

THE AWA BRIEF

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3 JULY 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is here, and the AWA kicked it off with a fantastic meeting in June featuring some amazing musicians from the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra. Who needs Miller Outdoor Theatre when you can enjoy some wonderful chamber music in air-conditioned comfort in the beautiful offices of Haynes and Boone? Thank you to Pat Casey, former AWA President, who arranged this wonderful event and who generously underwrote this event herself so that our members had the opportunity to listen to this world-class orchestra, founded by the enthusiastic and talented Alecia Lawyer.

Summer fun continues with a performance of Agatha Christie's "Mousetrap" at the Alley Theatre, which has been organized by our Special Events Chair, Tanya Langford. A block of seats have been reserved for AWA members for \$21, and the performance will be on Thursday, July 22 at 7:30 p.m. In addition, our July meeting will be held on July 28 at the Jaguar Houston Central dealership at 7025 Old Katy Road, featuring Chris Tritico speaking about DWI Issues for the non-criminal practitioner. If you missed Chris' entertaining and informative speech last year at Ouisie's, now you have the opportunity to hear him speak this year. Don't miss it! He's awesome!

For most of us, summer brings back memories of summer vacation: no school, sleeping late, lazy days spent climbing trees or swimming with friends, eating watermelon, fireworks on the 4th of July, and counting the stars on a hot summer

night. Those carefree nights may seem like a distant memory now that we're adults with careers, husbands, children, or caring for aging parents. It's easy to get caught up in the burdens of our responsibilities and forget the joy that seemed to come so easily as children.



Did you know that the average child laughs 400 times a day, while the average woman laughs only 15 times per day? It's a shame because, as adults, we have even more to enjoy than children. Think about it! We worked for years educating ourselves and obtaining our law degrees, and now we enjoy the sense of accomplishment that achievement brings. Such achievement affords us opportunities that others do not have: we help immigrants stay in the United States so they can work or avoid torture by oppressive governments; we help families heal from divorce by crafting fair and equitable custody agreements so that children can grow up knowing *both* parents; and our membership in the AWA enables us to enjoy music, theatre, wine, and friendship. We already have accumulated years of joyful memories. And every day brings the opportunity for new adventures, smiles, and laughter. As E.E. Cummings once said, "The most wasted of all days is one without laughter." Laugh, my friends, laugh!

2010-2011 AWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AWA JUDICIAL ENDORSEMENTS	2
AWA AND ROCO	5
AWA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM	6
TIFFANY STAR-ASHLEE ROSS	7
CONVERSATION WITH JUDGE HINDE	8
TAKE A MEMBER TO LUNCH	8
FORMER AWA PRESIDENT UPDATE	9
AWA STUDENT/SUPREME COURT VICTORY	10
UPCOMING EVENTS	12

JUDICIAL ENDORSEMENTS FOR 2010 GENERAL ELECTION

The Association of Women Attorneys is pleased to announce that it has endorsed the following judicial candidates for the 2010 General Election:

SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS

Supreme Court of Texas, Place 3 – Debra Lehrmann (R)

Supreme Court of Texas, Place 9 – Eva Guzman (I-R)

COURTS OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 2 – Lawrence E. Meyers (I-R)

Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 6 – Michael E. Keasler (I-R)

HOUSTON COURTS OF APPEALS

First Court of Appeals, Chief Justice – No Endorsement

First Court of Appeals, Place 4 – Evelyn Keyes (I-R)

First Court of Appeals, Place 8 – Michael G. Massengale (I-R)

Fourteenth Court of Appeals, Place 2 – Sharon McCally (R)

Fourteenth Court of Appeals, Place 5 – Walter Kronzer (D)

Fourteenth Court of Appeals, Place 9 – Tracy Elizabeth Christopher (R)

HARRIS COUNTY CIVIL DISTRICT COURTS

55th Civil District Court – Dion Ramos (I-D)

113th Civil District Court – Christina Bryan (D)

