



MY OPINION

BY NATALIE COBB KOEHLER

PRESIDENT, TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



The Supreme Court of Texas and TYLA Diversity Committee at the "Attorneys Without Borders" program in Laredo.

Focusing on Our Members

As the public service arm of the State Bar, the Texas Young Lawyers Association serves both its members and the public. Over the past two months, TYLA has completed two member-focused service projects that we are very proud to share.

First, the TYLA Diversity Committee presented the "Attorneys Without Borders" program on Feb. 28–29 in Laredo, bringing the Supreme Court of Texas to Webb County for the very first time. (See p. 266.) TYLA Directors **Victor Villareal** of Laredo and **Priscilla Camacho** of San Antonio coordinated this powerful and dynamic program. **Alyssa Long** of San Antonio, **Chike Okpara** of Austin, **Dustin Howell** of Austin, **Jose Sanchez** of Longview, and **Sam Houston** of San Antonio also worked hard to make the event a success.

As a rural attorney, my focus this year has been to take the message of TYLA and the State Bar to areas of the state that typically do not get to see firsthand what our organizations do. This project offered our members a chance to interact with TYLA directors and justices of the Court on a personal level. During the two-day event, the Supreme Court of Texas gathered with members of the Webb County Bar Association and the Webb County Young

Lawyers Association. The event began with a reception and dinner with the justices and concluded with local pro bono leaders being recognized. On the second day of this event, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments at Texas A&M International University. More than 200 students, faculty members, and attorneys were able to witness Texas' top court in action. Students then participated in a question-and-answer session with the court. The lawyers in attendance were granted CLE credit for participating. It was a fantastic opportunity to travel to South Texas for a program that we hope continues to grow every year.

The second project completed this month provides information on a topic that usually requires young lawyers to research the same topic over and over again. Picture this: Your client has just received a subpoena from a Texas court in a case in which he or she is not a party. Your client calls you and asks what his or her legal obligations are. Have you received a similar call? Chances are you have. To help our members quickly access the information and laws regarding subpoenas, TYLA has created a guide to assist Texas lawyers in advising their clients on

how to respond to both criminal and civil subpoenas issued by a Texas court. *Answering the Call: Responding to a Texas Subpoena* is a general guide to responding to a criminal or civil subpoena in both state and federal courts. The guide discusses jurisdiction, entities subject to subpoenas, the rules governing subpoenas and the responses thereto, and the differences between criminal and civil cases.

TYLA's Member Services Committee formulated this project. **Daren Brown** of Amarillo and **Baylor Wortham** of Beaumont chaired the committee with Executive Committee Advisor **C.E. Rhodes** of Houston. Also working on this project were **Keith Krueger** of College Station, **Soraya Hanshew** of El Paso, **Lance Currie** of Dallas, **Brandy Wingate** of McAllen, and **Tammy Fisher** of Lubbock. *Answering the Call* will be available online this month at tyla.org. We hope it helps you the next time a client calls with this question.

At TYLA, we will continue to develop outstanding programming and resources for our members. Our organization, as well as the State Bar, is here to help in any way we can, and we look forward to focusing even more on our members and what your needs are throughout the state. ✪