

Texarkana Young Lawyers Association

TYLA NEWS

- ❖ Our speaker this month is John Mercy. He will be speaking on ethical considerations in mediation
- ❖ Sept. 15th Happy Hour at Nelly's! Members are encouraged to bring shoes and socks which will hopefully be distributed before winter's first cold front
- ❖ Sept. 23rd-Regular meeting at Big Jake's

VOLUNTEER

- ❖ Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Training will take place Oct. 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 13, contact Leigh Davis at (870) 775-1252.
- ❖ Habitat for humanity is looking for volunteers Many projects that are being set up to accommodate victims of hurricane Katrina. Contact Shivali sharma for details
- ❖ Dates for September Literacy Project will be set shortly

A Message From the President

By: Derric McFarland

Thank you to everyone who participated in our collection drive for the hurricane evacuees who are stranded in our community. Because of your generosity, the Texarkana Young Lawyers Association was able to provide the local Salvation Army with two truckloads full of donated items and over \$3,000.00 in financial contributions. As an organization, we purchased \$150.00 worth of essential toiletries and baby needs.

While the victims of this tragic disaster will continue to need assistance in the weeks and months to come, the outpouring of support immediately following their displacement has undoubtedly sustained them during their stay in our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the attorneys and staff of the following firms for participating:

- Mr. Bruce A. Flint
- Norton & Wood, L.L.P.
- Crisp, Boyd, Poff, Schubert & Burgess
- Gooding & Crittenden, L.L.P.
- Patton, Tidwell & Schroeder, L.L.P.
- Patton, Roberts, McWilliams & Capshaw, L.L.P.
- Jordan Law Firm
- Mr. Raymond Anderson
- Keil & Goodson
- Dunn, Nutter, & Morgan, L.L.P.
- Dodson & Dodson, L.L.P.
- Ms. Carolyn Whitefield



- Greer, McCasland & Miller, L.L.P.
- Haltom & Doan
- Harrelson, Moore & Giles
- Miller, James, Miller & Hornsby, L.L.P.
- Dr. and Mrs. Roshan Sharma

Also, in other news, Teen Court of Texarkana will be having a new teen volunteer training session on September 24, 2005. Sandy Varner, Director of Teen Court, has asked for attorney volunteers to assist with the training session. The teens will be volunteering to serve as state and defense counsel for Teen Court this year. The training session is very similar to our trial advocacy classes in law school in that the teens practice speaking before the court and they learn some areas of procedure. It's a great opportunity to work with young people who may be considering a future career in the legal profession. The Teen Court Schedule for this fall will be as follows:

Monday, September 26, 2005
Monday, October 10, 2005
Monday, October 24, 2005
Monday, November 7, 2005
Monday, November 28, 2005
Monday, December 12, 2005

I encourage anyone who is interested in participating in the volunteer training session or serving as a Teen Court Judge to call Sandy Varner at 903-798-3941.

THE AMERICAN JUROR PROJECT

By: Kristie Wright



Do you believe in the importance of jury service to our judicial system? Are you aware that fewer and fewer citizens are participating in the process? A recent article in the Texarkana Gazette highlighted the fact that slightly more than 50% of those summoned reported for jury duty in a capital murder case in Miller County. Our system cannot survive without willing participants!

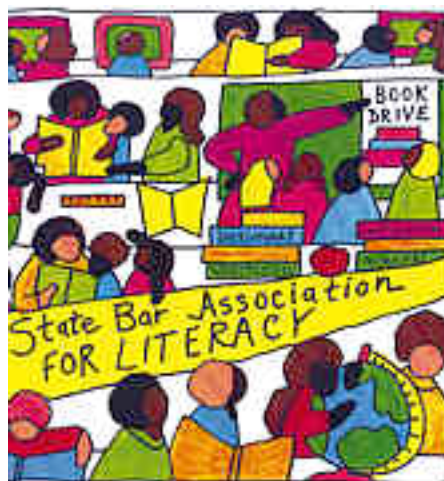
Are you willing to give up as little an hour of your time to encourage juror participation? The Texas Young Lawyers Association has created a 20 minute DVD presentation ideal for

civic, community, church, and school groups that makes getting this important message across virtually foolproof. Included are a power point presentation, a talking point outline, and a sample speech.

All the work has been done—all you have to do is show up, plug in the DVD, and run the power point! If you are interested in presenting this important message in our community, contact Kristie Wright at (903) 255-1000 or Kwright@haltomdoan.com. If there isn't a specific group you wish to speak to, Kristie will put you in contact with one.

YOUNG LAWYERS FOR LITERACY

By: Amy Freedman



Literacy project continued

This fall, the “Texarkana Young Lawyers for Literacy” will kick off its third year of reading to children. The TYLA team will gear up to read to fourth graders at Fairview Aerospace and Environmental Studies Magnet School in Texarkana, Arkansas later this month.

While the selected book has not been determined, “A Wrinkle in Time” has been discussed as a possibility in keeping with the school’s theme. The “Texarkana Young Lawyers for Literacy” will purchase books for each student and will break out into reading groups with them in the first session. In this way, the young lawyers mentor the students and help them to understand that attorneys are caring individuals who want them to succeed. They share the love of reading with the children

The students are then challenged to read the book over the span of the fall semester and pass a proficiency test given by the teacher.

Upon completion of the book and passing the proficiency test, the young lawyers award the students with a pizza party wherein they watch the movie of the book. It is a great time for young lawyers to reach out to the community by mentoring young children and teaching them the value of reading. The literacy project is a favorite for TYLA. If you are interested, please e-mail Amy Freedman at amyfreedman@cableone.net

Comments?

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact this years TYLA representatives.

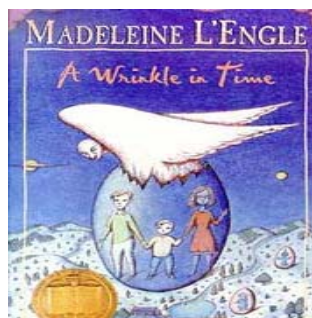
Derric McFarland, President
derricmcfarland@gooding-crittenden.com

Jennifer Jordan, President Elect
jennifer@jordanlawfirm.com

Shivali Sharma, Secretary
ssharma@pattonroberts.com

Pamela Fisk, Treasurer
sheetslaw@aol.com

Phillip Jordan, Social Director
phillip@jordanlawfirm.com



* Kristie Wright
District 1 Director for Texas
Young Lawyer’s Association
kwright@haltomdoan.com

* Amy Freedman
American Bar Association
Young Lawyers Division
Delegate
amyfreedman@cableone.net

* Bill Miller
Chairman of the Board of Texas
Young Lawyers Association
bmiller@greermccasland.com