157th Civil District Court – Randy Wilson (I-R)

189th Civil District Court – No Endorsement

190th Civil District Court – Patricia Kerrigan (I-R)

234th Civil District Court – Dual Endorsement for Tanner Garth (D) & Reece Rondon (I-R)

269th Civil District Court – Katie Kennedy (D)

270th Civil District Court – Brent Gamble (I-R)

281st Civil District Court – Donna Roth (D)

295th Civil District Court – Caroline E. Baker (I-R)

HARRIS COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURTS

180th Criminal District Court – Marc Brown (R)

182nd Criminal District Court – Jeannine Barr (I-R)

183rd Criminal District Court – Vanessa Velasquez (I-R)

* Continued on page 3.

JUDICIAL ENDORSEMENTS FOR 2010 GENERAL ELECTION—CONTINUED**HARRIS COUNTY CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURTS (Continued)**

184th Criminal District Court – Dual Endorsement for Jay W. Burnett (D) & Jan Krockner (I-R)

185th Criminal District Court – Susan Brown (I-R)

208th Criminal District Court – Loretta Johnson Muldrow (D)

209th Criminal District Court – Michael McSpadden (I-R)

228th Criminal District Court – Marc Carter (I-R)

230th Criminal District Court – Belinda Hill (I-R)

232nd Criminal District Court – Greg Glass (D)

248th Criminal District Court – Joan Campbell (I-R)

262nd Criminal District Court – Denise Bradley (R)

263rd Criminal District Court – Alvin Nunnery (D)

HARRIS COUNTY FAMILY LAW DISTRICT COURTS

245th Family Law District Court – Roy L. Moore (R)

246th Family Law District Court – Sherri Cothrun (D)

247th Family Law District Court – No Endorsement

257th Family Law District Court – Judy Warne (I-R)

280th Family Law District Court –Kathy Vossler (D)

308th Family Law District Court – Bruce Kessler (D)

309th Family Law District Court – Bill Rice (D)

310th Family Law District Court –Lisa Millard (I-R)

311th Family Law District Court – Deborah Wright (D)

312th Family Law District Court – the AWA will vote on endorsements in this race at a later date.

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE DISTRICT COURTS

313th Juvenile District Court – Natalie Oakes (D)

314th Juvenile District Court – David Longoria (D)

315th Juvenile District Court – Keith Branch (D)

HARRIS COUNTY CIVIL COURTS AT LAW

Civil Court at Law No. 1 – R. Jack Cagle (I-R)

Civil Court at Law No. 2 – Cheryl Elliott Thornton (D)

Civil Court at Law No. 3 – Damon Crenshaw (D)

Civil Court at Law No. 4 – Bruce Mosier (D)

* Continued on page 4.

JUDICIAL ENDORSEMENTS FOR 2010 GENERAL ELECTION—CONTINUED**HARRIS COUNTY CRIMINAL COURTS AT LAW**

- Criminal Court at Law No. 1 – Paula Goodhart (R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 2 – Mary Connealy Acosta (D)
Criminal Court at Law No. 3 – Judith Snively (D)
Criminal Court at Law No. 4 – John Clinton (R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 5 – Margaret Stewart Harris (I-R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 6 – Larry Standley (I-R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 7 – Pam Derbyshire (I-R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 8 – Jay Karahan (I-R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 9 – Juanita Jackson Barner (D)
Criminal Court at Law No. 10 – Sherman Ross (I-R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 11 – Diane Bull (I-R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 12 – Robin Brown (I-R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 13 – Don Smyth (R)
Criminal Court at Law No. 14 – Lee Harper Wilson (D)
Criminal Court at Law No. 15 – Jean Spradling Hughes (I-R)

HARRIS COUNTY PROBATE COURTS

- Probate Court No. 1 – Kathleen Stone (I-D)
Probate Court No. 2 – Joellen Snow (D)
Probate Court No. 3 – No Endorsement
Probate Court No. 4 – Tammy Manning (D)

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS

- Precinct 2, Place 2 – George Risner (I-D)

The Association of Women Attorneys' judicial endorsement process is a thorough one. A committee comprised of 10 Houston attorneys, from a broad range of practice areas, interviews candidates, performs independent research, and reviews questionnaires submitted by candidates. The committee makes its recommendations to the AWA membership, and the AWA membership discusses and votes on the committee's recommendations. Please find more information on our website, www.awahouston.com.

