

REPORTER

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INVESTIGATION OF APD'S BRUTAL MURDER OF MENTALLY ILL WOMAN... CONTINUES

Many of you may be familiar with TCRP's high-profile case *Elendu v. City of Austin* regarding a mentally ill African American woman's fatal shooting by the Austin Police, but many of you may not. For those less informed, and for those informed but rightly confused, let us clear up some of the facts regarding this case:

- On June 11, 2002, Defendant John Coffey, an Austin police officer, killed Sophia King by fatally shooting her in the side.
- At the time of her death, Sophia King was 23 years old, a loving daughter and mother of two.
- Sophia King had a history of mental illness. She suffered from schizophrenia and was taking prescription medicine for her condition. Ms. King had been hospitalized on at least one occasion at the Austin State Hospital in relation to her illness. For purposes of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), Sophia King was a *qualified person with a disability*.
- Around 8:30 am on June 11, 2002, Sophia suffered a psychotic episode during which she began to throw out her personal belongings and kitchen utensils from her house. Earlier that morning, around 4:00 am, Sophia had suffered a similar psychotic episode, at which time the Austin police observed Sophia's demeanor but

demonstrated callous disregard for her state of mind by failing to provide her with adequate medical assistance.



Brenda Elendu, King's Mother

- At or around 8:45 am, the Austin Police Department Emergency Communication received a 9-1-1 call regarding a disturbance from Ms. King's apartment.
- The Police Department responded by sending police officers to Sophia's apartment. The officers knocked on Sophia's door and requested to speak with her. Sophia slammed the door and refused to come out.
- A manager of the City of Austin Housing Authority began to knock violently on Sophia's door, insisting that she speak with her. This particular employee had had prior encounters with Ms. King during periods when she was suffering from psychotic

(CONTINUED p.4)

Settlement Reached in Federal Suit Against City of Austin, APD and Catfish Parlour

What happens when you are deaf and blind, go to a restaurant with your wife in celebration of your birthday, and indicate that you would like a Braille menu? If you answered that you get harassed by restaurant staff and then arrested by an excessively forceful Austin police officer, you would be correct.

This is precisely what happened to Richard Bell when he (deaf and blind) and his wife Joan (deaf) decided to eat at the North Austin Catfish Parlour for Mr. Bell's 69th birthday.

When Mr. Bell requested a Braille menu, a confrontation arose between Mr. Bell, Gene Perri (the restau-

rant manager) and some of the staff. After seizing Mr. Bell's cane, Perri called police, who came and arrested Bell, who, admittedly, was still sitting quietly at the table.

During the course of the arrest, Daniel Arizpe, the arresting officer, used excessive force on Mr. Bell. Arizpe also violated police policy by making the arrest without an interpreter present, which is expressly prohibited by APD policy. The case was brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as traditional civil rights law. *(CONTINUED p.2)*

“We were very scared to begin this lawsuit because we had never done anything like it....”

Catfish Parlour ...Continued

The suit sought damages for injuries to Mr. Bell and for violations of the couple’s rights. Most importantly, though, the suit sought a court order increasing the quantity and quality of disability training that the city provides its officers.

On the day jury trial was to begin in federal court, the city settled (Catfish Parlour had done so earlier). Under the settlement, the police department doubled its academy training (from 2 to 4 hours) on handling disability issues, implemented an in-service training program, and paid TCRP attorneys’ fees. TCRP attorney Sheri Tolliver is on the new Disability Training Board for APD, as well.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bell expressed great happiness with the terms of the settlement, and for the vast increase in training that APD will now receive. “We were very scared to begin this lawsuit because we had never done anything like it,” said Richard Bell, “but we decided to stick with it and try to change things not only for us, but also for all of the members of the disabled community so we could all be treated with dignity and respect.”

Jim Harrington, Director of TCRP, who represented the Bells, said along with staff attorneys Wayne Krause and Sheri Tolliver, that everyone was “very pleased with the settlement and hoped that it would provide a good model for other police departments.”

For the complete settlement terms, please consult our website: www.texascivilrightsproject.org.

