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Fall 2011

CHLSA

Chicano/Hispanic Law Students' Association

Informe



The University of Texas School of Law • Chicano/Hispanic Law Students' Association • 727 East Dean Keeton St. • Austin, TX 78705 • chlsa.org
ADVANCING DIVERSITY IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION THROUGH THE RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION OF HISPANIC LAW STUDENTS

CHLSA celebrates 40th anniversary

Former N.M. Gov. Bill Richardson keynote speaker at Cultural Celebration and Awards Banquet



Photo by Daniel Collins

(Left to right) Former N.M. Gov. Bill Richardson, UT Law professor Gerald Torres, and UT Law Dean Lawrence Sager

At CHLSA's 2011 Cultural Celebration and Awards Banquet, former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson helped the organization celebrate forty years, and encouraged graduates to put their degrees to use in the public interest.

The event was held March 26, 2011 at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin. Each year's CHLSA banquet is a dynamic gathering of UT Law alumni and Texas leaders, including legislators and judges, as well as members of the Mexican American Legislative

Caucus (MALC), Mexican American Bar Association (MABA), and Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) affiliates across Texas.

"I see the future of this state in our community," Richardson told attendees at the sold-out event. "Look at all the faces around here. Good-looking people, strong people, the future."

A recurring theme of Richardson's remarks was to encourage graduates, whatever their career paths, to mentor young Chicanos, or run for elected office.

See 40th Anniversary, pg 6

CHLSA100 launches at banquet

Alumni-supported fund to award scholarships to CHLSA members

CHLSA alumni announced the launch of the CHLSA100 membership program and CHLSA100 Fund at this year's banquet. The program has a simple goal: get at least 100 alumni and CHLSA supporters to donate \$100 a year toward scholarships for deserving CHLSA members.

To qualify for membership in CHLSA100, individual donors must

See CHLSA100 pg 7

Chicano/Hispanic Law Students' Association 2011-12 Board

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For more information on Informe, email newsletter.chlsa@gmail.com

Susana Alemán 40th Anniversary Distinguished Honoree

Former Asst. Dean of Students says much will be expected of CHLSA alumni

Dean Susana Alemán was honored during CHLSA's banquet for her more than twenty years serving UT Law, and for her continued support of CHLSA. Alemán, a former assistant dean for student affairs at UT Law and CHLSA alumna, said the organization will always have a special place in her heart.

"Had it not been for CHLSA when I was a student, I might not have made it through law school," Alemán said.

One month after graduating from UT Law in 1984, Alemán accepted the assistant dean position, the first woman and first Hispanic in that role in the



Video capture by Daniel Collins

Susana Alemán speaking during the banquet

Law School's history. Before retiring in 2006, Alemán had personally influenced generations of law students, as well as organized events like the Law School's Sunflower Ceremony, for which she famously picked hundreds of sunflowers to pin on graduating law students.

"Dean Aleman has a light about her that you feel and remember once she's left," 2009-10 CHLSA President Christi Caballero said. "She, more than anyone, knows and is a part of CHLSA's history."

Alemán has been especially

supportive of CHLSA, providing advice, anecdotes, and baked goods — including some from her hometown of Falfurrias, Texas — at CHLSA events. During the 2008-09 school year, CHLSA fully endowed a scholarship in her name, raising much of the \$17,000 collected that year at a fundraiser held to coincide with Alemán's birthday.

"Many may think that Dean Alemán has no children, but I beg to differ," Caballero said at the banquet. "I'm confident

See Alemán pg 9

CHLSA members win national championship at Uvaldo Herrera National Moot Court Competition