*Please note that the AWA does not make endorsements in uncontested races.

AWA AND ROCO MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER

By Patricia Casey, Former AWA President

At our meeting on June 23, 2010, AWA introduced ROCO (www.rocohouston.org) to our members to warm up the audience for an outstanding CLE program by Jack Emmott and Mary Galligan, who educated us about probate, property, and family law issues for artists.

ROCO boasts that they are the most fun you can have with serious music. I think all those in attendance would agree. Three musicians from ROCO performed for us at Haynes and Boone, LLP. Alecia Lawyer, the founder of ROCO, played the oboe and delighted us, not only with her music, but also with her commentary on classical music, copyright issues, and interesting information about the oboe. Jennifer Keeney played the flute, and Maiko Sasaki played the clarinet. ROCO's music librarian, Jason Stephens, was also on hand to answer questions about how ROCO obtains sheet music for its performances.

ROCO played four pieces for us and we wanted to listen to their beautiful music all night long. Fortunately, we can hear ROCO again at their free recitals, their wine and music tasting events, and their concerts. **All AWA members will receive a discount of 20% off the ROCO season subscription.** You can enjoy 3 concerts for just \$60. To take advantage of the ROCO offer, members can follow the instructions at http://www.rocohouston.org/tickets_AWA.html.

Jack Emmott summed it up eloquently when he reminded us that music is another way we communicate. We are fortunate as attorneys to have the opportunity to use our communication skills. We were also fortunate to have the opportunity to listen to the fine ROCO musicians who communicated to us through their music.



AWA MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

By Kimberly Carter, AWA Membership Chair

On May 19th, 2010, AWA board member Judge Jack "Cactus" Cagle held a lunch meeting in his chambers to kick off the AWA Mentorship Program whereby AWA members will act as mentors to Houston-area law students. AWA President Joanne Ericksen, AWA President-Elect Laura Gibson, and AWA Membership Chair Kimberly Carter joined Judge Cagle in meeting with the law students. The law students had wide-ranging concerns from the gender-related challenges still faced by women in the law to the burden of student-loan debt that most of them are carrying.

Understandably, the students were particularly interested in the steps they need to take to get their legal careers off on the right foot. The AWA members discussed the importance of finding a job that would allow a new attorney to develop valuable, hands-on experience. The AWA members advised the students to look for and accept the types of jobs that would allow them to get their feet wet even if such jobs were not the most lucrative. Judge Cagle shared that he had begun his legal career by working for a firm that allowed him, as a new attorney, to cut his teeth trying cases in which the chance of success was very low. That experience was contrasted with that of big-firm lawyers who sometimes work for five years before receiving courtroom experience. Work/life balance was another area of

concern for the law students who were encouraged by some to set boundaries in their work life just as they would in their personal life.

Judge Cagle asked the law students what AWA could do to support them and their legal careers. The law students were most interested in being given the opportunity to network with lawyers who had already established successful careers. Several law students expressed that their association with AWA had already been beneficial for them. In fact, one law student received a summer internship opportunity through AWA. She met Judge Kathleen S. Stone of Harris County Probate Court No. 1 at the last AWA Law Student Reception, and Judge Stone offered her an opportunity to intern at the probate court, which the law student excitedly accepted.

Judge Cagle invited all of the law students to visit his court over the summer to get a feel for courtroom proceedings. He further wet the students' appetites for courtroom life by offering them his special, "rock star" tour of the courthouse in which he took them into the courthouse through the judges' entrance and allowed them to try on his robes. All in all, both the AWA members and the law students thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. If you are interested in participating in the AWA Mentorship Program, please contact Judge Cagle at www.judgecagle@aol.com.



