

SERVICE and GRATITUDE



I sincerely hope that TYLA has made you more proud than ever to be a Texas young lawyer.

TYLA'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE THIS YEAR WAS TO NOT ONLY POSITIVELY IMPACT THE LAWYERS AND CITIZENS OF TEXAS TODAY, BUT ALSO SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACT PERSONS FAR BEYOND OUR BORDERS FOR DECADES TO COME.

TYLA's human trafficking public awareness initiative, *Slavery Out of the Shadows: Spotlight On Human Trafficking*, and our interactive web-based pipeline project, *What Do Lawyers Do?*, are shining examples of how we met our objective. Undoubtedly, our efforts will continue to make a difference in the lives of people across the country for many years.

TYLA also expanded its services to members. Our partnership with the International Law Section of the State Bar of Texas evidences TYLA's commitment to educating our members about the importance of the rule of law both at home and abroad and also the basics of practicing law in a more diverse and intertwined world. Our partnership with the Florida Young Lawyers Division resulted in the pamphlet *From The Inside Out: In-House Counsel's Advice to Young Lawyers*, wherein corporate counsel shared their advice with our members regarding client expectations and service. Moreover, *Criminal Law 101: Overview of the Criminal Justice Process* provides a practical resource for prosecutors and criminal defense attorneys for educating victims or clients about the Texas criminal justice process. The aforementioned presentations and materials, as well as the creation and continuation of so many others, were made possible because of the hard work and dedication of the TYLA Executive Committee, the TYLA Board of Directors, liaisons, non-board committee members, and the TYLA team—Tracy Brown, director of administration; Bree Trevino, project coordinator; and Michelle Palacios, office manager.

TYLA created and implemented its projects with assistance and support from others as well. Government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, local bar associations, judges, justices, law schools, sponsors, vendors, and numerous individuals offered their expertise, reviewed content, participated in presentations, and helped distribute TYLA materials. The State Bar of Texas Board of Directors, specifically President **Buck Files**, gave unwavering support and praise. **Michelle Hunter**, executive director of the State Bar, and all State Bar employees were instrumental in sharing TYLA initiatives with members, the public, media, and bar associations across the country.

In closing, I want to thank: 1) my wife, Daj Rhodes, for her love and support during the countless hours I spent away from home and for listening intently to my thoughts and ideas about TYLA, often over dinner; 2) my parents, Coolidge and Janice Rhodes, for teaching me that service to others is one of the greatest gifts and rewards in life especially when you expect nothing in return; and 3) my company, Baker Hughes Inc., specifically my chief legal officer, **Alan Crain**; general counsel, **William Marsh**; and my legal department colleagues and business clients for their support, teamwork, and patience. I also want to thank you for giving me the incredible honor, distinct privilege, and deeply humbling experience of representing and serving you. My life has been enriched tremendously by every person I have met this year. I sincerely hope that TYLA has made you more proud than ever to be a Texas young lawyer.

C.E. RHODES

President, *Texas Young Lawyers Association*