



Bulletin

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources • May 2005

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP Attorneys Help Texas Communities and Texas Nonprofits

Attorneys with Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP help to revitalize communities throughout Texas. Partnering with Texas C-BAR, Gardere attorneys have provided critical legal services and problem solving skills to Texas nonprofits. According to David



*Chris Converse of Gardere
Wynne Sewell LLP's
Dallas office*

Curtis, pro bono coordinator for the firm, "Pro bono work provides a tangible way for Gardere attorneys to give back to the communities we serve."

Gardere successfully engages attorneys in all of its Texas offices in pro bono cases.

Michael Newman, coordinator for the firm's work with Texas C-BAR states, "Texas C-BAR offers a unique platform for our transactional attorneys...we have seen a significant increase in pro bono participation among our transactional

attorneys." Gardere's commitment to pro bono is illustrated by some of their recent work for nonprofits working statewide, in east Texas, and in the cities of Dallas and Houston.

Cheryl Camin, Michael Rodgers, and Chris Converse of Gardere's Dallas office are three of the attorneys providing much-needed pro bono services to Texas nonprofits. Texas C-BAR awarded Cheryl Camin its 2004 Texas C-BAR Community Builder Award for her outstanding legal assistance to nonprofit clients including the Migrant Clinician's Network (MCN), a nonprofit working with farmworkers throughout Texas. MCN provides a framework for professional development to clinicians and develops tools and programs to improve healthcare for migrant farmworkers. MCN programs include family violence prevention, primary eye care, environmental health care, cardiovascular care, dental care, and maternal/child health care. MCN works directly with

farmworkers to provide follow-up and referral services for mobile patients with tuberculosis and diabetes as they travel to harvest ripening crops. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the median personal income for farmworkers is \$5,000-\$7,500 annually; many have incomes under \$2,500. According to the nomination from MCN's staff contact, Cheryl went beyond the call of duty to draft health privacy documents and protocols and trained MCN staff on their proper use.

Michael Rodgers helps to bring critical housing services to Nocona Grace Place, a faith-based start-up organization located in rural Montague County. One in seven residents in the county live in poverty and 40% of the children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. Besides poverty, the county has a serious problem with illegal methamphetamine production and child abuse. The organization is building four efficiency units to serve those who need temporary housing due to family separations, death, natural disasters, domestic abuse, seasonal employment, or disability. Michael volunteered to help the organization incorporate and obtain its tax-exempt status. Jim Weaver, the President of the organization, is very happy to have free and expert legal assistance in creating and filing these important legal documents.

Chris Converse works with Vecinos Unidos using a landbank program that transfers vacant land to nonprofits for affordable housing development that is being piloted by the City of Dallas. Vecinos Unidos also works to develop small businesses in the West Dallas area. The West Dallas area has a large Hispanic population many of whom earn significantly below the median income. Vecinos Unidos approached Texas C-BAR for assistance in structuring a partnership agreement with another Dallas nonprofit in order to develop large tracts of land being made available in the West Dallas area through the landbank program. Chris advised the nonprofit on asset protection and helped draft a memorandum of understanding with the other housing organization.

Gardere's Houston attorneys have accepted recent cases that

Continued on page 3.

Texas C-BAR Welcomes New and Returning Attorney Volunteers

1/16/05 - 04/12/05

Mark Artlip – *Reliant Energy, Inc.*
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Ray Witt – *King & Spalding LLP*
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2005 Legal Workshop Calendar

The following is a list of legal workshops offered by Texas C-BAR in 2005. This list will be updated from time to time as new workshops are developed. For more information about any of these workshops or to request a workshop in your area, call (512) 447-7707, ext. 379, or email info@texasbar.org

Nonprofit Legal Compliance

May 12, 2005-Tyler

Sponsored by the Nonprofit Development Center of Tyler
Call 903-581-6376 for more information.

