



Bulletin

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources • November 2006

Home Grown: Texas Lawyers Volunteer to Help Local Farmers' Markets

Texas C-BAR recently published a new legal guide to forming a nonprofit farmers' market in Texas. This manual is the first of its kind in the country and a valuable resource for Texas farmers and microentrepreneurs. Two law firms worked for several months to research laws and draft the legal guide: Baker Botts L.L.P. and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. ERS Group provided useful economic analysis of the impact of farmers' markets on rural and urban areas.

The central idea on which a farmers' market is founded is to offer an economic development tool to farmers, along with craftsmen, bakers, and other small producers, by providing them with a new customer base and business opportunity. At a farmers' market, the person who produced the food and the person who shipped it to the market are generally both the same person who is selling the product in the stall. Individual roadside vegetable stands are a rudimentary form of farmers' market, with just one stall and one farmer. While the food may be fresh and it might attract some drivers-by, it does not compare, either economically or socially, to the more organized and large-scale offerings of a farmers' market, to which consumers make weekly trips.

Economically, farmers' markets allow farmers to price their goods much lower than retailers can while

actually increasing their own profit. With no fees to middlemen other than the rental of the stall space at the market, what once went to multiple companies for processing and transportation can now be split between profits for the farmers and savings for the consumers. While the price may be lower than then what is available at grocery stores, the quality is frequently higher; this attracts both

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2006 Community Builder Awards

Texas C-BAR's Community Builder Awards recognize outstanding legal services to nonprofits in Texas. In making this year's awards, Texas C-BAR recognizes the extraordinary work by volunteers from two law firms and one corporate consulting firm to create a unique and important tool for economic development in Texas. The unique collaboration resulted in the publication of *Home Grown: Legal Guide to Starting a Nonprofit Farmers' Market in Texas*.

Law Firms: Baker Botts L.L.P.
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Corporation: ERS Group

Individual Awards: Christian Callens, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Kevin Jewell, ERS Group
Marc Viscuso, David Goodman & Madole, PC,
for work on Home Grown completed while at Baker Botts L.L.P.

UT School of Law Opens a Community Development Clinic in Partnership with Texas C-BAR

This fall, Texas C-BAR began partnering with the University of Texas at Austin School of Law to pilot a Community Development Clinic. This clinic is directed by Heather Way, Texas C-BAR's founder and previous executive director, and co-taught by Frances Leos Martinez, Texas C-BAR's current executive director. The Community Development Clinic, one of thirteen clinics held by the Law School, is the only clinic focused on transactional and business law. "This new clinic gives our students who are interested in business law a tremendous opportunity to develop their transactional lawyering skills," said Mechele Dickerson, UT Law Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. "While most of the clinical opportunities the law school provides focus on litigation, the Community Development Clinic will allow our students to hone their business law skills and at the same time help low-income communities with their

redevelopment efforts." Debbie Ramirez, Texas C-BAR Board Chair agrees that "the clinic is a wonderful way to introduce law students to pro bono transactional work and to develop a commitment to providing pro bono legal services to others in need

that we hope they will carry throughout their legal careers." Texas C-BAR volunteer attorneys are also participating in the Clinic, serving as clinic mentors and guest lecturers. For more information about the Clinic, please call (512) 374-2710.



Martinez (back row, left) and Way (far right) with clinic students on a tour of an East Austin community development project.



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individuals buying their household groceries and local restaurants buying for their business.

Generally held outside on a weekend morning, a farmers' market can provide a pleasant atmosphere for socializing as well as a meeting place and starting point for further community development. Some farmers' markets have community enrichment goals such as promoting environmental farming techniques, making nutritious food more readily available for low-income families, or teaching children about food production or nutrition. All farmers' markets better their community, though, whether intentionally or not, by attracting consumers and providing a place for economic development within the community. The social aspect of a farmers' market helps bind the shared community of farmers and consumers alike closer together. Farmers at a farmers' market get a chance to learn what the consumers want that could open up new avenues of development. The farmers also have the opportunity to compare produce and production techniques with each other. Since it's a social environment, the combination of farmers, consumers, and local businesses provides free, word-of-mouth advertising for both the farmers and the local businesses, while the consumers can discover new things about their own neighborhood.

