



## Houston Association of Women Attorneys

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lauren Waddell

We have had a fun and productive first quarter. On April 19th, AWA supported and members attended the Minority Bar Association Spring Mixer. On May 6th, the AWA teamed up with the HBA Habitat for Humanity Committee and volunteered at a Habitat for Humanity build site. On May 17th, our new District Attorney, Kim Ogg, spoke to our members about "Professional Women and the Criminal Justice System". On June 21st, our members participated in a cooking class.

Our next luncheon will be on July 19th, Alyssa Gomez from Houston Volunteer Lawyers will speak about emerging issues for legal aid. Attendees will receive 1 hour of CLE credit, along with .50 ethics credit. Our next social event is August 16th at the Kendra Scott store in Rice Village, members will get a discount on purchases that evening. I hope to see you at these upcoming events!



The AWA is hosting another panel discussion for law student on-campus interviews in August. Charlotte MacVane planned a successful event last year and we are pleased she is organizing this event again this year. Please spread the word about this event to law firms with summer clerkships and to law students who could benefit from this program.

The AWA and AWA Foundation boards are joining forces to support our third-year scholarship recipients by starting a special mentoring program for them. For more details, contact Allissa Pollard, who is taking the lead on this project on the AWA board.

We are also launching a new mentorship program for our members, which is scheduled to begin in September. If you are interested in participating either as a mentor (member practicing 4+ years) or mentee (member practicing 0-4 years), please email me at [lwaddell@fullenweider.com](mailto:lwaddell@fullenweider.com). We will be matching people over the summer. I am excited about this new program!

Thank you to all the members who responded to the membership survey. We appreciate your feedback! We are committed to making the AWA an organization you continue to benefit from and enjoy.

- Lauren

### AWA FOUNDATION

#### 2018 "Premier Women in the Law" Award

The AWA Foundation is seeking nominations for its "Premier Women in the Law" award, focusing on women attorneys in Houston who are courageous leaders in diversity and inclusion. The awards will be presented to the honorees at its annual luncheon on March 28, 2018.

**Award Definition and Criteria:** In support of the mission of the Houston Association of Women Attorneys and the AWA Foundation, the Premier Women in the Law award is presented to women attorneys who have contributed to Houston's legal community through their professional achievement and community involvement and by actively seeking to advance other women in the law.

- Nominees must practice in Houston or have strong professional links to Houston's legal community.
- Nominees should demonstrate outstanding professional achievement and success in their practice area—be it government service, private practice, nonprofit, academics or business—through a record of ethical advocacy on behalf of their clients, causes or organizations.
- Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to promoting women in the legal profession, examples of which include creating opportunities to advance women lawyers; actively hiring, seeking to retain and promote and mentoring women attorneys; and/or involvement in professional or community activities designed to promote women within the legal profession.
- Nominees must also commit to attend the AWA Premier Women in the Law cocktail reception on February 28, 2018 and the AWA Foundation Premier Women in the Law luncheon on March 28, 2018. Honorees will have an opportunity to briefly address the audience at the luncheon with the goal of inspiring others through their achievement.

**Note:** AWA Foundation trustees and volunteers are not eligible for the award. The AWA Foundation respectfully requests that nominees not be notified of their nomination.

**Nomination Instructions:** To nominate a deserving woman attorney, please provide a nomination letter that addresses the following:

1. Please specify the nominee's name, title, organization, contact information and basis for the nomination, which may include specific actions taken by the nominee that you

- believe merits her recognition, such as achievement, persistence, resilience, creativity, entrepreneurialism and/or overcoming obstacles in the workplace.
2. Please explain how the nominee exemplifies the inclusion, promotion, or mentoring of women, which could include overcoming any difficulties or challenges that they have encountered.
  3. Please provide a personal anecdote that illustrates the nominee's leadership in diversity and inclusion of women.
  4. What one word best describes the nominee?
  5. Please provide any additional information you believe would assist the Nominations Committee in reaching its decision.

**Nominations will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. CST on September 1, 2017.**

Please e-mail your nomination letters to the AWA Foundation Nominations Committee at [janet.guillory@bakerbotts.com](mailto:janet.guillory@bakerbotts.com).

