THE SUMMONS

NOVEMBER 2018 EDITION

Monthly newsletter of the Hidalgo County Bar Association



Celebrating Our



Our President's Message

Dear HCBA Members.

November is National Adoption Month and I'm happy to say that the HCBF and Women's Bar Section's "Heart Gallery of Hidalgo County" Grand Opening, featuring over 20 children ready to be adopted, was a wonderful success. The Heart Gallery kicked off at BBVA Compass where over a hundred guests joined us for Hors d'eourves, wine and listened to some heartwarming stories from adoptive families. The Women's Bar Section did an amazing job of soliciting "Changing the



World of Children" sponsors to help defray the adoption costs for several families. Thank you to the members of our Women's Bar Section, Ms. Veronica Gonzalez, and our sponsors!

This month we also held our annual Give and Win contest that brought in 500 bags of groceries and money to purchase 50 gift cards that were handed out to some very happy families who joined us at LUPE in San Juan. Congratulations to Roerig, Oliveira, & Fisher, LLP and Palacios, Garza & Thompson, P.C., winners of the Give and Win contest helping to collect close to 250 bags. Many of our board members had the opportunity to personally pass out the bags of food and were greeted by some very wonderful and grateful people. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the Hidalgo County Bar Foundation and the families in need.

I must admit that our events like the Heart Gallery of Hidalgo County and our Fiesta de Gracias are probably one of the best parts of serving as your HCBA/HCBF President. Together we can accomplish so much good of giving back to the people in the communities we serve. Please continue supporting HCBA and HCBF by keeping your HCBA membership current.

Mark your calendars: we have some great events coming up that you will not want to miss:

- The Black Robe Reception at Plains Capital Bank on Thursday, December 13, 2018
- Bill of Rights: HCBA Criminal Law Conference at Cimarron Country Club on Friday, January 25, 2019 from 8 am to 5 pm.
- Hockema Civil Law Section Conference at Renaissance Casa de Palmas in McAllen on Thursday, April 11, 2019
- Board Elections in May 2019

Thank you for your support and please help us keep our Association growing and thriving.

Sincerely, Luis Cardenas, President

NATIONAL PRO BONO WEEK CELEBRATED OCTOBER 21-27, 2018

The American Bar Association's National Pro Bono Week is an opportunity to celebrate the difference lawyers make in communities. The Hidalgo County Bar Association, in partnership with Texas RioGrande Legal Aid (TRLA), coordinated their pro bono activities for the week by planning and scheduling a collaborate effort. That effort is called the Community Justice Program (CJP) which holds bi-monthly clinics and held one on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, during this year's National Pro Bono Week.



The CJP was a great success with several cases placed that night along with several others finalized by pro bono attorneys. This is a result of applying the lessons learned from the partnership including:

- 1. Effective recruitment of volunteer attorneys;
- 2. Assembling community support for pro bono and thereby increase legal services to the poor;
- 3. Developing lasting, collaborative relationships; and
- 4. Recognizing the pro bono efforts of Hidalgo County lawyers.

Taking from the lessons learned, we would like to acknowledge the following attorney volunteers who joined us during National Pro Bono Week: Mikson Ehimika, Dulce Hernandez, Natasha Martinez, Eddie Rendon and Ricardo Gonzalez. We also want to thank the staff of the 275th Judicial Court and the Hidalgo County District Clerk's Office who volunteered their services to assist the attorneys at the CJP.

We would also like to take this time to acknowledge a long-time supporter of pro bono efforts in Hidalgo County, Judge Juan Partida of the 275th Judicial District Court. Long before there was a National Pro Bono Week celebration or even a CJP, Judge Partida has been someone who TRLA can always count on to support our pro bono efforts. For every CJP clinic he made sure to set aside his courtroom and jury room so both volunteers and clients could meet to discuss their cases. The CJP exists because of the efforts of many volunteers but especially because of Judge Partida's. As is his demeanor, he committed himself to pro bono work without much fanfare or publicity. So as he prepares to leave the bench this month, we take the time to offer a well-deserved "thank you" for all he has done for access to justice in Hidalgo County.

If you want to ensure the continued success of the CJP, and like Judge Partida make that a part of your professional legacy, we encourage you to participate. To sign up as a volunteer, please contact Martha Hernandez, Legal Clinic Coordinator, at (956) 393-6240 or by email at mhernandez@trla.org. You may also register at http://bit.ly/TRLAVolunteer and we will contact you.

Hidalgo County Bar Association Cordially Invites You To Our

27th Annual Black Robe Reception

Thursday, December 13, 2018 5:30 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

Hosted & Underwritten by:



Wealth Management & Trust (Plains Capital Bank Lobby) 7201 N. 10th Street McAllen, TX 78501

Please bring an unwrapped toy to go towards this year's HCBA Toy Drive

You can RSVP with Cynthia Guerra or Abraham Garcia (956)380-1691 or at www.hidalgobar.org



Sponsored in part by: THE HIDALGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

(8.50 hours CLE, including 2.5 hours of Ethics)

Friday, January 25, 2019 at Club at Cimarron–Mission

oct:

\$150.00 HCBA Criminal Law Section Members \$175.00-HCBA Members \$200.00-Non Members

Agenda:

| 7:30 8:00 8:10 8:45 9:20 9:50 | (.35) (.35) (.30) (.30) | Registration Welcoming Remarks Duty to Investigate Winning at Pretrial Crimmigration Fourth Amendment | Speaker: Lennard Whittaker Speaker: Rubio Salinas & Patrick Kennedy Speaker: Miriam Ayala Speaker: Israel Ramon |
|--|--|--|--|
| 10:20 10:30 10:55 11:25 11:50 12:10 | (.25) (.30) (.25) (.20) (.15) | Break Creative Trial Work Your 1st Criminal Appeal Court's Charge for Defense Duties before Sentencing Best Civil Defense | Speaker: Jaime Aleman Speaker: Brandy Wingate Voss Speaker: Larry Warner Speaker: Victoria Guerra Speaker: Joseph A. Connors III |
| 12:25 12:40 1:25 1:55 2:10 2:20 | (.45) (.30) (.15) (.10) (.35) | Your Break for lunch Sex Offender Registration Ethics E-Library Clerks Helping Bar Self-Defense: Wellness | Speaker: Catherine Burnett Speaker: Rey Merino Speaker: Jose Ozuna Speaker: Jason Rohr@co.hidalgo.tx.us Speaker: Jodi Goodwin |
| 2:55 3:05 3:25 3:45 4:15 4:35 5:05 | (.20) (.20) (.30) (.20) (.35) (.05) | Break Public Defender's Roles Evidence Rule 404(b) Fifth Amendment Forfeiture Defense District Attorney's Policies Closing Remarks | Speaker: Jimmy Gonzalez Speaker: Catherine Burnett Speaker: O. Rene Flores Speaker: Santos Maldonado Speaker: Ricardo Rodriguez, DA Speaker: Rey Merino |
| | | | |

For more information please contact:

HCBA Office 323 W Cano Street Suite 100, Edinburg, TX 78539 956.380.1691 www.hidalgobar.org



Save the Date

2019 HCBA DAVID H. HOCKEMA CIVIL LAW CONFERENCE

8.0 Hours CLE, Including 2.5 Ethics Hours of CLE

Thursday, April 11, 2019

7:30 am Registration

Casa de Palmas Renaissance in McAllen

Presented by:



Thank You to our Heart Gallery Sponsors!



THE WOMEN'S BAR SECTION & THE HIDALGO COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

Proudly announce the opening of the 10th Annual

Heart Gallery of Hidalgo County

The purpose of the **HEART GALLERY OF HIDALGO COUNTY** is to promote awareness, understanding, and **ADOPTION** of children in the foster care program. The Heart Gallery accomplishes this by coordinating a traveling photographic exhibit designed to increase the number of adoptive families for children needing homes in our South Texas community. This year, the Heart Gallery exhibit will include twenty portraits of children and/or sibling groups currently available for adoption in the South Texas area.

Grand Opening - Open to the Public

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

BBVA Compass 3900 North 10th St., McAllen, TX 78501 (Nolana Entrance)

Exhibit Location

BBVA Compass – 3900 N. 10th St., McAllen

November 13-17, 2018

IMAS

November 18-23, 2018

First Baptist Church – Edinburg November 24 – December 5, 2018

Plains Capital Bank Trenton December 6 – 13, 2018









Changing the World of Children
Allan, Nava & Glander PLLC
Women and the LawState Bar of Texas
Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez LLP
w Office of Rene Castellanos Gue

Law Office of Rene Castellanos Guerra, Leeds. Sabo & Hernandez

Junior Service League of Mission Ellis, Koeneke & Ramirez LLP Law Office of Richard A. Cantu P.C.

The Amaguer Law Firm
Underwriter

BBVA Compass

Creating Opportunities

Sponsors
Bob's

Steak & Chop House





Mistress of Ceremonies

Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV

















Law Office of Brittany L. Gabrielson · TX Dept. of Family and Protective Services

DJ - Sam Lopez

For more information on Heart Gallery of South Texas please contact Liz Cantu at (956) 294-4800; for more information on foster adoption contact: TX Dept. of Family & Protective Services, Region 11 at (361) 878-7488.