TIFFANY STAR — ASHLEE ROSS

By Lisa Isgitt

As all recipients of the Tiffany Star will agree, it's hard to say whether it is more difficult to choose the next honoree from such a terrific group of women or stop wearing the beautiful pin. We have to remember that the Tiffany Star is like the Stanley Cup. The world champion hockey team only gets to keep the cup until the next championship game. Most importantly, the temporary honor reminds us that we do not rest on our laurels. We strive to grow and serve the legal community in bigger and better ways.

Each quarter, the prior Tiffany Star award winner selects the next member who exemplifies the reasons why the AWA is the premier women's legal organization in Houston. In June, it was given to a woman who has crossed the paths of nearly everyone involved with the AWA.

We are all grateful for Ashlee Ross' tremendously positive attitude. Ashlee finds the good in everyone and everything. Her attitude is truly contagious, and everyone is delighted to have the fortune to work with her. Ashlee is always willing to help; you merely have to ask her.

Ashlee has done a tremendous service as a board member for the AWA and a trustee for the AWA Foundation in addition to advocating for student mentoring and working on the scholarship committee. Ashlee's assistance with the Foundation continued long after her term ended as she was eager to assist with fundraising efforts.



Ashlee is a graduate of Baylor University and South Texas College of Law. She was admitted to the Texas Bar in 2005. Ashlee is an attorney for Brown, Fowler & Alsup, where she focuses on residential real estate and mortgage lending.

Ashlee is also involved with Attorneys in Commercial Real Estate, the Baylor University Women's Association of Houston, and the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

If you thought about becoming more involved with the AWA, please talk to Ashlee. She is a fantastic example of all that makes the AWA truly great.

Congratulations Ashlee!

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE: Deborah Lawson, Shannon Powers, Barbara Gardner, Carol Keough, Trisha Keough, Joanne Ericksen, Janet Beck, Johnetta Lang, Andrea Tran, Chantal Rappi, Rachel Greene, Caroline Marciano, Pamela Powell, Teri Walter, Heather Asselin, Alia Vinson, Martha Failing, Lynne Clarke, Denise Kurt, Lisa Rossmiller, Deana Freeman, Jenn Rustay, Patricia Casey, Monica Vaughan, Paige Sarff, Karen Hurwitz, Teresa Waldrop, Hon. Eva Guzman, Susan Myres, Jeannine Flynn, Janiece Horn, Janet Schafer, Terry Elizondo, Barbara Runge, Janice Pardue, Cameron Vann, Sally Andrews, Ellen Shelton, Kathleen Gasner, Elizabeth Asher, Brenda Whitehead, Karen Lister Conticello, Katherine Yzaguirre, and Lisa Isgitt.

A CONVERSATION WITH JUDGE HINDE

By Jenn Rustay

Intellectual curiosity, a strong sense of ethics, and a heart for service led Judge Dan Hinde to his study of the law and ultimately, to the bench. Those same traits characterize the manner in which he serves the citizens of Harris County as Judge of the 269th Civil District Court.

Although Judge Hinde clearly enjoys his work as a judge and seems naturally suited to that role, it was not the career path he set his sights on early. Judge Hinde grew up in the Houston area where his tight-knit family, like so many Houston families during the oil bust time of the 1980s, worked together to get through lean years. He remembers times that the family lived off his mother's salary as a school teacher while his father looked for whatever work was available. He also remembers that his family took pride that, with careful planning, every bill was paid. Those years left him with a sense of the value of money, hard work, and family. He also came into contact with two teachers who shaped his later life – one band director who nurtured his

love of music and taught leadership, and an English teacher who pushed him and the entire class to explore literature and to engage as writers.

