



Looking Through the Curves: Breaking the Bondage of Fear

Story by Patricia L. Ryan

As a legal professional, I frequently deal with fear. At a minimum, it is handling my clients' fears about their future. If I am honest with myself, it is sometimes personal fears about my future, career, health, children, and/or money.

A spirit of fear can be destructive. We become paralyzed and frail. Contrast that to the Biblical meaning of fear, stemming from respect for God. This position of reverence allows us to face our fears with faith, breaking through the bondage of fear. It has been said that fear is like sand in machinery, whereas faith is like oil—one clogs and destroys the mechanism, while the other allows the parts to move freely and efficiently. Faith serves similar functions in our lives. My faith recently allowed me to embark on a 5,000 mile solo motorcycle adventure from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Texas.

Initially, the trip began as a quest to be the first woman riding solo on a Harley to complete the Ultimate Coast to Coast, an Iron Butt Ride from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, to Key West, Florida. As I researched the Dalton Highway, however, my plans changed. I read about motorcyclists being injured or dying on this 414 mile gravel road dubbed the "Haul Road." Stretching from Fairbanks to Prudhoe

Bay, truckers often haul more than just goods on this desolate road. I pared back my plans and settled for a fifteen day, 6,000 mile trip from Fairbanks to Key West. Needless to say, that didn't account for much down time, since I planned to drive 500 miles a day. I shipped my bike to Fairbanks and flew there to meet her.

Early on the morning of June 10th, I set out to drive the Alaska Highway. This first day was just the beginning of many tests of my faith about being stranded, as well as maneuvering around gravel, frost heaves, and wildlife. I quickly learned to fill up with gas when I could.

The next day found me in the rhythm of the road, aggressively taking curves and feeling as one with the bike. As the day progressed, I again encountered rain and wildlife, including buffalo, moose, and a black wolf. By evening, I traveled mostly alone. I was acutely aware of my size in comparison to the vast, unspoiled Yukon Territory. Suddenly through the rain-drenched windshield, I watched in silence as a deer appeared in front of me. I backed off the throttle. Prior



Patty pauses on her journey to soak in the view at Snake River, Oxbow Bend, Grand Tetons, Wyoming.

experiences taught me I could not brake on a wet road to avoid the collision. Time slowed before my eyes. The deer slipped inches in front of my fender and that of the semi approaching from the other direction.

Each of the first two days, I easily completed 500 miles. Day three,

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From the President

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DCBA Membership

Your DCBA Membership includes

- *Free and discounted CLE programs*
- *Monthly lunch and happy hours*
- *Networking opportunities*
- *Listing on the bar website which includes a photo, two areas of practice, and a link to your own personal website*

Your DCBA Membership offers

- *Family Law Section*
- *Real Estate, Trust, and Probate Law Section*
- *Denton County Trial Lawyer's Assoc.*
- *Greater Denton County Young Lawyers Association*

Among the statistics recently provided to me by Legal Aid of Northwest Texas (LANWT) was one that particularly caught my eye:

In 2006, attorneys in the region covered by the Denton office (Denton, Cooke, Wise, Jack, and Montague Counties) accepted 61 pro bono cases.

By way of comparison, in the McKinney branch office (Collin, Fannin, Grayson, Hunt and Rockwall Counties), private attorneys handled 840 pro bono cases.

Pretty startling difference isn't it? While there are many factors that will affect the number of pro bono cases that are covered by the two offices respectively, it is worth noting that only eighteen different attorneys participated in the private attorney program through the Denton office during 2006. I believe that this limited number of participating attorneys probably accounts more for the obvious disparity between the two offices than any other factor. In fact, in 2006, LANWT rejected 3,072 eligible applicants because there were insufficient staff attorneys and no private attorney could be located to represent the client pro bono.

LANWT serves a vital and critical need in North Texas. Imagine a single mother of two, working full time to support her family, and earning only \$22,080 a year. Guess what? She's too "wealthy" to qualify for legal aid.

Therefore, statistically, a significant number of citizens are effectively prevented from seeking relief through our courts as a result of their so-called wealth. Then, unfortunately for our Denton region, even those who qualify for LANWT services are foreclosed



Tiffany L. Haertling, President

from the judicial system simply because there are not enough attorneys participating in the program to help them.

This is where we come in. The Denton County Bar has proven that it will rise to the challenges facing our community through its participation in DCAP and we all deserve high praise for that accomplishment. It is unrealistic to believe that any of us can devote a specified percentage of our practice time to pro bono cases.

However, if we each resolve to take on a few pro bono cases each year, we can make a significant difference in making sure that the Courthouse doors stay open to all Denton area residents. If you are willing to make that commitment, please contact Dena Reecer, our Pro Bono Committee Chair, at 940-382-3168. You will be contributing to a public service of which you can be proud.