SETTLEMENT REACHED IN TITLE IX CASE- PREGNANCY SERVICES

On August 13, the Luling Independent School District (LISD) Trustees voted to approve a settlement agreement in a case filed against the District in August of 2001 by Margaret Contreras and Celia León, both of Luling. In filing the suit, the two young women alleged that the District had denied them an equal opportunity to attend school or receive other educational services while pregnant, a blatant violation of Title IX. The suit specifically alleged that Ms. Contreras and Ms. León were denied even homebound or other educational services, and were encouraged to leave school upon becoming pregnant.

As a result of the suit, Ms. Contreras has re-enrolled in school and is working her way toward her high school diploma. The settlement itself provides that, as of the 2002-2003 school year:

- LISD shall include a detailed description of its Pregnancy Related Services (PRS) program in the Luling High School Student Handbook;
- LISD shall issue to each student, upon entrance and acceptance into the PRS program, a separate brochure or booklet which lists all the services provided as part of the PRS program;
- LISD shall provide its PRS students the opportunity to address through in-person meetings any questions or concerns they may have during the period that PRS services are received;
- LISD shall provide for assessment of its PRS program by and through the district’s annual Health Services Review. The purpose of such assessment shall be to ensure that the PRS program is meeting the needs of LISD’s pregnant and/or parenting students, and shall take place at a publicized Board of Trustees’ meeting;
- LISD shall create and distribute a Student Services Handbook, which will detail services, including pregnancy-related instruction, offered by the school district as well as county and state agencies;
- LISD shall assign the position of Title IX Coordinator, and its attendant duties and responsibilities, to an administrator other than the Superintendent.
- The new Title IX Coordinator and the Luling High School Counselor shall receive training regarding Title IX, if available, within 12 months;
- LISD will adopt and implement appropriate written policies and procedures designed to inform LISD administrators, staff, and teachers about the potential for liability under Title IX for pregnancy discrimination and other forms of gender discrimination. These policies will be made available in a hard copy format in LISD administrative offices and on the district’s website;
- LISD shall include in the Student Handbook a section designed to inform Luling ISD secondary students and their parents about their rights under Title IX for pregnancy discrimination and gender discrimination. This information will also be made available on the district’s website; and,
- Money damages.

Attorney for Ms. Contreras and Ms. León, Andrea Gunn of the Texas Civil Rights Project, stated that “as a result of this lawsuit, pregnant and parenting students in Luling ISD can finally be ensured they will be provided with equitable educational resources and opportunities. This is a great victory in the struggle against pregnancy discrimination and the egregious effects of such discrimination, including increasing high school drop-out rates.”

Jeff Blackburn - Human Rights Award Recipient

Jeff Blackburn graciously accepted the Henry B. González Human Rights Award at TCRP’s 12th Annual Bill of Rights Dinner. A sincere, soft-spoken Blackburn recounted the infamous events in Tulia, Texas, that had inspired him to found the Tulia Legal Defense Project.

A small group of pro-bono lawyers and legal workers under the guidance and leadership of Mr. Blackburn himself, are fighting to overturn the convictions of the many African Americans arrested in the alleged “drug-sting” in the tiny town of Tulia. Perpetrated by a corrupt police officer, some 10% of Tulia’s African American population were arrested in the sting.

Jeff has suffered tremendously for defending the rights of those less fortunate. He has been scorned by neighbors in the market and by colleagues in the courthouse. Fame and fortune are not his motives. He is one of the few lawyers in the Panhandle with the courage to stand up for what is right. His personal sacrifices, conviction and heroism to selflessly further the human - rights cause are simply a few of the reasons for which we honor him with this prestigious award.

12TH ANNUAL BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER— A HUGE SUCCESS!!!

World-renowned speakers, outstanding musical entertainment, delicious food, amazing silent auction items and a full house helped make this year's Bill of Rights Dinner our most successful thus far! The Texas Civil Rights Project's 12th Annual Bill of Rights Dinner took place on the evening of Saturday, October 19, 2002.

TCRP was honored to welcome Dr. Noam Chomsky, MIT Professor of Linguistics, prolific author, and America's leading critic of foreign policy, as this year's keynote speaker.

Before the dinner, Dr. Chomsky spent time signing books and chatting with fellow diners. His speech, "9-11 and the Future of Freedom" focused on the hypocritical nature of the U.S. government.