When deciding upon a college, Judge Hinde's intellectual curiosity about music compelled him to select a college in which he could work toward his dream of being the director of the New York Philharmonic. After a year of study, he found that he really enjoyed music theory rather than performance (and also, he admits with a wry grin, he came to terms with the fact that an orchestra – especially the best in the world – was unlikely to appoint a saxophone player as its director). So, realizing the surprising number of similarities between music theory and math theory, he decided to pursue a career in math. Ever the pragmatist, he opted for engineering at Texas A&M. Judge Hinde's curiosity made him select an area of study he found fascinating---electrical engineering with an emphasis on optics. Judge Hinde forged lifetime friendships in the many

*Continued on page 11.

TAKE A MEMBER TO LUNCH—PAMELA ENGLAND

By Joanne M. Ericksen, AWA President

I recently had lunch with AWA member Pamela England at Sabine River Café located in the Carillon Shopping Center, 10001 Westheimer, near Gessner. Sabine River Café offers comfort food with a kick. Their Louisiana-Texas fusion menu selection is wide and varied, and includes seafood, salads, poor boys, soups, and steak. In addition, lunch portions are generous and modestly priced at \$7-10.

Pamela chose the grilled pork chops with mashed potatoes and green beans. The pork chop was bathed in a chipotle glaze and perfectly cooked. Pamela really enjoyed it. I had the meat loaf, with mashed potatoes and green beans. I'm normally not a big fan of meat loaf, but Sabine River's version is delicious: it is very moist and flavorful and is topped with a slightly spicy Cajun tomato sauce. The green beans were cooked al dente and coated with just the right amount of garlic and butter. Service was friendly and unobtrusive, and our waiter kept our iced tea glasses full.

The delicious food of Sabine River Café was the perfect accompaniment to Pamela's engaging company.

Pamela is a fellow St. Mary's University School of Law alumni and graduated in 2008. Before law school she worked for a criminal defense attorney in Georgia for 15 years and really enjoyed it. Pamela and I swapped stories about our professors at St. Mary's as well as our experience being an "older" student who worked extensively before entering law school.

Since graduation, Pamela has been working for Michael P. Fleming & Associates. Her practice focuses on personal injury, family law, and commercial litigation. Pamela truly enjoys practicing law, and her enthusiasm for our chosen profession is refreshing. I really enjoyed talking and laughing with Pamela at lunch. She has a wicked wit that no doubt comes in handy in the courtroom, as well as an intense focus that I'm sure her clients appreciate when they come to her for help.

Be sure to check out Sabine River Café the next time you're in the Westchase area; it's delicious. But more importantly, be sure to seek out Pamela England at the next AWA event; she's a wonderful person to get to know!

FORMER AWA PRESIDENT UPDATE-ELIZABETH ASHER

By Lorie M. Robinson

I had the pleasure of sitting down with Elizabeth Asher, former President of the Association of Women Attorneys (1992 – 1993) in June. On a mission to find out what she's been up to since her involvement in AWA, I quickly learned that her commitment to and involvement in the community is as strong as ever.

Elizabeth's experience and skill in the practice of law has earned her significant accreditation and respect among her peers. She's been practicing law in the Houston area for over 23 years, with a specialization in family law. While President of AWA, she was also a co-founder of our charitable foundation – an arm of AWA committed to providing scholarships to students who attend local, Houston-area law schools.

Since her AWA presidency, she continues to be active in the legal community, co-founding and serving as the first elected chair of the Alliance of Houston Collaborative Family Law Attorneys and holding a variety of other

leadership roles in professional organizations including: Houston Volunteer Lawyers, the Houston Bar Association, and the Federation of Houston Professional Women. You'll also be glad to know that she still remains active in the AWA.

Despite her impressive track record, years of experience, and lengthy list of accomplishments and involvement, when you sit down with Elizabeth, you learn that her passion for law takes a back seat to her love for animals.

In 2006, she helped establish and ultimately became the Executive Director of Rescue Bank - a "food bank" for animal shelters. Rescue Bank is a non-profit volunteer organization that supports the animal welfare community with desperately needed supplies and services. Employing a typical "food bank" model, Rescue Bank operates as a collection and re-distribution point for surplus pet supplies, equipment, and donations. Volunteers work to relieve area

*Continued on page 10.

