

WLS SAYS "SNAP"!
SERVICE-NETWORKING-
ADVOCACY-PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now: Collecting Coats
and money for Warm
Wilco Kids Coat Drive

October 24 Mama
Fu's Georgetown
Noon-1pm

November 26 Adoption Day-Volunteer
Now!

Dec 12 Christmas
lunch at
Zio's Georgetown
Noon-1pm

February 1, 2014:
Concealed Handgun
License Class

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Wilco Kids
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Speaker Series
and Murder
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Women's Lawyer Section Of the Williamson County Bar

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

10/23/2013

Lisa Richardson 2012-2013 Woman Lawyer of the Year Award

Recipient

The Williamson County Bar Association marked the end of the 2012-2013 year at the annual meeting on May 18 & 19, at Lost Pines in Bastrop, Texas. It was during the Awards Ceremony that WLS awarded Lisa S. Richardson with the "Woman Lawyer of the Year" award for her outstanding excellence in the Williamson County community at large. WLS annually awards a Williamson County female attorney who:

- Fosters communication and mentoring among women lawyers;
- Fosters and encourages the involvement and interest of women lawyers in the community;
- Strengthens the image of women lawyers in the community;
- Works towards the enhancement of the public perception of

the legal profession; and

- Assists and supports the Bar Association in furtherance of their goals and projects.



**Lisa S. Richardson-WLS
"Woman of the Year"
Award Winner**

Lisa began the practice of law in 1996 when she was licensed by the State of Texas after obtaining her J.D. from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. Lisa is one of the managing part-

ners at Richardson & Cechura in Round Rock, Texas. Her practice is focused on family law-both as a practicing attorney and as a mediator. Outside of being a business woman for the past six years, Lisa has dedicated a large part of her free time volunteering. Lisa S. Richardson served as the Williamson County Bar Association President for the 2012-2013 bar year. Under Lisa Richardson's leadership the Williamson County Bar Association was recognized by the Texas State Bar with three different awards. Lisa has been a board member of the Williamson County Bar Association since 2008 and has also held the office of: Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice-President. She has also served as an officer and Member of the Board of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and is a former Chair of the State Bar Grievance Committee. CONTINUED PG 2

WLS Recognized by State Bar

The State Bar of Texas awarded WLS the Star of Achievement award and the Outstanding Partnership award at the State Bar Meeting Annual Meeting on June 20th, 2013 in Dallas, Texas. The Outstanding Partnership Award recognizes noteworthy partnership efforts between local bar

associations and non-legal entities. The Star of Achievement award recognizes outstanding projects among local bar associations. WLS took home the Outstanding Partnership award for Adoption Day and Warm Wilco Kids coat drive. WLS is thankful to all the contributions of its

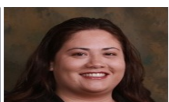
officers and members. WLS strives to provide meaningful programming that enriches the community and the profession. Below, the current officers are shown. We would like to welcome Abby Allford and Cheryl McGirr to the WLS Board of Directors. Elections were held at



Jackie Borcharding



Linda Cechura



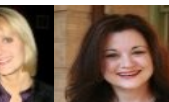
Dianne Clark



Jennifer Smart



Laura Roth



Abby Allford



Cheryl McGirr

Lisa Richard 2012-2013 Woman Lawyer of Year Award Recipient



WLS Chair, Jackie Borcherding presenting "Woman Lawyer of the Year" Award to Lisa Richardson at the Williamson County Bench Bar

Recently, Ms. Richardson was elected to serve on the United Way Board of Directors for Williamson County, whose mission is to mobilize the caring power of our community to improve life for everyone in Williamson County. She is a past President of the Round Rock Volunteer Center (which is now part of the Round Rock Serving Center).

I first met Lisa Richardson in 2010 in Dallas, Texas where she was speaking for the State Bar of Texas CLE for New Lawyers. The title of her seg-

ment was *Striking a Balance: How to Salvage Your Life and Sanity as you Strive to Get Ahead at Work*. Ms. Richardson shared her experiences with the attendees and stated, "I love being involved and feel it is my duty to take an active role in my profession and in my community." By word and in deed, Ms. Richardson has mentored attorneys to be positive contributors in their life, community, and in the practice of law. Ms. Richardson's involvement in the Williamson County Bar Association mentor/mentee program is another way she has

given back to the legal community. Lisa was assigned to be my mentor in 2012. As a young female attorney with her own practice, I was very thankful that Lisa shared her time, considerable knowledge, and experience with me. I am one of many attorneys she has mentored and/or positively impacted through the years. Lisa Richardson epitomizes each value a recipient of this award should have. This award is a demonstration of gratitude for the work that Lisa has done and continues to do. -Laura Roth