Dr. Chomsky critiqued government support of countries in which peoples' basic democratic rights are denied. Turkey, for example, receives significant U.S. support, despite the fact that its citizens are denied the right of freedom of speech. Dr. Chomsky also shared his insights regarding the potential war on Iraq.

Sissy Farenthold and State Senator Rodney Ellis wowed the crowd as our Introducer and Master of Ceremonies, respectively. Musical entertainment included Atash, the Peace Posse, and our own Development Director, Jackie Carton. Ms. Carton appropriately ended the evening, singing "Imagine" by John Lennon.

In another segment of the Dinner, TCRP recognized the winner of

the Pat Dobbs Student Essay Contest. John Binkle of McCallum High School in Austin won 1st place and \$100 dollars for his poem entitled "Beauty in Grey." The poem journeys through the history of racism in Texas, and asks people to try and see beyond black and white, to "see the beauty in grey." The annual contest is named for the deceased Austin teacher, Pat Dobbs, who always used to bring her students to the Bill of Rights Dinner.

Jeff Blackburn was this year's recipient of the Henry B. Gonzalez Award. Each year, this award is presented to an individual who has devoted his or her life to the preservation and protection of civil liberties. Mr. Blackburn both founded and funded the Tulia Legal Defense Project to defend African Americans unjustly arrested by a corrupt police officer in the Texas Panhandle.

This year's record-breaking event could not have been possible without your support. Thank you to all who sponsored tables, took out advertisements in the program, donated silent auction items, and, most importantly, thank you to everyone whose attendance, amazing spirit and devotion to the Texas Civil Rights Project and its work helped to make this a truly wonderful evening.



November 7, 2002

Dear Jim,
The Austin trip was really stimulating and extremely encouraging. I was very much impressed with what I saw and heard, and delighted to have been able to be a part of it for a few moments. I can't imagine there's another organization like the Texas Civil Rights Project anywhere! At least, I've never come across one, certainly not in these parts.

Hope we can stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Noam Chomsky

..... SOPHIA KING INVESTIGATION

(Continued from Front Page)

- episodes. At that point, Sophia came running out of the apartment and began to chase the Housing Authority employee to the back of her apartment.
- According to witnesses, at NO point during the events described above did Sophia King have any sort of weapon in her possession.
- At that moment, Officer Coffey came onto the scene, and without any warning, raised his gun and fired at Sophia, killing her by fatally shooting her in the side. Officer Coffey used deadly and excessive force in his response to the situation.
- The police left Sophia King's body half-nude and half-covered in the courtyard of the housing project for four to five hours before removing it from the scene of the crime. Sophia's body lay in full view of children and tenants of the housing project.

Now you may be asking what has happened since the actual shooting, and we will attempt to clear that up for you as well.

Immediately following the shooting, TCRP received word from an unnamed source that APD had begun to destroy evidence (specifically, a video account of the shooting). Jim Harrington and TCRP cooperating attorney Geoff Courtney of Austin, on behalf of Brenda Elendu (Sophia King's mother), rushed to file the case against the City of Austin, in the interest of preserving the evidence, and with the intention of trying the case in State Court.

At the end of the suit filed by TCRP, the Prayer for Relief cited a Federal Regulation. The regulation was cited as nothing more than a point of reference, but APD saw the potential for a game of hardball, and ran with it. APD knew that a state trial was more likely to result in our favor than theirs, and so, based on the citation of this Federal Regulation, moved to take the case out of the State's hands and move it to the Federal level. TCRP has asked the Federal Court to remand the case, allowing us to move it back into State Court. The Federal Judge denied the motion.

After a superfluous round of legal cat and mouse, TCRP has finally convinced the defendant (City of Austin in conjunction with the Austin Police Department) to drop all Federal claims. TCRP filed a motion to bring the case back to State Court.

The other side of this whole story concerns the public investigation of the shooting death of Sophia King.

Essentially, the original Internal Affairs investigation was done routinely by the Austin Police Department itself. The result? A classic case of *Cops clear Cop!* APD determined, based on its own investigation, that the death had not violated any APD protocol, and that the shooting officer, Officer Coffey, should be exonerated of all charges of misconduct.

