**2021 PBCR Agenda**

**August 31 - Sept. 1 | Austin, TX | Hilton Austin | 4th Floor**

**Tuesday, August 31st - Day 1**

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<td>9:00 - 9:15</td>
<td>Retreat Welcome and State Bar of Texas Update</td>
<td><em>Sylvia Borunda Firth, SBOT President, El Paso</em></td>
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<td>9:15 - 9:30</td>
<td>Texas Access to Justice Foundation Update</td>
<td><em>Betty Balli Torres, Executive Director</em></td>
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<td>9:30 - 9:45</td>
<td>Texas Access to Justice Commission and SBOT Legal Access Division Update</td>
<td><em>Trish McAllister, TAJC Executive Director and LAD Director</em></td>
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<td>9:45 - 11:00</td>
<td>What Just Happened, and What Do We Do Now? Reflecting Upon the Past 18 Months, and Setting New Priorities and Boundaries Amid Never-ending Crises</td>
<td><em>Shawna Smith Thornton and Gregory Zlotnick</em></td>
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<td>11:00 - 12:15</td>
<td>Building Pro Bono Through Best Practices</td>
<td><em>Steve Scudder</em></td>
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<td>12:15 - 1:15</td>
<td>Networking Lunch</td>
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<td>1:15 - 2:30</td>
<td>Surviving the Shutdown: Providing Civil Legal Aid in a Virtual World</td>
<td><em>Fawaz Bham, Holly Griffin, Mariséla Martin</em></td>
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<td>2:45 - 4:00</td>
<td>Expunctions for All: Pro Bono Clinics for Law Students, Paralegals, and/or Attorneys</td>
<td><em>Meg Clifford, Sarah Mae Jennings, Grace Wynelle Thomas</em></td>
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**(PBCR) Wednesday, September 1st - Day 2**

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<td>8:30 - 9:45</td>
<td>Look to the Law Students: Leveraging the Lawyers of Tomorrow to Address the Crises of Today</td>
<td><em>Estefana Galindo, Shawna Smith Thornton, Gregory Zlotnick</em></td>
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<td>10:00 - 11:15</td>
<td>Managing and Growing Legal Aid and Pro Bono Partnerships</td>
<td><em>Anne Chandler, Tracy Figueroa, Steven Scudder</em></td>
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Tuesday, August 31
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Retreat Welcome and State Bar of Texas Update
Presenter: Sylvia Borunda Firth, SBOT President, El Paso

9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Texas Access to Justice Foundation Update
Presenter: Betty Balli Torres, Executive Director

Texas Access to Justice Commission and SBOT Legal Access Division Update
Presenter: Trish McAllister, TAJC Executive Director & LAD Director

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

What Just Happened, and What Do We Do Now? Reflecting Upon the Past 18 Months, and Setting New Priorities and Boundaries Amid Never-ending Crises
In 2020 –2021, pro bono legal services providers have faced the unique challenge of addressing a series of crises in our communities—pandemic, power failures, and more—while simultaneously navigating their impacts in their personal lives. The immediate and long-term effects of these stresses have many pro bono coordinators asking: how do we say no—or at least not right now—when the next crisis comes? In this interactive session, participants will have a guided opportunity to assess their own experiences—both personally and professionally—during the past year. With the benefit of reflection and the collective wisdom of colleagues, participants will identify professional priorities, and personal boundaries, to guide their pro bono coordinating efforts over the upcoming year.
Presenter(s): Shawna Smith Thornton, Texas A&M University School of Law;
Gregory Zlotnick, St. Mary’s University School of Law

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Building Pro Bono Through Best Practices
Where are we now? Alignment with the experts? Is there work to do going forward? What are the key operational elements for a successful pro bono program? Starting with a pre-conference survey of your program’s current model you will join in a broad facilitated discussion with other pro bono program directors/staff about which elements matter—and why. Attendees will review the ABA Pro Bono Standards, expectations of funders, non-profit management best practices and other resources as we consider the value of building pro bono programs in Texas that represent the highest quality of this critical legal services delivery model. This discussion is designed to facilitate developing Texas best practices for pro bono delivery.
Presenter(s): Steven Scudder, Scudder Consulting

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Networking Lunch
Enjoy lunch and engage in open and active dialogue with friends and colleagues, and expand your relationship circles. Discover a few common connections or hobbies. So much has happened over the last 17-months, you’re bound to walk away with a cool factoid, shared experience, or new friend.

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Surviving the Shutdown: Providing Civil Legal Aid in a Virtual World
After the pandemic forced the shut down of our in person legal intake clinics, we quickly turned our focus to technology for assistance in reaching our clients. This panel discussion focuses on our partnership with a law firm pro bono partner and their team and how we were able to have our first virtual clinic within just weeks of planning. We will share the clinic structure and how it has evolved over the last year.
Presenter(s): Fawaz Bham, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP;
Holly Griffin, Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program;
Mariséla Martin, Community Engagement Coordinator,
Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Expunctions for All: Pro Bono Clinics for Law Students, Paralegals, and/or Attorneys
We will discuss the importance of criminal record clearing work, then walk attendees through how to implement assisted pro se criminal record clearing pro bono clinics that engage law students, paralegals, and/or attorneys in their communities. We will highlight the UT Law assisted pro se clinic model, discussing what additional services (requesting prosecutor recommendations / certifications, requesting records, efiling, etc.) can be included or excluded depending on resources and capacity. We will also provide clinic materials and templates that attendees can use as a baseline to be adapted depending on their resources and capacity.
Presenter(s): Meg Clifford, University of Texas Mithoff Pro Bono Program;
Sarah Mae Jennings, Texas Fair Defense Project (TFDP);
Grace W. Thomas, Student-University of Texas School of Law
Wednesday, September 1
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 p.m.

Look to the Law Students: Leveraging the Lawyers of Tomorrow to Address the Crises of Today
Law students play an integral role in the transition and expansion of pro bono legal services to address new and continuing legal aid challenges. Hungry to expand justice, at times impatient with the status quo, and comfortable with technology, law students provide pro bono projects with an indispensable source of assistance and energy. In this interactive session, a panel of pro bono professionals will have guide participants through their own experience developing pro bono projects that incorporate and amplify the effort of law students. With the benefit of the panels’ expert insights, participants will identify ways to best incorporate law student volunteers into their own pro bono efforts: volunteers who, with encouragement and training, are ready to become lifelong volunteers.

*Presenter(s):* Estefana Galindo, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid; Shawna Smith Thornton, Texas A&M University School of Law; Gregory Zlotnick, St. Mary's University School of Law

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Managing and Growing Legal Aid and Pro Bono Partnerships
Do you feel your program has to be everything for everybody? Are there cases you don’t have the resources to handle? What do you do when your program is overwhelmed with priority cases? One of the keys to running a successful legal aid or pro bono program is knowing when you don’t need to go it alone. Opportunities for collaboration are wide-ranging, depending on client needs, staff resources, program expertise, and many other factors. In this session presenters will share successful examples of legal aid/pro bono coordination and highlight when, why and how to move collaboration forward. They will also discuss the value of setting and managing expectations through strong management, decision-making and communication.

*Presenter(s):* Anne Chandler, Houston Volunteer Lawyers; Tracy Figueroa, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid; Steven Scudder, Steven Scudder Consulting

Conclusion of Pro Bono Coordinators Retreat