



Janice Law stands on the terrace of Finca Vigia in Cuba, home to Ernest Hemingway for more than 20 years.

LEARNING FROM CUBA

In 2010, **Janice Law** founded the American Women Writers National Museum (www.americanwomenwritersnationalmuseum.org). Law founded the museum — which will open to the public next year in Washington, D.C. — after a trip around the Black Sea, where she visited a museum in Odessa, Ukraine, dedicated to its nation’s writers. Law said she realized that no museum existed in the United States devoted solely to American women writers and got to work establishing one.

That’s how Law, who served as a judge with the Harris County Criminal Court No. 5 and is now a visiting judge, became involved with the American Association of Museums (AAM). Earlier this year, Law and her husband, attorney **Don Jansen**, boarded a charter flight from Miami, Fla., to Havana as part of a U.S.-sanctioned delegation sponsored by the AAM. The trip’s mission was to meet for six days with Cuban museum personnel. “We met with the directors of various museums,” she says. “They presented to us on how they run their museums and we exchanged ideas.”

The trip was restricted to Havana, which Law says she didn’t mind because Havana boasts a large number of museums, which range from a small playing-card museum and a restored 1886 pharmacy to the Museo Nacional Bella Artes de La

Habana (National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana) to the Finca Vigia (Lookout Farm), Ernest Hemingway’s house for more than 20 years. Hemingway wrote *The Old Man and the Sea* and most of *For Whom the Bell Tolls* at the house. “For me, the Finca, which I have longed to see since high school, was the last stop on my decades-long literary pilgrimage,” says Law, who has visited several Hemingway sites, including his Chicago birthplace, his house in Key West, and his gravesite in Ketchum, Idaho.

Law said the trip to Cuba was insightful and exciting — members of her delegation included museum representatives from the National Gallery of Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum, and the Smithsonian Institution. Most of all, she was moved by how much Cuba values its artists. “I was overwhelmingly impressed with how Cuban culture is sincerely devoted to the arts,” she says. “Writers and poets and artists are the soul of a country — I was very impressed with how much Cuban culture emphasizes that. The arts are a real driving force in Cuba.”

Law says the trip has inspired a variety of exhibits for her museum. One idea is an exhibit on women fantasy writers and another on various eras of women writers. “The trip really reinvigorated me to honor our great women writers,” she says. 🍷



Austin attorney Sam Colletti blocks an incoming volley.

Fun in the Sun

Texas may have experienced one of its hottest summers on record, but Austin attorney **Sam Colletti** didn't let that stop him from enjoying some sun, sand, and beach volleyball. "The weather hasn't really slowed us down," he says of his weekly pastime. "We just start playing later in the evening or earlier in the morning."

Colletti, an associate of Noelke, English, Maples, St. Leger, Blair, L.L.P., grew up playing basketball, but started playing beach volleyball about six years ago after a friend asked him to sub on his 4-on-4 co-ed team. He hasn't looked back since, making time after work and on the weekends to get out in the sand. Colletti says he appreciates the laid-back feel to beach volleyball, despite it being a physically demanding sport. "The beach volleyball players in Austin really are a community. We're all competitive, but many of us end up becoming friends outside of playing volleyball," he says.

For Colletti, playing doubles beach volleyball is the perfect diversion from work because of its intensity. "When you're playing doubles there's a lot of ground to cover, and there's a ton of strategy involved," he says. "You have to immerse yourself in the game and stay present in the moment. If I'm really focused, it means that at least for a little while I'm not thinking about my cases."

Though the closest beach to Austin is three hours away, Colletti says beach volleyball is a popular sport in the capital city. "Most weekends, if you want to get a court at Zilker Park, you'll need to get there by 8 a.m., at least." He says there are several venues in the Austin area that regularly host doubles and 4-on-4 tournaments, usually with a waiting list for entry.

Outside of the United States, volleyball has greater relative popularity — especially in Brazil and Europe. Colletti says he would love to play a tournament in California someday, or take a volleyball-centered vacation in Brazil. Aside from that, he says he loves playing co-ed doubles with his wife, Lauren, who has recently taken up the sport as well. ✪

TEXAS PEOPLE



Roland Garcia

Shareholder Greenberg Traurig, L.L.P.; Houston

Appointed by President Barack Obama to the Board of Visitors to the U.S. Naval Academy, which provides recommendations to the academy's superintendent.



Marlen D. Whitley

Partner, Thompson & Knight, L.L.P.; Houston

Selected by the University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement to receive the Heman Marion Sweatt Legacy Award.



Seema Tendolkar

Associate, Wick, Phillips, Gould & Martin, L.L.P.; Dallas

Appointed to the board of Captain Hope's Kids, a charitable organization that provides assistance to homeless children throughout North Texas.



Matthew Wright

Vice President, Development, Scott and White Healthcare; Houston

Named by the American Bar Association Business Law Section's Nonprofit Organizations Committee as its Outstanding Young Lawyer.