Thank You for supporting our Fiesta de Gracias event!

Our HCBF Fiesta de Gracias event and our Win & Give Contest were once again a huge success thanks to You! We were blessed to have several HCBA Board Members personally distribute some of the 500 bags of food at LUPE (La Union Del Pueblo Entero) to some very happy families. Your generosity is a testament to staff and attorneys working together to benefit people in our community. Thank you so much for your contribution!

We would like to congratulate the two winners for this year's
Win & Give Contest!
The winner of the large firm competition was
Roerig, Oliveira & Fisher, L.L.P.,
Contributed 211 bags!

Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez, L.L.P. came in a close 2nd place.

The winner of the small firm competition was Palacios, Garza & Thompson, P.C.
Contributed 19 bags!

Thank you to the underwriters of our gorgeous bags!
Garcia & Garcia Attorneys at Law and
The Garcia Law Firm

We also want to thank our generous sponsors who assisted in this record-breaking food drive: Luis Cardenas, Richie Cantu, Zuleida Lopez-Habbouche, Laura Haley, Paul Wilson Law Firm, Guerra & Farah, Roerig Oliveira & Fisher LLP, Atlas Hall & Rodriguez LLP, Meyer & Guerrero Law Firm, Plains Capital Bank, Judge Rose Reyna, Cacheaux Cavazos & Newton LLP, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, The Law Office of Richard A Cantu PC, Hon. Peter Ormsby, Luis Cardenas, Palacios Garza & Thompson PC, & Ruben Peña.

HCBA & HCBF 2018 – 2019 EVENTS

January

Bill of Rights: Criminal Law CLE Annual Conference

March

Women's Bar Section

April

Hockema Civil Law CLE Annual Conference

May

HCBA Board Officers Elections BBQ Law Day Gala

June, July & August

HCBA Summer Planning Season

September

Annual Membership Kick-Off

October

"Par Fore" Justice Golf Tournament

November

Heart Gallery Thanksgiving Food Drive Fiesta de Gracias

December

Black Robe Reception Delivery of Toys

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

HIDALGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



- Network with your colleagues through events like the Annual Law Day Gala, Annual Golf Tournament, Annual Dia de Gracias event, Annual Black Robe Reception, Law Section membership, and other HCBA and HCBF Mixers to Community Service Events.
- The HCBA offers 8 Law Sections Membership that offer CLE opportunities to all members.
- Members receive reduced rates on our seminars.
- Monthly & bi-monthly CLE lunch meetings make it easy to acquire your CLE hours.
- 1st year licensed attorney's membership fee is waived.
- Keep up to date on the HCBA and HCBF events through our monthly newsletter, The Summons.
- And so much more! Join Today!



HCBA LAW SECTIONS OFFERED

Appellate Law CLE Section Criminal Law CLE Section Family Law CLE Section Estate Planning & Probate Law CLE Section General Civil Law CLE Section Immigration Law CLE Section Real Estate Law CLE Section Women's Bar Section

HIDALGO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES STATEMENT (JUNE 1, 2018 - MAY 31, 2019)

To be a member of the HCBA you must be a licensed attorney in good standing with the State Bar of Texas and/or any other state where the attorney is licensed and you must maintain an office or residence in Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy, or Starr Counties. Associate membership is available to attorneys who do not maintain an office or residence in Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy or Starr Counties. In submitting for membership, you are confirming that you meet these requirements.

Pay your HCBA membership dues online on the Membership Page of the HCBA website www.hidalgobar.org, or, complete your information below and mail in the completed form along with your check payable to the Hidalgo County Bar Association to 323 W. Cano Street, Suite #100, Edinburg, Texas 78539. Contributions and gifts to the HCBA are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. You may make optional charitable, tax deductible contributions directly to the Hidalgo County Bar Foundation. Dues may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

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| Associate Member (An attorney who does not maintain an office or residence in Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy or Starr Counties) Attorney Employed Full Time for a Public Interest, Not for Profit Agency Attorney Employed Full Time by City, County, State, or Federal Government | | | | | | \$100.0 |
| | | | | | | \$ 75.0 |
| | | | | | | \$ 75.0 |
| □ Eme | ☐ Emeritus Member (attorney 75+ years of age or practicing at least 50 years) | | | | | \$ 0.00 |
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| Construction Law | | | Liability Law | □Transpor | tation Law | |
| Consumer Law Health Law | | | □Mediation/ADR | ☐ Other: | | |

HIDALGO COUNTY BAR FOUNDATION

Please consider a donation to your Hidalgo Count Bar Foundation. The HCBF is the charitable arm of the HCBA and provides support to all of the programs listed below. Without the generous support of our donors, these programs would not be possible. Your donation in any amount is greatly appreciated. Thank You! The HCBF Board of Directors

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!

