



# FORT BEND LAWYERS CARE

equal access to justice through volunteer lawyers

July 2009

310 Morton Street, Suite 566  
Richmond, Texas 77469

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### 514 cases closed

FBLC is proud to announce that through the dedicated efforts of our volunteer lawyers, non-lawyer volunteers, and our generous supporters, we have closed 514 cases, since January 1, 2009.



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### FBLC is Seeking Volunteer Lawyers

13 qualified pro bono cases are waiting to be matched with a volunteer lawyer. If you are interested in taking a civil pro bono case to help a low income citizen of Fort Bend County, please contact **Holly Reyes** at

**281-239-0015**



## Volunteer Lawyers for Fort Bend Lawyers Care

### LegalLine Volunteer Lawyers since January 1, 2009

Rehan Alimohammod  
 Robert Franks  
 Ralph Gonzalez  
 Larry Harrison  
 Joshua Leal

Lionel Martin  
 Sana Naeem  
 Mike Orsak  
 Matt Probus  
 Sharon Steckler

### Volunteer lawyers who accepted and/or closed cases since January 1, 2009

Farha Ahmed  
 Joan Cain  
 Kathy Carpenter  
 Greg Chandler  
 Tony Duckett  
 Elizabeth Duff  
 Robert Franks  
 Larry Harrison  
 Sharon Heldt

Alicia Klosowsky  
 Fred Krasny  
 Josh Leal  
 Virginia Lootens  
 Mario Martinez  
 Stacy McCarty  
 Sana Naeem  
 Nancy Nawanguma  
 Neal Pastor

David Perwin  
 Norma Petrosewicz  
 Nancy Pofahl  
 Fred Riepen  
 Sarah Springer  
 Valerie Waddell  
 Wes Wauson  
 Mari Wise

### Walk in Legal Clinic Volunteer Lawyers since January 1, 2009

Rehan Alimohammod  
 Kurt Andreason  
 Joan Cain  
 Greg Chandler  
 Rick Forlano  
 Robert Franks  
 Larry Harrison

Hon. Gary Janssen  
 Joshua Leal  
 Stacy McCarty  
 Peggy Montgomery  
 Sana Naeem  
 Ruby Shaw

*Our thanks to all of the above volunteer lawyers –  
 you are who make Fort Bend Lawyers Care work  
 for our community!*

## *“Justice for All” Luncheon*

On March 24<sup>th</sup> Fort Bend Lawyers Care held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Justice for All” Luncheon presented by The West Law Firm to honor its many volunteers. Master of Ceremonies Matt Probus entertained the crowd and Justice Dale Wainwright, the Supreme Court Justice of Texas, praised the work of the many local volunteers.

FBLC collaborates with Asians Against Domestic Abuse, Child Advocates of Fort Bend, Brazos Bend Guardianship Services, Habitat for Humanity, Fort Bend County Women’s Center, and Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels to provide free legal services to those citizens who qualify financially.

Fred Krasny was presented a plaque for Volunteer Lawyer of the Year and Bency Issac and Jacob Abraham of Capital One Bank were named Non-Lawyer Volunteers of the Year. This year's “Justice for All” Luncheon had over 230 in attendance.

For more information on FBLC please visit [www.FortBendLawyersCare.org](http://www.FortBendLawyersCare.org) or call 281-239-0015



**Since January 2009:**

- 334** Cases Closed
- 1002** Fort Bend County residents assisted
- 121** FBLC Volunteer Lawyers
- 450** hours donated by Volunteer Lawyers
- \$67,500** legal fees donated by Volunteer Lawyers
- 180** LegalLine calls answered
- 25** Women’s Legal Forum clients assisted

**FBLC Volunteer Lawyer Opportunities available:**

- LegalLine
- Women’s Legal Forum
- Fort Bend Regional Council on Substance Abuse
- Walk-In Legal Clinics

**Pro Bono Cases Available TODAY**

- **9 Divorces**
- **4 Wills**

Please contact Holly Reyes for more information:  
[holly@FortBendLawyersCARE.org](mailto:holly@FortBendLawyersCARE.org) or 281-239-0015

*Thanks to the FBLC’s Guardian Angels and non-lawyer volunteers!*

- Karl Bartholomew
- Lizzie Burgess
- Monique Harrison
- Donna Jones
- Celia Olson
- Don Olson
- Kristina Saoud

FBLC was very grateful to receive Pro Bono Court Reporting and Pro Bono Court translation Services over this last quarter.

