



April 2011

Vol. 28, No. 4

THE DICTA

The Docket

- April 5 (Tuesday)
DAYL Get Involved Luncheon
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 6 (Wednesday)
DAYL Judiciary Committee Meeting
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 7 (Thursday)
DAYL CLE Committee Meeting
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 7 (Thursday)
DAYL Counsel with Kids Committee Meeting
- April 9 (Saturday)
DAYL Habitat for Humanity Build Day
9:00 a.m.
- April 12 (Tuesday)
DAYL Equal Access to Justice Committee Meeting
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 12 (Tuesday)
DAYL Ask-A-Lawyer Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m., Trinity Hall
- April 13 (Wednesday)
DAYL Membership Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m., The Londoner
- April 14 (Thursday)
DAYL Lawyers Serving Children Committee
11:30 a.m., Belo Mansion
- April 16 (Saturday)
March for Babies
9:00 a.m., Norbuck Park
- April 19 (Tuesday)
DAYL Elder Law Committee Meeting
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 19 (Tuesday)
DAYL Animal Welfare Committee Meeting
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 20 (Wednesday)
DAYL Lunch and Learn CLE
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 21 (Thursday)
DAYL Freedom Run Committee Meeting
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 25 (Monday)
DAYL Solo and Small Firm Committee Meeting
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 26 (Tuesday)
DAYL Food for Thought Committee Meeting
6:00 p.m., The Tower Club
- April 28 (Thursday)
DAYL Environmental Awareness Committee Meeting
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 28 (Thursday)
DAYL Social
6:00 p.m., The Barley House
- April 29 (Friday)
DAYL Corporate Counsel CLE
Noon, Belo Mansion
- April 30 (Saturday)
Turtle Creek Clean Up
9:00 a.m., Turtle Creek Park

It's Patio Time as DAYL Kicks Off Spring With This Month's Social

The DAYL has another great Social lined up this month and this is one you do not want to miss. Join the DAYL on **Thursday, April 28, 2011** for the April Social at the **Barley House**. We have space reserved inside and outside on the Barley House's newly remodeled patio. Come out and enjoy the weather and your fellow young lawyers. The Social starts at 6:00 p.m. and includes two drink tickets and appetizers.

The cost to attend the Social is \$3 for DAYL members and \$5 for non-members. Our sponsor this month is **Regions Mortgage**, a division of Regions Bank. Regions Mortgage focuses on home mortgages, something that is important to many young lawyers. If you need help with a home mortgage or you just have some questions, contact **John Olson** (John.Olson@regions.com). This month's Social is sure to be a great night and we hope you can make it out.

DAYL Lunch and Learn Family Business Succession Planning

John Andrews of Andrews, Barth & Harrison, **Joe Chenoweth** VP Estate & Financial Planning with Ackley Financial Group, and **Clint Haggard**, CFO for 11 years to the Haggard Family Office will discuss what every young lawyer needs to know about succession planning for family businesses on **April 20, 2011**, at the Belo Mansion at noon.

This program will cover all of the aspects of the "Succession Plan" and why

a buy/sell agreement and a will are not enough. In addition to the general corporate and estate planning aspects, we will cover: tax issues peculiar to family businesses, executive employment, family law with respect to non-equity spouses, valuation and a whole host of other practical issues that crop up when one generation hands off to the next.

There is no cost for DAYL members to attend; the non-member fee is \$10. Lunch is available for purchase. RSVP to **Cherie Harris** (cherieh@dayl.com).

DAYL Get Involved Luncheon Tuesday, April 5, 2011 Noon | Belo Mansion

Join us for a one-hour program to learn about various opportunities that exist within DAYL. This program is perfect for the new lawyer who just joined (or who hasn't yet joined) or for someone who is already involved in one aspect of DAYL, but would like to learn about other opportunities. Find your niche in DAYL and meet other young lawyers who share similar interests and passions. There is no charge to attend and the program is open to all.

RSVP or direct questions to Cherie Harris (cherieh@dayl.com).

THE DICTA

Jonathan Childers, Editor

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Copy Deadline for May Issue:

April 10, 2011

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The views expressed in The Dicta do not necessarily reflect the views of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.