Team also brings home best respondent's brief award

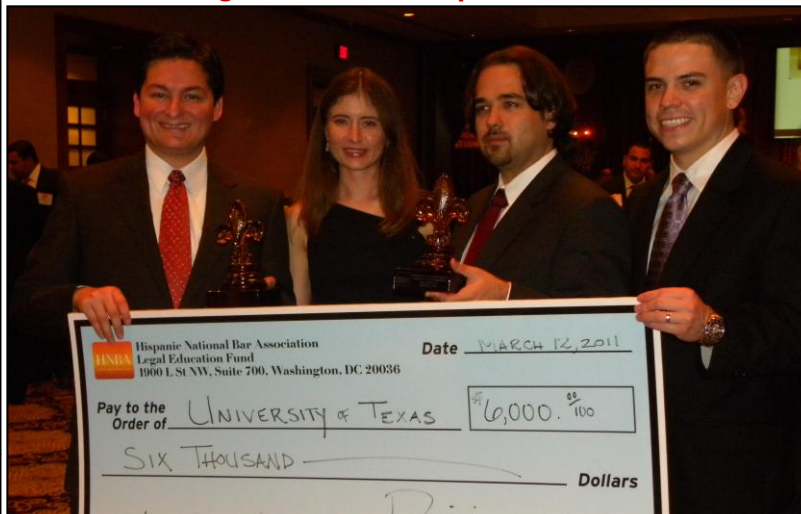


Photo courtesy of Omar Ochoa

(Left to right) Omar Ochoa, coach Shalla Santos, Sergio Davila, and Anthony Arguijo celebrate after their win

UT Law's interscholastic team won the national championship in the 2011 Uvaldo Herrera National Moot Court Competition. Team members Anthony Arguijo, '11; Sergio Davila, '11; and Omar Ochoa, '11, beat Arizona State University in the final round of the competition to win the championship. The team also won the award for best respondent's brief. Ochoa is a former education chair for CHLSA.

Hosted by the Hispanic

See Moot Court pg 8

Banquet in photos, video



1



2



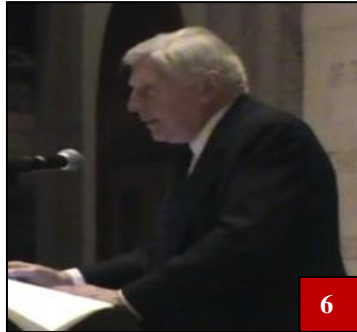
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4



5



6

Photos by Daniel Collins

1. Attendees milling into the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum; 2. Jayde Ashford and Mma Afoaku; 3. UT Law Pro Bono Program Director Tina V. Fernandez and former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson; 4. (left to right) Nicanor Pesina, Adriana Rodriguez, Patrick Yarborough, Anjela Jenkins, and Roberto Chavez; 5. (left to right) Emma Quintero, Ambrosia Ortiz y Prentice, and Cecy Partida; 6. Mr. Joseph D. Jamail, '52



Photos: To see more photos from the 2011 Cultural Celebration and Awards Banquet, visit CHLSA's gallery on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/CHLSA2011Banquet>.



Video: To watch videos from the Banquet, including remarks by Gov. Richardson, Mr. Jamail, and Dean Alemán, visit CHLSA's YouTube channel, youtube.com/chlsanewsletter.

HBAA, CHLSA honor deserving law students during banquet

HBAA Foundation scholarship helps graduating 3Ls defray the expense of taking the bar exam



Photo by Daniel Collins

Angel Leal (left) and Jennifer Ann Gillespie (right) accepting the HBAA Foundation Irma Rangel Scholarship from Jana Ortega, HBAA Foundation Chair (center)

Both the Hispanic Bar Association of Austin (HBAA) Foundation and CHLSA awarded deserving CHLSA members for their service to the organization during this year's banquet.

HBAA

Each year, the HBAA Foundation awards the Irma Rangel Scholarship to Hispanic 3Ls to help defray expenses for a Texas bar review course. This year's recipients were Angel Leal and Jennifer Ann Gillespie. Each received \$1,750.

Gillespie, the outgoing CHLSA president, has also been involved in numerous Law School groups, including serving as a society coordinator, and a student attorney with the Criminal Defense Clinic.

See HBAA pg 8

CHLSA members expand access to justice

Adriana Corral, '13, selected for Access to Justice Summer Internship Program



Photo by Daniel Collins

Corral

CHLSA member Adriana Corral spent her 1L summer participating in the Access to Justice Summer Internship Program. Corral, one of only fourteen law students from around the United States selected for the program, spent ten weeks interning with the

Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project in El Paso, Texas.

The program is sponsored by the Texas Access to Justice Commission, which was created in 2001 by the Supreme Court of Texas to develop and implement policy initiatives designed to expand access to and enhance the quality of justice in civil legal matters for low-income Texans.

