

---

---

# THE LEGAL ADVOCATE

---

---

The Newsletter of Legal Hospice of Texas

Summer 2009

## Heat of the Night

Our annual summer event, Heat of the Night, will also serve as our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Plan to join us on Saturday, August 29, from 7:00-10:00 pm at Studios 1019, 2278 Monitor Street, Dallas, TX 75207. The event will include food, beverages, a silent auction, with music and dancing featuring guest DJs, The Perry Twins. Tickets are \$50 per person.

Heat of the Night is sponsored, in part, by Bell Nunnally & Martin, Ben E. Keith Co., Exigo Office, Bolsa, Floss Dental, Modern Luxury Magazine, Pride Radio, straightout media, Illume, Voss, Cap\*Rock Winery, T. David Designs, Don Gaiser, Lakeside Arts Foundation of The Colony and Clint Bradley.

Tickets can be purchased at [www.legalthospice.org](http://www.legalthospice.org).

## On Turning 20

**Roger W. Wedell, Ph.D.**

*Executive Director*

It's been 4 decades since I turned 20, so memories of that day are sketchy at best and mostly forgotten. But as Legal Hospice of Texas approaches its Twentieth Anniversary, I have the opportunity to reflect on the significance of turning 20.

Our expectations of a 20 year old individual and a 20 year old organization are, it seems to me, significantly different. An individual turning 20 can be given some latitude if she or he isn't quite certain of a direction for professional life or even if they haven't completed formal education. A 20 year old organization still seeking its mission and direction would be assumed to be floundering and its leadership ineffective.

While it's true that organizations move through stages of development, we expect maturity much more quickly. As Legal Hospice of Texas turns 20, while we continue to grow and mature as an organization, we are clear about our vision and mission.

We have a vision of a community in which all persons, regardless of health or economic status, have access to justice. Every day we work to make that vision a reality by providing timely and compassionate legal services to low income persons diagnosed with a terminal illness or HIV disease.

We are proud of our heritage and grateful to those who stepped forward in 1989 to close the gap in legal services. While the current economic crisis has dramatically affected our fundraising and government funds continue to be diverted from support services such as ours, we remain confident about our future.

We appreciate your continuing interest in and support of our work in North Central Texas.

Please join us on Saturday, August 29 as we celebrate our first 20 years of service and raise funds to help sustain the next 20 years.

---

### Board of Directors

---

Eliseo Ruiz III – **Chair**  
Barbara Houser – **Vice Chair**  
Patrick Hancock – **Secretary**  
Greg Hawthorne – **Treasurer**  
Lori J. Butler  
Lynne M. Candler  
James A. Deets  
“Erik” Weiting Hsu  
Hilary J. Pearson, M.D.  
Jim Price, SPHR  
Doug Skierski

---

### Staff

---

Roger W. Wedell, Ph.D. – **Executive Director**  
Joel L. Lazarine – **Legal Director**  
Joanna Green Brown – **Staff Attorney**  
Meera George – **Staff Attorney for Mobile Legal Services**  
Pete Flores – **Coordinator of Client Services and Administrative Assistant**  
Cynthia Emerson – **Coordinator of Volunteer Services**

## HIGHLIGHTING DEVELOPMENT

We are grateful to the W.P. and Bulah Luse Foundation for a generous grant of \$5,000 in support of our services in Dallas County.

Thank you to the Graham and Carolyn Holloway Family Foundation for its grant of \$2,500 in support of our services outside of Dallas County.

Attention all federal, state and Dallas City employees! Legal Hospice of Texas (or Dallas Legal Hospice) is participating in the combined employee campaigns at all 3 levels! Our Combined Federal Campaign code is 31476. For State of Texas employees, please designate 280231. City of Dallas employees can also designate Legal Hospice of Texas. Thank you for your support!

Thank you to the Texas Gay Rodeo Association – Dallas Chapter for their support. LHT has received \$1,830 in support of our services in 2009. In addition, members of the Chapter provided free bartending services at our very successful Fashion CITED: A Style Event.

Matching gifts work! So far this year, LHT has received over \$1,500 in matching gifts from companies that match employee donations to qualifying nonprofits. Check with your employer. LHT staff can provide all necessary information needed to help multiply your gift.

Mark your calendars and save the dates! Black Tie Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 3 and LifeWalk will be held on Sunday, October 11. Legal Hospice of Texas is fortunate to be a beneficiary partner for both of these events. If you are attending Black Tie Dinner, please designate LHT as your local beneficiary. If you would like to walk with the LHT LifeWalk Team, please contact our office at 214.521.6622.

Kraft Foods, Inc. made a contribution of \$500 in support of our services in Dallas County.

## LHT Supports TAJF with Prime Partner Banking

In 2008, Texas Access to Justice Foundation established the Prime Partner Program in Texas. Historically, the largest source of funds available to TAJF has been IOLTA – Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts. Prime Partner banks are cooperating with TAJF by paying higher interest rates on these accounts. This higher rate is at least 70% of the Fed Funds Target Rate.

