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**THIS IS THE CCBA NEWSLETTER**  
**IMPORTANT NEWS INSIDE**  
**PLEASE DO NOT DISCARD**



## **February Luncheon Meeting**

**FRIDAY, YES, FRIDAY, February 17th, 12:00 p.m.**  
**Town Club**

**800 North Shoreline Boulevard, 6th Floor**

Free Parking available in Parking Garage — Have your ticket validated at the front desk

### **Judges' Forum**

## **All Candidates in Contested Judicial Primaries Have Been Invited**

**Cost:** \$18.00 per person for members, \$21.00 per person for non-members if reserved by noon, Tuesday, February 14, 2006. Call the Bar Office at 883-4022 to RSVP or e-mail us at [sgonzales@corpusbar.com](mailto:sgonzales@corpusbar.com). All reservations must be paid for. The cost at the door will be \$20.00 for members, \$22.00 for non-members

**Please note, this Luncheon will be on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH**



# Newsletter

February 2006

## CBWLA Hosts Reception for All Judicial Candidates in Contested Primaries

The Coastal Bend Women Lawyers Association (CBWLA) will host a meet and greet reception for all candidates in contested, judicial primaries for trial-court level judiciary positions in Nueces County. All are invited to attend. The reception will be Wednesday, February 15th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Corpus Christi Yacht Club. Cost will be \$13.00 if you reserve your ticket BEFORE Friday, February 10th. It will be \$15.00 if you pay at the door. Hors d'oeuvres and non-alcoholic drinks are included in the base price. There will also be a cash bar. The reception for the candidates will be in place of the CBWLA's monthly luncheon. Candidates will be allowed to distribute any written materials that they may have. Reservations and checks should be mailed to

Dabney Pettus  
c/o CBWLA  
800 North Shoreline Boulevard  
Suite 300, North Tower  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

## Judge King to Be Honored by YWCA

The Honorable Deanie M. King will be honored by the YWCA as one of its "Y Women in Careers for 2006." An annual award, "Y Women in Careers" is given by the YWCA to women who distinguish themselves in business, industry, education, and other leadership positions in the community. Recipients are selected for success through adversity and for

hard work and for not giving up. Judge King will receive her award at the YWCA "Y Women in Careers Awards Dinner" that will be held at the Congressman Solomon Ortiz International Center on Thursday, March 2nd. She will be honored for developing the Juvenile Assessment Center of the Corpus Christi Municipal Court.

## New Civil Procedure Rules for Nueces County District Courts Have NOT Been Implemented

**There appears to be some confusion with regard to the proposed rules changes that have been disseminated by the District Clerk's Office. The District Clerk's office was distributing them for informational purposes only. They are NOT, repeat, NOT in effect and will not be in effect in the near future. The current rules are still in effect. There is NO requirement to follow the proposed rules. The Texas Supreme Court has taken no action with regard to them at the request of the local District Judges. Changes to rules of procedure cannot become effective until the Supreme Court approves them. As reported in our e-mail of January 19th, the District Judges have taken this action in response to the request of the Corpus Christi Bar Association; and the Administration of Justice Committee is going to review all local civil procedure rules to determine whether any of the current rules need to be modified. It is composed of District and County Court at Law Judges and Bar Association members. Implementa-**

tion of any rules changes will not be instantaneous. They will not be able to be implemented until 30 days after notice of Texas Supreme Court approval has been provided to practitioners. We shall keep you posted via e-mail if any changes are approved by the Texas Supreme Court.

## Board Actions

The CCBA Board met January 17th and took the following actions:

- Authorized \$500.00 in support of the Mock Trial competition
- Agreed to activate the Administration of Justice Committee to review the rules of civil procedure of the local courts
- Modified the rule with regard to free lunches and seminars for sitting and assigned judges so as to not charge them regardless of whether they attended or not
- Agreed to continue accepting advertising in the newsletter including from attorneys advertising their practices
- Agreed to hold a judicial candidates forum during the February Luncheon
- Agreed to write off outstanding checks and close old checking account
- Approved expenditure of \$300.00 for advertising in CC Yellow Pages

## SBOT Seeking Nominations for the Presidents' Award

The State Bar of Texas (SBOT) is seeking nominations for SBOT Presidents' Award. It is given annually to the member who has done the most for the SBOT during the year. Two companion certificates are awarded to the two runner-up nominees. The SBOT Board of Directors nominates three members from among the nominees, and the past presidents the final selection. The deadline for nominations is 5:00 p.m., March 1, 2006. If you wish to make a nomination or just wish more information, please contact us at [sgonzales@corpusbar.com](mailto:sgonzales@corpusbar.com) or 883-4022 for a copy of the announcement letter.

## 2006 ABA Senior Lawyers Division Pro Bono Award

The ABA Senior Lawyers Division is accepting nominations for the 2006 SLD Pro Bono Award. The award honors one ABA attorney age 55 or older as of July 1, 2006, who does not obtain his/her principal income through employment by a legal services organization or by delivering legal services to the poor. Nominations must be received by March 2, 2006. The guidelines and nominations forms can be found on the Senior Lawyers Division web site at [www.abanet.org/srlawyers](http://www.abanet.org/srlawyers) or by calling (312)988-5565

## Important Dates

(Changes and seminars noted in **bold**)

### February

- 2/4 — **High School Regional Mock Trial Competition**
- 2/17 — Joint Luncheon with CPA's, Town Club

### March

- CCISD spring break 13th — 17th
- 3/3 — **Family Law Seminar**
- 3/7 — Last day for Luncheon Reservations
- 3/8 — Luncheon at Ortiz Center