“This summer, I learned that the nonprofit community is extremely dedicated. This is a good thing, as there is a lot of need in our state as a whole, and in El Paso,”

See **Corral** pg 9

Claire Rodriguez, '11, awarded Julius Glickman Fellowship to pursue worker rights project



Photo courtesy of UTLaw Magazine

Rodriguez

UT Law’s Justice Corps program awarded recent CHLSA graduate Claire Rodriguez the Julius Glickman Fellowship in Public Interest Law. The two-year fellowship provides \$45,000 per year for full-time legal work on a project sponsored by an existing public-interest legal organization. The Law School’s William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law administers the Justice Corps program.

Rodriguez will work with the Equal Justice Center’s (EJC) San Antonio office representing low-wage workers in the tourism industry.

“[U]ntil the EJC opened an office there last year, low-

wage workers in the tourism industry did not have access to the courts to enforce their rights in the workplace.” Rodriguez told the UTLaw Magazine.

As a law student, Rodriguez has focused on

See **Rodriguez** pg 9

CHLSA represented at Hispanic National Bar Association Conference

Event was HNBA’s second-annual corporate counsel conference

CHLSA sent two representatives to the 2011 Hispanic National Bar Association (HNBA) mid-year conference. The conference was held March 9-12, 2011 at the International Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The conference was HNBA’s second-annual corporate counsel conference, focused on strengthening relationships between in-house counsel and HNBA members. Accordingly, general counsel from some of the country’s largest



Photo courtesy of Bianca Garcia

2010-11 CHLSA Alumni Relations Chair Nicanor Pesina and 2011-12 NLLSA Rep. Bianca Garcia

corporate legal departments participated as speakers.

2010-11 CHLSA Scholarship Chair Nick Pesina and 2011-12 CHLSA NLLSA Rep. Bianca Garcia attended

the conference as student volunteers. The two assisted with registration and logistics, as well as attended the American Bar Association’s Commission on Hispanic Rights and Responsibilities. Garcia also sat in on the Board of Governor’s meeting, representing UT Law and CHLSA at the national level.

In addition to panels, the conference featured a “Corporate Connection Mixer,” which, according to HNBA, “allowed focused, intimate networking opportunities that afforded corporate and public agency counsel the chance to meet HNBA members and identify them as possible outside counsel for future legal work.”

The next HNBA mid-year conference will be held March 28-31 in Jersey City, New Jersey.

CHLSA awards Summer 2011 Scholarships

Two scholarships awarded to students in summer school; two awarded to students working public interest jobs

CHLSA awarded four Summer 2011 Scholarships for \$500. Each year, the organization awards scholarships to CHLSA members who either attend summer school or work summer public interest jobs. Each was chosen by the CHLSA board on a blind ballot. This year's winners are rising 3Ls Jessica Powell, Javier Perez-Afanador, and Emma Quintero; and rising 2L Carlos Castañeda.

Summer School Recipients

Carlos Castañeda, a graduate with highest honors from The University of Texas at San Antonio, worked at the Transnational Workers' Rights Clinic at UT Law. At the Clinic, he represented unpaid or underpaid immigrants. He plans to participate in the Law School's Immigration Clinic in the fall. "I'm very pleased to receive this award, but an even greater honor is to attend a school that offers so many resources and opportunities to those who seek them," Castañeda said. "CHLSA at UT Law is truly unparalleled as one of the student organizations that opens so many doors to its members."



Photo courtesy of Carlos Castañeda

Jessica Powell, a La Grange, Texas native and 2009 Rice University graduate, plans to graduate from UT Law in December. This year, she will serve as a two-term treasurer for both CHLSA and the Youth Court Program at UT Law. Powell has worked part-time at Texas RioGrande Legal Aid since May 2010 and had a six-week legal internship this summer at Texas Parks and Wildlife. "I'm really honored and excited to receive the CHLSA scholarship because over the past two summers, I have taken six summer school classes—this is how I am graduating early," Powell said.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Powell

See Scholarships pg 8



Photo by Daniel Collins

Andrew R. Casillas, '10 (center right), an associate at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, speaks with 1L CHLSA members

Practice Area Lunches introduce CHLSA members to practitioners

PALS is a networking opportunity for 1L members

During the 2010-11 school year, CHLSA introduced 1L members to alumni practitioners as part of the Practice Area Luncheon Series (PALS). In PALS, practitioners host a group of 10 to 12 students for an informal conversation about law school and different areas of practice, as well as offer general career advice.

