



# FORT BEND LAWYERS CARE

equal access to justice through volunteer lawyers

October 2009

310 Morton Street Suite 566  
Richmond, Texas 77469

## 810 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 810 cases, since January 1, 2009.



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## FBLC is Seeking Volunteer Lawyers

16 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 or [holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org](mailto:holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org)**



## Fort Bend Lawyers Care

### *TAJF Site Visit*



Fort Bend Lawyers Care would like to announce that the site visit with Texas Access to Justice Foundation in August was a great success. Many things were presented to TAJF in regards to our routine; the site visit was an educational experience. A continued relationship between Fort Bend Lawyers Care and TAJF is a vital part of FBLC's continued success. A big thank you to FBLC's Board of Directors, staff, and TAJF for making the site visit a success.

### *Fort Bend Bar Association Annual Golf Tournament*

The Fort Bend Bar Association has announced that Fort Bend Lawyers Care and Rosenberg/Richmond Helping Hands will be the beneficiaries of their annual golf tournament. The Golf Tournament will be held at Sienna Plantation on October 9, 2009. We hope to see everyone there to have a great time and help both of these worthy causes. For additional information please contact: Melinda Knight, Executive Director, Fort Bend County Bar Association; Phone/Fax: (281) 565-3634 E-mail: [fortbendbar@comcast.net](mailto:fortbendbar@comcast.net)

### *National Adoption Day*

November 20, 2009 is National Adoption Day;. Fort Bend Lawyers Care in connection with our strategic partner, Child Advocates, will be taking part in this awesome event. Anyone interested in accepting a pro bono adoption case please contact Holly Reyes at [holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org](mailto:holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org) or call 281-239-0015.

FBLC appreciates the Volunteer Attorneys who have accepted a pro bono case for court representation during the first half of 2009.

Diana Adams  
Glendon Adams  
Farha Ahmed  
Kurt Andreason  
Kathy Black  
Kathy Carpenter  
Greg Chandler  
Rick Forlano  
Robert Franks  
Larry Harrison  
Sharon Heldt  
Charles Huber  
Kathy & Edward Johnson  
John Jones  
James Kincade  
Alicia & Phil Klosowsky  
Fred Krasny  
Joshua Leal  
Virginia Lootens  
Lionel & Melissa Martin  
Stacy McCarty  
Chris McDaniel  
John Millard  
Sana Naeem  
Jeff Novy  
Grace Nwanguma  
Neal Paster  
David Perwin  
Norma Petrosewicz  
Nancy Pofahl  
Matt Probus  
Nina Schaefer  
Sarah Springer  
Wes Wauson  
Mari Wise



## *Advisory Board Dinner*

On October 1, 2009 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm the FBLC advisory board will be holding its annual dinner meeting hosted by Carl Favre at the office of Roberts Markel P.C. Board Room at the Plaza Building 2277 Plaza Drive Suite 290 Sugar Land, Texas 77479. The Agenda will include an overview of programs and services provided by the Fort Bend Lawyers Care, an update regarding our Strategic Partners, and sign-ups for committees. You will also help FBLC set goals for the coming year.

## *“Guardianship CLE”*

Fort Bend Lawyers Care in association with Brazos Bend Guardianship are in the beginning stages of offering a CLE on guardianship. It will be held on Friday October 30, 2009 from 11am until 4pm, at the George Memorial Library in their large meeting room next to the children’s’ section. Lunch will be provided for the convenience of those attending. Speakers are yet to be announced. Please plan on attending this educational clinic, helping these people can be an enlightening experience. Contact Holly Reyes at [holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org](mailto:holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org) or 281-239-0015 for more information.

## *“Walk In Legal Clinic”*

Fort Bend Lawyers Care will be hosting a Walk-In Legal Clinic on November 14, 2009 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, at The George Memorial Library, 1001 Golfview Dr Richmond, Texas 77469. If you are interested in volunteering or know someone in need of services please contact FBLC at 281-239-0015 or Donna Jones at [intern@fortbendlawyerscare.org](mailto:intern@fortbendlawyerscare.org), or Holly Reyes at [holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org](mailto:holly@fortbendlawyerscare.org).

\* Since January 2009

**Cases Closed \*810**

**Fort Bend County residents**

**Assisted \*2430**

**Number of FBLC Volunteer**

**Lawyers \*132**

**Hours donated by Volunteer**

**Lawyers \*1620**

**Legal fees donated by**

**Volunteer Lawyers**

**\*\$324,000**

**LegalLine Calls Answered**

**\*280**

**Women's Legal Forum clients  
assisted \*31**

**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**

- 6 Divorce
- 2 Probate
- 1 Wills & Advanced  
Directives
- 4 Adult Guardianship

Please contact Holly Reyes for more  
information:

[holly@FortBendLawyersCARE.org](mailto:holly@FortBendLawyersCARE.org) or

281-239-0015

**Thanks to the FBLC  
Guardian Angels and  
non-attorney volunteers!**

**Karl Bartholomew**

**Monique Harrison**

**Eric Harrison**

**Liz Beatty**

**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.**



Congratulations to Vilma Pantlitz, and Valerie Ruiz for the completion of their Adult Guardianship cases.