From the President

15 Years Later...

Of all the DAYL things I have been involved with the past ten years, none have made as much of an impact as my involvement with the DAYL Leadership Classes. I had the privilege of being selected to participate in the 2002 Leadership Class as I started my third year of practice. That class, led by **Robert Witte**, **Rob Crain** and **Karin Crump**, was my first step towards becoming a leader, not just in the bar, but in the Dallas community. It was through that class that I first was exposed to leaders in education, the non-profit community, the local political parties and government. The next year, when Karin relocated to Austin, I was given the privilege of being appointed with **Karen McCloud** as facilitators for the 2003 Leadership Class, and have proudly served in that role each year since.

This year will mark the 15th Anniversary of the DAYL Leadership Class – an exciting milestone for this program which has brought so much to the DAYL and the Dallas community!

A little history:

- Leadership DAYL was modeled after the Leadership Dallas program;
- Leadership DAYL was first organized in 1997 by then-DAYL President **Joyce-Marie Garay**, **Cynthia Figueroa Calhoun** and **Errol Phipps**;
- The program has received special recognition by both the TYLA and the ABA;
- TYLA was so impressed with the DAYL Leadership Program that it used the program as a model for its statewide Leadership TYLA program;
- More than 500 attorneys have gradu-



Penelope Brobst Blackwell

ated from the Leadership DAYL program to date; and

- Almost all DAYL Board members and many Committee Chairs, are graduates of the Leadership DAYL program, along with several members of the Dallas Bar Association Board of Directors!

In addition to learning about how to get involved and make a difference in the bar, government and community, each DAYL Leadership Class since 1999 has organized a community service project. Through these projects, the DAYL Leadership Classes have touched thousands of lives and raised more than \$275,000 for several Dallas non-profit organizations.

The projects include: a **Masquerade Ball** benefitting **Lupus Foundation of America** (1999); a tutoring project at **J.W. Ray Elementary School** which included a school end of year field day (2000); the **Freedom Run**, which first raised money the benefit victims of the September 11th attacks and then has continued each year since raising more than \$25,000 per year for the Dallas Assist the Officer Foundation (2001); a Luncheon featuring Bob Dole as the keynote speaker to raise money for and kick off organization **Education is Freedom** (2002); a family friendly Post-Event Festival for **Dallas CASA's Tour Dallas** (2003); **Poker for Playgrounds** which raised funds to build playground equipment for O. M. Roberts elementary school (2004); **"Big Easy in Big D,"** a concert benefiting school children who relocated to Dallas following Hurricane Katrina (2005); **"Impacting DISD,"** a day of community service where over 300 volunteers were sent to five schools in DISD for beautification

(continued on page 3)

In Case You Missed It... What Every Young Lawyer Needs to Know About Writing for Judges

by Heather Long

Here are some key points from the panel discussion about legal writing with **Magistrate Judge Renee Toliver** and **Judge Martin Hoffman**.

1. Think about logistics. Consider whether or not you are going to have a hearing on the matter, the local rules for filing documents, and any judge-specific preferences.

2. Organization helps persuasion. Using clear topics and subtopics makes it easier for the judge to understand your position and quickly focus on the issues.

3. Be concise.

4. Address the arguments made by the other side. Judges notice when you fail to respond to an argument made by your opponent.

5. Proofread your work.

6. Keep replies responsive. Replies are not your opportunity to repeat the arguments you already made.

7. Avoid attaching excess evidence.

8. Consider creative ways to make your points, including using graphics or charts.

9. Be intellectually honest.

10. Cite to your best case first. Avoid unnecessary string citations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Help a family in need. The DAYL is lending its services to the DBA and has volunteered to staff the build day planned for April 9, 2011. Please come out and lend a hand.

T-shirts are available and optional for \$15.

Contact Aaron Capps at acapps@gndlaw.com or Van Pham at vanpham99@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer. More information will be provided upon request.

From the President

(continued from page 2)

projects (2006); **DAYlympics** benefiting the DISD Teacher's Registry (2007); **Food for Thought**, a celebrity chef event that benefits Big Thought and has continued raising money for that organization each year (2008); and **Zoo-A-Palooza**, an evening event at the Dallas Zoo which raised more than \$10,000 for the Dallas Zoo's Educational Outreach Program (2009). The 2010 Leadership Class will be announcing its big event very soon!