At this point, Iris Jones, Austin Police Monitor, stepped in. Ms. Jones, as Police Monitor, has the ability and responsibility to review the Internal Affairs investigation (done by APD) and decide whether or not to recommend an independent investigation. Ms. Jones heads

the Citizen's Review Panel. The Panel voted unanimously (7-0), that an independent investigation was necessary in this case.

On November 7, 2002, five months after the death of Sophia King, Ms. Jones announced that a law firm in Dallas would perform the investigation. Herein lies the next problem that arose. Upon receiving word of this announcement, the Austin Police Association (APA) began to heavily protest this independent investigation, claiming that it was unnecessary to start the investigation from scratch, given that an internal investigation had already been performed.

The APA decided to take this to court and obtained a TRO – a Temporary Restraining Order - indicating that all aspects of the independent investigation come to a halt until some sort of protocol and/or guidelines could be set for the new law firm. The TRO, only valid for a maximum of 14 days, was granted on November 15, 2002. A hearing has been set for November 25, 2002 on whether to extend the TRO.

TRCP has since filed a motion to intervene in the case, or, in layman's terms, to participate in it so that the investigation will move forward quickly. TCRP's intervention claims that APA has no "standing" or right to stop the investigation, and that APA is trying to stall the investigation beyond the six-month period within which administrative disciplinary actions must be brought against police officers for misconduct.

If you have any additional questions regarding this story, please do not hesitate to contact us at questions@texascivilrightsproject.org

GRACIOUS DONATIONS

Our thanks to Fara Sloan and Rudy Shaw of Virginia for their donation of three new computers and printers to the TCRP office, to replace some of our aging relics!

Fara was TCRP's first Legal Manager, and her daughter Maya was born on September 23, 1990, the day the Project began — an auspicious beginning for both!

Thanks Fara and Rudy!

"Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do."

-Kahlil Gibran

STRUGGLING FOR JUSTICE! OUR STAFF ATTORNEYS ARE ...

TCRP Staff Attorney, Wayne Krause has been working on several major cases. He takes this opportunity to share with you some of the work that your support makes possible.

- *David Wittie, et al. & ADAPT v. Cinemark / Tinseltown Theatres*
About six years ago, Cinemark made much-to-do about the opening of theatres with “stadium style seating.” This seating was supposed to give each and every person in the theatre a clear a view of the screen as each viewer sits a level above the row in front — like at a stadium. Unfortunately, the theatres were constructed with steps that were inaccessible to persons in wheelchairs. Thus the persons in wheelchairs had to sit in the front two or three rows that were not stadium - style, pushed up against the front of the screen. Not only was the sound distorted, but the angle was poor for any viewer. To make matters worse, the regular seats in front, recline to accommodate the extreme angle. However, most wheelchairs are straight-backed, so they have much less of a viewing angle. The result was that our clients were only able to watch their movies for five or ten minutes before they had to leave because of neck and spinal discomfort. This has been a long legal battle, and we lost it in federal court. However, it was a case of losing the battle but winning the war, as new theatres are being built to accommodate persons in wheelchairs much more comfortably. We’re still fighting to change theatres that are inaccessible, though, in state court, using state disability law and also alleging false advertising. (This case is part of TCRP’s 11 for 11 ADA Campaign).

WE ALSO HAVE THESE CASES UNDERWAY...

- *Mohammed Ali Ahmed v. American Airlines*
In the wake of September 11, the response of some was to discriminate against Muslims and those perceived to be of Arab descent. On September 29, 2001, our client and his family, including four small children, tried to take a flight from Austin to Chicago to attend the funeral of a close relative. Even though Ali Ahmed, an international contract analyst, was a frequent flier, traveled with his kids, and passed through three separate security screenings, the pilot refused to fly with his children and him aboard the plane because of his name. Instead, they were forced to wait on the plane for nearly an hour, then be deplaned and marched past 25 rows of passengers by American Airlines employees, and delivered to the FBI for interrogation. Ali Ahmed and his family were cleared by authorities with no problems, but forced to postpone the funeral and incur large costs. TCRP is fighting this racial and religious profiling by suing under the 1964 Civil Rights Act and for false detention.
- *Jennifer McPhail & Felix Briones v. Gold’s Gym*
Our two clients went to Gold’s Gym because they wanted to get in shape. Instead, they found difficulties entering the building and no equipment accessible to them. When a Gold’s employee, who was initially enthused about the possibility of selling them new memberships, realized that the gym was inaccessible to Jennifer and Felix, he told them they wouldn’t be interested in a membership and left them. TCRP is demanding that all Gold’s Gyms systemically change their facilities to accommodate persons with disabilities. (This case is part of TCRP’s 12 for 12 ADA Campaign).

