sewer connections may soon become a reality in the neighborhood.

Jeff has also assisted with Macedonia Community Development Corporation, a nonprofit that needed a lease agreement for its office space.

Jeff expressed appreciation for the impact that transactional attorneys can have on their communities through the pro bono referrals: “Partnering with Texas C-BAR has presented an opportunity to strengthen our support for community-based organizations that are a vital part of San Antonio.” 


Texas C-BAR Welcomes Its Newest Family Member



On May 17, 2003, Texas C-BAR Director Heather K. Way and Bill Christian lovingly welcomed Samuel Dixon Christian into the family. He weighed 8 lbs., 6 oz., and was 21.5 inches long. Mother and child are doing fine. 


Special Thanks to Texas C-BAR Supporters

Texas C-BAR would like to thank this quarter's major donors through July 15, 2003: Baker Botts; Comerica Bank; ConocoPhillips; Dell Computer Corporation; Jackson Walker; Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP; McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore LLP; the Meadows Foundation; Patton Boggs LLP; John Scanlan; the State Bar of Texas Business Section and Labor and Employment Law Section; Thompson & Knight; USAA Federal Savings Bank; the Topfer Foundation; and Vinson & Elkins. Other donors include: Hughes and Luce; Bryce Linsenmayer; JC Penney; Karl Shakelford; Steve Stokes; the Travis County Women Lawyers Association; and Scott Way.

As the public sector's role in securing the social safety net for all Texans shrinks, the work of nonprofits is now more critical to the health of our communities than ever before. Without this critical support from law firms, bar sections, corporations, banks, and individuals, Texas C-BAR could not fulfill its unique role of matching volunteer attorneys with nonprofits and providing resources to improve the quality of life in low-income communities. "We can't do it without you—thanks for your support!" 

Texas C-BAR Legal Resource Library Update

Texas C-BAR unveiled its new website design in May. We hope you've seen it by now; if not, go to www.texasbar.org to take a look. We have added numerous new documents to our online Legal Resource Library, including to the Real Estate, Federal Tax, and Community Development Financial Institution sections. There are currently over 180 links in the Library.


Important Legislative Changes: A new law allows taxing jurisdictions to transfer tax-foreclosed property in Dallas to a land bank for use as affordable housing. Look for more information on this and other important changes in future Texas C-BAR newsletters and on our website. 

Welcome New Texas C-BAR Board Members


Texas C-BAR would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our statewide board.

Edmundo Ramirez at Ellis, Koeneke & Ramirez (McAllen), a native of Laredo, was admitted to the bar in 1986. He is board certified in civil trial law, and specializes in banking, bankruptcy, and commercial law. We are particularly pleased to have Edmundo as our first board member representing South Texas, where the community development needs are great and pressing.

Andrés Almanzan at Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi & Galatzan (El Paso) is a civil litigator with strong ties to the El Paso community. Born and raised in El Paso, Andrés is currently the President of the Mexican-American Bar Association of El Paso, Vice President of the El Paso Young Lawyer's Association, and Director of the El Paso Bar Association. In addition to his strong understanding of the needs of the El Paso community, Andrés brings to the Texas C-BAR board experience with employment, construction, contracts, and real estate matters.

David Duncan at ConocoPhillips (Houston) was born in Austin. A former director of the University of Houston Environmental Law Program, David has served as Senior Attorney for Air Quality and Superfund at the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission as well as for the Air Control Board. David continues to carry on the commitment that ConocoPhillips has shown toward pro bono, both through board support and through in-house counsel that volunteer to help our nonprofits. 

Awards

Texas C-BAR board member Cynthia Bast received the Travis County Women Lawyers Association Pro Bono Award for her volunteer work with Texas C-BAR. Texas C-BAR Director Heather K. Way was the recipient of the Texas Young Lawyers Association President's Award of Merit for her "boundless time and energy in support of legal services to the poor." We're proud of the strong commitment to pro bono and community outreach among our staff and volunteers. Keep up the good work! 

About Texas C-BAR

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (Texas C-BAR) is a statewide business law pro bono project which provides community-based nonprofits with the legal tools they need to succeed in transforming distressed neighborhoods into healthy communities. As a special project of Texas Rural Legal Aid, Texas C-BAR currently partners with more than 45 law firms and corporations to help nonprofits build communities and ultimately better the lives of thousands of low-income families throughout the state. For more information about Texas C-BAR, or to participate in our pro bono program, please contact the staff of Texas C-BAR at:

phone: 512/447-7707, ext. 370
fax: 512/447-3940
email: info@texasbar.org
web: www.texasbar.org

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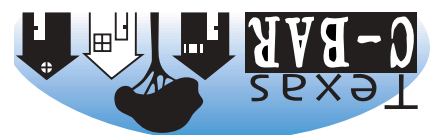
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