### April

- Board of Directors Elections
- 4/7 — **Advanced Civil Law Seminar**
- 4/11 — Last day for luncheon reservations
- 4/12 — Luncheon at Ortiz Center

### May

- 5/2 — Law Day Reception
- 5/3 — Law Day Luncheon
- 5/19 — **Criminal Law Seminar**
- 5th Region Judicial Spring Meeting Reception in evening**
- 5/20 — **5th Region Judicial Spring Meeting**

### June

- Docket Call, Retreat/Joint Board Meeting
- 6/14 — 6/17 — **State Bar Annual Meeting**

## Are You Ready for Disaster?

September 11, Katrina, and Rita have demonstrated how far reaching the results of disaster can be. Are you prepared? Whether it is a hurricane or a fire, it is a disaster when it destroys your files, equipment, and/or facilities. Should it occur to you, being prepared may literally save your firm. Anticipating potential disruptions and planning for the basics necessary to stay in business are worth the time and investment, even if your plan is never required.

The planning process should also be used to prevent or reduce the risks of disaster. While the crises may be difficult to predict, you can assess and manage your exposure, particularly in areas such as employee safety, data protection, and technology security. Potential crises that can disrupt your business include fires, storms, terrorism, crime, hacking, and sabotage. You can also anticipate the impact on your firm, e.g., loss of people, physical space, documents, equipment, communications, and/or money. Recognizing the risks may allow you to mitigate the damage or prevent the disaster altogether. An effective strategy is to focus on basic functions and how to protect them rather than attempting to look for everything that could go wrong.

Since even the most extensive preventive strategy will not shield you from disasters beyond your control, the real objective is to understand how to respond and recover. That requires answering "what if" questions, e.g.:

- What if you had to practice law for a week without electricity?
- What if all your paper files or network files were destroyed?
- What if your key personnel died in an accident?
- What if you could not send e-mail?
- What if your space were unavailable starting tomorrow?

If you assume that any of these could occur, it is possible to develop a plan to

respond. When preparing a disaster plan, you will be well served to consider, at the minimum, the following:

An annual review of key insurance policies with an eye toward current replacement costs and the actual cost of business interruption

Data security including: How quickly will backup data be available for real use? Does your backup data include the software to run it? Where and how will you run your network if your physical location is destroyed? What about access to e-mail? How will you operate if there is a sustained disruption of the internet?

Basic business functions, e.g., payroll checks, invoices, accounts payable, document production, and the effect of a crises on key suppliers, vendors, and outsourced functions (e.g., network maintenance, document services)

Granted, some disasters can be so devastating that it is impossible to avoid a major disruption of day-to-day operations and even require discarding your recovery plan; but if you have planned, you will be better equipped to write a new one in the midst of a crises. (Summarized and adapted from "When Disaster Strikes" by Bill Busch published in the March 2002 issue of *Bench & Bar of Minnesota*)

### Changed Your Firm Name, Address, E-Mail Address?

Please do not forget to let us know. It is simple to notify us. You can find an update form on our web site in the membership section, [ccbar.com](http://ccbar.com). You can e-mail us at [dkingcc@corpusbar.com](mailto:dkingcc@corpusbar.com) or [sgonzales@corpusbar.com](mailto:sgonzales@corpusbar.com) or fax us at 883-9363.

### Have Equipment You Wish to Sell or Trade? Advertise in the Newsletter

\$20.00 1/4 page — \$40.00 1/2 page  
\$80.00 full page

## RINKUS CONSULTING GROUP, INC.'s SOUTH TEXAS TEAM

### Corpus Christi Consultants

**Tony Elarba, P.E.** Mechanical Engineer  
**Fred Koch, P.E.** Chem. Engineer  
**Frank Stevens, Ph.D.** Toxicologist/Industrial Hygienist

**Melinda Benavides** Environmental Technician  
**Tony Reyes** Branch Manager

### San Antonio Consultants

**Steve Frase, P.E.** Architectural Engineer  
**Lee Dozier, M.S.E.E., P.E.** Electrical Engineer  
**Sam Coffee, CIH, CSP** Industrial Hygienist

**Roger Garza, P.E.** Civil Engineer  
**Eddie Masters, A.S.** Automotive Component Expert  
**Bruce Morris, M.C.E., P.E.** Civil Engineer

**Mike Hoblet, M.S., P.E.** Civil Engineer  
**Cliff McCarter, P.J., ACTAR** Vehicle Accident Investigation/Reconstruction

**Bryan Skelly, C.F.E.I., P.I.** Fire Investigator, Licensed Mechanical Contractor

### McAllen Consultants

**Matt Spiekerman, P.E.** Civil/Structural Engineer  
**Lance Ply, P.J., ACTAR** Vehicle Accident Investigation/ Reconstruction and Licensed  
**Bill Green, C.F.E.I.** Fire Investigator  
Police Instructor

**Tim O'Leary, DMT, CHT** Marine Safety Expert/  
Commercial Diving

### Austin Consultants

**Clark McDonald, Ph.D., P.E.** Metallurgist/Mechanical Engineer  
**Jeff Gibeaux, P.E.** Civil Engineer

**Ryan Burnes, P.E.** Civil Engineer  
**David Sutphin, C.F.I.** Fire Investigator/Master Electrician

### Houston Consultants

Houston, Texas, is our World Headquarters with 50+ full-time consultants and more than 75 contract consultants for special projects.

You can also call me for information on our other 300+ full-time experts in our 25 other offices nationwide!

**Tim Christ, M.B.A.**  
South Texas Marketing Manager  
**Rinkus Consulting Group, Inc. – Corpus Christi**  
(361) 885-0599 office (956) 457-1784 cell