- *Barber v. TxDOT, et al.*

The state’s highest court, sitting in Amarillo, heard arguments before 250 local government high school students, on a TCRP free speech case that will have great impact in Texas. Colorado Springs attorney Pat Barber had noticed a good number of illegal police stops and searches of vehicles near his home on Interstate 40, which he felt often occurred because drivers did not know what their rights were in such situations. He posted a public service billboard on his property, listing a telephone number people could call and hear a taped message, describing their search and seizure protections under the Bill of Rights. After the local sheriff complained, the Texas Department of Transportation ruled his bulletin board violated the Texas Highway Beautification Act, and ordered Barber to take it down. Barber at first won an injunction against TxDOT in state district court, but ultimately lost the case, and then asked TCRP to represent him on appeal. Barber prevailed on appeal, reversing the trial judge. The Texas Supreme Court then agreed to hear the case. The appellate court held that political speech on one’s own property was a right of the highest priority and protected by the First Amendment; TxDOT could not use the Highway Beautification Act to undercut that right. The Supreme Court will probably rule on the case in a few months.

- *Democracy Coalition v. Austin Police Department*

The first time Bush returned to Texas as President, he met protesters. Despite being in the designated protest zone, the mounted officers of the Austin Police took it upon themselves to intimidate the protesters by dangerously steering their horses into the crowd. Not only is TCRP charging that the free speech rights of the protesters were violated, but that the Austin Police make a practice of improperly using mounted police to bully citizens.

NEW VAWA DIRECTOR HARD AT WORK

Juan Rios Villa has only been with TCRP as our new VAWA program Director for a little over a month, and is already traveling back and forth between Leander, Rio Grande City, Roma, Brownsville, Odessa, Midland, Eagle Pass, and Carrizo Springs, just to name a few. His main priority right now is getting in contact and forming relations with many of the shelters and religious leaders in rural communities. Juan has already opened six new cases. He urges abused women and their children who may be eligible for the VAWA program to contact him via email at jriosvilla@aol.com. For general questions about the VAWA program, please see our website at: www.texascivilrightsproject.org.

Welcome aboard, Juan, keep up the good work!!!

TCRP WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS...

TCRP welcomes **Jackie Carton**, our new Development Director. Jackie came to us as an intern this summer, with one year left at UT. Jackie worked throughout the summer as an assistant to TCRP's former Development Director, Muna Hamzeh, writing and editing grant proposals, creating brochures and getting acquainted with the organization. When Muna decided to leave, Jackie stepped right in and has been raising hell ever since! Jackie will graduate from UT in May with a degree in French and Vocal Performance, and considers her experience with TCRP thus far to be "the most challenging and the most rewarding work" she has ever faced. Welcome aboard Jackie!!

Juan Rios Villa, the new director of our "circuit rider" Violence Against Women Act program, comes to us with a wealth of immigration and VAWA experience. He studied philosophy and law at the University of Guanajuato, taught at South Texas Community College, worked as a paralegal with the Border Association for Refugees from Central America (BARCA), served as an immigration specialist with the United Farm Workers, and directed Colonias Unidas in Starr County. We are fortunate to have someone of his background and capabilities. Welcome, Juan!

Welcome to new staff attorney **Sheri Joy Tolliver**, who is working with TCRP *pro bono* for a year. Before coming to TCRP, Sheri did intellectual property litigation for *Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati*, a firm that is now sponsoring Sheri's time with us. A native of Michigan and an avid runner, Sheri graduated from Albion College, and went to Vanderbilt law school, graduating in 2000. We've already given Sheri a full case load, including mediation and trial work, using her formidable skills. We hope her example will inspire other lawyers to take a sabbatical to work with us. Welcome, Sheri!!! And thanks.