The 15th DAYL Leadership Class, which I am proud to lead along with **Robert Witte**, **Karen McCloud**, **Rob Crain**, and **Aimee Williams**, is going to be a great year. We are excited to be adding a few new aspects to the program this year, including several small

group luncheons and some exciting new speakers.

If you have not participated in this fantastic program, I strongly encourage you to submit an application this year. Not only will you meet some great new friends, you will learn more about the Dallas community than you ever imagined -- along with some essential skills that will help enrich both your practice and your involvement outside of work. And more importantly, you will learn how to get involved outside the four walls of your office building. If you need any additional information, do not hesitate to contact any of the facilitators (you can find contact information on www.dayl.com). I look forward to meeting the 2011 DAYL Leadership Class soon!

Getting Rid of Old Electronic Equipment?

According to the US EPA, more than 4.6 million tons of e-waste ended up in US landfills in 2000. Toxic chemicals in electronics products can leach into the land over time or are released into the atmosphere, impacting nearby communities and the environment. In many European countries, regulations have been introduced to prevent electronic waste being dumped in landfills due to its hazardous content. From Greenpeace International, www.greenpeace.org.

The Environmental Awareness Committee will sponsor an e-recycling drive this Spring. Details to come

DAYL and Operation Kindness Join Forces Once Again

Join the DAYL Animal Welfare Committee on **May 5, 2011**, at Sambuca from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. for their fourth annual Yappy Hour silent auction benefiting **Operation Kindness**. (Sambuca is at 2120 McKinney Avenue, the corner of Pearl and McKinney. www.sambucarestaurant.com).

Founded in 1976, Operation Kindness is the oldest and largest no-kill shelter in North Texas. They have saved

more than 65,000 animals and care for an average of 200-250 animals on a daily basis. They also provide care for another 60-80 animals in foster homes. More than 3,000 dogs and cats are adopted from Operation Kindness each year. Operation Kindness receives no government funding, so it relies on individuals and groups like the Animal Welfare Committee for support.

The previous years' events each raised thousands of dollars for this

organization, and this year's result should be no different. Many unique and exciting items, from Texas Rangers tickets to pet-related services, will be available for bidding at the silent auction.

Admission to the Yappy Hour is \$15 and includes two drink tickets. Appetizers will be served. All proceeds will go to Operation Kindness. Thanks to Sambuca for their support, and to **Lackey Hershman, LLP** for their sponsorship.

Lawyers Serving Children Committee to March for Babies

The DAYL **Lawyers Serving Children** (formerly Barristers for Babies) Committee is forming a DAYL team to participate in the annual March for Babies 5-mile walk on **Saturday, April 16th** at 9:00 am at Norbuck Park at White Rock Lake (1-mile turnaround available).

The walk raises money for the March of Dimes to support lifesaving research and in-

novative programs to prevent birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. In Texas, 1 in 7 babies are born prematurely each year compared to the national average of 1 in 8. Texas March of Dimes programs include NICU family outreach, innovative prenatal care programs, 32 active medical research grants in Texas, and advocacy during the legislative session in Austin to improve the health of women, children, and babies.

The Lawyers Serving Children committee goal is to raise over \$1,000 for the walk and will plan several Blue Jeans for Babies days at law firms, other workplaces, and law schools in March and April leading up to the walk on April 16th. To walk with the DAYL team or get involved, [visit www.marchforbabies.com/team/DAYL](http://www.marchforbabies.com/team/DAYL) or contact co-chair **Sarah Johnson** (sarah.johnson@mbtlaw.com).

DAYL's Dinner and Dialogue - Controversy with a Twist

The DAYL Lawyers Promoting Diversity Committee Presents *Diversity of Thought: Moving Beyond Discussions of Black*

and White and Into the Gray. The program will be held on **Thursday, May 19, 2011** from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas Texas 75201.

Has the United States moved beyond issues of race since the election of President Obama? Will the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell harm or benefit our national security? Is health care a privilege for those who can afford its purchase or a universal right for all? Are airport security full body x-ray scans an invasion of privacy or necessary to protect our citizens? Should illegal immigrants be allowed to earn a path to citizenship? **NOTHING IS OFF LIMITS!**

Please join DAYL's Lawyers Promoting Diversity Committee (LPD) for an evening of intimate provocative discussion accompanied by a delicious meal.

"The wave of the future is not the conquest of the world by a single dogmatic creed, but the liberation of the diverse energies of free nations."

