

A Committee of the Fort Bend County Bar Association

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Make Your Summer Count

Summer isn't just about relaxation; it's an opportunity to grow, explore, and discover. How you spend your summer can expand your knowledge, provide opportunities to challenge yourself, and model community service for your children.

LEARN AND BUILD SKILLS by improving your foreign language skills through Duolingo, taking a cooking class, or following online tutorials for drawing, painting, or digital art.

CHALLENGE YOURSELF by learning a new sport or outdoor hobby, hiking and exploring our trails and parks, or by attending free lectures & workshops at local colleges or museums.

GIVE BACK TO YOUR COMMUNITY and volunteer at a summer camp or VBS, help coach a youth sports team, or organize a fundraiser for a cause you care about.

I'd love to connect with you - please reach out to me directly at Susan.Soto@HVL.org. You can also find us on *Meetup* as "Fort Bend County Lawyers Social Meetup Group." Watch *Meetup* or your email for announcements about Pro Bono & Pints and a community service project – both coming in September!

Susan Soto

Member, FBCBA Board of Directors

Pro Bono & Community Service



Fort Bend Community Lawyers is proud to partner with Katy Christian Ministries (KCM) for their bi-monthly Community Food Fair on Saturday, September 26th. KCM is a long-standing nonprofit dedicated to supporting individuals and families in the Fort Bend area who are experiencing crisis, food insecurity, or financial hardship. Founded in 1968, KCM has worked tirelessly to provide essential services such as food assistance, clothing, financial support, and social service programs.

Together with KCM, FBCL will help distribute fresh produce, pantry staples, and essential groceries to local residents. The Food Fair aims to create a welcoming, judgment-free environment where no paperwork is required and hundreds of families receive support each month. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the community and providing compassionate, practical help to those who need it most. **Please join us on September 26th, friends and family welcome!**

Sign up here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLrg5Ag7eeXG73GKfVQuGiKfFaaGY_uuJaHU4VrnYwbwirvYw/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Meet Aspiring Law Student Jacqueline Guardia

As an aspiring first-generation law student, I am committed to advocating for underserved Hispanic communities. Growing up as the child of Bolivian immigrants, I witnessed the profound challenges immigrant families face simply trying to assimilate into American culture, let alone navigating complex legal systems designed without them in mind. As a child, I watched my parents struggle through the dense legal terminology of immigration documents, lease agreements, and bank statements, wishing I could help. These early experiences shaped my understanding of how often vulnerable communities are left without the support they need and inspired my decision to pursue a career in law.

As I prepare for law school, I remain dedicated to public service, community outreach, and strengthening the support systems available to immigrant families and the Hispanic community as a whole. I aim to build a career rooted in cultural understanding, advocacy, and a commitment to ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to be heard, represented, and protected.

Pro Bono Corner

To browse available pro bono cases at **Lone Star Legal Aid**, visit:

<https://www.lonestarlegal.org/volunteer/>

Current pro bono opportunities through **Houston Volunteer Lawyers** include:

A 33-year-old AccessHealth patient in Fort Bend County needs assistance applying for Social Security Disability benefits. She has applied for benefits in the past with no success. The patient was diagnosed with cervical cancer in late 2023 and likely has enough work credits to be eligible for disability. With your legal writing skills and trained eye for compelling evidence, she will be able to clearly document how her medical condition limits her ability to work and interferes with daily living activities. The patient speaks English and comes to HVL through our medical-legal partnership with AccessHealth, Fort Bend's largest safety net services provider. 26-0538980

A survivor of psychological abuse needs your help to divorce her abuser! There are two children of the marriage, and the client is very frightened of her husband and of the divorce process. The parties have been separated since March 2025. You can help this English-speaking client from the HVL/AccessHealth medical-legal partnership start her life over and give her hope for the future. The case was filed in Fort Bend County earlier this year, and the client's spouse has an attorney. 25-0455457

To take one of these **HVL** cases or browse other opportunities, visit:

<https://www.makejusticehappen.org/get-involved/take-a-case/>