The Board of Directors of Legal Hospice of Texas requested proposals from 5 Prime Partner financial institutions to consolidate its operating, savings and brokerage accounts with one financial partner. LHT received 3 proposals and each was reviewed by staff and the agency's Finance Committee. The Finance Committee made a single recommendation to the Board of Directors and the Board approved the decision to establish a relationship with Wells Fargo.

While interest rates are at historic lows, the Board's decision still sends a message of support to TAJF, Wells Fargo and each of you receiving this newsletter

For more information on the work of the Texas Access to Justice Foundation, visit [www.teajf.org](http://www.teajf.org).

## Browse; Shop; DONATE

Shopping might not be the highest priority for any of us right now, but we all do need "things" from time to time. You can browse and shop online and support Legal Hospice of Texas at the same time. We are now registered with [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) and [GoodShop.com](http://GoodShop.com). It's simple, frequently cheaper than shopping in-person, and a portion of each purchase will help support the work of LHT. You can also use the browser, [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com), and a portion of the advertising revenue will be donated to LHT.

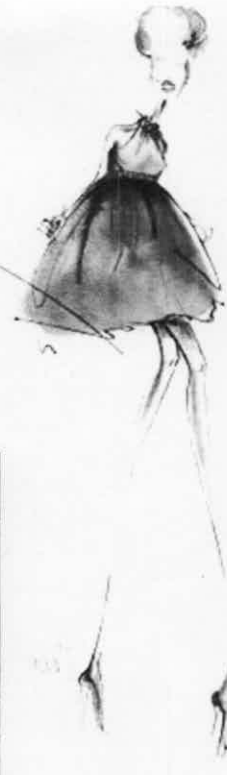
It's simple. Go to [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and/or [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com). Register as a user, select Legal Hospice of Texas as your "cause", and start shopping! You can shop GAP, Staples, Expedia, Nordstrom, Lands' End, Best Buy, Office Depot and over 500 other name brands. Check it out today! Everyone wins!

# Thanks!

**Lawyers of Style**  
 James Deets  
 Jamie K. Baker  
 Liani Kotcher  
 Kathryn Pruitt  
 Bridget Moreno Lopez  
 Don Gaiser  
 Daylen Gallman  
 Dan Pritchett  
 John Reoch  
 Kay Van Wey

**Honorary Chair**  
 Geoffrey Henning  
**MC**  
 Debbie Denmon  
**Celebrity Models**  
 Baron James  
 Barbara Woodley  
 Natalie Woodley  
 Dr. Clint Herzog  
 Breah Herzog  
 Dr. Todd Brownlee

**Designers**  
 Abi Ferrin  
 C. Nicole  
 Cathy Garcia  
 Craig Muller  
 Emily MacKinnon  
 Francisco Flores  
 Geoffrey Henning  
 Greenology USA  
 The House of Dang LLC  
 J Hilburn Men's Clothier  
 Khanh Nguyen  
 Mahlia Collection  
 Morgan Pfeil  
 Nicolas Villalba Coture  
 Pockets Meanswear  
 Regimens  
 Shemara Coture  
 Stephanie Montes



**fashionCTED : a style event**



**DALLAS**  
MODERN LUXURY

DALLAS **LIGHT** SOUND  
 AND

**GAY list**  
 DAILY



**Mix102.9**  
mix1029.com

**pride radio**  
102.9HD2 prideradio.com

The Campbell Agency

**Park Place**  
 MOTORCARS



THE COLLECTIVE  
 CHARITABLE TRUST

**Melodies & Memories**  
 Entertainment

wendy krispin caterer



**VOSS**  
 artesian water from norway

**TONI & GUY**  
 HAIRDRESSING

**IT'S HAPPENING ALL OVER AGAIN FC:4 March 18, 2010**

# Heat of the Night

A 20th Anniversary Celebration



Saturday, August 29, 2009

Studios 1019  
2278 Monitor Street  
Dallas, Texas 75207

7 to 10 p.m.  
\$50 per person

Cocktails  
Hors d'oeuvres  
Silent Auction  
Music / Dancing

Featured DJs  
The Perry Twins



Sponsored in part by:



FLOSS



DALLAS



T. David Designs



DALLAS LIGHT SOUND



for more information or to purchase tickets, visit  
[www.legalhospice.org](http://www.legalhospice.org) or call 214-521-6622

## Legal Hospice of Texas 20 years in review:

- Over 12,000 clients served
- Over 11,000 family members affected
- Over 208,770 units of service provided (52,192 hours)
- Over 16,500 cases closed
- \$1,752,000 recovered for clients in back awards
- \$179,236 dollars for clients per month in forward awards

- 6 Executive Directors
- 7 Board Chairs
- 61 Board Members



Founding Directors:

Gail Dickerson  
Carolyn Gilbert  
Elizabeth K. Julian  
Thomas William Mayo  
Timothy W. Mountz  
William Waybourn  
Louis J. Weber, Jr.