**A big thank you to:**

Meredith Shoemaker, Allied Advanced Reporting, Sunbelt Reporting and Litigation Services, and Graciela Daichman, Translator

*FBLC also thanks Derald Jackson and his staff at Jackson and Associates for their discounted Process Service fees donated to FBLC.*

**A big thank you** to Jesse Mata of Fort Bend Postal Service for donating half of the cost for the new PO Box!

## LegalLine



Thanks to our dedicated volunteer attorneys, and non lawyer volunteers, LegalLine meets from 7 pm - 9 pm, on the first Wednesday of each month.

Since May, 2006, one hundred and forty-eight (148) volunteer lawyers have donated more than 418 hours of billable time, answering hundreds of calls and legal questions for low-income Fort Bend citizens. Issues range from bankruptcy, to insurance, to personal injury, to wills, and back again.

To volunteer for LegalLine or to provide the meal for LegalLine volunteers, please contact Holly Reyes at [holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org](mailto:holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org).

Thank you!

### **LegalLine Volunteer Lawyers during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009**

Rehan Alimohammod  
Robert Franks  
Ralph Gonzalez  
Joshua Leal  
Lionel Martin  
Sana Naeem  
Mike Orsak  
Matt Probus  
Sharon Steckler

### **Non-volunteer Lawyers**

Suzanne Bartholomew  
Bency Issac  
Donna Jones  
Jacob Abaraham  
Deborah Rychlik

*Congratulations!*

Congratulations to Sylvia and Jamaal Mitchell, the Rajabali Family, and Caroline and Amanda Cisne for the completion of their Adult Guardianship cases.



**A thank you to Steve Valkonis, Angela Oaks, Larry Harrison, Alicia Klosowsky, and Natasha Gransberry, Pro Bono Attorneys, for donating your time and efforts to these cases.**

*Thank  
You!*

## Upcoming Events



### **Legal Line**

August 5, 2009

September 2, 2009

### **Women's Legal Forum**

July 15, 2009

September 16, 2009

### **Walk in Legal Clinic**

August 22, 2009

St. Laurence Catholic Church

13 cases on the waiting list for pro bono services.

## **FBLC needs your help!**

If you are interested in taking a Pro Bono case, volunteering for LegalLine, walk-in clinics or presenting one at our community presentations, please let us know.

Contact: Holly Reyes

Phone: 281-239-0015

Email: [holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org](mailto:holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org)

**Fort Bend Lawyers  
Care's 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4th Walk-  
in Clinics that were held  
January 31, 2009 and  
April 25, 2009 were a  
great success!**

FBLC wants to extend a special thanks to the 8 Volunteer Lawyers who attended and assisted with the clinic: Stacy McCarty, Ruby Shaw, Greg Chandler, Kurt Andreason, Joan Cain, Robert Franks, Rick Forlano, and Joshua Leal.



**A Big thank you to all of our volunteers!  
Larry & Monique Harrison, Farha Ahmed,  
Joan Cain, Josh Leal, Fred Krasny,  
The Honorable Gary Janssen, Peggy  
Montgomery, Sana Naeem, Rehan  
Alimohammad, Robert Franks, Karl &  
Suzanne Bartholomew, Tracy Schindler,  
and The St. Laurence Catholic Church.**



FBLC also thanks our wonderful non-lawyer volunteers:  
Monique Harrison, Celia Olson & Don Olson, Karl & Suzanne Bartholomew.  
**JOB WELL DONE!**



## ADULT GUARDIANSHIP SUCCESS STORY

Brazos Bend Guardianship Services contacted Fort Bend Lawyers Care seeking assistance in an adult guardianship case. The proposed ward, 18 years of age, was not capable of making decisions. In this instance, the parents were seeking co-guardianship, but lacked the funds and legal support to do so by themselves.

FBLC contacted local attorney Larry Harrison to undertake the case. He met with the family to understand the issues and determine the appropriate course of action with the courts. One of the challenges of the case was that Urdu, not English, was the family's first language.

The case was brought to the court in January 2009. The outcome was that co-guardianship was awarded to the ward's parents, a permanent improvement for the ward in that now they will have a guardian for the rest of his life.



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FBLC July 2009 Newsletter

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**A Project of the Fort Bend County Bar association**

FBLC, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is funded in part by grants

The George Foundation

Baxter Trust

Texas Access to Justice Foundation

Fort Bend Junior Service League

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.fortbendlawyersCARE.org](http://www.fortbendlawyersCARE.org)