The first PALS event was hosted in October 2010 by CHLSA alumnus Patrick Caballero, '02, an associate with the firm of Bracewell & Giuliani in Austin. Caballero hosted the event at The University of Texas Club at the Darrell K. Royal—Texas Memorial Stadium. Caballero has been an invaluable partner for CHLSA, assisting the organization by hosting a résumé workshop and speaking at its monthly meetings.

"Patrick has been very helpful in giving back to CHLSA," said Nicanor Pesina, CHLSA's 2010-11 scholarship chair, who organized the

See Practice Area pg 11



Photo by Daniel Collins

CHLSA students taking a study break during Spring 2011 finals

Be a Mentor!

CHLSA would like to thank all the legal professionals who took time out to mentor CHLSA members.

CHLSA has created formal mentor programs with Dell, The Hispanic Bar Association of Austin, and Fulbright and Jaworski.

If you would like to volunteer as a mentor, please email chlsa.president@gmail.com.

40th Anniversary

Continued from pg 1

“Here’s what I want to see in five to ten years: I want to see a Hispanic governor of Texas,” Richardson said to enthusiastic applause.

Richardson himself is a leader in the Hispanic community, first serving 14 years in the United States House of Representatives. He went on to serve as Ambassador to the United Nations and then U.S. Secretary of Energy under President Clinton. He served as New Mexico governor from 2003 to 2011.

Mr. Joseph D. Jamail Jr., ’52, a UT Law alumnus and prominent trial attorney, introduced Richardson, saying the world is better because of people like the former governor.

“I have never known anyone with more dedication, love, and devotion to helping bring about equality than Governor Bill Richardson,” he said.

According to Richardson, Hispanics should feel “a combination

of anger and pride” when considering strides made in social equality. Still, that march isn’t over, he said. In fact, Richardson said the Latino population was a sleeping giant that needed greater mobilization in American politics.

“It’s going to be up to you to channel those resources,” he told attendees. “We’re mainstream Americans that care about every issue the American people care about. We’re patriotic and we’re strong. So don’t let them put us in [a] box, but be proud of your heritage.”

CHLSA President Javier Perez-Afanador echoed the governor’s sentiments, noting that Latinos account for only seven percent of the Texas State Bar. That’s why CHLSA’s partnerships with organizations like MABA, HNBA, and MALC are important, he said.

“It is these families that can impart the institutional knowledge to both recruit and nurture the success of the future Latino members of this guild,” Perez-Afanador said.

CHLSA’s annual banquet—the organization’s largest fundraising



Video capture by Daniel Collins

Richardson speaking at the banquet

event—helps those efforts. With support of banquet sponsors, CHLSA awards scholarships for textbooks, bar exams, public interest work, and summer school to CHLSA members.

“We’re so very thankful for the success of CHLSA in its first 40 years and look forward to celebrating more successes each year for the next forty,” Perez-Afanador said.

CHLSA online!

“Like” CHLSA on Facebook at

<http://on.fb.me/CHLSAFacebook>



and learn more about CHLSA at its newly-redesigned website, www.chlsa.org.

CHLSA 1L wins Winstead PC scholarship

Haley Bergman designates CHLSA receive \$1,500 grant

A CHLSA member was honored by business law firm Winstead PC with their summer scholarship and internship. Haley Bergman, ‘13, was one of three recipients of the 2011 Winstead Juris Doctor Scholarships, the firm announced

in April.

The program is designed to benefit outstanding first-year minority law students. According

See **Winstead** pg 10



photo by Daniel Collins

Haley Bergman with Winstead PC Chairman and CEO Kevin Sullivan

Save the Date! March 31st, 2012
 29th Annual CHLSA
 Cultural Celebration and Awards Banquet
“Mujeres en Acción”



2011 banquet Attendees

photo by Daniel Collins

According to the Hispanic National Bar Association, Latinas represent only 1.3% of the nation’s lawyers, the lowest representation of any racial or ethnic group as compared to their overall presence in the nation. At the 2012 banquet, CHLSA will honor alumnae and strong Latina leaders in the Texas legal community.

