



Bulletin

Community Building with Attorney Resources • November 2003

Texas C-BAR Celebrates \$1.4 Million of Legal Services to Nonprofits *Honors a Certain "Brand" of Volunteer*

Strains of conjunto music and miniature cattle brands added to the local Austin flavor of Texas C-BAR's Third Annual Volunteer Recognition Block Party on October 15.

The party brought together lawyers, clients, and supporters from Austin, Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio in the Guadalupe Neighborhood, which has benefitted from Texas C-BAR's pro bono legal services program. Within sight of the celebration on East Cesar Chavez, guests could see new homes for rent and sale to low-income families and first-time homeowners built by the Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation (GNDC). Mario Renteria of the GNDC opened the program by gesturing to one of these homes, a nearly-completed green-and-white bungalow. "People from the neighborhood love living here and want to stay in the neighborhood. Our mission is to help these people buy houses that otherwise wouldn't get the opportunity," he said. He thanked Texas C-BAR for helping to fulfill that mission.

One of the evening's awardees, **Mark Mouritsen of Dell Inc.**, has been instrumental in helping GNDC obtain land and work with contractors to build these homes. Mark received a 2003 Community Builder Award for his excellent work with GNDC and in a Texas C-BAR-sponsored Community Counsel Partnership with Blackland CDC. As a Community Counsel Partner, Mark handled all of Blackland's transactional legal matters for a year.

Other individual awardees included **Jim Gordon of Winstead Sechrest & Minick PC**, a Fort Worth volunteer who has represented nine nonprofits; and **Morgan Sheinberg Warren of King & Spalding, LLP**, who has shown unprecedented leadership in the formation of tax-exempt nonprofit organizations.

Texas C-BAR Celebrates continued on page 2...



*From left to right: Mark Mouritsen of Dell Inc.; Denise Cheney of Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Keever & McDaniel, LLP; Genora Boykins of Reliant Resources, Inc.; Bryce Linsenmayer of Haynes and Boone, LLP; Morgan Sheinberg Warren of King & Spalding, LLP.
Not pictured: Jim Gordon of Winstead Sechrest & Minick PC.*

Community Builder Awards

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Large Firm: | Haynes and Boone, LLP |
| Mid-Sized Firm: | Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Keever & McDaniel, LLP |
| Corporation: | Reliant Resources, Inc. |
| Individual Awards: | James Gordon <i>Winstead Sechrest & Minick PC</i> Morgan Sheinberg Warren <i>King & Spalding, LLP</i> Mark Mouritsen <i>Dell Inc.</i> |

Texas C-BAR Celebrates, continued from page 1:



Texas C-BAR Director Heather K. Way delivers closing remarks.



Tim Sulak, Past Chair of the Texas Bar Foundation, talks about the Foundation's role in community building.



Little Sara enjoys herself at the celebration.



Johnny Degollado y Su Conjunto play for the crowd.

Cynthia Bast of Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP, Texas C-BAR's incoming 2004 Board Chair, presented the awards, which were shaped like miniature "C-BAR" cattle brands. The cattle brand awards were custom-designed by Bo McCarver, a long-time advocate for affordable housing in Austin.

Firms and corporations also received awards for their pro bono commitment over the past year to nonprofits helping low-income families. **Haynes and Boone, LLP**, received the award for large firm contribution to the business law pro bono program; **Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Keever & McDaniel, LLP**, was the mid-sized firm whose "large-sized" commitment earned them an award. **Reliant Resources, Inc.**, was also recognized for its leadership this year in taking both a variety of discrete legal matters and a Community Counsel Partnership with the Houston-based Urban Business Initiative, which helps small business entrepreneurs.

Tim Sulak, a Past Chair of the Texas Bar Foundation, spoke of the Foundation's role in launching Texas C-BAR and funding other legal nonprofits.