President John F. Kennedy

This is an annual event where typically, participants share a meal together and discuss current "hot topics" created exclusively by the LPD Committee. The topics are presented in a manner to elicit a

spirited discussion that will evoke a respectful diversity of thought among our guests. So if you have an opinion on current "hot topics" and would like to be part of a forum where ALL opinions are welcome, please join us on May 19, 2011. Individual tickets are \$10, which include dinner and participation in the forum.

Also, sponsorship opportunities are available for law firms and corporations ranging from \$350 (Silver Sponsors) to \$1000 (Platinum Sponsors). Current sponsors (as of print date) include Godwin Ronquillo PC as

a Gold Sponsor.

For more information and to RSVP please contact **Cherie Harris** (cherieh@dayl.com) by May 13th or visit the DAYL website (www.dayl.com).

DAYL Foundation Accepting Grant Applications

The DAYL Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is accepting grant applications for law-related projects and charitable organizations that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) Law-related scholarship and education promoting knowledge and awareness of the rule of law;
- 2) Charitable and legal aid for the public, including improving the delivery of legal services to the indigent and improv-

- ing the administration of justice;
- 3) Foster honor, integrity and public confidence in the profession of law;
- 4) To assist the legal profession by enhancing the quality of client services and improving the self-regulation of the profession; and
- 5) Historical preservation and observances.

Grants typically range from \$500 - \$2,000. Organizations that have received DAYL Foundation grants in the past in-

clude: Dallas Legal Hospice, Dallas Museum of Art, Genesis Women's Shelter, Legal Services of NorthWest Texas, Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas, and the Urban Justice Center.

If you are aware of an organization that could benefit from a DAYL Foundation grant, please have them contact Cherie Harris (cherieh@dayl.com) for additional information. The grant deadline for the DAYL Foundation is **Tuesday, May 3, 2011.**

It's Baseball and Bankruptcy Time

by David Wishnew

It's baseball time again! A season after the Texas Rangers' storied run to the World Series under a brand new ownership group, the DAYL is hosting a CLE luncheon about the Rangers' well publicized bankruptcy.

Please join us at noon on May 12th at

the Belo Mansion for an in depth discussion with a panel that experienced the proceedings from the front lines. Attendees should expect a high level discussion from a panel that was actively involved in the bankruptcy and represented some of the major players.

The luncheon will be moderated by

Jonathan Covin, and the panel will include **Mark Chevallier**, **Scott Dewolf**, **Jeff Prostok**, and **William Snyder**. Don't miss what is sure to be both a fun and thought provoking discussion on the largest bankruptcy of a sports franchise in the history of the DFW metroplex.

Go Rangers!

DAYL Softball Kicks Off in May

It's that time of year again, time for another exciting season of DAYL Softball. But first, congratulations are in order for last year's champions. JW/Barley House won the men's division crown while the Hartliners took the Co-ed championship. So here's to you.

Enclosed in this issue of *The Dicta* you will find an application for the 2011 Softball Season which will begin in early May. The application deadline is April 22, 2011 and the cost per team is \$650. Get the gloves oiled up, break out the bats and let's play ball.

For information, contact **Matt Daniel** (mdaniel@lawyerworks.com).

-2011 DAYL Softball Application-

Firm Name: _____

Team Name: _____

Team Manager: _____

Manager's Work Address: _____

Manager's Email Address: _____

Work Phone : _____ **Fax:** _____

League Preference

Men's Competitive **Non-Competitive** **Co-Ed**

Return this application along with payment of \$650.00 (made payable to DAYL) to Cherie Harris, DAYL, 2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75201 no later than Friday, April 22, 2011. Contact Matt Daniel (mdaniel@lawyerworks.com).

TEAM ROSTER (attach additional page, if necessary)

Player Name	DAYL Member	Clerk	Non-Attorney
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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DAYL ONE TO WATCH

Sarah D. Johnson has been selected as the April 2011 DAYL One to Watch! To find out why, visit www.dayl.com.

DAYL Accepting Application for 15th Leadership Class

The DAYL is accepting applications for the 2011 Leadership Class. Leadership DAYL allows young lawyers to collectively develop their leadership skills while learning more about how to get involved in the Dallas community through introductions to community, political, and bar leaders. Leadership DAYL also serves as an excellent networking opportunity for class members and an opportunity to form life-long bonds.