They saw a need in the community and stepped in to fill it. Twenty years later, we keep the vision alive:

*a community in which all persons, regardless of health or economic status, have access to justice.*



Every day we work to make that vision a reality by providing timely and compassionate legal services to low income persons diagnosed with a terminal illness or HIV disease.

## From Our Volunteer Coordinator

**Cynthia Emerson**  
*Coordinator of Volunteer Services*

On World AIDS Day 2008 (always December 1), President Obama said that the U.S. “must also recommit ourselves to addressing the AIDS crisis in the United States with a strong national strategy of education, prevention and treatment, focusing on those communities at greatest risk”. He added, “this strategy must be based on the best available science and built on the foundation of a strong health care system.” According to the President, “In the end, this epidemic can’t be stopped by government alone, and money alone is not the answer either”.

Perseverance is what Legal Hospice of Texas represents and what affirms President Obama’s vision for our communities. As President John F. Kennedy said, “As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them”. The commitment of our volunteers, staff and Board of Directors is “lived” every day as we seek to meet the needs of our clients.

Albert Einstein also had wise words about gratitude. He wrote, “To educate yourself for the feeling of gratitude means to take nothing for granted, but to always seek out and value the kind that will stand behind the action. Nothing that is done for you is a matter of course. Everything originates in a will for the good, which is directed at you. Train yourself never to put off the word or action for the expression of gratitude.”

**WE APPRECIATE EACH AND EVERYONE ONE OF YOU!**



*Providing Timely, Compassionate Legal Services*

## Client Services:

Here are our client service numbers through June 2009:

### Gender

Women	94	20.2%
Men	372	79.8%
Total	466	

### Ethnicity

Caucasian	237	50.9%
African American	154	33.0%
Hispanic	70	15.0%
Asian	4	1.0%
Other	1	.1%

### Age

<13	0	0%
13 – 24	0	0%
25 – 44	188	40.3%
45+	278	59.7%
Units of Service	4,958 (1,239.5 hours)	

### Diagnosis

HIV/AIDS	429	92.1%
Cancer	25	5.4%
Other terminal diagnoses	12	2.5%

## DonorBridge Success

The internet was busy, busy, busy starting at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20. That was the official DonorBridge Dallas Launch event. DonorBridge Dallas is a joint project of Communities Foundation of Texas, Dallas Foundation and Center for Nonprofit Management. The Launch Event premiered the new donor information system and it raised more than \$4 million for 353 nonprofits in North Texas. Communities Foundation made \$200,000 available to match donations and Dallas Foundation provided \$100,000 in matching funds.

Legal Hospice of Texas provided an online profile for the DonorBridge website. It was reviewed and approved for participation in the Launch Event. LHT received 21 donations on Launch Day. Of the over \$7,000 donated, \$3,500 were matched from the funds provided by Communities Foundation of Texas and Dallas Foundation, resulting in over \$10,000 donated in less than 24 hours! Not only was the Launch Event a success for the Project partners, but it was a great success for Legal Hospice of Texas!

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who participated. We will periodically update our information on the DonorBridge site in order to provide increased transparency regarding our services, operations and financial management.

We wish to thank these 92 individuals who have already volunteered over 1,100 hours during 2009:

Debra Albright	Ron Allen	John Ambler	Douglas Arrington	David Bacon
Jens Bakker	Amy Banks	Chris Barker	Kyle Barnard	Rhonda Bartlett
Jennifer Bishop	Lennie Bollinger	Jacque Borel	Katherine Breslin	Aaron Brown
Joanna Green Brown	Lori J. Butler	Ashley Butley	Lynne Candler	Nikki Casto
Katherine Connell	Charles Cook	Jeffery Cook	Rebecca Covell	Cece Cox
James Deets	Dana Dempsey	Misty Dill	Ford Dishman	Susan Elmore
Cynthia Emerson	Jay English	David Fessenden	Francisco Flores	Pete Flores
Daylen Gallman	Cathy Garcia	Meera George	Heath Griffith	Curt Hadaway
Eileen Hall	Patrick Hancock	Shekinah Harris	Greg Hawthorne	John Horany
Barbara Houser	"Erik" Weiting Hsu	Jessica Hurdt	Jo Bess Jackson	Kenneth Jones
Michael Kaufman	David Kim	Angela Komisarz	Dawn Lacerte	Paul Lapierre
Matt Lavery	Kevin Lindstrom	Troy Lonion	Rebecca Martin	Tim Martin
Lyndel Mason	John McCall	James Motley	Melody Musick	Michael Napoli
Cynthia Navarro	John O'Shaughnessy	Hilary Pearson	Milton Phan	Jim Price
Debbie Puckett	Grace Rawlins	Arturo Rivas	Justin Rivera	Marq Robinson
Eliseo Ruiz III	Jessica Sheridan	Doug Skierski	Michelle Smale	Gerald Smith
James Smith	Melody Smith	Yolanda Solis	Wesley Stiger	Winston Tubb
Paul J. Valdez	Carolyn Weaver	Roger Wedell	Beverly Whitley	Linda Wiland
Jenny Womack	Barbara Woodley	Natalie Woodley	Ralph Wynn	