



# FORT BEND LAWYERS CARE

equal access to justice through volunteer lawyers

VOLUME 10

## Fort Bend Lawyers CARE is hosting a Legal Clinic For Veterans

ALL RISE TO FORT BEND COUNTY MILITARY PERSONNEL!

Fort Bend Lawyers Care with the assistance of the Houston Bar Association and Fort Bend Young Lawyers Association, is proudly hosting a walk-in legal clinic geared towards low-income veterans of Fort Bend County. Veterans and/or their spouse are welcome to come and receive free legal advice and counsel in regards to their civil legal needs.

FBLC extends their appreciation to the Fort Bend military personnel for their services rendered to our country!

The Veterans Legal Clinic will be held at the Calvary Episcopal Church at  
806 Thompson Road, Richmond, Texas 77469  
November 13, 2010 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Please let FBLC know if you are interested in volunteering as a volunteer lawyer or as a non-lawyer volunteer.

Please help FBLC spread the word about this new initiative to assist our veterans in need of civil legal assistance.



## Inside This Issue

Volunteer Attorney Appreciation	Page 2
FBLC Statistics	Page 2
Pro Bono Cases Available	Page 2
Our Sincerest Thanks	Page 3
Upcoming FBLC Events	Page 3
FBLC Client Success Story– Brett Richards	Page 4
FBLC Accomplishments	Page 5

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FORT BEND LAWYERS CARE

281-239-0015

WWW.FORTBENDLAWYERSCARE.ORG



**Fort Bend  
Lawyers CARE  
Mission  
Statement**

*To provide  
low-income  
Fort Bend  
County  
residents with  
equal access to  
justice through  
volunteer  
lawyers.*

**FBLC appreciates the Volunteer Attorneys who have assisted in  
its mission during 2010**

Jetty Abraham  
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Alicia Klosowsky  
Brian Knipling  
Fred Krasny  
Joshua Leal  
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Nancy Lusk  
Lionel Martin  
David Matthews  
Lori Matthews  
Stacy Mc Carty  
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John Millard  
Sana Naeem  
Glynn Nance  
John Nichols  
Merri Nichols  
Jeff Novy  
Grace N. Nwanguma  
Mike Orsak

Neal Paster  
David Perwin  
Vicki Pinak  
Monica Rawlings  
Fred Riepen  
Amelia Rodriguez  
Nina Schaefer  
Ricky Sharpless  
David Showalter  
Jeff Singer  
Derick Smith  
Merri Smith  
Steve Smoot  
Sarah Springer  
Sharon Steckler  
Richard Tate  
Donna Thomisee  
Allison Turner  
Corrine Vahalik  
Griffin Vance  
Valerie Waddell  
John W. Wauson  
Scott West  
Mari Wise  
Betty Wong  
Ellen Yarrell

**FBLC Statistics**

**FBLC Statistics since  
January 1, 2010**

Cases Closed- 774

Fort Bend County residents  
Assisted- 2,259

Number of Volunteer Lawyers-  
140

Hours donated by Volunteer  
Lawyers- 3,012

Legal fees donated by Volunteer  
Lawyers- \$753,000

Legal Line  
155 cases

Family Law Workshop  
65 cases

Walk In Legal Clinic  
84 cases

Women's Legal Forum  
24 cases

Foreclosure/Evictions  
73 cases

**Volunteer  
Opportunities**

**FBLC Volunteer Lawyer  
opportunities available:**

Family Law Workshop

Women's Legal Forum

Fort Bend Regional Counsel on  
Substance Abuse  
Informational Sessions

Walk In Legal Clinic

Veteran's Legal Clinic

BBGS Informational Sessions

**Pro-Bono Cases Available - Volunteer Lawyers Needed**

- 3 Divorces
- 3 Wills and other End of Life Documents
- 1 Adult Guardianship

If you would like to assist a low income Fort Bend County resident in need of legal representation please contact Holly Reyes for more information. You have the knowledge and talent to help improve someone's life!