AWA ATTORNEY EARNS TOP RECOGNITION

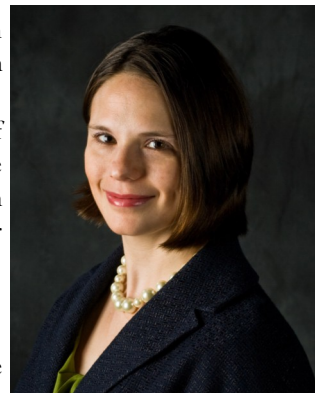
Houston Elder Law Attorney Christina Leshar has earned a prominent spot among top attorneys in the 2010 Texas Rising Stars list published in the April 2010 issue of TEXAS MONTHLY, Texas Super Lawyers - Rising Stars Edition.

Texas Super Lawyers is a listing of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Attorneys featured as Texas Rising Stars are selected in a rigorous multi-phase selection process that includes over 20,000 nominations cast by members of the Texas Bar, evaluations by practice area blue ribbon review panels, and independent research on each candidate.

"It is an honor to be selected by your peers as one of the top lawyers in the state," says Ms. Leshar. "I am flattered that attorneys recognize the good work this firm does for its clients." Christina Leshar has combined her background in social work and law to provide comprehensive long-term care planning for older adults and for children with special needs. Christina earned a

degree in social work from Texas State University with high honors and a J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center. She routinely advises clients on Medicaid planning, Miller trusts, special needs trusts, veterans' benefits, wills, trusts, powers of attorney, guardianship, and estate administration. Prior to becoming an elder and special needs attorney, she was a caregiver for her grandfather who suffered from dementia.

Ms. Leshar is a frequent speaker to attorneys and the general public including conferences, educational organizations, churches, corporate and civic groups. Speaking topics include Miller trusts, guardianship, problems of spousal impoverishment, arranging for long-term care, and retirement living.



AWA STUDENT MEMBER IS INSTRUMENTAL IN SUPREME COURT VICTORY

By Rebecca Thai, AWA Newsletter Editor

Charlotte Simon, a 26-year-old, University of Houston law student jumped at the opportunity to work on a United States Supreme Court immigration case when she received an email from the University of Houston Law School's law clinic asking for students' help in conducting legal research for the brief.

The case involved Jose Carachuri, the law school's client and a legal immigrant from Mexico, who was threatened with deportation for a second misdemeanor drug charge. The question before the Supreme Court was whether a second misdemeanor conviction is considered an aggravated

felony under immigration law. If so, Carachuri would have been subject to deportation. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously in Carachuri's favor.

Charlotte, an Austin native, was particularly interested in working on this immigration case because her husband, an immigration attorney, migrated from Chile to the United States. The couple met when Charlotte was an undergraduate student studying abroad in Chile.

There are no limits to what AWA members can accomplish, whether the member is a seasoned attorney or just starting her career.

FORMER AWA PRESIDENT UPDATE-ELIZABETH ASHER(CONTINUED)

*Continued from page 9.

rescue groups and assist with one of their most difficult tasks – identifying and soliciting donors for every day supplies that keep animals healthy. When asked how she finds time to manage her law practice along with a growing non-profit, she laughs and claims that she's learned a lot about time management and alludes to a desire to be able to pursue her work with Rescue Bank full-time.

Since the creation of Rescue Bank in 2006, the organization has received and delivered over one million pounds of pet food - enough to feed about 6,000 pets! Elizabeth's work has enabled many individuals who rescue animals to strategically access donated funds and supplies for rescue efforts. And as a result of her time and dedication, Rescue Bank now maintains a network of over 73 registered groups that rely on Rescue Bank and its contributors for veterinary facilities and resources that improve their standard of care. Currently, Rescue Bank is expanding its efforts to open new branches in Louisiana.