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| Credit Card Number | | | CVV # | Exp. Date | |
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YOUR DONATION TO HCBF SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS!

- Celebrate Freedom Courthouse Tours and Classroom Speaker Bureau is an educational program held in November of each year. Communities across Texas celebrate our system of justice through educational activities aimed at emphasizing the third branch of government and its important role in ensuring democracy and equality. During Celebrate Freedom week volunteer lawyers and judges, in conjunction with the Hidalgo County Bar Association, the HCBF, and the State Bar of Texas, educate the public and students about the justice system and the crucial role of Lawyers, Judges and Juries. Also discussed is the significance of the judicial branch of government and its impact on the daily life of every Texan.
- Community Justice Program (CJP) has a mission to provide equal access to justice impoverished residents of the Rio Grande Valley by matching those in need of legal assistance with volunteer attorneys who have agreed to represent them without charge. The CJP volunteer attorneys have assisted countless poor families with legal problems.
- Hidalgo County Bar Foundation Public Service Fund is a program offering grant opportunities to other non-profit, charitable, and educational organizations.
- Hidalgo County Bar Foundation Scholarship Endowment Fund offers scholarship opportunities to the Hidalgo County college seniors who will be attending law school. The HCBF awards a \$1,500 scholarship.
- *Holiday Toy Drive* HCBF donates funds for the purchase of toys for under-represented age groups. The organizations supported through our toy drive deliver hundreds of toys to area underprivileged children who otherwise might not get toys for Christmas. This year the HCBF benefited over 420 children living in Hidalgo County Colonias.
- Law Day is an educational program that is held in May of each year. The HCBF coordinates and orchestrates educational programs in Hidalgo County schools including photo, poster, and essay contests. The winning entry of each category is sent to the State Bar of Texas for competition with other entries from around the state. At the state competition level, the top three entries in each category are awarded cash awards.
- Mock Trial Competitions is an educational program conducted each year in partnership with the State Bar of Texas and
 Region One Education Service Center. High school students are challenged to develop good communication and
 critical thinking skills, to experience examination and cross-examination of clients, and to generate opening and closing
 statements. Opportunities for scholarship awards for winning teams exist at the regional, state and national
 competitions.
- "Fiesta de Gracias" Thanksgiving Food Drive supports local food banks and economically disadvantaged families by
 conducting law office and county office food drives and by making monetary donations. Last year the HCBF raised
 \$8,000 and benefited over 900 families.

Renew your HCBA Membership Today!

It's a new year, which means a new membership! Renew your membership today by visiting our website www.Hidalgobar.org and logon with your username and password. You can pay with either a credit card and a receipt will be sent to you. You can also download the membership dues renewal form and mail it in with a check made payable to the *Hidalgo County Bar Association*.

Forgot your Password?

Click "Forgot Password" link. Once you are logged in, click on the "Securely Renew Your Membership Now" link. Please update the forms with your most current information for our online records. As soon as your payment is received, we will reactivate your Member Profile.

Please contact us at (956) 380-1691 if you have any questions.

Cynthia @hidalgobar.org

Thank you!





Job Postings & Announcements

One of the benefits of being a HCBA member is that members can post a job announcement on our website and our newsletter, The Summons, free of charge. We currently have a few job opportunities listed on our HCBA Online Job Bank.

If you are looking to hire an associate for your law practice or are an attorney seeking employment with one of our area law firms, please let your fellow bar member know by posting your classified ad online. Simply contact our office at 956-380-1691.

Hodge & James, LLP

Small Civil litigation defense firm located in Harlingen, TX offering an opportunity of employment for a paralegal. This person must be self-motivated and hardworking. Applicants should have a mini8mum of 3 years experience in civil litigation. Submit resume to pshanklin@hodgejames.com

HCBA JOB BANK

Millin & Millin PLLC is growing and in need of a reliable and experienced full-time paralegal. The paralegal will work directly with John Millin and Associate Attorney, Jaime Lopez. Applicants must be able to prepare basic legal document drafts, organize case files and communicate politely with clients. Please submit resumes, including educational background, previous job experience, certifications and technical skills to Gina Karam Millin at gina@millinmillin.com.

Gault, Nye & Quintana, LLP

Brownsville defense firm is seeking to hire an attorney with 2 or more years of experience. Our firm offers health care benefits, 401K and PTO policy. Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications. Interested applicants send resume to: vvillarreal@GNQLawyers.com





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