If you would like to nominate someone, be they Chicano/Hispanic UT Law faculty, law firm partners, judges, or elected officials, contact CHLSA Fundraising Chair Ambrosia Ortiz y Prentice at ambrosiaortiz@gmail.com.

CHLSA100

Continued from pg 1

contribute at least \$100 to the CHLSA100 Fund each calendar year. Firms and businesses must contribute at least \$1,000 annually. In recognition of their support, donors will be identified on

the CHLSA website and in *Informe*.

“CHLSA100 is a modest request of our alumni that can mean a lot to our students. If at least 100 alumni give \$100 every year, we will have \$10,000 to ensure the success of our law students,” said Mr.



Photo by Daniel Collins

(Left to right) Martin E. Garza, K&L Gates LLP; Bianca Garcia; and Steven Aleman, President-Elect of the Mexican-American Bar Association of Texas at the banquet

¡Fajita Fiesta! fills stomachs, funds scholarships

Twice-annual fundraiser to be held next in October

CHLSA members rolled out the grill and prepared delicious fajitas for *Fajita Fiesta*. The twice-annual CHLSA tradition was held in April.

Each year, CHLSA serves fresh, hand-made fajitas to UT Law faculty, students and staff, as well as members of the greater

Austin law community. Patrons had their choice of delicious beef or chicken fajitas.

Fajita Fiesta benefits CHLSA’s Endowed Scholarship Fund, which was created in honor of CHLSA-supporter Dean Susana

See ¡Fajita Fiesta! pg 11



photo by Daniel Collins

(Left to right) UTLaw students Sara Callais, Raul Garcia, Kate Rawlings, Ronald Gomez, and Elissa Wev enjoying fajitas.

Martin E. Garza, a partner at K&L Gates LLP in Dallas and UT Law alumnus.

Garza came up with the idea for CHLSA100 after attending last year’s banquet and approached Bianca Garcia, CHLSA’s 2011-12 NLLSA Rep. about starting the program.

“CHLSA100 is a great way for all alums, of all ages and in all stages of their careers to invest in the future of Hispanic law students,” Garcia said.

CHLSA100 scholarships would be distributed to CHLSA members based on merit or financial need to pay for bar preparation courses and fees, as well as educational stipends.

The CHLSA100 Fund is

administered by The University of Texas Law School Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. The full value of gifts to the CHLSA100 Fund is tax-deductible in accordance with applicable law. The CHLSA100 Advisory Board assists in supporting CHLSA 100 and promoting CHLSA100 among alumni, the legal and business community, the Law School, and CHLSA members.

Donations may be made by visiting www.chlsa100.com or CHLSA’s website, www.chlsa.org.

Moot Court

Continued from pg 2

National Bar Association, the competition was held March 9-12, 2011, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The problem was based on *Flores-Villar v. United States*, a case decided by the United States Supreme Court in June. According to Ochoa, the main issue was the constitutionality of an immigration and naturalization statute. Specifically, U.S. citizen fathers must be present in the U.S. for 10 years, 5 years of which must have been after the age of 14, in order to transmit citizenship when their child is born outside of the United States. In contrast, U.S. citizen mothers must only be present for 1 year and can transmit citizenship at any age. Ultimately, an equally-split Supreme Court, allowed the Ninth Circuit decision affirming the law's constitutionality to stand.

Davila said all members of the team were natural competitors.

"I remember staying up very late in our respective hotel rooms scrutinizing and categorizing each of the 31 opponents' briefs," he said. "I encourage anyone with intellectual curiosity, a thirst for excitement, and a competitive spirit to do as many competitions as humanly possible. I am a better person because of it, and you can be, too!"

This article is modified from a UTLaw Magazine article, found at <http://bit.ly/UvaldoHerrera>.

HBAA

Continued from pg 3

Leal has also participated in service organizations and is a former newsletter editor for CHLSA.