GDCYLA 2007-08 Officers and Directors

Officers



John Rentz, President

John Rentz holds an accounting degree from LSU and received his law degree from the University of Houston in 2001. After a few years in civil practice, he joined the Denton County District Attorney's (DA) Office and is currently

a felony prosecutor for the 158th District Court. John is an active member of our local bar association.



Tricia Perry, Vice President

Tricia Perry received her undergraduate degree in 1995 and her law degree in 1998 from University of Missouri, in Columbia. She became licensed to practice in Missouri in 1998, and in Texas

in 1999. She currently is Chief of the Child Protective Services division of the DA's Office.



J.P. LeCompte, Secretary/Treasurer

After obtaining his bachelors in 2000 and masters in 2002, degrees from Texas A&M University, J.P. LeCompte earned his law degree from the South Texas College of Law in 2005. He was

admitted to the Texas Bar and began working at Hayes Berry, White, & Vanzant that same year. His practice areas include business, Real Estate, consumer rights, collections, and general civil litigation. J.P. has been a member of the GDCYLA since 2005.

Directors



Jason Burris,

Jason A. Burris received his Bachelor of Arts in History in 2002, from Texas A&M University and his law degree from South Texas College of Law in 2005. Jason was admitted to the State Bar of Texas

in 2005, and currently works for Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, and practices Collections, Business Law, and Real Estate Law. Jason has been a member of GDCYLA since 2005.



Andrew Passons,

Andrew graduated from Texas A&M University in 1998 and received his J.D. in 2001 from the SMU Dedman School of Law. He is employed by the Law Office of Mark Lewis, where he practices primarily in the area of family law.

Andrew also co-chairs the DCBA Family Law Section and is a member of the State Bar of Texas Family Law Section.



Katrina Sandberg,

Katrina Sandberg received her bachelors degree from Notre Dame in 2000 and earned her law degree from the University of Iowa in 2003. In 2003 she was admitted to the Texas Bar and began working at the Kaufman County District

Attorney's Office, and now is a misdemeanor chief with the Denton DA's Office. Trina has been a member of the GDCYLA since 2005 and a board member since 2006.

DCAP Sign-Up Party

Date:

Friday, August 24, 6:30 PM

Location:

Lantana Golf Club
800 Golf Club Dr., Lantana

Program:

For the volunteering attorney and a guest. Dinner, drinks, a gift for every volunteer, and door prizes, including a trip for two anywhere that Southwest flies.

For more information contact Michelle Houston, mhouston@dentonbar.com.



Journey continued from page 1.

however, found me slowed by, among other things, travel through Munchos Lake Provincial Park, BC. I stopped for the night 87 miles short of my goal. The next day was planned to be long—566 miles to Canmore, Alberta. The addition of the previous days miles, moved the day's total to 653 miles.

In addition to the usual hazards, I battled construction delays, hail, and fatigue. I was forced to stop north of Jasper, now hundreds of miles off target. I began the distasteful chore of eliminating highlights of the trip just to reach Key West in the allotted time. Disappointed that I cancelled four nights' reservations through the most beautiful part of the mountains, I realized the trip was becoming just a destination. After much prayer, I chose instead to embrace the journey.

It was as if God confirmed that

decision. The next day I welcomed spectacular views of the Canadian Rockies while on the Icefields Parkway between Jasper and Banff. I stopped for a picture at Lake Louise. Upon returning to the bike, I turned the key and heard a dreaded "click, click" sound. I knew I needed to check battery connections and fuses, so I removed the bags, spread out my tools, took off the seat, and dug into the wiring.

A family of Mennonite farmers from Wausau, Wisconsin, graciously offered assistance. After much discussion about milk farming, motorcycles, and what was wrong with the bike, we decided to pop the clutch. I can only visualize this colorful family running behind me, pushing me down the hill. But it worked, and I continued with my original route through Glacier National Park, the Beartooth Highway,



Stunning views awaited Patty as she started her journey on the Alaska Highway in the Yukon Territory.

Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and the mountains of Colorado.

I have been told I must be proud to complete this trip alone. I was never alone. Through grace, I have been gifted with faith in a trustworthy God who controlled the outcome. I surrendered all of my fears to God, knowing He holds my life and safety in His hands. I was simply willing to let go of sight of the shoreline in order to reach the other side of the lake.

Win Big at the DCBA Kick-Off Party

Date:

Friday, September 7, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location:

WinStar Casino
777 Casino Ave, Thackerville, OK 73459

Program:

Golf and Poker, Lunch and Drinks

Lunch and CLE will be provided on the transportation bus. The bus will leave the Court House at 11:00 AM and return at 5:00 PM.

For more information contact Michelle Houston, mhouston@dentonbar.com.

Continuing Education Opportunities at Texas Woman's University

Upcoming Events

Family Mediation
August 23 - 26, 2007

Community Music
August 27 - November 19, 2007

Community Dance
September 4 - November 12, 2007

Conflict Resolution
October 11 - 14, 2007

Negotiation
November 29 - December 2, 2007

Other Training Opportunities:

- Contract Training
- Survival Spanish for the Workplace
- Online Non-credit Certificate Programs
- Online Non-credit Courses

Chris Watts was fantastic. This training was so good many of us are already planning to do the Family Law Mediation training in August. Please put us (DCAP members who attended this training) on your reminder list for the August Family Law Mediation training.

