

ABA 2010 Partnership Awards Program Nomination Form

1. Program Title

El Paso's Minority Pre-Law Student Symposium for High School Students

2. Name of Bar Association

Texas Young Lawyers Association

3. Address

P.O. Box 12487

4. City/State/Zip Code

Austin, TX 78711-2487

5. Phone

800-204-2222 x1529

6. Email Address

tyla@texasbar.com

7. Number of Association Members

24,000

PROGRAM INFORMATION

8. Description of your program to include:

- Program's objectives
- History of program
- Number of times presented
- Targeted audience
- Number of people participating
- Measurable results of efforts to date (include statistics, program evaluation and follow-up)
- Future program plans

Program Objective: To inspire and encourage minority students to attend law school. The main goal of the symposium was to inspire and encourage minority students to attend law school. Texas State Bar President, Roland K. Johnson and Texas Young Lawyers Association President, Cori A. Harbour delivered the

keynote address to approximately 180 students. Sylvia Cardona, Immediate Past President Texas Young Lawyers Association, introduced the video presentation, Vote America, which resulted from her vision to educate students about the heroic efforts and struggles of those who came before us to ensure that everyone, regardless of race, sex, religion or socio-economic status might have the right to vote. The students were incredibly attentive and took detailed notes as they watched the video.

The symposium also included three panel discussions. During the first panel local El Paso attorneys from different practice areas discussed their roles in the legal field. The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Law School Preparation Institute faculty and students addressed topics such as the issue of stagnant law school applications and matriculation by Mexican Americans, the importance of a greater minority presence in law school, and what to do now and in college to prepare for law school. The panel discussions concluded with the Senior University Recruiter and Financial Aid Director of UTEP guiding students through the admissions and financial aid process.

History of Program: This program was the first El Paso Minority Pre-Law Student Symposium for High School Students.

Number of Times Presented: This particular program was presented once on November 12, 2009 from 10:00 am to 2:30 p.m.

Targeted Audience: Minority High School Students.

Number of People Participating: Approximately 180 high school students.

Measurable Results of Efforts to Date: Judging from the students' attentiveness, questions, and overall participation, the students in attendance were encouraged that they could attend law school at higher rates.

Future Program Plans: TYLA's Minority Involvement Committee plans to continue this program and implement it in more high schools partnering with Universities and Junior Colleges. A similar program is scheduled to take place April 8, 2010 at the Baylor University School of Law.

9. Total Program Budget

\$1350.00

10. Source of Program Funds

TYLA

EPYLA

UTEP (Facilities)

Alex Acosta (TYLA Past President) & Hector Delgado covered part of the lunch expense for attendees.

11. Other Resources (e.g. inkind contributions, materials, etc.)

The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) donated backpacks and t-shirts. The Texas Young Lawyers Association also donated items to place in the bags. The students received prizes for both answering trivia questions and winning raffle drawings after each presentation.

12. Identify other "partners" who supported your effort (e.g. bar associations, agencies, high schools/colleges/universities/law schools, law firms, etc.)

El Paso Young Lawyers Association

University of Texas at El Paso

Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta, L.L.P.

Horizon High School

Bel Air High School

Valle Verde Early College High School

San Elizario High School

Franklin High School

Austin High School

Bowie High School

Mountain View High School

Riverside High School

13. Note any recognition that these efforts have received (e.g. media coverage, awards, etc.)

The El Paso's Minority Pre-Law Student Symposium for High School Students was featured in the TYLA monthly E-News which is delivered to all Texas Young Lawyers.

14. Could another bar association easily replicate this program? If so, how? Are there materials, checklists, reports that lend themselves to a "how to" guide for other organizations? Please include any pertinent materials with the application form or send separately by e-mail.

Yes, another bar association could easily replicate this program. Partnering with local universities or junior colleges, and local high schools is the easiest way. The bar association should identify one contact person at the universities and high schools. Some universities have a Law School Preparation Institute, and identifying a contact person in the institute is very helpful. The bar association will need to identify the topics they want to cover and organize panels for topic discussions. The bar association might need to fund raise or ask for donations from the partnering sponsors and others in order to provide lunch and prizes to students.

15. What suggestions or recommendations would you offer to others who might undertake a similar program?

I would recommend structuring their program similar to that of TYLA. The trivia questions and raffle drawings after each presentation really helped the students remain attentive and interested in all the program topics.

