

A BETTER PLACE



Through my efforts, I hope to continue the tradition of leaving TYLA in a better place than I found it—and help the lives of lawyers and the citizens of Texas.

AS WE APPROACH A NEW BAR YEAR, I AM REMINDED OF SOMETHING I WAS TAUGHT AS A YOUNG CHILD, “ALWAYS LEAVE A PLACE BETTER THAN YOU FOUND IT.”

Each year TYLA sets out to create new projects that will help the community and strengthen, promote, and serve the legal profession. And somehow, the leaders and staff of TYLA are always able to end the bar year in a better place than before. I hope to continue this legacy.

This year I will focus on three main projects to help the legal profession. The first is a social media and malpractice guide to educate lawyers on the dos and don'ts of advertising in social media and provide them with tips on how to avoid malpractice suits and ethical violations. The second is a series of toolkits, CLE, and mentor programs intended to educate and provide resources to mentor lawyers on how to perform different tasks in the practice of law. The third is a health and fitness program designed to educate lawyers about health and fitness issues, provide a forum for lawyers to disseminate information about health and fitness events, and create a method for providing health and fitness CLE and fitness programs at state and local bar events.

I will also focus on three main service projects to enrich the community. First, a substance abuse program to teach youth about the dangers and real-life consequences of substance abuse, provide resources to those who are struggling with substance abuse and their families, and educate the public about the benefits of using drug courts to help deal with substance abuse issues. Second, a juvenile law guide to provide resources to youth involved in the juvenile court system, and third, an immigration guide to educate people on common immigration issues.

In addition to these projects, TYLA will be partnering with the Family Law Section of the State Bar and local bar and legal aid organizations to provide a free CLE on “How to Do a Pro Bono Divorce.” This CLE, which will be offered statewide, will provide lawyers with the tools they need to take a pro bono divorce case. (The first CLE opportunity is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. July 26 at the Belo Mansion in Dallas.) TYLA will also continue to work in conjunction with the State Bar on the exciting programs State Bar of Texas President Lisa Tatum has planned for this year, including *I was the first. Vote for Me!* and the Care Campaign.

In closing, I want to thank all of you who helped me with my campaign for TYLA president. I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to serve you this year. Through my efforts, I hope to continue the tradition of leaving TYLA in a better place than I found it—and help the lives of lawyers and the citizens of Texas.

KRISTY BLANCHARD

President, *Texas Young Lawyers Association*