The DAYL Leadership Class enables lawyers of all backgrounds to meet each other and other leaders in

the city, community, and Bar to not only network, but also to develop their leadership skills and explore how attorneys can make a difference in their profession and community.

**Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
Leadership Class Application
Application Deadline
Friday, May 13, 2011**

Each year the DAYL selects a Class of about 40 (forty) members from applications submitted by lawyers of all practice areas, firm sizes, and levels of experience.

The 2011 Class will meet for an overnight, out-of-town, mandatory Leadership Retreat from 7:00 a.m. on Friday, August 26 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 27. A series of luncheons will follow, featuring local and state leaders speaking on their personal experiences in leadership positions, and leadership opportunities for young lawyers. Participation in the Leadership Class will greatly enhance your business contacts,

and will provide opportunities that would not have existed otherwise. At the completion of the program, the Class traditionally organizes a community-service project

THE 2011 DALLAS ASSOCIATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS CLOTHING DRIVE May 2 - 6

What to DONATE - NEW undergarments; clean and lightly used men's, women's, and children's clothing and shoes; new or lightly used bedding (*e.g.*, blankets, sheets, comforters), towels and rugs, gently used dog beds (for animal rescue groups); and cell phones (new or old) and accessories (*e.g.*, chargers, extra batteries, etc.).

HOW TO HELP - Donate!! Take a few minutes to go through your closet and drawers - find the clothing and shoes that have been pushed to the back of your closet, the bedding and towels that you never use and old cell phones that are collecting dust. Spread the word: **Spring Clean to Change Lives!**

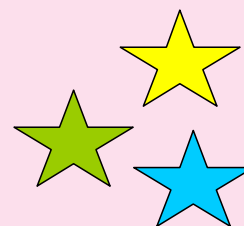
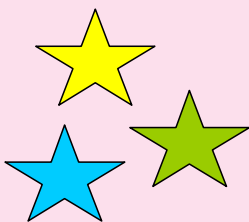
DONATIONS - Please separate the items you wish to donate into two different bags (and label accordingly) as follows: 1) Clothing, shoes, cell phones and accessories; OR 2) Bedding and towels.

YOU WILL SUPPORT - Many local shelters.

WHERE - Donations can be delivered to Cherie Harris's office at the Belo Mansion (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) on or before May 6, 2011.

This Clothing Drive is brought to you by
Lawyers Against Domestic Violence (LADV)
and Animal Welfare Committees of the DAYL.

For more information, contact:
Cherie Harris (cherieh@dayl.com).





(left) On February 26, a small group of DAYL members proudly displayed their signs and handed out water, granola bars and beef jerky to our service men and women who were returning stateside for some rest and relaxation.



(right) Members of the 2009 Leadership Class present a check in the amount of \$10,705.81 to the Dallas Zoo representing proceeds from Zoo-A-Palooza, the 2009 Leadership Class project, which was held in September 2010.



DAYL's Lawyers Serving Children Committee organized a terrific CLE program to education lawyers about the signs of child abuse and steps to take towards prevention.



DAYL's April Lunch and Learn featured a panel discussion on pleadings, including special exceptions, pleas in abatement and motions to dismiss.

DAYL's International Committee is looking for volunteers. If you want to meet lawyers from across the globe, volunteer as a host for the Academy of American International Law starting May 15, 2011. For more information, contact Barbara Nicholas (bnicholas@adorno.com) or Vishal Chander (vchander@chanderlaw.com).

Five Things Associates Need to Know Before Preparing Clients for Depositions

by Chris Simmons

You are sitting in a conference room. The court reporter diligently transcribes the record. The videographer has your client's image on screen. The tape is rolling. Opposing counsel has been deposing your client for 30 minutes. You think to yourself, "I've got this under control." The next instant, opposing counsel asks your client a question and your heart instantly repositions itself from its customary location on the left side of your chest to somewhere in your esophagus. As your client flounders to answer the question, you think to yourself, "Why did I not prepare my client for that question?" You spend the remainder of the deposition, and possibly the remainder of the litigation, trying to undo what has just occurred.

