

RAISING THE BAR

Volume 1, Issue 1, Fall 2016



NEHCBA Board

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Current Community

Service Project

The City of Humble Animal Shelter has a HUGE need for supplies! The NEHCBA has committed to help them fill this need through our first pet food and supplies drive for the Shelter. There are two locations for drop off between 9/1/16 and 11/24/16, or donations can be brought to the monthly meeting.

Law Office of Patricia Billings

407 E. Main St., Humble, TX

CWMPK

800 Rockmead, Ste. 220
Kingwood, TX

Items Needed: pet food, toys, leashes, blankets, beds, towels. The supplies can be old or new.



Patricia Billings,
2016-2017 NEHCBA

lenging endeavor. Whether you are a solo attorney or you are affiliated with a firm, having a strong and available community of lawyers from all areas of practice of law is an important component to your success. We hope that our local bar association will make the practice of law easier and more enjoyable. Don't hesitate to reach out to your Board Members if you have any questions or if you need some help!

TEACHING PIGS TO SING by Elizabeth Pagel

For as long as I can remember, my father had a wooden sign hanging in his kitchen that said, "Never try to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time and annoys the pig." When I was growing up I never gave it much thought; my dad had silly signs all over his house, and this was just one of them. When he passed away in 2010, I kept the pig sign as a memento. It now hangs in my law office, but it now has meaning.

As an attorney I've come to learn that most attorneys with whom I deal are professional, courteous, respectful, and civil. But occasionally I have to deal with someone who embodies none of those qualities. In my early days, I tried to change them. I thought that I could "kill 'em with kindness," that if I bent over backwards to treat them the way I wanted to be treated, they would eventually come around and, well, be nice. It

President's Message

As President of the Northeast Harris County Bar Association, I wish to extend a warm welcome to our members and attorneys in the area! We know that your time is valuable, therefore, NEHCBA wants to ensure that your participation and involvement has multiple benefits. From networking to CLE opportunities, NEHCBA provides a local nexus for you to grow professionally and provides a colleague support system in our area. For example, NEHCBA provides every member an opportunity to showcase their knowledge in our quarterly newsletter. But most importantly, we hope that NEHCBA fosters a sense of community for mentorship, personal growth, referrals as well as friendships. Practicing law is a chal-

lenging endeavor. Whether you are a solo attorney or you are affiliated with a firm, having a strong and available community of lawyers from all areas of practice of law is an important component to your success. We hope that our local bar association will make the practice of law easier and more enjoyable. Don't hesitate to reach out to your Board Members if you have any questions or if you need some help!

rarely works.

Some of these attorneys seem to believe that an aggressive, even belligerent, attitude works for them. Maybe they think it shows their clients how zealously they are advocating for them. Maybe it helps them to feel in control of the situation. But sometimes they just seem to enjoy it. As hard as it is for me to understand, some people just like being mean. And getting them to change is as difficult as teaching a pig to sing—and just as hopeless an endeavor. I read an account several years ago of an attorney who was rude and belligerent to opposing counsel, the court—everyone involved in a particular case. His client lost the case. He was sued for malpractice and lost. He was eventually disbarred. And at the end, he stated that he had no regrets, that he would not change a thing about his



behavior. Dysfunctional behavior was a conscious choice that he made.

Some of my clients have to learn this about the opposing party to their case. They want to be reasonable, amicable, reach an agreement, settle things quickly, but their spouse or former spouse wants to fight. My clients often ask me, "Why does she act like this?" "Doesn't he realize that all he's doing is running up legal fees for both of us?" And the answer is, I don't know! But if the other party to a case, or that party's attorney, insists on acting this way, there's probably nothing anyone can do about it. You can't teach a pig to sing. **Cont. Page 2**

The only person I have any control over is me. I made the decision years ago that I would treat everyone—clients, opposing attorneys, opposing parties, judges, court staff, employees, everyone—with dignity and respect.

If I can grant a favor to opposing counsel without harming my client, I'm going to do it. If someone wants to yell at me, fine—but I'm not going to respond in kind. "A soft answer turneth away wrath," in many cases. (Proverbs 15:1) Even if it doesn't, no good comes—and certainly no benefit to my client—if I lose my temper or behave badly.

I can't teach a pig to sing. But I'm not going to get down and wallow in the mud with him, either.

If you are interested in writing an article for our quarterly newsletter blog, please email mlianier@cwmpk.com

Upcoming Speakers

Mark Your Calendars

Remember...no bar luncheon in December.

January 13, 2017— ETHICS CLE

Cameron Vann, Attorney at Law with the Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP) will be speaking on "Lawyer Wellness—It Is All About You". A presentation on lawyer mental health, user-friendly access 24/7 to TLAP, and wellness strategies lawyers can implement right now.

February 10, 2017— TBA

Upcoming Events

The NEHCBA offers eleven CLE Luncheons per year at Los Cucos Mexican Cafe, 23730 US Hwy 59, Kingwood, Texas 77339. The lunch meetings are held the 2nd Friday of every month with the exception of December.

Members—\$25.00

Non-members—\$35.00

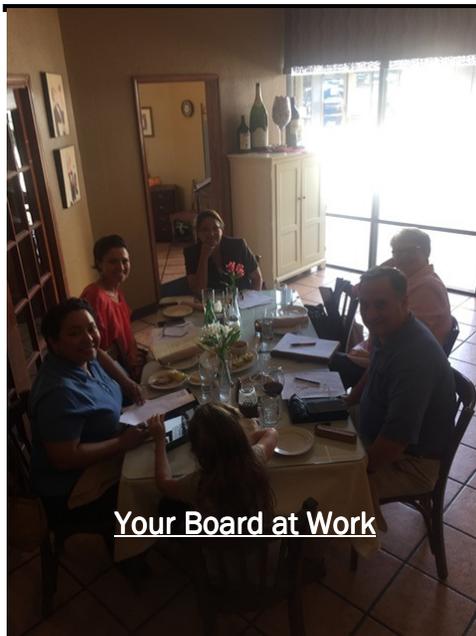
Annual Membership Dues—\$50.00

Dues can be mailed to: Kristi Burleigh at CWMPK, 800 Rockmead, Ste. 220, Kingwood, TX 77339

HAPPY HOUR - At 5:30 every Wednesday following the Friday luncheon is the monthly happy hour held at Amadeos on Loop 494 in Kingwood.

ANNUAL MEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY to be held on Friday, December 10th at 7:00 pm at 2203 Running Springs Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339. RSVP to mlianier@cwmpk.com no later than 12/05.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES



Your Board at Work



Monthly Happy Hour



11/16 CLE Lunch



2015 Christmas Party