-Participant of the DCAP Mediation training

For complete details on events, visit the Lifelong Learning website at <http://www.twu.edu/lifelong> or call our office at 940-898-3408.

From the Sections

GDCYLA Section Meeting

Date:

Thursday, August 2, 11:30 AM

Location:

El Guapo's
419 S. Elm St., Denton

Collab. Law Section Meeting

There will be no August meeting.

Normal scheduled meetings will begin again on Tuesday, September 4, 12:00 PM

Paralegals Monthly Meeting

Date:

Thursday, August 30, 12:00 PM

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Dr., Corinth

REPTL Section Meeting

Date:

Wednesday, August 15,
12:00 PM

Location:

Luby's Cafeteria
2440 S. Interstate 35, Denton

Family Law Monthly Meeting

Date:

Monday, August 27, 5:30 PM

Location:

To be announced

DCBA applications and dues of \$150.00, will be accepted throughout the year. If you have not renewed you will be removed from the website until renewal. Applications are available online at www.dentobar.com.

DCBA Meeting Minutes, July 6, 2007

1. Meeting called to order: Don White, Jr.
 - a. Tiffany Haertling was out on vacation.
2. Secretary's Report/Treasurer's Report: Don White
 - a. Don stated that we have over \$17,712.98 in our account. We had a good June.
3. Announcements:
 - a. Gilland Chenault announced the opening of his law office of McKinney in Denton. He will be focusing on Probate and Civil Law.
 - b. John Rentz requested cash donations for the Kinship Fair, a GDCYLA/DCBA function.
 - c. Tamera Bennett announced that she is looking for a paralegal. Her law office is located in Lewisville.
 - d. Judge Rivera-Worley introduced Evan Clift, a new DCBA member.
 - e. Ted Ogilvie introduced Bob Bennett (the speaker) and Dick McMillan (his guest) from Dallas.
 - f. Grace Weatherly announced the 1st legal aid/pro-bono awards banquet which will be held at the Denton Country Club on Thursday, October 11, 2007. They will be presenting two awards for the Denton County attorneys who have provided the most pro bono services for the Legal Aid of Northwest Texas clients. Invitations will go out in September.
 - g. Don White, Jr. reminded everyone of the next DCBA membership luncheon on Friday, August 3.
4. CLE: Introduced by Ted Ogilvie
Speaker: Bob Bennett
Topic: *Recent Changes in the Grievance Procedure and How They Will Affect Your Law Practice.*
5. Meeting adjourned: Don White, Jr.

From DCAP

DCAP Thank You Party 06-07 Was A Blast

Thank you to the 86 participants who attended the Denton County Alternate Dispute Resolution Program (DCAP) Thank You party on Thursday, June 28th at the Main Event in Lewisville. This party was in honor of the attorneys and their families for making the DCAP non-profit program possible.

Special awards were given to:

Sue Dalby Sylvester for shortest mediation. She resolved her family case in two hours!

Stephen Dubner for longest mediation. He stayed twelve hours to make sure his family mediation resolved!

Philip Mack Furlow for most mediations. So far, he has given us six voluntary mediation dates.

Not to rub it in to those who did not attend, but we had sooo much fun! The activities included bowling, laser tag, video games, glow golf, and billiards.

Of course, the pictures speak for themselves. Can you tell we provided too many drink tickets? Just kidding!

If you have not signed up to be a DCAP mediator yet, now is your

chance! Our Sign-Up party is Friday, August 24th at the Lantana Golf Club. As your Mamma always said, "nothing is free." When you volunteer for us, there are PERKS!



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Layout 2: Reception area, 2 pvt offices, conf room, 1 large work area & restrooms.

CONTACT INFORMATION

2612 Long Prairie Road, Suite B
Flower Mound, Texas 75022

Nick Jani / Waynette Walker
Jani Companies, LLC

Tel: (972) 899-6464
Fax: (972) 899-6465

DCBA in 2007-08

August Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, August 3, 12:00 PM
Meal included

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Program:

*Practical Update on
Condemnation Law*

Speaker:

Michelle Jones, Esq.

September Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, September 7, 11:00 AM
Meal included

Location:

WinStar Casino
777 Casino Ave
Thackerville, OK 73459

Program:

Ethics

Speaker:

Bob Eames, Esq.

Announcing

- DCAP now has a new website, the address is www.dentonadr.com.
- The Law Offices of Elsey & Elsey is moving. The new address of the practice is: 3212 Long Prairie Rd., Suite 200, Flower Mound, Texas 75022. Their telephone numbers will remain the same.

Condolences

DCBA would like to express our condolences to Brian Tackett on the passing of his mother, Barbara Tackett, on July 7, 2007.