

Bridging the Gap Between Legal Services and Business Pro Bono

Description: How can legal services staff partner with pro bono business lawyers? Join us in this opening session to learn how the ABA Business Law Section has worked to bridge the gap. Learn from our host business pro bono provider Texas C-BAR how they have linked the work of Texas Rural Legal Aid and volunteer business lawyers to promote economic benefits throughout Texas.

Moderator: Kathleen Hopkins, Chair of Pro Bono Committee
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Presenters:

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- I. Welcome – Kathleen Hopkins, Chair of Pro Bono Committee of the ABA Business Law Section
 - a. Overview and Introduction of plenary

- II. Introduction of Linda Hayman, Chair-elect of ABA Business Law Section – Kathleen Hopkins
 - a. Why Section supports Pro Bono
 - b. Why Section recognizes value in National Public Service Award
 - i. Acknowledge 2003 recipient Baker & Botts
 - c. ABC Manual and website <http://www.buslaw.org/cgi-bin/controlpanel.cgi?committee=CL600000>
 - d. Opportunities for volunteer business lawyers – both in-house and in firms to use their business legal skills
 - e. Connection to the community and community based groups

- III. Introduction of speakers – Kathleen Hopkins
 - a. Volunteer Attorney – Cynthia Bast, Chair of TX C-BAR
 - i. Why volunteer
 - ii. What practice area
 - iii. What business skills used with community based group
 - iv. What satisfaction

 - b. Pro Bono Director– Frances Leos Martinez
 - i. How does business pro bono benefit the client community?
 - ii. How does an “intermediary” assist the firm?
 - iii. What difference has TX C-BAR made?
 - iv. Can a pro bono entity work with a legal service provider?

 - c. Legal Service Director – David Hall
 - i. How can legal service partner with business pro bono?
 - i. What difference has TX C-BAR made for TRLA clients?
 - ii. Any problems with client eligibility?
 - iii. Any problems with allocation of resources?

Bios:

Cynthia Bast leads Locke Liddell & Sapp's affordable housing practice group. She began her work in the affordable housing industry in 1991 in the area of low-income housing tax credits. Today, she assists clients with complex affordable housing and community development transactions using a variety of financing tools. Cynthia also works in the administrative and legislative arena. She participates extensively in rule-making and administrative issues with the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and assists with legislation on important issues in affordable housing.

She received a B.A. in Economics, *magna cum laude*, and an M.B.A. from the University of Tulsa and a J.D., *with honors*, from The University of Texas School of Law. She is a frequent speaker and writer on affordable housing matters and has been a guest lecturer at The University of Texas School of Law. Cynthia is a board member and volunteer for Texas Community Building With Attorney Resources, a pro bono project providing free legal services to community-based nonprofits pursuing affordable housing and community development initiatives. She received that organization's Volunteer of the Year Award in 2002 and in 2003 was recognized for outstanding pro bono service by the Travis County Women Lawyers Association.

David G. Hall has served as the Executive Director of Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, Inc. (TRLA) since 1975. Based in Weslaco, TX, TRLA is the largest legal aid provider in the State of TX serving low-income residents of 59 counties in the South and West part of the state.

Kathleen Hopkins is the Chair of the Pro Bono Committee of the ABA Business Law Section. She also is currently serving on the ABA Pro Bono Committee. Kathleen practices law with the Real Property Group in Seattle, WA.

Frances Leos Martinez is an attorney specializing in Community Development. A 1990 graduate of Stanford Law School, she served as a law clerk to Judge Filemón B. Vela, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas prior to being awarded a Skadden Fellowship to work in the Colonias Project of Texas Rural Legal Aid in 1992. In 1995, Frances founded the Community Development Clinic of St. Mary's University Law School in San Antonio, teaching and supervising students in transactional cases for non-profit clients in South Texas. She served as a Clinical Professor of Law until 2001. In 2001, Frances moved to Austin to work for McAuley Institute providing technical assistance and loan assistance to community development corporations in the Texas-Region and helping to design a Women's Leadership Institute for community women in Austin. In 2003 was appointed to the position of the Director of Make It Your Own, a women's homeownership initiative, and served in that position until coming to Texas C-BAR.