We also want to welcome **Amy Magee** as the new director of our Title IX project, taking the place of Andrea Gunn, who worked with us and started in that position for three years as a NAPIL Fellow. Amy comes to us as a two-year Equal Justice Works (formerly NAPIL) Fellow. She is a fourth-generation graduate of Texas A&M and the University of Texas Law School (and a former TCRP summer clerk).

Finally, a warm *bienvenida* to **Kirk Hoffman**, who has rejoined the TCRP staff as a full-time volunteer. Kirk worked with us in the early '90's and was very instrumental in production of our first human rights report on the criminal justice system in Palestine, Texas. Kirk rejoins us as an investigator and administrative assistant. Welcome back, Kirk!!!

AND BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO DEPARTING STAFF!!!

Many thanks to **Andrea Gunn**, who worked with TCRP for the last three years as our resident NAPIL Fellow and Director of our Title IX Project. Andrea helped develop and shape our Title IX program, and did an excellent job at it. She was very well-respected throughout the state. Andrea has moved out to California to practice law in the most

ideal of situations – an annual temperature of 70 degrees! Andrea was a tremendous asset to the Project and we wish her luck in the next phase of her life. We will miss her.

And, a fond farewell to **Muna Hamzeh**, TCRP's dedicated 2001-2002 Development Director. Muna's impeccable organizational skills and take-charge attitude have allowed for an extremely smooth transition for all development staff to come. Muna has decided to take some time off in order to finish writing her fourth book – a compilation of essays by Palestinians, post - September 11. We wish her luck with her book and all future endeavors.

*¡¡¡Buena Suerte, Andrea and
Muna We will miss you!!!*

TITLE IX PROJECT UPDATE

With the coming of the new Equal Justice Works Fellow, Amy Magee, a new aspect of Title IX enforcement has been added to the current Title IX directives. Amy's project, the Texas Equity in Education Campaign, will address gender inequities in Texas elementary and high school classrooms, particularly in rural areas, through litigation, education, community outreach, and legislative activities. Classroom gender inequities can occur in a number of areas including, but not limited to, teacher treatment, peer interactions, special education, curriculum, and discipline. The Campaign also strives to address cultural influences on gender equity in the classroom for both genders.

Amy is looking for volunteers interested in helping her address the needs of the state's school children. Volunteers can help her in areas such as the development of educational materials, the research of the state of gender equity in Texas, and the presentation of a statewide conference in September.

Additionally, Amy is available for presentations and discussions on gender equity issues to the state's students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members. If you are interested in having her come and speak to your group, please call the office to schedule a presentation tailored to your community's needs.

Legislative Update:

As a result of the recent elections, the future of civil rights, education, and social services in the state has become dire. Social conservatives threaten to erode rights that many citizens take for granted such as the separation of church and state. Significant social programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and the Children's Health Insurance Program will be the first cut as a conservative legislature grapples with a large deficit. TCRP needs your help as we strive to protect the people of the state of Texas. Volunteer to be a legislative liaison today. Contact Amy Magee, Equal Justice Works Fellow, for more information. (512) 474-5073.

OUR QUEST FOR A NEW FACILITY— Capital Campaign 2002

The Texas Civil Rights Project has outgrown its house and is in urgent need of a larger location. The 2002 summer saw 25 people (7 full-time staff members, 9 law clerks, 4 interns and a monthly average of 5 volunteers) rotating work schedules in a 1,100 square-foot space!

We are currently looking to locate a new house / office in East Austin that can accommodate our needs. A larger house will enable us to:

- Remain close to the community we serve
- Remain easily accessible to our poor and disabled clients public transportation
- Receive more clients in our office
- Hold more depositions & press conferences in our office
- Accommodate more student interns; and
- Accommodate more volunteers to help with our clerical work

We need a total of \$139,500, itemized below:

ITEM	AMOUNT
Capital to Purchase House	\$85,000
Additional Furniture (state surplus)	\$1,500
City Re-Zoning & Waiver Permits	\$7,000
Moving Costs	\$5,400
Interior Renovations (phone system installation, DSL lines, disabled accessibility)	\$21,000
Construction of Parking Lot	\$14,000
Office Phone System (includes cabling & voicemail systems)	\$5,600
TOTAL	\$139,500

CALL TO TCRP SUPPORTERS

The Texas Civil Rights Project is seeking donors who could help us with a *tax-deductible donation* towards the purchase price of a new location.