If you have lived through this experience, like many of us have, then you realize the importance of thoroughly preparing your client for his or her deposition. Although the old adage "learn from your mistakes" is a commendable personal undertaking, in the context of practicing law it is more preferable to live by the axiom "learn from others' mistakes." So in an effort to help you learn from others' mistakes, here are five points you should consider when preparing your client for deposition.

1. IDENTIFY AND ADAPT YOUR CLIENT'S PERSONALITY:

Whether your client is out-going, charismatic, or reserved, it is up to you to identify how his or her personality will impact the presentation of your case. One slip of the tongue or lapse in judgment during a deposition can provide opposing counsel with a valuable tool to undermine your client in front of a jury. Therefore, you and your client must understand that the presentation during deposition is equally important as presentation at trial. In counseling you client, temper confidence and charisma with humility. In order to avoid a perception of evasiveness, help him strike a balance between analytical responses and transparency. Understand that *how* your client presents his testimony can be as important as its

content. Remember, in a courtroom, the jurors' perception of reality is reality.

2. INFORM YOUR CLIENT ON THE STATUS OF PLEADINGS AND DISCOVERY.

Few things make a client feel unprepared like questions about discovery or pleadings that the client is not prepared to answer. Your client's answers to these questions can significantly impact the litigation and be useful to the opposing side in future pleadings (for example, motions for summary judgment or motions to compel discovery responses). On the other hand, your opponent's intent in asking these questions may be nothing more than to undermine your client's confidence. Simply put, if your witness loses confidence in his level of preparation, your opponent will be able to control him more effectively. The solution to this scenario is relatively simple: discuss the status of the pleadings and discovery with your client and prepare him to give appropriate responses.

3. IDENTIFY THE WEEK POINTS IN YOUR CASE.

Since every case has flaws (believe me, they do), you need to approach your case from the perspective of your opponent and decide what testimony would be most helpful to his case, i.e., harmful to yours. Think "big picture." Don't limit your evaluation to testimony that could impact existing claims/defenses, consider testimony that could lead to additional claims/defenses. With that in mind, discuss your claims/defenses with your client. While it would be impractical to educate your client on the nuances of contract law, if the claim is for breach of contract, you should make him aware of the elements. If you have a key piece of evidence (i.e., a document or testimony), you should discuss it with your client. The bottom line is this: don't allow your client to go into a deposition without having discussed what you are trying to accomplish and what you need to avoid.

4. ASK YOUR CLIENT FOR INPUT.

Although this may sound like an incredibly obvious point, we often overlook the obvi-

ous. As lawyers, I believe we fear appearing less knowledgeable than our clients on topics relevant to the litigation. After all, we are supposed to be the experts, right? Not necessarily. Our true expertise should be identifying relevant evidence/testimony and effectively shaping and molding it through the course of litigation in order to bring about the sought-after result. As such, we should look to clients as invaluable resources while preparing for their depositions. No matter how many times you think you have heard your client's recitation of the facts, you will probably learn new information during his deposition. In an effort to minimize the risk of this situation, you should approach a deposition preparation session as an opportunity to delve into the facts from differing viewpoints in a collaborative effort with your client. A question with one goal, asked three different ways, may elicit different information. Engaging in substantive, case-specific dialogue with your client provides you with the opportunity to employ your true expertise, i.e., identify all relevant facts and fully evaluate their impact on your client's case.

5. SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY AND MOVE FROM DEFENSIVE TO OFFENSIVE:

Associates, as a group, seem to view depositions as either "I am taking a deposition, therefore, I am on the offensive," or "I am defending a deposition, therefore, I am on the defensive." While this mindset is correct in the obvious sense, it is overly simplistic and, if strictly adhered to, potentially detrimental to your case. How is it detrimental? As we have all heard, an opportunity we fail to seize is an opportunity we lose. Applying that saying to the topic at hand, you can prepare your client to respond with beneficial testimony when opposing counsel delves into certain, key topics. In other words, your client's deposition is not only about damage control, it can provide an opportunity to affirmatively advance his claims.

Chris Simmons is an associate at Gruber Hurst Johansen & Hail LLP practicing in commercial litigation.

Where Paulie Walnuts Would Eat. You Know, If He Were A Real Person...

