

Subpoena

NEWSLETTER

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in this issue

Cooking with the Judges	3
CJP Dove Hunt Photo Spread	4
Intro to Veteran Benefits	5
NACDL Mid-winter Meeting	5
Best Practices in Event Sponsorships	10
Transplants for Children Chili Cook-off	11
Federal Bar Brown Bag Lunch	12
Member Discounts from State Bar	12
Wi-Fi Available in Law Library & SABA	12
Top 10 Ways Follies Make a Difference!	13
Auxiliary kicks off its '10-'11 Season	15
2011 Peacemaker Award Nominations	16
SA-area Mock Trial Coordinator Needed	16
SACDLA Nuts 'n' Bolts Seminar	20

departments

President's Message	2
Community Justice Program	6
Briefly Announcements	14
SABF Page	17
Committee Corner	18
Tributes - Sharing Thanks Givings	19
New Member Welcome	20
Listings	21
Calendar	22

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Jackson Walker attorneys Marc Whyte (left) and Karen Monsen with their *pro bono* client, Everette Hughes.

Pro Bono Victory for a Veteran

By Amanda Reimherr Buckert
CJP Coordinator

Everette Hughes was at the end of his rope. He is a veteran who bravely served our country, but felt defeated by the system and had given up on pursuing what he felt was right because he could not afford representation. A small flier caught his eye and he decided to call the number printed on it as a last resort of trying to solve his troubles. That flier was one for the Community Justice Program's first Veterans Clinic on May 21.

Hughes had not only been denied unemployment benefits by the Texas Workforce Commission, he was receiving harassing letters from them on almost a weekly basis. Additionally, he was informed that what benefits he had received, now had to be paid back. As a man of small means, he was unable to do this. He was also unable to continue to fight

- continued on page 8 -

SAVE THE DATE:

Cooking with the Judges, 11/4

Subpoena Deadline, 11/10

Bexar County Holiday, 11/11

CJP Veterans Clinic, 11/13

CJP St. Mary's, 11/16

Last Chance Videos, 11/18-19

SABF Fun Run for Justice, 11/20

Bexar County Holiday, 11/25-26

NO Nov. SABA Monthly Luncheon

Last chance to join the SABF Fun Run, Nov. 20!

Sponsorships are still available for the San Antonio Bar Foundation's 19th Annual Fun Run for Justice BUT you need to sprint to sponsor because if you do so after November 5, your name will NOT be included on this year's t-shirts!! The sponsorships available are: \$300 (Bronze), \$500 (Silver) and \$1,000 (Gold), which entitle each sponsor to free entries for the race, including all pre-post-race activities, early mention in the *Subpoena*, your name or firm's name on the T-shirt, registration brochures and finish line banners. The number of free

- continued on page 17 -

The October 19 CJP Wills Clinic at St. Mary's Center for Legal & Social Justice included volunteers from AT&T; Schmoyer & Reinhard; Heinrichs & De Gennaro; Thornton, Biechlin, Segrato, Reynolds, & Guerra; Gaul & Dumont; and Frank Rivas & Associates.

Victory for a Veteran (cont.)

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them on his own.

Karen Monsen, a labor and employment attorney with Jackson Walker, attended that first CJP Veterans Clinic. She was the only lawyer there with employment expertise and was matched with Hughes for a consultation.

"I looked at his case and the odds were just so grim. It was a monumental case that we really didn't think we could win," she said about her client.

Monsen took the case back to her firm and put her head together with colleague Marc Whyte about what they could do to help.

"The tough part about this case was dealing with the TWC and getting people to act over there," Whyte said. "He had two cases that had already been decided against him and they were denying him further hearings because he missed his appeal date."

With the help of summer clerk Matthew Vandenberg, they filed an open records request to get the previous hearing transcripts. Whyte wrote the brief to the TWC and explained why their decision was wrong and why Hughes should get a new hearing. Remarkably, after a few weeks the hardworking pro bono attorneys at Jackson Walker received word that the TWC concurred that they had erred and awarded Hughes what he was owed and anything further he could receive.

"(Hughes) is such a great guy. This was a team effort and he deserves it. We were all happy to help," Whyte said.

Hughes paid about \$150 out of his pocket to obtain the documents from the open records request. Whyte and Monsen took up a collection from the office and presented \$220 to him during a breakfast celebrating their victory.

"This is a very important event in this man's life and it meant a lot to impact someone's life that needed it so very much," Monsen said. "This is a complete victory."

Hughes said he is eternally grateful for the entire experience and that the CJP Veterans Clinic was the most help he's ever received as a veteran.

"I owe so much to Ms. Monsen and Mr. Whyte. They have been the best people to enter my life in the last 15 years. If a lawyer working for a big firm like Jackson Walker took the time to do pro bono for me it tells me what kind of people they are and what kind of people they work for," he said with emotion in his voice. "I just love Karen to death. If I never see her again in my life, I will never forget what she and Marc did for me. From the day I met her at the legal clinic, my life got so much better."

