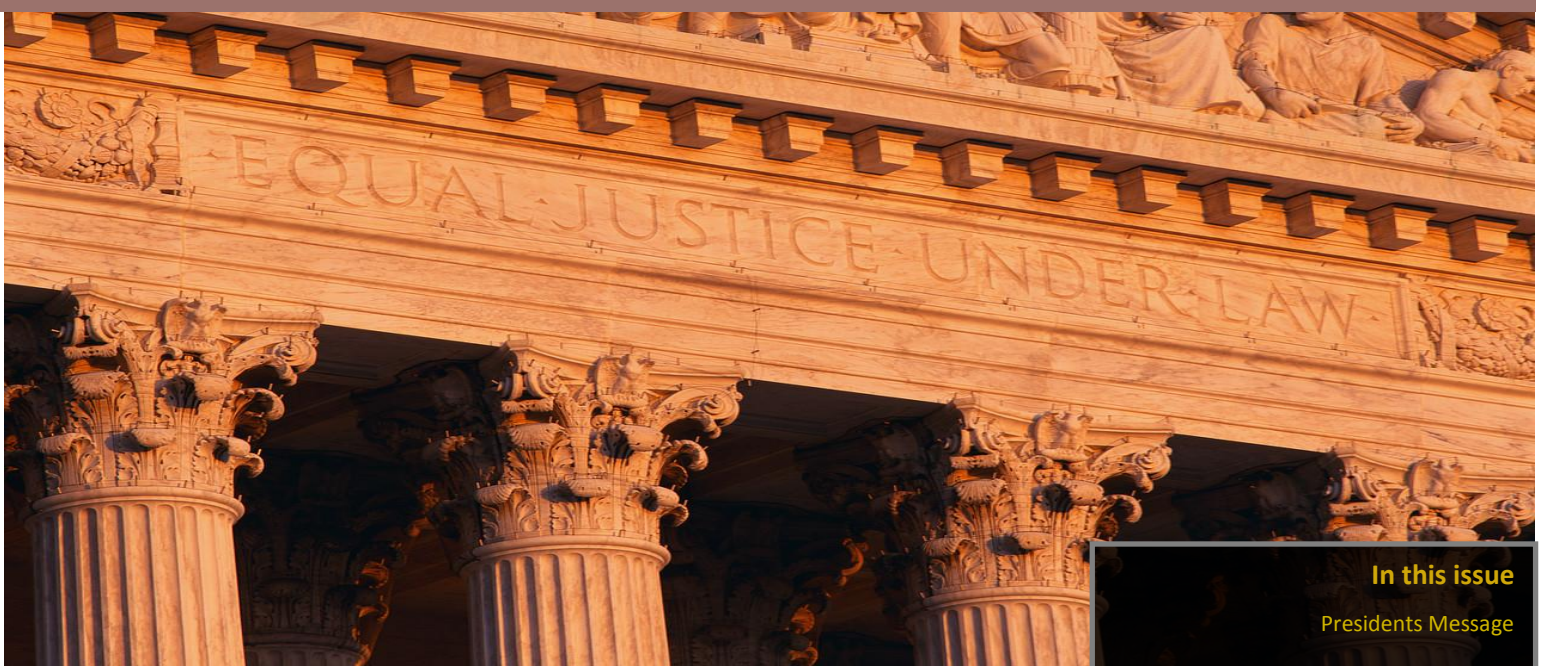


# Houston Northwest Bar Association

Monthly Newsletter

Issue 3 March 2011



## In this issue

Presidents Message

Bar Bits

Houston Bar Association Membership  
Information

## A Message From The President By Lori Noack May

Hello, Members!

I hope the your March is off to a great start for each of you!

First, I hope each of you took the opportunity to vote with regard to the disciplinary rules referendum. Whichever way you voted, it is our right and responsibility to do so. Exercise this privilege and voice your choice

Being a member of this Bar Association has many perks – networking with your colleagues, GREAT food, exciting and informative speakers, earning CLE. Attached to this newsletter are two additional opportunities to learn and earn CLE. TexasBarCLE has provided us with a long list of DVDs that provide CLE in various areas of the law and law practice. They provide everything you need for the program, including the written materials (in book form or flash drive) and the MCLE reporting cards. If purchased through our bar association, a 20% discount is applied.