**PAST AWA FOUNDATION PREMIER WOMEN IN LAW AWARD HONOREES\***

**2017**

The Honorable Keith P. Ellison, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas  
Veronica Foley, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Precision Drilling  
Alissa Rubin Gomez, Executive Director, Houston Volunteer Lawyers  
Hillary Holmes, Partner, Baker Botts L.L.P.  
Kathryn M. Kase, Senior Counsel and Director of the Capital Trial Project, Texas Defender Service

**2016**

Belinda Hill, First Assistant District Attorney, Harris County  
Allyson N. Ho, Partner, Morgan Lewis  
Diane E. Marshall, Principal, Marshall & Lewis L.L.P.  
Beryle McHenry, Legal Director, Sun Coast Resources, Inc.  
Marjorie A. Meyers, Federal Public Defender, Southern District of Texas  
Aida Josephine Nelson, in memoriam

**2015 – Women at the Pinnacle**

Laura E. Arnold, Co-Chair, Laura and John Arnold Foundation  
Claudia Wilson Frost, Co-Chair, Patent Litigation Practice, DLA Piper LLP (USA)  
Holland N. O'Neil, Chair of the Board of Directors, Gardere Wynne Swell LLP  
Kathy D. Patrick, Partner, Gibbs & Bruns  
The Honorable Lee H. Rosenthal, United States District Court, Southern District of Texas

**2014 – Modern Trailblazers**

Devon Anderson, Harris County District Attorney  
Chief Justice Kem Frost, 14th Court of Appeals  
Justice Eva Guzman, The Supreme Court of Texas  
Susan Barrington Sanchez, ExxonMobil Corporation  
Lauren Waddell, The Waddell Law Firm, P.C.  
Ruthie White, Jackson Lewis PC

**2013 – General Counsel**

Wendy Daboval, General Counsel, Chevron North America E&P  
Clare Doyle, Deputy General Counsel, Reliant Energy  
Kimberly Frye, General Counsel, Key Energy Services  
Charlotte Rasche, General Counsel, Prosperity Bank  
Charlene Ripley, General Counsel, Linn Energy, LLC

**2012 – Managing Partners**

Lisa Pennington, Managing Partner, Baker Hostetler  
Maria Boyce, Partner-in-Charge, Baker Botts  
Christine B. LaFollette, Partner-in-Charge, Akin Gump  
Katherine (Kit) E. Flanagan, Office Managing Shareholder, Littler Mendelson  
Ileana Blanco, Managing Partner, DLA Piper  
Shauna Johnson Clark, Partner-in-Charge, Fulbright & Jaworski  
Nancy MacKimm, Partner-in-Charge, Jones Day  
Mary-Olga Lovett, Managing Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig  
Rachel Giesber Clingman, Partner-in-Charge, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan  
Lisa Meyerhoff, Managing Partner, Baker & McKenzie  
Marie R. Yeates, Managing Partner, Vinson & Elkins  
Teresa S. Valderrama, Resident Manager, Jackson Lewis

\*Listed position at the time of the award

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**RECENT EVENTS**

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***Habitat for Humanity Build Project***

May 6, 2017



On Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, the AWA volunteered at a build site for Habitat for Humanity. The AWA joined the HBA Habitat for Humanity Committee to work on the Houston Bar Association's 20<sup>th</sup> Habitat House, which was completed on June 3rd. We look forward to supporting the HBA with the commitment to continue building homes with Habitat for Humanity in the future.



### Kim Ogg Presentation

May 17, 2017 - Luncheon



On May 17<sup>th</sup>, we were honored to have the Harris County District Attorney, Kim Ogg, speak to our members about professionalism and the criminal justice system. D.A. Kim Ogg spoke to a packed room and shared that she was an Association of Women Attorney's scholarship recipient when she was in law school. The AWA is proud to support the Houston area law school students—supporting future women attorneys who will have an impact on the legal system, like D.A. Kim Ogg. At the luncheon, Ms. Ogg announced that she wants to give back to the AWA Scholarship Program by offering an internship to the Harris County District Attorney's Office. Thank you, D.A. Kim Ogg, for speaking to our membership and for your supporting women in Houston's legal community!



### Cooking Class

June 21, 2017

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, AWA members took a cooking class at Well Done Cooking School. AWA members had a fun evening of fellowship and developing their culinary skills by learning how to prepare sushi. Our amazing instructor, Lindsay Lombardi, walked us through the basics, from telling us where we can purchase our fish and other necessary items, followed by detailed instructions on how to deep fry and warm sushi rolls with a blowtorch. We made 4 different sushi rolls, and no one left hungry!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
JULY CLE LUNCHEON



**Alissa Rubin Gomez**  
Executive Director,  
Houston Volunteer  
Lawyers

**SAVE THE DATE:**

August 16th, 5:30-7:30 pm  
Kendra Scott event  
Rice Village location

Sep. 20th, CLE Luncheon  
Speaker: Tanya Garrison  
"Proving Up, Preserving,  
and Reversing Awards of  
Attorney's Fees"

Oct. 18th, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Women's Self Defense class  
@ Crossfit Roughnecks