This year's scholarships were announced by HBAA Foundation Chair Jana Ortega.

"It was a special treat to receive the scholarship from my HBAA mentor, Jana Ortega. I look forward to an opportunity to reinvest in the local Hispanic community," Gillespie said.

The HBAA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation dedicated to supporting programs and services that provide significant benefit to the

Hispanic community.

CHLSA awards

It's a CHLSA tradition to recognize members who have done an outstanding job representing CHLSA.

This year's 1L honoree was Carlos Castañeda, who, according to Cecy Partida, CHLSA's Internal Vice President, "was always willing to give a helping hand." The 2L honoree was Joey Delgado, who Partida said was always available to help CHLSA succeed, "whether it be academically by helping 1Ls or just suggesting some kind of night out to relieve the stress." Finally, in addition to being honored by HBAA, the 3L

CHLSA honoree was Gillespie.

"I have never seen a person or an organization's president as committed as Gillespie was to an organization's success," said Claire Rodriguez, CHLSA's 2010-11 External Vice President.



Photo by Daniel Collins

Carlos Castañeda (left) and Joey Delgado

Scholarships

Public Interest Recipients

Continued from pg 5

Javier Perez-Afanador, an Austin native, graduated with honors from UT Austin with an American Studies degree, while serving as a resident assistant and lifeguard at Gregory Gym. Today, he serves as CHLSA President, previously serving as *Fajita Fiesta* chair. Perez-Afanador's interests are employment law, insurance litigation, and civil rights. This summer, he interned at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Without this scholarship, I could not have taken advantage of the great opportunities I had this summer," he said. "CHLSA's tradition of promoting the success of its members is unparalleled and I hope to continue that tradition."



Photo courtesy of Javier Perez-Afanador



Photo courtesy of Emma Quintero

Emma Quintero, a San Antonio native, graduated from Sam Houston State University. She serves as CHLSA's external vice president, previously serving as secretary. This summer, Emma first interned with the Appellate Division of the State Counsel for Offenders, a part of the state's prison system, representing indigent inmates appealing convictions. In the second half of her summer, Quintero worked with the Texas Fair Defense Project, a non-profit organization that advocates and litigates for indigent criminal defendants. Quintero has previously interned with the Travis County Juvenile Public Defender's Office. At UT Law, Quintero also participated in Youth Court and the Law School's Actual Innocence Clinic.

Corral

Continued from pg 4

said Corral, an El Paso native. “I was so, so grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community that gave so much to me as a child and teen.”

During her internship, Corral provided direct legal services to low-income clients, while learning about access to justice matters, legal decision-making, advocacy skills, attorney-client relationships and legal institutions.

“I know that I will always be affiliated with the nonprofit community in some way,” Corral said. “The work being performed at Paso del Norte Civil Rights Project, and other nonprofits in the area, is changing—and in many cases, saving—lives.”

This article is modified from a UTLaw Magazine article, found at <http://bit.ly/ACorral>.

Rodriguez

Continued from pg 4

workers’ rights and employment law, working summers with Southern Migrant Legal Services in Nashville, Tennessee, and with UNITE HERE Local 11 in Los Angeles. She also participated in the Law School’s Immigration Clinic and Transnational Worker Rights Clinic, and with EJC to create education materials for non-citizen clients and their employers about the tax

CHLSA Coyotes howl in intramural play

Fierce flag football team finishes just one win shy of playoffs



Photo courtesy of Kyle Elliott

Caelie Dunn cheers on the Coyotes. “Go Coyotes! HOWL!”

This fall, the CHLSA Coyotes proved themselves true alpha dogs in intramural flag football competition.

The team ended their fall season 2-2, just barely missing qualification for intramural playoffs after losing a hair-raising tiebreaker game.

The Coyotes previously clawed through two wins during the season. In the first game, though outnumbered, in a five-versus-seven-man dogfight, the team mauled their way to a 7-6 win.

In their second game,

implications of wage dispute settlements.

Rodriguez is also one of only six graduating students to have been honored by the William Wayne Justice Center with their Graduating Student

the Coyotes looked sure to go home with their tails between their legs, trailing 0-13 at the half. The team marked their territory all over the second half, however, rallying to a 14-13 win.

