



PRO BONO *Review*

VIRTUAL CLINIC REVIEW: SMALL BUSINESS LAWYER UP!



This clinic was staffed entirely by pro bono attorneys who provided advice to about 15 micro-enterprise owners. Accredited CLE was provided to all volunteer attorneys.

Client Feedback:

“[My volunteer attorney] was very attentive to my pressing and time-sensitive legal issues. He presented several viable options for my consideration that I found very helpful to implement in my business.”

“I consider the virtual clinic to be very beneficial for me, especially since I am a disabled senior citizen and small business owner. It was not only stress-free but also hassle free, and physically convenient for me to take part in the counseling session with [my attorney].”

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

- Ken Adler Vinson & Elkins
- Jack Kelly Kirkland & Ellis
- Caroline Kuehn Vinson & Elkins
- John Kurtz Shearman & Sterling
- Westford Lang DLA Piper
- Tricia Lee Dechert
- Matt Lyons Shearman & Sterling
- Marcus Martinez Vinson & Elkins
- Vaughn Miller Vinson & Elkins
- Brett Nuttall Kirkland & Ellis
- Taylor Randazzo DLA Piper
- Chimezie Udozorh Kirkland & Ellis
- Alicia Vesely Vinson & Elkins
- Kyle Watson Kirkland & Ellis

RESIDENTS DISPLACED BY HURRICANE HARVEY AIDED WITH PRO BONO

Countless numbers of Texas families lost their homes as a result of Hurricane Harvey. On April 27, 2020, three of those families received keys to brand new homes. Porter Hedges helped to make this happen, in coordination with the non-profit Victoria County Long Term Recovery Group (VCLTRG) and other volunteer and non-profit organizations, including TRLA.

The Porter Hedges team provided pro bono representation for the new homeowners, and assisted with the home closing processes.

Porter Hedges is currently working with several other families who will be closing on their new homes in the near future and plans to continue providing pro bono services to new homeowners.

PORTER | HEDGES

PRO BONO CHAMPIONS



Richard Leshin is a founding partner of Welder Leshin, LLP and is board certified in Estate Planning by the Texas Board of Specialization. He has been a pro bono attorney with TRLA’s Volunteer Lawyers Project (Corpus Christi) since 2003.



Richard Gonzalez & Armando X. Lopez have served as pro bono attorneys at TRLA’s Social Justice Night Court (Laredo) for over 15 years!



Thank you!

SHEARMAN STERLING ANSWERS THE CALL

Requests for TRLA's legal assistance in the family law area have surged 40% during the COVID-19 pandemic. TRLA is pleased to announce its partnership with the international law firm of Shearman Sterling to provide low income Texas with substantive legal advice in simple family law matters during a monthly "virtual" clinic, enabling TRLA advocates to focus on direct representation of this vulnerable client population.

TRLA's Family Law Team will provide a comprehensive training to these volunteer attorneys: "Advising the Family Law Client – The Pro Bono Basics." TRLA will thereafter pair several pre-screened clients per attorney for consultation and advice. TRLA will also provide experienced mentors and other resources to assist pro bono attorneys. TRLA and Shearman Sterling are excited to pioneer this clinic, and expect it to be an ongoing and client-centered resource for low income family law applicants.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NIGHT COURT: WEBB COUNTY EXPUNCTION CLINIC

Pandemic notwithstanding, clients in Webb County continue to obtain judicial relief with their expunction and non-disclosure cases via TRLA's Social Justice Night Court, a long-standing collaboration between Webb County judges, the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association, and TRLA.

While the March SJNC was cancelled after the COVID-19 pandemic declaration, forward-thinking judges and attorneys scrambled to hold expunction clinics in both April and May via Zoom.

Special thanks to Judge Oscar Hale and Associate Judge David Garcia who presided over the April and May dockets, and a shout out to Alyson Martinez, current president of the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association who has spearheaded pro bono recruiting throughout her tenure.



PRO BONO SETTLEMENT DAY

(Sponsored by the TRLA Tax Team— in anticipation of hearings scheduled before the U.S. Tax Court in San Antonio)

Pictured are various members of the State Bar of Texas Tax Section, IRS staff, and TRLA tax team advocates.

VIRTUAL CLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

- Advising the Family Law Client
- FEMA Appeals
- Alternatives to Guardianship
- Kincare 101
- Small Business: Nuts & Bolts
- Basics of Defending Evictions



UPCOMING PRO BONO EVENTS

June 5, 2020

Family Law Advice Clinic
Shearman Sterling



July 2020

Virtual Pro Bono (Tax) Settlement Day

Summer 2020

Legal Research Projects
Vinson & Elkins Summer Associates
Vinson&Elkins

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

TRLA Veterans Advocacy Project

Ongoing Ask-A-Lawyer legal clinics

TRLA Mental Health Programs

Ongoing Psychiatric Advance
Directive support

TRLA Guardianship Team

Ongoing Alternatives to
Guardianship SDMA legal clinics

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Sign up today at www.trla.org/probono



- Family Law
- Employment
- Wills/Estates
- Expunctions
- Consumer Rights
- & More!