These benefits to farmers, consumers, and most especially communities, have caused a flourishing of farmers' markets. Since 1970, the number of farmers' markets across the nation has increased by a multiple of 10, and half of that growth has happened in the last ten years. There are now well over 3,000 farmers' markets nationwide and at least 50 in the state of Texas.

For information on where to find a certified farmers' market in Texas, go to www.texascertifiedfarmersmarkets.com/.

Special Thanks to Texas

C-BAR's supporters:

Donors from 7/16/06 to 10/17/06

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Legal Resources Library Update

Texas C-BAR's *Home Grown: Legal Guide to Starting a Nonprofit Farmers' Market in Texas* is now available at www.texasbar.org. Thanks to Baker Botts L.L.P., Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and ERS Group for helping develop this resource.

2006/07 Legal Workshop Calendar

The following is a list of Texas C-BAR and LAMP's workshops scheduled for November 2006 through February 2007. 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.

Texas C-BAR Workshops

Employment Law for Nonprofits

January 10, 2007 Wichita Falls

This workshop is sponsored by the Nonprofit Management Center of Wichita Falls. Contact (940) 322-4961 or see www.nonprofitcenterwf.org for more information.

February 7, 2007 Brownsville

This workshop is sponsored by the UTB/TSC Center for Civic Engagement. Contact (956) 982-0143 or see www.civicengagement.com for more information.

LAMP Workshops

Legal Issues for Small Business Start-Ups

December 9, 2006 El Paso

This workshop is sponsored by the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Small Business Management Institute. For more information, contact Roque Segura of the SBDC at El Paso Community College: (915) 831-7743.

Employment Law for Small Business

January 23, 2007 Edinburg

This workshop, part of a special six part series of Legal Issue Workshops for Microentrepreneurs, is sponsored by the University of Texas Pan American. Workshops will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. For more information, contact Esperanza Perez of SBDC at UT Pan American: (956) 292-7535.

Texas C-BAR Welcomes New and Returning Attorney Volunteers

From 7/16/06 – 10/20/06

Carolyn Aiman, *Shell Oil Company*
Lisa Antes, *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
Paige Beach, *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Jonathan Blum, *Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP*
Richard Bohan, *Shell Oil Company*
Christian Callens, *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*
Denise Cheney, *Bickerstaff Heath Smiley Pollan Kever & McDaniel, L.L.P.*
Tyree Collier, *Jenkins & Gilchrist, L.L.P.*
Glyn Cook, *Shell Oil Company*
Brandy Copley, *King & Spalding LLP*
David Duncan, *ConocoPhillips*
Candice Frembling-Dykhuisen, *ExxonMobil*
Kari Grzych, *Patton Boggs LLP*
Sarah Jurgensen, *Vinson & Elkins LLP*
Amanda Lewis, *Burns Anderson Jury & Brenner, LLP*
Richard Lyon, *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
Troy Peterson, *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*
Debbie Ramirez, *Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, P.C.*
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Patricia Kathleen Wells, *AMD*
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Steven Wilson, *Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP*

UT School of Law Community Development Clinic:

Heather Way, *Supervising Attorney*
Ore Adeshina, *Student Attorney*
Mansoor Bharmal, *Student Attorney*
Matthew Last, *Student Attorney*
Michael Pancherz, *Student Attorney*
Justin Roberts, *Student Attorney*
Sheryl Sarytchoff, *Student Attorney*

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 succeed in transforming distressed neighborhoods into healthy 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 more than 70 law firms and corporations 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

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web: www.texasbar.org
email: info@texasbar.org
fax: (512) 447-3940
phone: (512) 374-2710 or (800) 369-9270, ext. 2710

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