July 13, 2005-Alpine

Sponsored by the Chihuahuan Desert Resource Conservation and Development
Call 432-837-8247 for more information.

August 25, 2005-Midland

Sponsored by the Nonprofit Management Center of the Permian Basin
Call 432-570-7971 for more information.

November 16, 2005-Amarillo

Sponsored by the Amarillo Area Foundation Nonprofit Services Center
Call 806-376-4521 for more information.

Employment Law for Nonprofits

July 14, 2005-Alpine

Sponsored by the Chihuahuan Desert Resource Conservation and Development
Call at 432-837-8247 for more information.

November 16, 2005-Amarillo


Sponsored by the Amarillo Area Foundation Nonprofit Services Center
Call 806-376-4521 for more information.

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP continued from page 1.

demonstrate how important it is for nonprofits to have legal advice to operate their businesses properly. Jason Sander advised Visions for Tomorrow on copyright issues. Visions for Tomorrow helps low-and moderate income Houston families achieve their dreams of becoming homeowners by providing financial literacy and homebuyer education and counseling services. The nonprofit approached Texas C-BAR for advice on whether the materials they developed for their classes complied with copyright laws. Jason reviewed the materials and advised the organization on how to comply with copyright laws and obtain permission to use copyrighted materials.

Maura Brady helped Operation Oasis create personnel policies and procedures. Operation Oasis works to create job training programs and economic opportunities for at-risk youth. Many nonprofits depend on volunteers and Maura Brady worked to craft personnel policies for nonprofits that address issues related to both employees and volunteers.

Gardere Wynne Sewell LLP's commitment to pro bono assistance is evident in the work of its attorneys. Gardere attorneys have helped

to bring new resources to rural and urban communities and have helped nonprofits build their capacity to ensure that they will be able to focus on their missions to serve low-income Texas families. 



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Healthcare providers and a retired farmworker at the Community Hope Projects, Inc. clinic in the Rio Grande Valley

Bank of America Makes \$25,000 Gift to Texas C-BAR

In recognition of the importance of top quality legal counsel for nonprofits engaged in complex community development activities, Bank of America has made a \$25,000 contribution to Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (Texas C-BAR). As a founding funder of Texas C-BAR, Bank of America understands the value of Texas C-BAR's free business law services for nonprofits working to revitalize low-income communities and Bank of America's on-going support for pro bono business law services is greatly appreciated.

Texas C-BAR gratefully acknowledges the contribution of all its 2005 supporters:

3M, Amegy Bank of Texas, Frank Oliver, Frost National Bank, J.C. Penney Company, Inc., Michael Li, Patton Boggs LLP, State Bar of Texas Corporate Counsel Section, State Bar of Texas Tax Section, Steve Stokes, Texas Association of CDCs, Wells Fargo, and USAA Federal Savings Bank.

Thank you!



New Pro Bono Partners Join Leadership Circle of Supporters

Special thanks to the newest members our Pro Bono Partners Club:

Cynthia Bast - *Locke Liddell & Sapp, LLP*

Debbie Ramirez - *Graves, Dougherty, Hearon, & Moody P.C.*

Jennifer Bligh - *Valero Energy Corporation*

About Texas C-BAR

Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources (Texas C-BAR) is a statewide business pro bono project which provides community-based nonprofits with the legal tools they need to succeed in transforming distressed neighborhoods into healthy communities. As a special project of Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Texas C-BAR currently partners with more than 55 law firms and corporations to help nonprofits build communities and ultimately better the lives of thousands of low-income families throughout the state. For more information about Texas C-BAR, or to participate in our pro bono program, please contact the staff of Texas C-BAR at:

phone: 512/447-7707, ext. 370
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email: info@texasbar.org
web: www.texasbar.org

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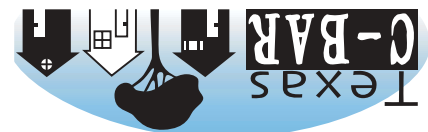
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