16. Program contact person, title, phone number:

Tracy Brown, TYLA Director of Administration, 800-204-2222, x1529

17. Program contact person's snail mail and e-mail address:

P.O. Box 12487, Austin, Texas 78711-2487

tyla@texasbar.com

The Minority Involvement Committee
of the
TEXAS YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
along with
EL PASO YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
and the
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
Present the

**EL PASO MINORITY PRE-LAW STUDENT SYMPOSIUM
FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

Welcome/Introduction

Chike Okpara – Chair Minority Involvement Committee

Keynote Address

Roland K. Johnson – President of the State Bar of Texas

Cori A. Harbour – President Texas Young Lawyers Association

Video Presentation - Vote America

Introduction of Vote America

Sylvia Cardona – Immediate Past President Texas Young Lawyers Association

Viewing of Vote America

Trivia Question and Answer Session for Students

Lunch

Law School Sounds Cool, But People That Look Like Me Are Not Lawyers

El Paso Young Lawyers Association

El Paso Young Lawyers from different practice areas discuss their roles in the legal field.

How to Think Ahead and Prepare for Law School

University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

This panel composed of a combination of UTEP Law School Preparation Institute faculty and students address subjects such as: the issue of stagnant law school applications and matriculation by Mexican Americans; the importance of a greater minority presence in law school; and what to do now and in college to prepare for law school.

Question and Answer Session for Students

UTEP Informational Session

University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

This session focuses on the UTEP admissions process, including financial aid in order for all students to attend college. It is never too early to start thinking about borrowing money to invest in your future.

Gift bags provided by UTEP department of Admissions & Recruitment



Hey, there are
Lawyers who
look like me!



eNews

The e-Newsletter of the Texas Young Lawyers Association

December 2009

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CALENDAR

December 11
 SBOT Holiday Party -
 Texas Law Center, Austin

December 24-25
 Holiday - Christmas (Texas
 Law Center closed)

January 1
 Holiday - New Year's
 (Texas Law Center closed)

January 5
 TYLA deadline to receive
 third committee report

January 18
 Holiday - Martin Luther
 King, Jr. Day (Texas Law
 Center closed)

January 22-23
 TYLA Board of Directors
 meeting - Westin Galleria,
 Houston

January 27
 TYLA Officer ballots are
 mailed to the TYLA Board
 of Directors

[Meet the TYLA Board](#)

PRESIDENT
 Cori A. Harbour, El Paso

Editor's Column

[Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor](#)

By **Kenneth C. Riney**



*Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free,
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*

These powerful verses come from Emma Lazarus's sonnet titled "The New Colossus." Most people recognize these words as they are inscribed in bronze at the base of the Statue of Liberty. Author Paul Auster once said that "The New Colossus" reinvented the statue's purpose, turning the Statue of Liberty into a welcoming mother, a symbol of hope to the outcasts and downtrodden of the world. ([Cont.](#))

Top Story

[El Paso Minority Pre-Law Student Symposium for High School Students](#)

By **Natasha L. Brooks**



On November 12, 2009, the Texas Young Lawyers Association's Minority Involvement Committee held the first El Paso Minority Pre-Law Student Symposium for High School Students in conjunction with El Paso Young Lawyers Association and the University of Texas at El Paso. The main goal of the symposium was to inspire and encourage minority students to attend law school. State Bar President Roland K. Johnson and Texas Young Lawyers Association President Cori A. Harbour delivered the keynote address to approximately 180 students. ([Cont.](#))

Feature TYLA Affiliate

[Cameron County Young Lawyers Association Inspires Excellence In Advocacy Through Training And Education](#)

By **Noemi Garcia**

It has been an exciting year for the Cameron County Young Lawyers



NEWS AND EVENTS

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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

HOME



**Kids
in the
Crossfire**

Helping Parents Understand the Impact of Divorce

**TEN MINUTE
MENTOR**
CONCISE. PRACTICAL. FREE



NOW AVAILABLE!
[CLICK HERE](#)

Proceeds support
legal services for the poor

El Paso Minority Pre-Law Student Symposium for High School Students

December 03, 2009

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While the symposium was educational, the students also had a great time receiving prizes for both answering trivia questions and winning raffle drawings after each presentation. Judging from the students' attentiveness, questions, and overall participation, this symposium was a great success. Programs like this symposium are imperative to encourage minority students to attend law school, or other schools of higher education at greater rates. It is never too early for students to start exploring their futures.

By [Natasha L. Brooks](#)

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EL PASO MINORITY PRE-LAW STUDENT SYMPOSIUM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS NOVEMBER 12, 2009