**A thank you to Alicia Klosowsky and Kym Foley, Pro Bono Attorneys, for donating your time and efforts to these cases.**

**Congratulations to the new members of Fort Bend Lawyers Care Advisory Board.**

**Erma Hart, TaQuita Hogan-Claiborne, Jameka Ivy, Alicia Klosowsky, Angela Molina, Sana Naeem, Angela Vasquez**



**Fort Bend Lawyers Care would like to welcome our new volunteer attorneys, Lawrence Falli, Ricky Sharpless, Gloria Echevarria, Jessica Juren, Glynn Nance and David Wintersgill. Also, John Jones of Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado, & Acosta who have accepted pro bono clients for representation of a divorce.**



## Upcoming Events



### Legal Line

October 7, 2009  
November 4, 2009  
December 9, 2009

### Women's Legal Forum

November 18, 2009

### Walk in Legal Clinic

November 14, 2009

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 speaking at one of our community presentations, please let us know.

Contact: Holly Reyes

Phone: 281-239-0015

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

## 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 volunteer lawyers have donated more than 500 hours of billable time, answering hundreds of calls and legal questions for low-income Fort Bend citizens. Issues range from divorce, 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) or Donna Jones at [intern@fortbendlawyerscare.org](mailto:intern@fortbendlawyerscare.org)  
Thank you

### Legalline Volunteer Lawyers during 2009

Glandon Adams

Rehan Alimohammad

Robert Franks

Ralph Gonzalez

Larry Harrison

Fred Krasny

Joshua Leal

Lionel Martin

Sana Naeem

Mike Orsak

Matt Probus

Fred Riepen

Sharon Steckler

Wes Wauson

### Non-volunteer Lawyers

Jacob Abraham

Shelby Barron

Suzanne Bartholmew

Liz Beatty

Bency Issac

Kimberly Renshaw

Deborah Rychlik

## **Fort Bend Lawyers Care's 5th Walk-in Clinic was held August 22<sup>nd</sup> and was a great success!**

**FBLC wants to extend a special thanks to the 11 Volunteer Lawyers who attended and assisted with the clinic; Kathy Black Joan Cain, Will Colgin, Riddhi Desai, Robert Franks, Larry Harrison, Fred Krasny, Fred Riepen, Matt Probus, Griffin Vance, and Wes Wauson.**

**A Big thank you to all of our volunteers!**

**Larry, Monique, & Eric Harrison, Suzanne Bartholomew, Will Colgin, Kathy Black, Fred Riepen, Riddhi Desai, Joan Cain, Fred Krasny, Matt Probus, Robert Franks, Wes Wauson, Griffin Vance, Fred Fogarty, Elizabeth Beatty, Tracy Schindler, and The St. Laurence Catholic Church.**

**FBLC also thanks St. Laurence Catholic Church for donating the Parish Hall and refreshments for the Walk in Legal Clinic.**



From left to right: Fred Krasny, Fred Riepen, & Fred Fogarty





### **Fort Bend Lawyers Care Client Success Story**

One of the local churches contacted FBLC to help one of their parishioners - a 46 year old woman who had AIDS and whose condition was worsening by the day. She did not know what would happen to her son if she died without having a Will and the necessary documents in place for her son's placement. The son's father also had AIDS and had already died from the disease. Her sole assets were her very old car and the furniture in her apartment. She lived off of Disability and Social Security because she was unable to work.

Everyone who knew the son spoke very highly of him and loved him. The client was going to have a serious medical procedure in a month due to her illness and she was not sure she would survive the surgery. Considering the time sensitivity of this case, the search for a volunteer lawyer began immediately. Fortunately, one was found the same day. The documents were prepared, completed, and signed shortly thereafter.

At the time of the signing the client thanked all involved and stated, "Now I can die in peace knowing that my baby will be taken care of." This case touched everyone's heart. There was no way this client could have afford to hire a private attorney to draft her Will and other end of Life documents; she could barely keep groceries in her cupboard. It's a tragedy in itself that she knew that she was dying and had to explain this to her son, but at least she knew that the legalities for the care of her 11 year old son were in place.

## **FBLC Board of Directors**

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### **Vice President**

Suzanne Bartholomew

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Sarah Springer

Angela Vasquez

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**FBLC October 2009 Newsletter**

**Fort Bend Lawyers Care**

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

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The George Foundation

Texas Access to Justice Foundation

Fort Bend Junior Service League

City of Sugar Land through a grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Program

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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

