



State Bar Executive Director Michelle Hunter spoke on saving through couponing at an employee presentation at the Texas Law Center in November.

# \$\$\$\$\$uper \$aver\$\$\$\$

**M**ove over Crazy Coupon Lady and extreme couponers — there’s a new saver in town. About seven years ago, State Bar Executive Director **Michelle Hunter** learned about the art of couponing and has never looked back. “Couponing is an art and you have to be disciplined,” she says.

While Hunter finds couponing to be relaxing and sees it as a “financial puzzle,” she emphasizes that extreme couponing is not for her. “I’m not a coupon hoarder,” she laughs. “You shouldn’t spend an unreasonable amount of time on it.” For her part, Hunter spends only a few hours organizing coupons and searching for deals while watching Sunday night football.

For those interested in couponing, it’s important to have a strategy, Hunter says. Organize coupons by date so you don’t risk holding on to a pile of expired coupons or becoming so disorganized that you can’t find the coupon you want. Hunter’s approach is to label whole sets of coupons and she doesn’t cut individual coupons until she’s ready to use them. She also utilizes websites such as **southernsavers.com** and **couponmom.com** to learn about deals.

Her favorite savings experience was a \$62 purchase that came out to less than \$2 after discounts and coupons at a CVS drugstore. “The cashier and the people in line behind me were very pleasant about it,” she says. “I kept telling them that I was sorry for taking so long, but they said ‘Take your time — we’re learning from you.’”

While Hunter is always on the lookout for a good deal, she admits there are a few things she’ll splurge on. “If there is something that my kids need and I can’t find it on sale, then I will definitely pay full price for it.”

The most important thing to remember about couponing, she says, is to not purchase items you wouldn’t normally use or need simply because you have a coupon. And be mindful of the small print — most coupons specify sizes, dates, and quantity.

It is also important to have fun with it — couponing shouldn’t be stressful. “If you like couponing, then you’ll get a benefit from it,” Hunter says. “If you don’t like it, then it just becomes a chore.” 🍀



# There's No Place Like Home

**D**uring November, Dorothy's famous quote became a reality for children across the state as part of National Adoption Month. Local bar associations, such as Bell County, Denton County, Tarrant County, and Jefferson County, held special events to celebrate the new families.

During Austin's Adoption Day on Nov. 3, 25 children were adopted into 18 families. The program, which is in its 10th year, is a joint venture of the Austin Bar Association, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), with the assistance of Travis County Juvenile Probation, the Adoption Coalition of Texas, the Travis County Office of Child Representation, and the Travis County Children's Protective Services Board.

"It wouldn't be possible without the support of attorneys, caseworkers, judges, special advocates, and many volunteers," **Denise Hyde**, chair of the Austin Bar's Adoption Day committee, says.

Travis County Judges **Andy Hathcock** and **Darlene Byrne** finalized the adoptions, while the children and their new families enjoyed magic shows, games, and giveaways. The children were able to pick books from a "bookstore," stocked by donations from attorneys, Girl Scout troops, and area schools. Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) provided fingerprint identification — and let the children take photos on their motorcycles. Adding to the day's theme of "There's no place like home," CASA volunteers dressed up like characters from *The Wizard of Oz*.



Austin attorney and chair of the Adoption Day committee Denise Hyde with Francie Peters, whose adoption was finalized at Austin Adoption Day.

Austin Adoption Day represents only a few of the thousands of Texas children taken from situations of abuse or neglect and placed in state custody. "For these children, it is a sigh of relief to finally be a part of a family and have a home forever," Stefanie White, director of Child Protective Services Foster and Adoption Program, says. "We must remember there are many other children who are waiting for their special adoption day, too."

In Texas, more than 6,000 children are waiting for adoption. To learn more about foster care and adoption, visit [www.adoptchildren.org](http://www.adoptchildren.org). ✪

## TEXAS PEOPLE



**Benny Agosto, Jr.**

Partner in Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Friend, Houston

Elected president of the Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA). He is the first Texas attorney to hold this position and has served on the HNBA board since 2006.



**Bill Barber**

Managing partner in Pirkey Barber, L.L.P., Austin

Has become president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA). Barber was elected to AIPLA's executive committee in 2008.



**Mary Alice Garcia**

Managing attorney, Texas Attorney General's Office Child Support Division, Corpus Christi

Named Managing Attorney of the Year by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. She was chosen from among 65 managing attorneys throughout Texas.



**Marc Stanley**

Partner in Stanley Iola, L.L.P., Dallas

Named by President Barack Obama to the board of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial. He also serves as chair of the National Jewish Democratic Council.