An advocate and activist, Elizabeth's work has not gone unnoticed. In 2008, she was selected as a recipient of the prestigious "Mayor's Volunteer Houston

Award" for her volunteer work with Rescue Bank. The award honors individuals who perform remarkable volunteer work in the Houston area. Additionally, she currently serves as chair-elect on the Houston Bar Association's Animal Law Section – sponsoring monthly meetings to raise awareness and educate the legal community about issues that affect animals and their wellbeing. The group educates others through continuing legal education presentations, networking opportunities, and the publication and distribution of promotional materials. The section also co-sponsors a witness-support dog program in partnership with the Harris County District Attorney's Office named, "Paw and Order: SDU (Special Dog Unit)." Elizabeth hopes to utilize her position on the Animal Law Section of the HBA to advocate the inclusion of animals into the Good Samaritan Act and legislate tax benefits associated with charitable pet food and supply donations.

It was a pleasure to sit down with Elizabeth and learn about her legal career and investment in our community - even years after her service as AWA President. We are fortunate to walk in her footsteps, and we each benefit from the generosity of time, her can-do spirit, inspiring attitude, and approach to life.

A CONVERSATION WITH JUDGE HINDE (CONTINUED)

*Continued from page 8.

activities in which he took part at A&M. Outside of the school year, when his summer internships as an electrical engineering student saw him writing and researching more than doing applied math, Judge Hinde decided he did not want to pursue a career in engineering. He was, however, curious about law.

After graduating from Texas A&M with academic honors, Judge Hinde decided to study law. Although he was accepted at the University of Texas, he vacillated about whether to attend UT until his eye caught the first organization among the student clubs: the Aggie Law Students. It was then he knew he would be fine. Judge Hinde studied under Professors Mike Tigar and Charles Alan Wright. He took Professor Wright's famous Supreme Court seminar, where he assumed the role of Justice Scalia. He also honed his writing as an articles editor on the Texas Law Review. During law school, he worked as an intern for United States Magistrate Judge Stephen Capelle. After graduating with honors, Judge Hinde's "judicial education" continued for the next two years during his clerkship with Houston's own United States District Judge Sim Lake. Judge Hinde found another valuable mentor in Judge Lake, whose devotion to his family, judicial temperament, patience, and judicial philosophy were ideals Judge Hinde sought to make his own. Judge Hinde remembers vividly that Judge Lake taught clerks that all they needed to know as lawyers they could learn in the Army Field Manual: "prior planning prevents poor performance." Judge Hinde said he saw Judge Lake model respect for each lawyer and each case, and Judge Hinde tries in all that he does to follow his mentor.

At the end of his two year clerkship, Judge Hinde accepted a job with a lawyer whose career and firm were impressive. What Judge Hinde found impressive was this lawyer's prominently displayed picture of his middle school daughter's basketball team that the lawyer took the time to coach. The lawyer, Gib Walton, hired Judge Hinde to work at Vinson & Elkins, where Judge Hinde found another mentor

in Mr. Walton. Mr. Walton would go on to become the President of the State Bar of Texas, but even then, Judge Hinde saw his mentor's unwavering commitment to his family and his children – a lesson Judge Hinde took to heart. Judge Hinde loved the interesting caseload he had at Vinson & Elkins and especially enjoyed his pro bono work. When an opportunity arose to join Steele & Sturm, Judge Hinde jumped at the chance to get more time in the courtroom. Judge Hinde found the courtroom exciting.

Other exciting events were also going on in Judge Hinde's life. He had attended First Presbyterian Church since he moved back to Houston after law school. But one Sunday, between Sunday School and church, in front of the church nursery, he got the nerve up to ask another church member, Rosanna, to dinner (she argues he should have asked sooner – he says she was always with friends – and no impartial jurist has yet resolved the matter). Roughly two years later, in the same busy site outside the church nursery, he asked her to be his wife. In the years that followed, the nursery became even more important to them, as they welcomed their son David, then daughter Anne, to their family.

