

RAISING THE BAR

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Upcoming Speakers

Mark Your Calendars

June 9, 2017

Jessica Macklin Milligan
Harris County DA's Office
The ABC's of Animal Cruelty
Prosecution

July 14, 2017—TBA

If you are interested in writing an article for our quarterly newsletter blog, please email

patricia@lawyerbillings.com



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!

I can't ever remember a time when I did not want to be a lawyer. I remember telling my mom as an 8 year old that I had decided what I wanted to do. "I wanted to be a lawyer!" She said, "You will make a really good lawyer, too." I didn't realize at the time, the qualities she saw in me were not all positive. But with that affirmation, I set my mind and my heart on "Debating for good money." I don't think that I ever swayed in that decision. I began practicing what I thought lawyer-ing people did. In my household, many of us could have chosen that line of work because I grew up as the oldest of 19 children. We were not allowed to be physically aggressive (fight!) with each other. Mother taught us to use our words. I became very verbal, you might say. In my youth, here are 10 things that may or may not have helped me in my lawyer-ing career:

1. Make your point and quit talking. - It is easy to believe that when all else fails, the argument is never lost, as long

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-

10 BASIC ATTORNEY LESSONS I LEARNED AS A CHILD

By Rachel Leal-Hudson

as one can keep talking. Usually I could get my siblings to concede just to shut me up but in court it is annoying and could cost you and your client. The more you talk the more you expose the weaknesses in your case.

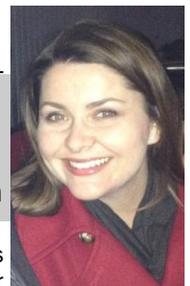
2. The Louder you are does not mean the more right you are. - With so many siblings it was easy to believe that I could win any argument, by increasing the volume in my voice. The louder I talked, the more confused they became. In court that equates to "pounding the podium" or not being able to focus on facts or law. Be passionate but know when lowering your voice can be as effective, if not more, than shouting.

3. Put yourself in their shoes- When I could not hit my siblings, I had to learn to convince them to do what I wanted. I had to see their side, before they would follow my lead. It may be seeing the case from your client's perspective or noting the strengths and

weaknesses of the other side but a great way to assess a case and find common ground or strategize is to consider all sides of the case.

4. My mom use to say, "If you are going to argue....go outside. I learned to take it out in the hallway. Call your opposing counsel before the hearing and see what common ground exist. Make an effort to help the clients find the common ground and settle what you can in the hallway or over the phone before airing out the dirty laundry with the judge.

5. My mom always told us, "If you can't be nice, just walk away. Believe me, I have done that many times in my growing up years and it has served me well. When I have that client that I just can not reason with....that lawyering words do not move, speaking louder over them does not sway them and



they accuse me of not fighting for them, when I know that if I go into court with their argument, they are going to lose....I just have to walk away.

6. Sometimes winning at any cost....was not worth it. While I loved the art of arguing and winning....I saw how it affected my Mom and those around me. Are you approaching the case in a way that leaves your professional relationships intact? Are you helping your client look for options that leave the family unit with the opportunity for reconciliation. From probate to family law, the approach to the case could effect families for generation to come. Help the client understand that more than money is at stake.

7. Always fighting for the right reason was worth it....even if there wasn't a win.

8. Sometimes as a child, to get what you wanted you had to learn the art of give and take, the art of the deal. With 18 brother's and sisters....it was a survival tool. I learned to mediate even at a young age. Mediate, Mediate, Mediate.

9. Nothing prepared me for running a law office like being the oldest of 19....helping to manage chores, dinner, baths and childcare. Law School does not teach you how to run a business but running a household can definitely give you pointers.

10. Take a breather! Don't work every weekend. Quit checking your email by a certain time each day. If you feel like responding to an email in anger.....walk away for a day and approach it again. Sometimes my mom separated us when necessary and gave everyone some time to cool off and sometimes I have to do the same thing. It not only helps me be a better attorney but it also helps establish boundaries with my clients. We live in an age where we are very accessible and while there are some advantages to that, it also makes it very hard to "leave work". We have to make the time and space available to "take a breather".

Many lessons learned in our childhood prepare us for life...for our chosen occupations. When I look back on my childhood, I certainly can apply concepts but tempered

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 Thursday following the Friday luncheon is the monthly happy hour held at Tularosa at 1522 Kingwood Drive.

Family Outing and Membership Drive

To be held at the Main Event located in Humble on August 24, 2017 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Families and potential bar members welcome. RSVP to Social Chair, Chris Forbes no later than August 18th at cforbeslaw@gmail.com.

Photos from our 2017 HAAM Volunteer Project



by common sense and kindness and an ability to see people's circumstances as influencing their decisions. Sometimes what is needed from a great attorney, is simply a listening ear. Many of our client's come into the office angry and hurt and while we are to advocate for them, it is just as important that we encourage them to look at the better good, a healthy perspective....for theirs and their family's sake. We have to guide our sometimes very emotional clients through the maze of give and take. A soft answer truly does turn away wrath. You, as an attorney, do shape families and influence how families are going to resolve differences. It could make a huge difference in their lives and their children's lives. It is not just a job to great attorney's. It is a calling.