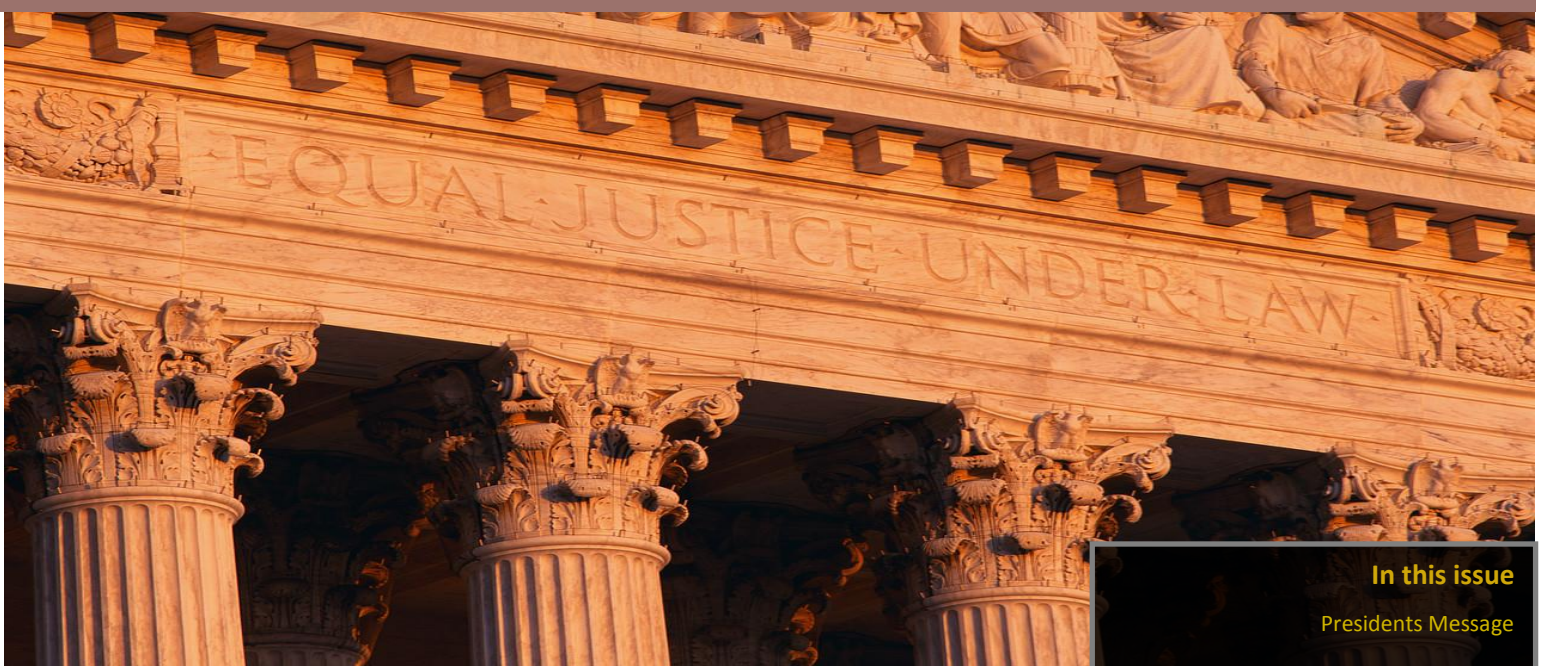


Houston Northwest Bar Association

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 1 January 2011



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A Message From The President By Lori Noack May

Welcome to 2011!!

I'm not a big resolution-maker; however, I do like to start the new year by putting away my holiday decorations, cleaning out my home and office, and organizing for a fresh new year. Yes, returning to work is difficult. But I am excited and anxious to be assisting my clients with rested eyes and a positive attitude. For some, the new year may bring thoughts and plans for a new business, a new law firm, a new office, a new adventure.

Our program this month will be applicable and interesting to many of our members. Rhonda Beassie and Lance Stodghill will present **"A Shingle and a Laptop: Starting Your Own Firm From Scratch."** Does this apply to you? Or maybe the program will pique your interest and plant a seed? Maybe you have ideas on ways to expand your current practice. Rhonda and Lance will provide us with practical information and steps for accomplishing just this! I hope you will join us on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, 5:30pm-7:00pm, County Line BBQ, 13850 Cutten Road (between 1960 and Cypresswood).

By way of HNBA business, please be prepared to pay your annual dues this month. The annual membership dues have increased to \$50.00; however, the monthly meeting dues will remain the same – \$15.00 for members; \$20.00 for non-members. Also, one of our board members, Fermeen Fazal, recently attended the HBA Brown Bag Lunch Meeting for Houston Area Bar Leaders. These meetings are both fun and informative, as you learn what other legal organizations and sections of the Bar are accomplishing and participating in. There are some busy and involved groups of lawyers out there! The HNBA Board would like to provide opportunities to members to participate in community projects, such as a will-a-thon, legal clinic, work with Habitat for Humanity or Northwest Assistance Ministries. If you have any ideas for projects in which we may be involved, please let us know. Or, if you desire to have social gatherings of our groups, let us know that as well.

On a very sad note, we have learned that Ida Stewart, a long-time attorney, past HNBA officer and member, and friend, passed away on January 3, 2011. Her husband, Rob Wiley, is also a HNBA member and lawyer in Northwest/Woodlands area. Please remember the Stewart/Wiley family in your thoughts and prayers.

Thanks for your participation and support. I look forward to seeing you on the 19th! Lori

January 19th Monthly Meeting

Come join the Houston Northwest Bar Association for DINNER and a great CLE

SPEAKER & TOPIC

"A Shingle and a Laptop: Starting Your Own Firm From Scratch" Whether due to an entrepreneurial streak or a contracting job market, many attorneys are striking out on their own. This practical guide will discuss the steps needed for both novice and seasoned attorneys to start and grow a law practice on a shoestring budget.