Sitting on the patio of **Il Cane Rosso** (2612 Commerce Street, www.ilcanerosso.com) one recent sunny March afternoon, we were reminded of the Sopranos episode where Tony and Paulie check into a hotel and order steaks and scotch to be delivered to their rooms. “And baked potatoes!” barked Paulie. Offered only wraps and salads from the hapless clerk, the episode was a study in how the times are a changin’. You too will be reminded of Paulie Walnuts when eating at Il Cane Rosso, not only because the old days of craptastic pizza in Dallas are fading fast, but because of the larger-than-life-sized mural of everyone’s favorite consigliere on the patio.

Long famed for its pizzeria on wheels, ICR finally put down roots in Deep Ellum a few months ago, a place that sorely needed another destination restaurant. Located directly across the street from Twisted Root and two doors down from the dearly departed Taco Lounge (Let’s all pause to pour some melted cheese on the ground for our lost homie...), ICR’s new digs has the warehouse district feel of a restaurant that has been around a while.

The pizza is in the Neapolitan tradi-

tion, and in fact, ICR’s mission statement is that it is “On a mission to bring authentic Neapolitan pizza to Dallas.” In our opinion, ICR edges out Olivella’s for the title of “most authentic Neapolitan” in this fair burgh. ICR brags that its pizza is made “according to the strict guidelines of the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana,” with dough that is made in-house from imported Italian flour. The cheese, says ICR’s website, is hand-pulled daily and the tomato sauce is also made daily from hand-crushed San Marzano tomatoes. Sausage comes from Jimmy’s in east Dallas, and the Italian-made oven is fired with Texas hardwood. You are either getting hungry or confused reading this paragraph. Or both. Both is OK. We have trained professionals ready to help.

The pizzas come quickly – the super hot wood oven heats things up pronto, and the toppings are fresh and don’t overwhelm. The “Funghi” (\$13) comes with freshly sliced mushrooms and basil leaves, and the combination made for a very understated and delicate flavor. The “Luana” (\$15) is just like the Funghi but with lots of spicy Jimmy’s sausage and sopresata added on to make for a still tasty a combination that’s a whole lot less

The Law Reviewers

by Michael Anderson and Anthony Lowenberg

understated and delicate.

True to the website’s braggadocio, the crust of ICR’s pizza comes out nicely charred and crispy, although our biggest critique would be that the pizzas are just large enough that the middle portion of the crust gets soggy and sags prematurely. As a result you may have to knife-and-fork the first two bites of every slice.

ICR has a limited non-pizza selection, as well. Among the four salad choices is a Burrata Salad (\$12). Burrata is cream-infused mozzarella and ICR’s burrata is world class. The salad comes with a giant crostini on which you may spread your way to a spare tire.

We at the Law Reviewers welcome our new wood fire pizza overlords popping up all over the city, and especially welcome ICR into the fold (Get it? “Fold?”...Ah forget it). Will it last in what is probably a tough location? Well, if it lasts as long as the Taco Lounge did, we would call that a success. So! On our crispy five-gavel scale that was made in a factory in Seacaucus, where one gavel is The Jersey Shore, and five gavels is the Jersey shore, we give Il Cane Rosso four gavels, or the feel-good ending to Copland.

DAYL Corporate Counsel Committee Hosts First CLE

Join DAYL at noon on **Friday, April 29** at the Belo Mansion for a CLE program entitled “*Hot Topics for Corporate Counsel*.” A panel of in-house attorneys, including **Tony Bangs**

(Neiman Marcus Group); **Monica Berry** (Hostess Brands); and **Nicola Hobeiche** (ORIX USA Corporation), will discuss their expectations of outside-counsel, transitioning from private practice to in-house, and the legal skills needed to suc-

ceed in business law.

There is no charge for DAYL members to attend. RSVP to **Cherie Harris** (cherieh@dayl.com). This program has been approved for 1.0 hours of CLE credit.

The DAYL Environmental Awareness Committee invites everyone to celebrate Earth Day 2011 by participating in a Turtle Creek Clean-Up!

Join us from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Saturday, April 30 as we help protect one of our city’s treasures. (There is also an opportunity to participate on Saturday, April 23.)

All gear, including gloves and trash bags, and refreshments will be provided. Please contact Jen Avery at Jennifer.Avery@tklaw.com to sign up or for more information.

DAYL Swearing In Ceremony
May 24, 2011 | 3:30 p.m. | Belo Mansion

The DAYL Law Student Assistance Committee is hosting a Swearing-In Ceremony on Tuesday, May 24, 2011 beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Belo Mansion.