*"How to get involved; Emerging issues in Legal Aid"*

**Who:** Alissa Rubin Gomez  
Houston Volunteer Lawyers

**Where:** Wells Fargo Building, Ground Floor Auditorium  
1000 Louisiana Street, Houston, TX 77002

**When:** Wednesday, July 19th, 2017  
11:30 a.m. networking, 12:00 p.m. program begins

**Cost:** \$15 for Members, \$20 for Non-Members  
Lunch and CLE credit included (5 ethics)

RSVP and pay online: [Events@awahouston.org](mailto:Events@awahouston.org)

**Introduction**

Alissa Rubin Gomez is the Executive Director of Houston Volunteer Lawyers, the pro bono arm of the Houston Bar Association. Prior to joining Houston Volunteer Lawyers in December 2013, Alissa was a commercial litigation partner in the Houston office of King & Spalding LLP – which she joined as an associate immediately after graduating as a Chancellor from the University of Texas School of Law in 2002. Throughout her tenure at King & Spalding, Alissa regularly took pro bono cases from Houston Volunteer Lawyers and Catholic Charities, and the Firm awarded her a pro bono service award in 2006, 2007, and 2008. Alissa's move to Houston Volunteer Lawyers was an extension of her dedication to providing legal services to persons in need.



*You're Invited,*  
to a shopping party!

Join us on August 16th at the Kendra Scott store in Rice Village for an evening of shopping, champagne, cupcakes and networking. Oh yeah, AND 15% off all purchases!  
*What more do you need?*

5:30 - 7:30 pm  
2411 Times Blvd. #120  
Houston, TX 77005  
RSVP by August 11th to [events@awahouston.org](mailto:events@awahouston.org)



## On-campus Interview Panel Event

The AWA will be hosting an On-campus Interview Panel Event 5:30 pm on August 2 at

Winstead, PC This event will give law students the opportunity to learn interviewing tips and techniques from our accomplished panel. The panel will include Ileana Blaco of DLA Piper, Alex Roberts of Beck Redden, and Teresa Schneider of Winstead, PC.

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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### Texas Executive Women Names Cristina Portela Solomon to Its 2017 Women on the Move List

The AWA is proud to congratulate **Cristina Portela Solomon** for being named to the prestigious [Texas Executive Women's](#) 2017 Women on the Move list.

Each year, TEW recognizes 10 outstanding women in Houston for their exceptional contributions to business and community service. Since the inception of Women on the Move in 1985, some of the most powerful women have been recognized for not only being leaders in their fields, but for their countless hours of volunteer work in helping touch thousands of lives across the city of Houston.

TEW is an organization of professional female executives from many different professions and industries. Members come together to network, share experiences and professional resources, and are actively involved in the community. TEW supports programs that recognize, develop and fund the advancement of young women in the community, which includes mentoring and scholarship programs.

Solomon is a partner in Gardere's labor and employment practice group. Her legal career of more than 30 years has been devoted exclusively to representing management in all phases of labor and employment law. An experienced trial lawyer, Solomon has an impressive track record of victories on behalf of employers in employment-related litigation. She is known throughout Texas for her particular expertise in trade secret litigation.

Solomon, who is from Cuba and fluent in Spanish, is particularly dedicated to mentoring female and minority attorneys in the professional community. She is the immediate past president and current board member of the Houston Association of Women Attorneys. She also currently serves as one of the leaders in the Latina Lawyers Network, a group dedicated to mentoring Hispanic females as they navigate their way through the challenges of the legal profession. In addition, Solomon is a volunteer for Small Steps Nurturing Center, an organization that provides an exemplary early childhood program to instill and foster the social, emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual growth of economically at-risk children and their families. In March 2017, she was elected to membership in the Fellows of the Texas Bar Foundation for her professional achievements and demonstrated commitment to the justice system throughout the state of Texas. Each year, only one-third of 1 percent of State Bar members are invited to become Fellows.

The 2017 Women on the Move honorees will be recognized at TEW's annual luncheon on Oct. 26. For more information, click [here](#).

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## MEMBERSHIP

"We are excited to begin our new membership year! If you have not yet renewed your membership, we encourage you to do so to take advantage of our inspiring upcoming events, some of which are for "members only."

To join or renew your AWA membership, please go to the [AWA Membership Page](#)

**Debra Ibarra Mayfield**  
Membership Chair

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## CAREER CORNER

### HVL Searching for New Executive Director

Houston Volunteer Lawyers Executive Director Alissa Gomez will soon be transitioning to a teaching position at the UH Law Center. A search for the next Executive Director of HVL is now underway. The Executive Director reports to the Chair of the HVL Board and oversees the daily operations of HVL, including a staff of 30 and an annual operating budget of approximately \$2.5 million. [Click here](#) for more info.

This newly added newsletter section *Career Corner* will be used for Houston area job postings. We are dedicated to supporting our members' careers and this is a place to share information about career opportunities. If you know of job opportunities, please contact our Communications VP, Cecily Martinez, to post in *Career Corner* in upcoming newsletters.



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response**  
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