The day proved a fine one for celebrating the achievements that our attorney volunteers, board members, community supporters, and financial contributors have made possible. Texas C-BAR Director Heather K. Way closed the program with comments about Texas C-BAR's impact on the future. "Our children are engines of the future," she said, after commenting on her own experience as a first-time mother. "We must work to ensure that every child has a safe and decent place to live, access to health care, and educational opportunities." On Texas C-BAR's third anniversary, we celebrated the chance to create this future for children of low-income families across Texas, with the help of our friends and supporters. 🏡

Texas C-BAR Welcomes New and Returning Attorney Volunteers


July 16, 2003 - October 15, 2003

Roger Aksamit - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*
Mark Artlip - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Genora Boykins - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Brian Bradshaw - *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*
Kevin Cherry - *Cherry & Howell, LLP*
Allen Cummings - *Haynes and Boone, LLP*
John Donisi - *Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever, & McDaniel, LLP*
Katy Anne Drechsel - *Vinson & Elkins*
Michael Eaton - *Eaton, Deaguero & Bishop*
John Eikenburg - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*
Amy Shapiro Ferber - *Vinson & Elkins*
Adam Floyd - *Vinson & Elkins*
P. Wayne Garrison - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*
James Gordon - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*
Sheryl Gussett - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Frances Hamermesh - *Davis & Wilkerson, P.C.*
Cara Hinshaw - *Vinson & Elkins*
Wade Hoefling - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Hershell Howard - *Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP*
Brian Hurt - *Hughes & Luce, LLP*
Michael Jines - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Eric Kimball - *Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP*
Charles Kimbrough - *Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever, & McDaniel, LLP*
Matthew Larsen - *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Mike Lawson - *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Yvette Lopez - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Terry McDonald - *McGinnis, Lochridge & Kilgore L.L.P.*
Amanda McMillian - *Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP*
David Mendez - *Bickerstaff, Heath, Smiley, Pollan, Kever, & McDaniel, LLP*
Richard Morrow - *Locke Liddell & Sapp LLP*
David Muckerheide - *Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.*
Nathan Murphy - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Paula Narcisse - *ConocoPhillips*
Phillips Nazro - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Renn Neilson - *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Matt Newby - *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Erik Norris - *Haynes and Boone, LLP*
Mark Oberhauser
Melissa Plumlee - *Baker Botts L.L.P.*
Edmundo Ramirez - *Ellis, Koeneke & Ramirez*
W. Robert Shearer - *Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP*
Eden Sholeen - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*
S. Talmadge Singer - *Thompson & Knight LLP*
David Sladic - *Reliant Resources, Inc.*
Leah Stewart - *Vinson & Elkins*
Steven Tredennick - *Bracewell & Patterson, L.L.P.*
Marlen Whitley - *Clark, Thomas & Winters P.C.*
Ellen Witt - *Vinson & Elkins*
John Wittenberg - *Holland & Knight, LLP*


Special Thanks to Texas C-BAR Supporters

Texas C-BAR would like to thank our major third quarter donors: **HUD Rural Housing and Economic Development; Washington Mutual; the SBC Excelsator grant; Wells Fargo; the Enterprise Foundation; Baker Botts L.L.P.; Reliant Resources, Inc.; Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody; Haynes and Boone, LLP; Jackson Walker, LLP; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP; Weil, Gotshal & Manges, LLP; and Southwest Bank.** Other donors include: **Ben Vaughan, Will Dibrell, Wm. Terry Bray, Mary Keeney, John J. "Mike" McKetta, Pete Schenkkan, Roy Snodgrass, Steven Butler, and John Henneberger.**

Texas C-BAR is particularly excited to be the recipient of a new three-year, \$150,000 grant from the HUD Rural Housing and Economic Development program. This funding will enable Texas C-BAR to greatly extend its legal education and nonprofit outreach in the underserved rural communities of Texas, with a focus on the colonias along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The support of law firms, bar sections, corporations, banks, and individuals is critical to Texas C-BAR's mission to improve the quality of life in low-income communities. Building healthier communities for all Texans is a job that increasingly falls on the nonprofit sector, and Texas C-BAR would not be able to provide critical legal resources to these nonprofits without the investment of our financial supporters. The commitment of these firms and individuals to affordable housing, child care, after-school programs, and job training for the neediest Texans makes Texas C-BAR possible. 

Texas C-BAR Legal Resource Library Update

Check out the Child Care section of the online Legal Resource Library for new links useful to nonprofit child care centers, including accounting information, grant restrictions, state regulations, construction guidelines, and sample policies and procedures. There are 17 new links under Other Resources and several new links under Rural Community Development as well. Thanks to the SBC Foundation for its support of our Legal Resource Library. 

About Texas C-BAR

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (Texas C-BAR) is a statewide business 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 50 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:

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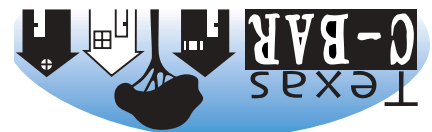
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