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

Or

281-239-0015

# Our Sincerest Gratitude!



## FBLC is funded in part by:

Texas Access to Justice Foundation, Fort Bend Cares, The George Foundation, The Exchange Club, Fort Bend Junior Service League, The Exchange Club of Sugar Land, Capital One, Texas State Bar, City of Sugar Land and Dearborn & Creggs

## FBLC Guardian Angels

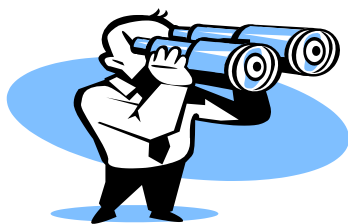
Eleanor Burgess,  
Calvary Episcopal Church,  
Child Advocates of Fort Bend,  
Cowden Company, Brent & Kathy  
Carpenter, Graciela Daichman,  
Fernando's Latin Cusine,  
Mary K. Foteh, Jameka Ivy,  
Jackson & Associates,  
Laura LaVigne, Jesse & Helen Mata,  
Vickie Millard, Jeff Novy, Office Depot,  
Office Max, Skyline Catering, and  
Angela Vasquez



## FBLC Non-Attorney Volunteers

Karl Bartholomew  
Philip Bartholomew  
Suzanne Bartholomew  
Kelly Brady  
Jenna Branscum  
Eric Harrison  
Monique Harrison  
and  
Jennifer Johnice

**If you want to learn how to become a guardian angels please contact FBLC at 281-239-0015**



# Upcoming FBLC Events

## Family Law Workshop

1st Wednesday of every month @  
The Child Advocates of Fort Bend  
5403 Avenue N  
Rosenberg, Texas 77471  
6:30pm-8:00 pm

\*If you are a low-income Fort Bend County resident, please join FBLC at our free workshop for legal information in regards to Family Law including: Divorce, child support, child custody/visitation and adoption.

\*Sponsored in part by: Child Advocates of Fort Bend, Fort Bend Cares, and. The Family Law Workshop is for Advice & Counsel only.

If you need more assistance please contact Fort Bend Lawyers CARE



## Fort Bend County National Adoption Day Celebration

November 19, 2010  
8:00am - 9:30 am

Fort Bend County Courthouse  
301 Jackson Street  
Richmond, Texas 77469

Fort Bend County National Adoption Day is an event of the 328th and 387th District Courts of Fort Bend, Child Advocates of Fort Bend, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Fort Bend Bar Association, Fort Bend Lawyers CARE, Fort Bend County Attorney's office, the Fort Bend County 0-3 Court Team Project and Lone Star Exchange Club

## Justice For All Annual Luncheon

Watch for a "Save the Date" card arriving soon!!

## Advisory Board Annual Meeting

November 16, 2010

5:30 pm-7:00 pm

Café Adobe  
2329 Highway 6  
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

## 7 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 Family Law Workshop, Walk-in Legal Clinic, Veteran's Legal Clinic or speaking at one of our community presentations please let us know!

Contact Holly Reyes at 281-239-0015 or Holly@FortBendLawyersCare.org

## Fort Bend Lawyers CARE Client Success Story

### \*\*\*Brett Lee Richard\*\*\*



Pictured above:  
Brett Lee Richard

Brett was born July 10, 1986, a healthy baby boy with the exception of having an abnormally small brain. Brett was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy at the age of three. Since then Brett has been unable to walk.

Brett had to withdraw from public school at the age of 13 due to his immune system. On January 31, 2007, Brett was in Texas Children’s Hospital when his heart stopped. Doctors had to use a defibrillator to shock his heart and bring him back to life. On November 2, 2007, Ms. Oliver made a frantic call to 911 because Brett was found not breathing. He was rushed to the hospital where he lived in a coma for a month and a half. Just before Christmas he started breathing on his own and woke up from his coma. Brett was in the hospital until April 2008. At that time doctors notified Ms. Oliver that Brett would have to live for the rest of his life with a tracheal tube and would never be able to speak again. He was given six months to a year to live. Ms. Oliver did not have adult guardianship so a government provided health insurance would have denied continuing medical coverage and placed Brett into nursing home. When Brett returned home he showed signs of improvement. Once again, the government provided health insurance threatened to deny medical assistance due to the fact that Ms. Oliver did not have adult guardianship over Brett. It was imperative that his mother contact FBLC and Brazos Bend Guardianship Services for her to be able to continue to care for Brett in his own home.