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Warm Wilco Kids Coat-drive 2012

ADOPTION DAY



WLS WARM WILCO KIDS COAT-DRIVE

WLS is collecting new coats, as well as funds to purchase new coats, for children (ages infant through 18 years, both genders) in CPS or foster care in Williamson County. WLS will deliver these coats the Rainbow Room where

CPS caseworkers can "shop" for new essential items for children who are victims of abuse and neglect. When children are removed from their homes, they either do not have appropriate coats or don't have time to get their coats. The

Rainbow Room at the Williamson County Child Welfare Board helps to fill that gap by making sure each child taken into care in our county will be able to stay warm this winter.

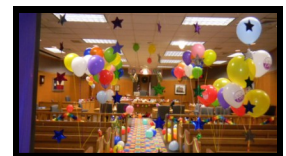
Coats may be dropped off at the coat rack at

ADOPTION DAY AT WILLIAMSON COUNTY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, 2013

It's the most wonderful time of the year at the Williamson County Courthouse. Tuesday, November 26, 2013 is Adoption Day in Williamson County! A dozen or more children will officially become a part of a forever home. The Women's Law Section cre-

ates gift baskets for each of these children to help celebrate the day! We need your help to make this day completely wonderful for these families. You can donate funds or items! Contact cherylmcgirr@austin.rr.com for more information!



WLS WARM WILCO KIDS COAT DRIVE Continued from page 2



WLS Officers and supporters pictured with Coats donated last November

the Courthouse (look for the coat racks after going through security on the 1st floor). If you don't have time to shop but want to help, we

can do the shopping for you! Monetary donations may be left with Jackie Borchering in the county attorney's office at

the Courthouse or with Cheryl McGirr. If you would like to make a monetary donation please email Cheryl McGirr at

cherylmcgirr@austin.rr.com and by putting "Coat Drive Donation" in the subject line. If you have any questions, feel free to email or call Cheryl McGirr at 512-344-9081

**WOMEN'S
LAWYER
SECTION
OF THE
WILLIAM
SON
COUNTY
BAR**

Summer Speakers Series & Murder Mystery



Linda Cechura providing the Family Law Update to Attorneys and Judges during the WLS Summer Speakers Series CLE

WLS Summer Series CLE was

successful again this summer. WLS offered 4 CLE opportunities to members of the Williamson County Bar. WLS members attended for free while non-members attended for \$10. Attendees earned

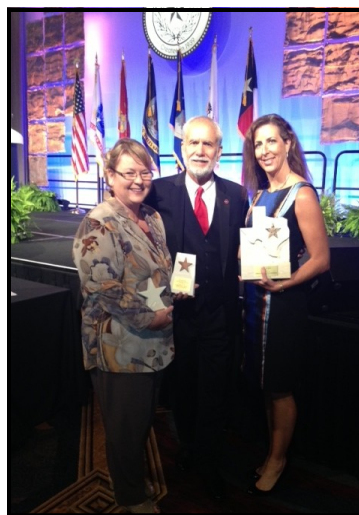
30 minutes of CLE credit and classes were offered in both substantive law as well as areas to improve the office administration of practicing law. In June, Miriam



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Pictured from left to right: Linda Cechura, (Treasurer of WLS), Buck Files (State Bar President 2012-2013) & Lisa Richardson (Wilco Bar President 2012-2013). Lisa and Linda accepting the State Bar of Texas Star Awards at the SBOT annual meeting on behalf of the Williamson County Bar Association and WLS.

Meet Cheryl Slack McGirr, Vice Chair of Community Commitment



A home-grown Texan down to her toes, Cheryl has called Williamson County home since 2005. Born

and raised in the Houston area, she received her undergraduate degree from University of Houston Clear Lake and graduated from Baylor Law School in 2004.

After a short time working in the Dallas area, Cheryl relocated to Central Texas to be near family. All three brothers, their wives and her 10 nieces and nephews live in the area.

Cheryl and her husband reside in Leander with their six-year old daughter Madison, and both she and her husband run their own businesses based in Cedar Park, Texas – McGirr Law, P.C. and McGirr Enterprises.

