



MY OPINION

BY C.E. RHODES

PRESIDENT, TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



Photos from left: Keith Krueger (second from left) at a TYLA Road Show in Fort Hood; taking the lead by being first on a high ropes course; and (left) with TYLA friends at the 2012 TYLA Annual Meeting.

Tribute to a True Texas Lawyer

On July 14, 2012, the Texas Young Lawyers Association lost a great friend and a true Texas lawyer, Keith Krueger. Keith was the TYLA secretary this year and passed away peacefully during the Bar Leaders Conference. That weekend, Keith was surrounded by his TYLA family and was doing one of the things that he loved most — helping fellow lawyers.

Throughout his legal career, Keith selflessly and tirelessly worked for his clients, firm, the Bar, and the citizens of this state. Furthermore, Keith was a lawyer of the highest integrity. If Keith said he was going to do something, then you knew it would be done correctly, on time, and beyond your expectations. Keith embodied all of the characteristics, traits, and values that I hope all Texas lawyers have, or strive to obtain.

Keith was not only a leader in TYLA, he was also a leader in his community. Over the last few years, Keith served in leadership positions in the following organizations: Texas Aggie Bar Association, Brazos Valley Young Lawyers Association, Brazos County A&M Club, Family Promise of Bryan/College Station, Bethel Lutheran Church, Habitat for Humanity, and Brazos Valley Business Associates. Keith did all of these things and was dedicated to providing superior service to his clients.

Keith was passionate about service to others. His commitment to service was recognized in 2010 when he received a TYLA President's Award of Merit for his contributions to the TYLA board. During his tenure on the board, Keith was instrumental in drafting pamphlets for the public, including the *Small Business Toolkit*, *Facing Foreclosures*, and *Occupational Licenses*. Moreover, Keith spoke at several conferences for teachers, where he provided information about TYLA's law focused education projects, including *Vote America!* and *They Had A Dream Too: Young Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement*.

Keith served Texas lawyers by participating in numerous TYLA Road Shows across the state. In addition, he was committed to providing practical resources and advice to young attorneys.

For those who knew him, Keith will be remembered for his laughter, dry humor, legal skill, hard work, service to others, passion for Texas A&M football, and for keenly observing everything and everyone. Keith's father shared a story that was told to him by one of Keith's mentors that I believe succinctly describes the type of person our friend was. Keith and his mentor went to a local College Station restaurant and sat down to eat lunch. Across the restaurant, there were two boys who put quarters in a bubble gum machine. No gum, how-

ever, came out. Keith saw what had happened. Keith politely got up from the table, walked over to the bubble gum machine, picked it up and shook it until two pieces of gum came out for the boys. Keith then put the machine down and returned to his seat. Keith did all of this without saying a word.

While this was a seemingly small act to us, it was not so small for the boys who had lost their quarters. Keith recognized that fact in that moment. In sum, Keith saw what needed to be done and did it — without seeking any fanfare or recognition from his mentor or others in the restaurant. Further to this point, Keith would have never himself shared that story.

To his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Krueger, you raised a fine young man of impeccable character who contributed greatly to making the world around him a better place. To his sister, Karla Strawn, his colleagues at his firm, West, Webb, Allbritton & Gentry, P.C., fraternity brothers of Phi Delta Theta, law school classmates, and all of his other friends and family, TYLA shares in your loss, as Keith was a brother and friend to us all. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Rest assured that TYLA will continue to work hard this year to provide the best service to our members and citizens in Keith's honor. ✪