In 2008, Judge Hinde was appointed to the 269th Civil District Court, and he readily accepted. Since that time, he has striven to create a court in which formality is observed – because the litigants, and the jurors, deserve to know that the matter before the Court is taken seriously. He compiled a procedures manual for the court which can be found as part of the Harris County District Courts website. He asks that all litigants review and follow the manual. He also asks that all litigants remember a lesson he learned early as a lawyer: always make it as easy as possible for the court to rule in your favor. He also notes that in polling jurors about what made lawyers effective, they consistently identify problems with lawyers who are disorganized or repetitive. He urges lawyers – for the sake of their cases – to listen to these words from the jurors he has seen in his court.



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If you need to update your
membership information, please
email **Linhuyen Pham** at
linhuyenp@yahoo.com.

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Joanne M. Ericksen, AWA President, has launched The Ericksen Law Firm. The firm focuses on corporate formations, commercial litigation, and collections.

Lynette Fons, AWA board member and Secretary, was recently appointed as First Assistant City Attorney for the City of Houston.

Shannon Powers, AWA board member, joined Petroleum Geo-Services as in-house counsel. Shannon practices in the area of intellectual property law, including handling patents and other intellectual property issues related to subsea exploration.

Mary Ann Ibrahim has joined Baker Hughes Incorporated as in-house counsel.

AWA members **Heather Asselin** and **Christina Leshner** were named to the list of 2010 Super Lawyers Rising Stars. Heather practices business litigation, and Christina practices elder law.

The AWA is now on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/awahoustonfan

Have something you'd like to share with the AWA members? E-mail Rebecca Thai at rthai@IntlCorpCompliance.com with your special announcement!

DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING EVENTS...

July 22, 2010, 6:00 p.m.: AWA General Membership Meeting at the Jaguar Houston Central dealership at 7025 Old Katy Road. Chris Tritico will speak about DWI Issues for the non-criminal practitioner. If you missed Chris' entertaining and informative speech last year, now you have the opportunity to hear him speak this year. No charge for AWA members; \$15 for non-AWA members. To RSVP or for more information, visit www.awahouston.com or email Stacy Grant at sgrant@ogblh.com.

August 19, 2010: AWA Book Club. Please join the AWA book club for an evening of great conversation. At our next meeting we will discuss My Antonia by Willa Cather. To RSVP for future meetings or for more information, please contact Lisa Isgitt at lisgitt@isgitt-law.com.

August 25, 2010, 6:00 p.m.: AWA General Membership Meeting at Polo's Restaurant at 3800 Southwest Freeway. Cheri Duncan, "From Michelangelo to Michael DeBakey: The Art and Science of Effective Legal Writing." No charge for AWA members; \$15 for non-AWA members. To RSVP or for more information, visit www.awahouston.com or email Stacy Grant at sgrant@ogblh.com.

You are also invited to attend the following events which are not sponsored by the AWA:

July 21, 2010, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.: State Bar of Texas Webcast-How the Advertising Rules Intersect with Social Networking Sites. As new technologies evolve, the advertising rules play an important role in the dissemination of information regarding an attorney's legal services. Speakers: AWA President-Elect Laura Gibson, Ogden, Gibson, Brooks & Longoria, L.L.P. and Director, Advertising Review Gene Major, State Bar of Texas. Registration fee \$85. To register or to learn more go to www.TexasBarCLE.com.

July 2010: Volunteers Needed to Give U.S. Vets Legal Advice. The Houston Bar Association is seeking volunteer attorneys to staff the Michael E. DeBakey VA Legal Clinic on Friday, July 23, 2010. The clinic will be held from 2PM to 5PM at the Michael E. DeBakey Medical Center at 2002 Holcombe Blvd. No special training is required and HVLP Veterans Specialists will be present to assist volunteers. Contact Ashley Steinger of the HBA at 713-759-1133 or ashleyg@hba.org to get additional information.