A member of the State Bar since 2004 and the Williamson County Bar since 2008, Cheryl

has represented clients in legal matters including estate planning, business litigation, and criminal defense. Since 2010, it is in the family law arena that Cheryl has spent the majority of her time. Cheryl enjoys helping people get through what may be the worst crisis of their lives. Additionally, Cheryl has practiced mediation since 2007. Members of the bar are sure to have seen her during settlement weeks each year, and she also conducts reasonably-priced mediations from her office.

Cheryl is excited to be heading up the service projects this year as Vice Chair of Community Commitment, and hopes to make this year's projects the best ever! WLS is thrilled to have Cheryl be a part of the WLS leadership board.

Meet Abby Allford WLS Secretary

Abby Allford was elected WLS Secretary and is a solo practitioner with the Law Office of Abby Allford, PLLC. She is experienced with civil and criminal litigation. She negotiates and resolves felony and misdemeanor cases, handles family law proceedings, and represents plaintiffs and defendants across Oklahoma and Texas with civil litigation disputes involving multi-million dollar cases. A good referral for Abby would be any felony case, a DWI, or a contingency case. Abby grew up in McAlester, Oklahoma and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2003 with a B.B.A. in marketing and earned a J.D. from the Oklahoma City University School of Law in 2008. She also previously worked for the state of Oklahoma in the Oklahoma County District Attorney's office as well as the Oklahoma

Court of Criminal Appeals while in law school. She understands the criminal defense system, having worked for the Oklahoma County District Attorney's office and now works on the side of the accused. Abby has worked hard and is proud to be licensed in both Oklahoma and Texas to practice law. When asked what she likes most about the practice of law she says, "I love the diversity and variety of cases that I am able to work on because I am constantly gaining new knowledge and trying new things. I also find it rewarding to be able to help make a difference for other people." Abby is not all work and no play. She enjoys traveling and has been to 5 continents on her travels. She fondly recalls other exciting experiences such as sky diving and cage diving among great white sharks. She finds her

grandfather story motivating and source of renewal in her own business endeavors. He grew up extremely poor, but found success as an entrepreneur due to his: charismatic personality, ambition, drive, integrity, and amazing work-ethic. Abby enjoys volunteering and spending time with her family, friends, and 2 dogs. She has been an active member of WLS since 2012 and joined to get involved with the community and get to know other female attorneys in Williamson County. Abby values and appreciates



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Message to Our Members

WLS invites each of its members to participate in our upcoming events. Thursday, October 24th, WLS will be holding its general meeting at Mama Fu's in Georgetown, from Noon to 1pm. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the coat drive and Adoption Day. There are many ways you can be a part of these special service activities that make a real difference in our local community. Especially if you have not had time to participate before, these are great events where a little bit of time goes a long way. Don't forget about the Concealed Handgun license class in February! This is a popular event that we offer annually. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer some time to the upcoming service projects, don't hesitate to contact us. You can find our contact information on the Williamson County website.

10/23/2013

Summer Speaker Series & Murder Mystery *Continued from page 3*

Kirk presented "Quickbooks Accounting for Law Firms". Nancy Shepperd presented "Role of the Co-Parenting Therapist" in July. WLS' very own Linda Cechura provided attendees with the "Family Law Update" sharing key changes to family law in the last legislative session. David Gonzalez and Kristen Etter presented "Legislative Update on Criminal Law" in September. This Summer Speaker Series is a program that WLS has done several summers in a row and will continue to do in the upcoming year. This program is one of many ways WLS works to enrich attorneys who practice in Williamson County. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a CLE yet, we invite you to come to a CLE next summer. If you have any ideas of CLEs we can offer next summer, please let any officer know via email or at a meeting.

The **2nd Annual Murder Mystery** party was held on September 20th. There were approximately 30 attendees who dressed to kill for a 80's themed Murder High School Reunion. The event was organized by Jennifer Smart who also provided grilled hamburgers for the party. Linda Cechura pro-



Jackie Borcharding as "Cindy Crawfish" with her real life Fiancé, Nathan as "Steve Spielson"

vided her 80's collection of album covers to add to the evening's theme and nostalgia. Participants received a character card that provided information about their character, persons they should speak to, and problems the character has with other characters. During the event, a "murder" took place and it was up to the participants to uncover who the murderer was. The participant who solves the mystery wins the game. Abby Allford's character, "Molly Ringworm," was determined to be the "murderer." It is no surprise that Judge Arnold solved the mystery. He was recognized for his power of deduction and sleuth skills. Additionally, Jackie Borcharding, WLS Chair, was elected to win the "Drama Queen" award for her performance as "Cindy Crawfish". It was a night filled with fun, mystery, and murder.