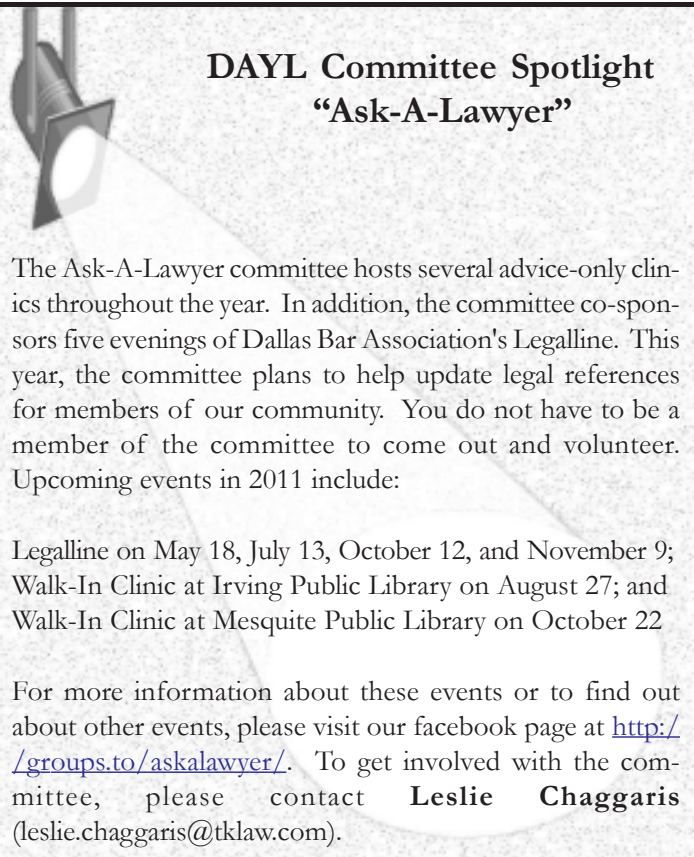
Fifth District Court of Appeals Justice Elizabeth Lang-Miers will swear in the newly-licensed attorneys.

You MUST bring your letter from the State Bar indicating that you have met all criteria and are ready to take the oath in order to be sworn-in.

The Swearing-In is free, and family and friends are welcome to attend. Newly licensed lawyers will also receive information on upcoming DAYL events and opportunities for participation.

RSVP to Cherie Harris (cherieh@dayl.com).

DAYL Committee Spotlight "Ask-A-Lawyer"



The Ask-A-Lawyer committee hosts several advice-only clinics throughout the year. In addition, the committee co-sponsors five evenings of Dallas Bar Association's Legalline. This year, the committee plans to help update legal references for members of our community. You do not have to be a member of the committee to come out and volunteer. Upcoming events in 2011 include:

Legalline on May 18, July 13, October 12, and November 9; Walk-In Clinic at Irving Public Library on August 27; and Walk-In Clinic at Mesquite Public Library on October 22

For more information about these events or to find out about other events, please visit our facebook page at <http://groups.to/askalawyer/>. To get involved with the committee, please contact **Leslie Chaggaris** (leslie.chaggaris@tklaw.com).

Announcements

Laura Benitez Geisler is proud to announce opening of the Geisler Law Firm where she will continue to focus her practice on personal injury litigation. She can be reached at laura.geisler@lbgllawfirm.com or 214.651.4200.

Anthony Lowenberg has joined Goldfarb Branham, LLP.

Richard Y. Cheng recently joined Senior Care Centers as General Counsel and has also been voted as a new Board of Director for the DFW Chapter for the Association of Corporate Counsel (DFW-ACC).

Justin Kimble has been made partner with the firm of Shore Chan Bragalone DePumpo LLP.

Heather Long, formerly at Sommerman & Quesada, LLP, has joined Simon, Eddins, & Greenstone, LLP as an associate. Heather can now be contacted at hlong@segllaw.com.

Alexandra Geczi and her husband welcomed baby Isabel, their first child, on January 26, 2011.

Mey Ly has joined Littler Mendelson, P.C. as an associate. She can be reached at Mly@littler.com.

To submit an announcement for inclusion in a future issue of *The Dicta*, please email **Cherie Harris** (cherieh@dayl.com).

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