Mr. Lance Stodghill, who is a solo attorney with his own firm of *W. Lance Stodghill, PC* in Houston. Lance has a practice that focuses on defending clients before the Internal Revenue Service in audits and appeals involving income tax liabilities, employee benefits, pension plans and employment taxes; as well as representing clients against the Internal Revenue Service in the United States Tax Court. He is admitted to practice law in Texas, the U.S. District Courts for the Southern Districts of Texas, and the United States Tax Court. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas Taxation Section and the Houston Bar Association Taxation Section. His awards include Texas Monthly "Texas Rising Starr" (2009). He received his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center (J.D., 1997) and also a MBA from the University of Houston School of Business (1997). As an undergraduate he attended the University of New Orleans as a National Merit Scholar, (B.A., 1993). A more extensive biography for Mr. Stodghill may be found at his firm's Web site.

DATE/TIME:

Wednesday, January 19, 2011, from 6:00pm-7:00 pm
Social hour is from 5:30pm-6:00pm

LOCATION: The County Line, a restaurant located at 13850 Cutten Road, Houston, TX 77069. The telephone number for County Line is 281-537-2454.

CLE OFFER:

1 hour CLE

COST:

\$15 for HNBA members; \$20 for non-HNBA members, guests, etc. Pay at the door.

SPONSOR:

TBA at Meeting.



BAR BITS



Value of Suspending Licenses in a DWI cases argued. (except from the State Bar Website)

In 2001, state legislators passed a law that lets police officers seize the licenses of suspected intoxicated motorists who fail or refuse to take an alcohol breath test.

But lawmakers, judges and attorneys are divided on whether confiscating licenses before a defendant's case goes to court actually prevents drunken driving.

By law, suspected drunken drivers face a 180-day suspension if they refuse an alcohol breath test and a 90-day revocation if they fail. Defendants can appeal to the state, but they do not often win.

News investigators state that some defendants then seek occupational licenses and that County judges almost always sign their requests — often with little questioning — allowing suspects to drive wherever they want in some cases.



Houston Northwest Bar Membership Information

Membership in the HNBA is open to all attorneys licensed by, and in good standing with, the State Bar of Texas.

Meetings are held in even numbered months at lunch time (11:30am-1:00pm) at a destination and date to be announced; on the **third Wednesday** of each odd numbered month from 6:00pm-7:00pm at The County Line, a restaurant located at 13850 Cutten Road, Houston, TX 77069. The telephone number for County Line is 281-537-2454.

There is a \$15 members/ \$20 non-members charge for each CLE meeting. Each meeting features an expert speaker which entitles the member to one hour of continuing legal education credit by the State Bar of Texas. Topics range from procedure and legislative changes to litigation and ethics.

If you have questions about membership please contact the current HNBA President . Membership also includes a complementary web page and online listing with the HNBA Lawyer Referral Service. If you have your own firm website, your HNBA web page will link to that website. You may also upload your Bar picture to the HNBA website free of charge.

If you have questions about your web page please contact the Webmaster for what to include.

To apply for membership please fill out a Membership Application online or at the monthly meeting, and include your check for the annual dues of \$50. Upon receipt of payment your web page and information will be added to the Houston Northwest Bar Association's *Find a Lawyer Service* and Member's pages unless you indicate otherwise.

<http://www.hnba.org>

About the Houston Northwest Bar Association

The Houston Northwest Bar Association was formed in 1985 to promote quality legal service for the public, offer professional education for its members, and encourage collegiality and camaraderie between attorneys that practice or live in Northwest Harris County, Texas.

Since its creation, HNBA has served thousands of citizens in offering a directory of attorneys practicing in northwest Harris County and by providing information about alternative sources of legal solutions.

Houston Northwest Bar
Association

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In Memoriam

Ida Gwendora Stewart

Ida Gwendora Stewart was born August 31, 1954, in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the first child of Mississippians Oscar and Murriel Stewart. Oscar Stewart was an enlisted man in the United States Air Force who was stationed in England while Murriel went to Michigan to live with relatives while awaiting the birth.

As her father continued his Air Force career, Ida grew up in Paris, France, Mountain Home, Idaho, Kokomo, Indiana, Goose Bay, Labrador, Canada, and finally, Ft. Worth, Texas.

After graduating from Arlington Heights High School in 1972, she enrolled at the University of Texas. There she married her high school boyfriend, Charles Barnes. That marriage, ended in divorce shortly before Stewart graduated in 1977.

Stewart in 1978 enrolled in the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Later she entered the University of Texas Law School and earned her masters and law degrees through a joint program between the schools.

Stewart obtained her law license in 1986. She worked in state government before moving to Houston with Wiley, whom she married in 1983.

In addition to Wiley, her husband of 27 years, Stewart's survivors include their three children, Kenneth, 22, a senior at the University of Missouri, Murriel, 20, a sophomore at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, and Kathryn, 18, a Clemson University freshman, two stepchildren, Shaun Wiley, 35, and Keith Wiley, 33, both of Chicago, three sisters, Linda Stewart Ball and Selena Alexander, both of Dallas, and Michelle Stewart-Thomas of Los Angeles, her father, Master Sergeant Oscar H. Stewart, United States Air Force (Ret.) and stepmother, Liz Stewart, both of Fort Worth.

A memorial service celebrating Stewart's life will be held at 3 p.m., February 26 at Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church, 1370 North Millbend in The Woodlands.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the College of Liberal Arts general scholarship fund at the University of Texas at Austin.