This year’s Coyotes pack included players Joshua Garza, Isaac Sulemana, Luis Landeros, Nicanor Pesina, Javier Perez-Afanador, and Kyle Elliott.

CHLSA thanks Akin Gump for keeping the Coyotes shiny by sponsoring the team’s uniforms.

Award, which honors students for work in the nonprofit, government, and legislative sectors, as well work in clinical courses, pro bono projects, and student groups. Each recipient received \$500, plus a \$1,000

Alemán

Continued from pg 2

that all of us have been touched by your generosity, support, and love.”

Alemán has received recognition as an Eyes of Texas Excellence Award recipient, as the 2006 Travis County Women Lawyers’ Association Pathfinder, and as a three-time Student Bar Association Law Week Dedicatee.

Still, it is the success of UT Law alumni that makes Alemán feel like the richest person in the room, she told banquet attendees. Graduates she’s mentored include legislators, successful practitioners, and judges—including two female federal district judges, Alemán said.

“I’ve always considered myself an educator with a law degree,” she said. “The best reward for any educator is to see the students succeed.”

Alemán said she expects alumni to play a significant role in their communities.

“Much will be expected of you. Do all that you can,” Alemán said to CHLSA alumni. “Whatever you’re doing, you’re making me proud.”

discount on Kaplan and BarBri bar review courses.

This article is modified from UTLaw Magazine articles, found at <http://bit.ly/Rodriguez1and> <http://bit.ly/Rodriguez2>.

In Youth Court, CHLSA members introduce middle school students to justice system

Program at Austin-area middle school has students defend and prosecute fellow classmates



Photo courtesy of Christine Nishimura

2010-11 CHLSA Education Chair Joey Delgado (center) and students at Webb Middle School

Austin middle school students have learned how to be prosecutors, defense attorneys, jurors, and judges, all thanks to CHLSA members' participation in Youth Court. The program at Webb Middle School in North Austin has UT Law students mentor participants as they prosecute and defend their fellow classmates who have committed disciplinary infractions at school.

Youth Court organizers say the program teaches students respect for their school and classmates, and the importance of civil participation. Most

importantly, the program prevents students from becoming part of the school-to-prison pipeline. According to UT Law Pro Bono Program Director Tina

V. Fernandez, faculty advisor for Youth Court, under "zero-tolerance" policies, schools impose punitive consequences like in-school suspension, home suspension, expulsion, or Class C misdemeanor tickets for minor disciplinary infractions that would not be criminal outside of school walls. Studies show that students who are suspended are more likely to be retained a grade, drop out, and/or commit a crime and are more likely to be incarcerated as an adult, Fernandez said.

African-American, Hispanic, and disabled students are suspended at disproportionate rates and in Texas, 80 percent of incarcerated people are

school drop-outs.

Youth Court is an alternative discipline program which allows student attorneys and jury members to determine what support systems the defendant needs in order to address the behavior at issue. Under the program, consequences may include letters of apology or mentoring with UT Law students.

Much of CHLSA's participants' work involves helping students prepare for court. During the last school year, participants met each school day from 2:40 to 3:30 p.m. The middle school students prepared for trials which took place on Thursdays and Fridays.

Youth Court President

See Youth Court pg 11

Winstead

Continued from pg 6

to the firm, the program was initiated in 2008 with a goal of assisting students at UT Law, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law, and The University of Houston Law Center.

In addition to a cash award, each winner is offered a summer associate position at Winstead. Bergman interned in the firm's Austin office. She was selected on the strength of a 500-word personal statement she drafted, a transcript of her first-semester grades, and her résumé.

A unique feature of Winstead's scholarship award is a \$1,500 grant presented to each winner's student interest group of choice. Bergman graciously selected CHLSA as the grant beneficiary.

"We are very proud of our recipients of the award this year as well as our numerous recipients from

prior years. We are honored to be associated with all of these fine students," said Winstead Chairman and CEO Kevin Sullivan in a press release.

Bergman was honored at a reception hosted by Winstead in Austin. CHLSA members were also present to celebrate Bergman's success.

Winstead's practice areas include real estate, financial, and litigation services. The firm has offices in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and The Woodlands, Texas; Charlotte, North Carolina and Washington, D.C.