Each course is available for showing at a location of your choice and a time that is convenient for the members. This is a great opportunity to earn your required CLE at a time and place convenient to you, at a reduced price. What's not to like? Please review the attached list and talk with other group members about holding a CLE "party." It's almost as good as traveling to Hawaii for CLE, only cheaper and without the sunscreen.

On a final note, we are coming up on election of new board members in May. Please consider participating as an officer. Let one of the current board members know if you are interested or if you have other nominations. Thanks for your support. I look forward to seeing you all on the 16th!

Lori

## March 16<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting

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

### SPEAKER & TOPIC

"Bringing Legal Research Into the 21st Century!"

Laura O'Bryan, with Westlaw, will be educating us on our legal research. West has a new product called WestlawNext. WestlawNext is the newest legal research system, which is designed to improve research efficiency, productivity, and confidence with its simple-to-use interface, organizational tools and exclusive WestSearch technology. She will also present Westlaw PeopleMap, which allows you to quickly determine relevant information about people and their connections.

Now who can't use those great tools in their practice?? Please join us and become an efficient research machine!!

### DATE/TIME:

Wednesday, March 16, 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:

BusinessSuites Chasewood



### BAR BITS



### New Scams Hit Texas Law Firms (excerpt from *Texas Lawyer*)

A handful of Texas law firms are reporting new variations on scams involving fraudulent checks and requests for collection.

Houston lawyer Richard Merrill of Fabio & Merrill tells [Texas Lawyer](#) his law firm was targeted when a real estate agent called seeking legal help for a man who said in an e-mail that he wanted to buy a house in the city. The \$500,000 check—which was more than needed to buy the property—turned out to be bogus. The law firm discovered the problem before refunding the overage. In another scam, law firms' names are being cited by fraudsters targeting other victims.

Dallas lawyer Gary Armstrong of Armstrong Kellett Bartholow said someone claiming to be from his firm was contacting people to collect payday loans that didn't exist or had been paid off. "We are on the opposite side," Armstrong said. "We only represent consumers" with claims against debt collectors.

The office manager of another firm said someone had mailed out phony checks in packages with her firm listed as the sender. The recipients were asked to wire part of the money to a Fort Worth address.



## 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>

Houston Northwest Bar  
Association

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## 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.



## Fashion Show and Luncheon Benefiting The Honorable Georgia Dempster

on April 9, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m. there will be a Fashion Show and Luncheon benefiting the Honorable Georgia Dempster, Commander Emeritus, Children's Fund at Shirley Acres, located at 217 Woerner Rd., Houston, Texas 77090, 281-444-2582. Tickets are \$75.00 and the proceeds will benefit the Star of Hope Women's and Family Shelter and Boys and Girls Country. Judge Dempster's charity is set up through The Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knight's Hospitalier, Houston Commandery, a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Judge Dempster served 16 years as the Judge of the 308TH District Court of Harris County having retired at the end of 2010. Her career was dedicated to helping the families and children of Harris County.

Judge Dempster's health is declining and this would be a good opportunity for her friends and colleagues to get together to pay tribute to her as well as raise money for charity. Anyone interested in tickets can call me Christine Jonte' at 281-875-1996 or Jeannie McClure at 713-622-6000.

## Military Law Section CLE

April 1-2, 2011 is the date set for the Military Law Section Spring CLE at the Hilton Hotel in Galveston, TX. A variety of topics will be discussed and up to 6.5 MCLE is available. Registration for both days is \$125, for Friday only \$60 and Saturday only \$75 (includes luncheon). Contact Michelle Schweitzer, at 512-427-1421 or 800-204-2222 ext 1421.

## Access to Justice Resolution

In a separate download, is the request from the Bar Leaders for Justice Committee of the Texas Access to Justice Commission. They are requesting the HNBA's support for state funding for legal aid in Texas. Attached is an example resolution prepared by the Texas Access To Justice Foundation.

The State's legal needs of low income families now tops over 5.4 million. Previously the IOLTA funding provided funds to support the legal work for these low income families, however with decline in interest rates, funding from IOLTA has gone from \$20 million in 2007 to about \$5.5 million in 2009. Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson has made a request to the Texas Legislature for \$20 million from the general revenue to bridge the loss of IOLTA funding and additional funding for basic civil legal services .