FBLC’s Director of Services, Holly Reyes, was able to obtain volunteer attorney, Charles Huber, to represent Ms. Oliver. Brett was represented by volunteer attorney, Andrew Schreck, of Brazos Bend Guardianship Services. Thanks to the hard work and determination of all the parties involved in Brett’s case, Ms. Oliver gained adult guardianship of Brett on August 16, 2010.

Brett loves practicing his faith, trains, music, watching movies, SpongeBob cartoons, and The Disney Channel. Brett’s dislikes are hospitals and white lab coats worn by doctors. Brett is always smiling and makes the best of whatever situation he is put in. Ms. Oliver is a single mother raising Brett alone since he was an infant. She is unable to work due to the constant care that Brett requires.

Ms. Oliver stated, “I thank god everyday for FBLC and the volunteer attorneys because I knew I could never afford legal representation without FBLC’s assistance. From the bottom of mine and Brett’s heart, we appreciate FBLC and the volunteer attorneys and god bless them all!”

She feels that she can now provide so much more for Brett since gaining adult guardianship. Brett has taught her what a precious gift life is and how easy it is to love someone.



Pictured to the left: Andrew Schreck, volunteer lawyer (left) of Brazos Bend Guardianship Services, Lillie Oliver (middle) Brett’s mother, and Charles Huber, volunteer lawyer (Right) FBLC

# FBLC Facts

FBLC closed 10 cases in the year of 2006. By 2009, FBLC had closed over 1000 cases. Currently in 2010, FBLC has already closed 774 cases, and the volunteer lawyers have donated over \$753,000 in time to clients.

Fort Bend Lawyers Care provides pro bono civil legal representation to qualifying residents of Fort Bend County who live at or below 125% of Federal Poverty Guidelines, and have legal issues that FBLC volunteer lawyers are able to address; including but not limited to divorce/custody/child support, wills and other end of life documents preparation, probate, minor and adult guardianship, real estate, landlord/tenant issues and adoption.

Fort Bend Lawyers Care also provides pro bono (Advice & Counsel) to qualifying residents of Fort Bend County who live at 175% or below Federal Poverty Guidelines, and have legal issues that FBLC lawyers are able to address. Volunteer lawyers referrals to other nonprofit organizations, and representation in English and Spanish.

FBLC has entered into strategic partnerships with various local agencies, including Child Advocates of Fort Bend County, Brazos Bend Guardianship Services, The Fort Bend County Women's Center, Fort Bend Regional Counsel on Substance Abuse, Asians Against Domestic Abuse, Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Charities, and Fort Bend Seniors-Meals on Wheels to ensure that FBLC's services are utilized by qualifying residents.

The 2009 statistics show that just over 8% of the population of Fort Bend County lives at or below the poverty line; that's nearly 40,000 potential clients who have civil legal needs, but limited access to legal assistance. We are improving our delivery methods and enhancing our services. We need your help to continue to reach those who need pro bono assistance.



**Pictured above:  
FBLC volunteer lawyers at a clinic earlier this year**

# FBLC October 2010 Newsletter

## Fort Bend Lawyers CARE

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Richmond, Texas 77469  
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E-Mail: [info@fortbendlawyersCARE.org](mailto:info@fortbendlawyersCARE.org)

**\*FBLC is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization\***

**If you would like to make a donation please visit our website at  
[WWW.FortBendLawyersCARE.org](http://WWW.FortBendLawyersCARE.org)**

## FBLC is generously supported by:

Texas Access to Justice Foundation  
The Exchange Club of Sugar Land  
Fort Bend Cares Foundation  
Fort Bend County Bar Association  
The George Foundation  
Fort Bend Junior Service League  
City of Sugar Land  
Capital One  
Texas State Bar