Photo by Daniel Collins

Winstead PC Chairman and CEO Kevin Sullivan (left) and 2011-12 CHLSA President Javier Perez-Afanador

Thanks to CHLSA's guest speakers!

CHLSA thanks guest speakers who have addressed CHLSA members during monthly 2010-11 meetings and at Practice Area Luncheons:

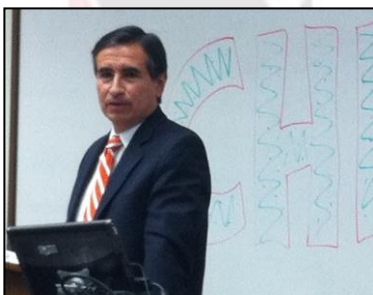


Photo by Daniel Collins

Mr. Mario Barrera of Bracewell & Giuliani addressing CHLSA members during their final 2011 meeting

- Mr. Chuy Ramirez
- Dean Susana Alemán
- Professor Tina V. Fernandez
- Mr. Jason Hassay, Office of Texas State Senator Carlos Uresti
- Mr. Andrew R. Casillas, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
- Mr. Joe Burke and Ms. Kathy Kull, Dell Legal
- Professor Gerald Torres
- Mr. Patrick Caballero and Mr. Mario Barrera, Bracewell & Giuliani

Youth Court

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and CHLSA member Christine Nishimura said the program also gives students important skills for life.

“Youth Court participants have the chance to develop public speaking skills and leadership skills, and they have the opportunity to take responsibility for their school and help shape the culture,” she said. “For those students who are referred to [the program], they are paired up with a mentor and are given the support to help change their behaviors in and out of school.”

Youth Court was created at UT Law and Webb Middle School is its only participating school. According to Nishimura, however, participants hope to expand, and also reach out to other organizations on the main UT campus.

“CHLSA has been an amazing part of our

¡Fajita Fiesta!

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Alemán, former assistant dean of students at UT Law. Fajita Fiesta funds also support scholarships for students taking classes or doing public interest work during the summer.

Mark your calendar

Did you miss Fajita Fiesta? Don't worry; the next Fajita Fiesta is tentatively set for October 18, 2011, said,

program and our success would not have happened if it were not for the number of CHLSA members that volunteer their time every week," Nishimura said.

To read more about Youth Court, check out a larger feature written in the UT Law Magazine at <http://bit.ly/YouthCourt>.



Photo by Daniel Collins

(Left to right) Patrick Yarborough, Maggie Cheu, and CHLSA Fundraising Chair Ambrosia Ortiz y Prentice

Ruben Carrete, CHLSA's 2011-12 Fajita Fiesta chair. Firms may request more information about the event, and make plate orders by e-mailing Carrete at rubencarrete@gmail.com.

Practice Area

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events.

CHLSA's second PALS event was hosted by CHLSA alumnus Andrew R. Casillas, an associate at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP in their San Antonio office. Casillas also hosted the event at the UT Club.

“As a student, I always found [PALS] to be a great opportunity for 1Ls and 2Ls to become more familiar with various practices,” Casillas said. “It was quite a thrill to sit on the ‘other side of the table’ and provide my perspective on surviving and succeeding in law school for the 1Ls.”

Casillas encourages other CHLSA alumni to give back as mentors.



Photo courtesy of Christine Nishimura

CHLSA Treasurer Jessica Powell working with two students at Webb Middle School

Donate to CHLSA

Donations by mail

Alumni donations are instrumental to CHLSA's success as an organization. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please complete this form and mail your support to:

The Chicano/Hispanic Law Students' Association
 c/o The University of Texas School of Law
 727 E. Dean Keeton St.
 Austin TX 78705-3224

Donations online

Making one-time donations online is fast and easy!

Just follow these steps:

1. Go to:
<https://utdirect.utexas.edu/nlogon/lopay/ccta.WBX>;
2. Select "Annual Fund" from the drop-down menu, enter your donation, and click "continue;"
3. In the "Notes for staff" box, specify that you would like to donate to CHLSA; and
4. Complete donor and credit card information, and submit.

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2010-11 CHLSA members

Photo by Daniel Collins