



## Seeds of Hope event helps those in need

On June 7, 2014, the Austin Young Lawyers Association/Austin Bar Association Leadership Academy joined forces with the Texas Advocacy Project and SafePlace to host Seeds of Hope, a two-part event that included a free legal clinic, followed by a garden party that featured a release of balloons filled with messages from survivors of domestic violence. All funds raised during Seeds of Hope support survivor scholarships. *Above:* Members of the Austin Bar Association/Austin Young Lawyers Association Leadership Academy Class of 2014.

## Legislative subcommittee to meet

The State Bar Legislative Policy Subcommittee is tentatively scheduled to meet Aug. 21-22, 2014, to discuss all legislative proposals that have been properly submitted for consideration by the committee. To request a copy of the proposals or for questions regarding the August meeting, contact the State Bar Governmental Relations Department at [govt.relations@texasbar.com](mailto:govt.relations@texasbar.com) or (800) 204-2222, ext. 6826.

## High-level scam targets lawyers

In recent years, Texas attorneys have been the targets of high-level scams involving fraudulent certified checks. One lawyer reportedly lost around \$200,000. A recent victim from Amarillo noted that the savvy scammers seem legitimate by using the names of real businesses and people during correspondence. Do not disburse funds from a check deposit until all funds have cleared, and contact your bank about any suspicious checks. Bank fraud cases are investigated by the Secret Service and should be reported to an area office; Internet fraud should be reported to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [ic3.gov](http://ic3.gov).

## Lawyers raise \$90,000 for cancer research

The Houston-based Allied Advocates Foundation raised more than \$90,000 for cancer research May 2, 2014, through its Second Annual Clays on the Brazos sporting tournament. Net proceeds benefit Peach Outreach, a nonprofit organization that raises awareness about uterine cancer and other gynecological cancers. To learn more about the foundation, go to [alliedadvocates.com](http://alliedadvocates.com).

## Conversations address pro bono opportunity

The State Bar of Texas Legal Access Division is holding a series of “Community Conversations on Pro Bono” across the state to assist local groups in recognizing gaps for pro bono opportunities and identifying areas where the State Bar can help. For more information, call (800) 204-2222, ext. 1855.

## Attorneys asked to update profiles

Government Code 81.115 requires Texas lawyers to update their online profile information each year. Even if no changes are anticipated, attorneys must log in to “My Bar Page” on [texasbar.com](http://texasbar.com) and certify that the content is accurate.

## Gala celebrates legal aid service

On May 13, 2014, Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Nathan L. Hecht presented the James B. Sales Boots on the Ground Award to Christine P. Larson, director of Guardianship of Estates at Family Eldercare, at the Champions of Justice Gala Benefiting Veterans, which was sponsored by the Texas Access to Justice Commission and the State Bar of Texas. The award recognizes an attorney who provides legal aid to those who have limited access to legal services.

## Volunteers honored by TexasBarCLE

In June 2014, TexasBarCLE honored six attorneys with “A Standing Ovation” award for their volunteer contributions to CLE events. Donna Brown of Austin, David E. Chamberlain of Austin, Warren Harris of Houston, Cindy V. Tisdale of Granbury, David K. Waggoner of Hillsboro, and Mark D. White of Amarillo were recognized for their work in 2013.



## Student teachers attend Sumners institute

A group of 22 attended the Hatton W. Sumners Student Teacher Institute at the Texas Law Center on June 5-6, 2014. The program was offered to current university students, recent graduates preparing for their first year of teaching, and teachers who have already completed one year in the classroom. The institute covered subjects such as the principles of the U.S. Constitution, levels of government, and citizenship. *Above:* Student teachers tour the Texas Supreme Court during the Sumners institute in Austin. **TBJ**