We will have a special **Wall of Honor** erected in our new place, honoring those who have helped us along the way. You may also contribute in memory of someone other than yourself, and choose to have their name placed on the wall instead.

The Mission of the Texas Civil Rights Project is to promote racial, social and economic justice through education & litigation.

Thank You for Your Support.

Meet Our Fall Interns & Volunteers!

Joy Arthur came to us last Spring and was a tremendous help in the organization and logistical planning of this year's 12th Annual Bill of Rights Dinner. From securing hotel arrangements, to soliciting advertisements, to escorting Dr. Chomsky to his various weekend events, we could not have asked for a better, more professional BOR volunteer. Joy is a first-year returning student in the UT Public Relations program. Good luck, Joy, and thanks for your help!!!

Laura Cruzada is a junior on the UT Public Relations track, who is an active leader in UT's Tower PR Program. We were lucky enough to begin working with Laura and her crew this summer. So far, they have put together TCRP's first-ever professional media kit, helped with designs and written press releases regarding our Bill of Rights Dinner featuring Noam Chomsky, and been an all-around great team to work with! Thanks to Laura and her team for a job well-done! (*For more information on the Tower PR Program, please contact Laura at lcruzada@mail.utexas.edu*)

Christina Gavino Gray is a graduating senior at UT. A media democracy major, Christina has played a vital role in the development of our media relations, and helping with advertising for our Bill of Rights Dinner. Her next project will be helping TCRP translate our website into Spanish. Thanks, Christina, and congratulations!

Kirk Hoffman, a native Texan, began working with TCRP in 1993. Kirk has assisted on everything from fundraising to investigations. Kirk's interest in TCRP began with the Tobias Santiago case during the Martinez shooting. After spending four years with TCRP, Kirk left to take care of some family issues, then spent several years in the stock market, and finally came back to us at TCRP. Currently, Kirk is investigating several cases involving ADA violations and police misconduct. Thank you, Kirk; you are greatly appreciated.

Jenny Kimbrell, a recently acquired volunteer, has taken over the majority of our Webmaster duties. Jenny, a full-time career-woman for a media & marketing firm, took the initiative to seek out TCRP, ask if she could help, and take charge. The improvements to the website since Jenny has been working with us are amazing! Thank you, Jenny, for your wonderful work with us!

Vanessa Petrea began an internship with TCRP at the beginning of this semester. A graduating senior majoring in Public Relations and Advertising at UT, Vanessa has been an invaluable addition to our staff. Working primarily with our Development Director, Vanessa was instrumental in pulling off our B.O.R. Dinner, creating new, innovative ads and designs for various TCRP publications and brochures, and helping with the newsletter. Vanessa's skills and professionalism have been a tremendous asset to our organization, and she will be missed.

Congratulations to all of you UT grads, Hook 'Em Horns!!!

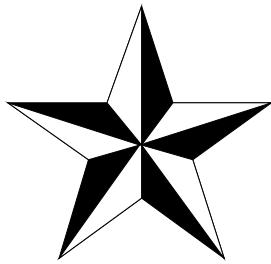
For a listing of our Fall Law Clerks, please visit the website.

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of the
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Kindly Thank You for Your
Continued Support Of Our
Important Work

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TEXAS CIVIL RIGHTS PROJECT

Amy Magee, Staff Attorney & Equal Justice Works Fellow

Wayne Krause, Staff Attorney
Chris Anderson, Office Manager
Macy Minze, Legal Manager
Jackie Carton, Development Director
Juan Rios Villa, VAWA Project Director
Sheri Joy Tolliver, Staff Attorney

Jason Espinoza, Angela Caras
Hope Williams, Michael Erfe, Yonit Sharbaby
LAW CLERKS

Kirk Hoffman, Vanessa Petrea, Joy Arthur
Laura Cruzada, Ken Hashimojo, Christina Gray
INTERNS

SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT

Sr. Moira Kenny, Paralegal
Jaime Ortiz, Office Manager & Legal Assistant
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