RESIDENTS DISPLACED BY HURRICANE HARVEY AIDED WITH PRO BONO

Countless numbers of Texas families lost their homes as a result of Hurricane Harvey. On April 27, 2020, three of those families received keys to brand new homes. Porter Hedges helped to make this happen, in coordination with the non-profit Victoria County Long Term Recovery Group (VCLTRG) and other volunteer and non-profit organizations, including TRLA.

The Porter Hedges team provided pro bono representation for the new homeowners, and assisted with the home closing processes.

Porter Hedges is currently working with several other families who will be closing on their new homes in the near future and plans to continue providing pro bono services to new homeowners.

PRO BONO CHAMPIONS

Richard Leshin is a founding partner of Welder Leshin, LLP and is board certified in Estate Planning by the Texas Board of Specialization. He has been a pro bono attorney with TRLA’s Volunteer Lawyers Project (Corpus Christi) since 2003.

Richard Gonzalez & Armando X. Lopez have served as pro bono attorneys at TRLA’s Social Justice Night Court (Laredo) for over 15 years!

Thank you!
SHEARMAN STERLING ANSWERS THE CALL

Requests for TRLA’s legal assistance in the family law area have surged 40% during the COVID-19 pandemic. TRLA is pleased to announce its partnership with the international law firm of Shearman Sterling to provide low income Texas with substantive legal advice in simple family law matters during a monthly “virtual” clinic, enabling TRLA advocates to focus on direct representation of this vulnerable client population.

TRLA’s Family Law Team will provide a comprehensive training to these volunteer attorneys: “Advising the Family Law Client – The Pro Bono Basics.” TRLA will thereafter pair several pre-screened clients per attorney for consultation and advice. TRLA will also provide experienced mentors and other resources to assist pro bono attorneys. TRLA and Shearman Sterling are excited to pioneer this clinic, and expect it to be an ongoing and client-centered resource for low income family law applicants.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NIGHT COURT: WEBB COUNTY EXPUNCTION CLINIC

Pandemic notwithstanding, clients in Webb County continue to obtain judicial relief with their expunction and non-disclosure cases via TRLA’s Social Justice Night Court, a long-standing collaboration between Webb County judges, the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association, and TRLA.

While the March SJNC was cancelled after the COVID-19 pandemic declaration, forward-thinking judges and attorneys scrambled to hold expunction clinics in both April and May via Zoom.

Special thanks to Judge Oscar Hale and Associate Judge David Garcia who presided over the April and May dockets, and a shout out to Alyson Martinez, current president of the Laredo-Webb County Bar Association who has spearheaded pro bono recruiting throughout her tenure.

FOR MORE INFO ABOUT PRO BONO OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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VIRTUAL CLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

- Advising the Family Law Client
- FEMA Appeals
- Alternatives to Guardianship
- Kincare 101
- Small Business: Nuts & Bolts
- Basics of Defending Evictions

Accredited CLE

UPCOMING PRO BONO EVENTS

June 5, 2020
Family Law Advice Clinic
Shearman Sterling

July 2020
Virtual Pro Bono (Tax) Settlement Day

Summer 2020
Legal Research Projects
Vinson & Elkins Summer Associates
Vinson & Elkins

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

TRLA Veterans Advocacy Project
Ongoing Ask-A-Lawyer legal clinics

TRLA Mental Health Programs
Ongoing Psychiatric Advance Directive support

TRLA Guardianship Team
Ongoing Alternatives to Guardianship SDMA legal clinics

Sign up today at www.trla.org/probono