# 2011-2012 TYLA President-elect Candidates

The Texas Young Lawyers Association Board of Directors approved the nominations of David Courreges of Austin and C.E. Rhodes of Houston as 2011 president-elect candidates. This year, nominees for president-elect are from metropolitan cities. Biographies of the candidates, in alphabetical order, are included here. An interview with the two candidates will be included in the April issue. Votes for TYLA president-elect and district directors can be cast either via paper ballot or by voting online from April 1 to May 2. On April 1, attorneys eligible to vote will be mailed an election packet, including a paper ballot. Attorneys may either submit their paper ballot via mail or vote online using the information provided. The deadline to cast ballots is 5 p.m. CST on May 2.

## David Courreges

*Austin*

David Courreges leads the governmental and legislative affairs division at De Leon and Washburn, P.C., where he practices in the areas of administrative law, association law, and mediation. He currently serves as vice president of the Texas Young Lawyers Association. A TYLA director since 2007, Courreges served as secretary in the 2009–10 bar year and as an executive committee advisor to the Community Education/Consumer Affairs, Law Focused Education, Online Member Services, and Technology committees, which helped create *Office in a Flash*, *Partnering for Pro Bono*, and materials for *Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans*. Courreges served as co-chair of the Vote America/VoTexas committee that produced the award-winning *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right* video. In 2008, he was the recipient of the TYLA President's Award. He received President's Awards of Merit in 2007 and 2009. Courreges received his B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, his M.P.A. from St. Mary's University, and his J.D. from St. Mary's University School of Law. He is married to Erin Courreges and has a one-year-old daughter, McKenna.

## C.E. Rhodes

*Houston*

C.E. Rhodes is U.S. Operations and Compliance Counsel to Baker Hughes, Inc., where he advises management and employees. He currently serves as the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Representative for south and central Texas and as a liaison to the Texas Young Lawyers Association Board. A TYLA director since 2004, Rhodes served as TYLA chair for the 2009–10 bar year and as an executive committee advisor to the Community Education/Consumer Affairs Committee, which created *R U Safe: Protecting Yourself in Cyber Space*. As co-chair of the TYLA Member Services and Outreach Committee, he co-authored *Office in a Flash* and co-authored and produced *Justice 101: The Client's Guide to Litigation*. He also co-authored and produced TYLA's Emmy-award winning video, *They Had A Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement*. In 2007, Rhodes was the recipient of the Joseph M. Pritchard Outstanding TYLA Director of the Year Award. He received his J.D. from Emory University School of Law. Rhodes received his B.A. in History from the University of Virginia, where he played football.

# 2011-2012 TYLA Officer Nominations

At the January meeting of the TYLA Board of Directors, the Nominations Committee interviewed directors to ascertain interest and qualifications for officer positions. The committee recommended two candidates for each position, which were unanimously approved. The nominees are listed here in alphabetical order.

## CHAIR-ELECT OF THE BOARD

### Keith L. Krueger

is an associate of West, Webb, Allbritton & Gentry, P.C. in College Station. Since becoming a TYLA director in 2008, he has served as a co-chair or vice chair of the Law Focused Education, Local Affiliates, Community Education/Consumer Affairs, and Member Services & Outreach committees. Krueger drafted the *Facing Foreclosure* pamphlet and has presented the *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right* video at local schools. He received a TYLA President's Award of Merit in 2010. Krueger is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and is president of the Brazos Valley Young Lawyers Affiliate.

### Alyssa J. Long

handles corporate financial and regulatory matters for USAA in San Antonio. She currently serves as TYLA treasurer. Long co-chaired the Community Education/Consumer Affairs Committee that produced *R U Safe? Protecting Yourself in Cyberspace*, which won the 2010 American Bar Endowment's Outstanding Public Service project. She played an important role in implementing *Partnering for Pro Bono* and participated in Prevent Child Abuse Texas' 20-mile Walk to Action, which raised $7,000 for the nonprofit group. Long received the 2009 TYLA President's Award and a 2010 TYLA President's Award of Merit.

## VICE PRESIDENT

### Kristy Sims Piazza

is a family law attorney with Koons Fuller in Plano. Piazza currently serves as TYLA secretary and executive committee advisor to the Family Law/Senior's Outreach/Children's Rights and Online Member Services committees. Piazza was instrumental in the development and production of *Healing the Wounds: Navigating the Legal System After Surviving Domestic Abuse* and TYLA's newest project *The Little Voice: Recognizing Child Abuse and Your Duty to Report It*. Piazza was awarded a TYLA President's Award of Merit in 2009 and is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

### Shivali Sharma

is a staff attorney for the 6th Court of Appeals in Texarkana. She has served as vice chair and/or co-chair of TYLA's Community Education/Consumer Affairs, Law Focused Education, Online Member Services, and Member Service & Outreach committees. Sharma assisted in drafting *Resources for Veterans Seeking Help* pamphlet, created the *Loan Modification Scam* pamphlet, and organized a presentation of TYLA's *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right* video. She is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and serves on the Arkansas Bar House of Delegates.

## SECRETARY

### Erin O'Driscoll

is an associate of Morgan Lewis in the Labor and Employment Practices Group. A TYLA director since 2009, she co-chaired the Family Law/Seniors & Children's Rights and National Trial Competition committees. She has served as vice chair of the Community Education/Consumer Affairs Committee, which produced the *R U Safe? Protecting Yourself in Cyberspace* video, coordinated seminars at women's shelters, contributed to several TYLA pamphlets, including pamphlets on teen dating violence, child abuse, and those geared to cancer patients and veterans. She received the 2009–10 TYLA President's Award.

### Sarah Kownacki Rogers

is a litigation attorney with Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, L.L.P. in Dallas. She currently co-chairs TYLA's Local Affiliates Committee and co-created *Office in a Flash*, a free resource for new sole practitioners. Since joining the Board in 2009, Rogers has also co-chaired the Family Law Committee and served on the Law Student Outreach and Law Focused Education committees. She received a TYLA President's Award of Merit in 2009 and 2010. Rodgers currently serves as vice president of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers and is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.

## TREASURER

### Natasha L. Brooks

is an assistant city attorney in Midland. Since 2007, she has served on several TYLA committees, including the Member Services and Outreach and Minority Involvement committees. Brooks also serves on the State Bar MCLE Committee. She has structured *They Had a Dream Too* and *Junior Judges* rollouts and assisted in creating the *Vote America! Honor the Fight, Exercise Your Right* video. In 2009, Brooks helped plan the New Lawyers Course and organize the El Paso Minority Pre-Law Student Symposium. She co-chaired the Central Texas Diversity Forum and is a two-time recipient of a TYLA President's Award of Merit.

### Rebecca Vela

is a partner in Kittleman, Thomas & Gonzales, L.L.P. in McAllen, focusing on commercial litigation. She has served the TYLA Board as co-chair of the State Moot Court, Online Member Services, and Local Affiliates committees. Vela played an integral role in developing *The Little Voice: Recognizing Child Abuse and Your Duty to Report It* and *Loves Me, Loves Me Not*, a pamphlet on teen dating violence. She has spearheaded the State Moot Court Competition for three years. Vela was awarded a TYLA President's Award of Merit in 2008 and 2009 and is a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation.