

SERVING Our MEMBERS and the PUBLIC



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SPRING HAS ARRIVED AND THE END OF THE BAR YEAR IS QUICKLY APPROACHING. TYLA has done some terrific projects this year for our members and the public. Several of these projects are available now, while others will be available in May.

Criminal Law 101: Overview of the Criminal Justice Process. The Texas criminal justice system has several key objectives: (1) discover the truth; (2) provide for public safety; (3) assist victims of crime; (4) punish the guilty; and (5) promote positive change in offender behavior. While the objectives are seemingly clear, the criminal justice process may not be for the accused, the victims, their respective families, and others involved. TYLA created a pamphlet intended as a tool for prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys to educate their clients, victims, or their respective families about the criminal justice process. The pamphlet provides an overview of the criminal justice process following the arrest through appeal and provides general information on the rights of the victims and the accused. It is intended as an overview and does not cover all of the nuances. TYLA hopes that its many members who are criminal practitioners will find this pamphlet useful. Special thanks to **Zeke Fortenberry** of McKinney, **Paul Tu** of Houston, **Baylor Wortham** of Beaumont, and the other members of the TYLA Member Services and Outreach Committee.

From the Inside Out: In-House Counsel's Advice for Young Lawyers. Paige Greenlee and I were classmates in law school and are now, coincidentally, presidents of two of the largest state young lawyer associations in the country. We wanted to do a joint project together that would help young lawyers in Florida and Texas improve and enhance the quality of service they provide to clients. The result is a resource guide that contains advice from in-house lawyers across various industries to young lawyers who serve as outside counsel. Special thanks to Paige Greenlee, Jason Comer, and Stephanie Bolton of the Florida Young Lawyers Division; **Anita Barksdale**, **Celina Lopez Carter**, and **Morgan Gaskin** of Houston; **Alyssa Long** of San Antonio; the other members of the TYLA Member Services and Outreach Committee; and the Corporate Counsel Section of the State Bar of Texas.

A Welcoming Home: Be a Foster Family. Growing up, I observed my grandmother Eunice Watts and aunt Amanda Smith provide stable homes to many children who did not previously have one. My grandmother and aunt treated each foster care child as if he were their own. Today, there remains a need in every community for families to volunteer to open their homes to children who may have been abused, neglected, or abandoned. Recognizing this need, TYLA has created a pushcard identifying the resources available, as well as an overview of the requirements, benefits, and legal responsibilities of families who are interested in providing a foster care home. All children deserve a loving, stable, and nurturing environment. Special thanks to **Patrice Childress** of Houston, **Sally Pretorius** of Austin, and the other members of the TYLA Family Law and Seniors Committee.

Preventing Fraud on Veterans. My father is a veteran. He served an 18-month tour of duty as a sergeant in Vietnam. Protecting our veterans is a priority for me and the State Bar. Unfortunately, there are many who seek to defraud veterans of the benefits they are entitled and so justly deserve. TYLA has created a pamphlet that educates veterans about fiduciary relationships, deceptive recruiting practices by for-profit educational institutions, and pension fraud. Special thanks to **Katy Boatman** and **Erin O'Driscoll** of Houston, **Becky Mata** of Fort Worth, **Sam Houston** of San Antonio, and the other members of the TYLA Community Education Committee.

For more information about these and other TYLA projects, please visit tyla.org.

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