

# PAPA

Political Asylum Project of Austin

## Noticerio PAPA

Number VII I

April 2008



Get ready for a creative, exciting and entertaining evening! On June 12, 2008, PAPA will present its benefit gala, *Fire and Ice*, at the Monarch Event Center in Austin, Texas. This dazzling event will feature the fire of smooth Latin jazz, the ice of bejeweled cocktails and absolutely delectable cuisine. What a wonderful opportunity to gather with your network of friends and colleagues to support our mission of providing low-cost and free legal services to Central Texas immigrants and their families.

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of a new award conceived especially to commemorate PAPA's re-branding. The Leading Voice award will be presented to an individual and a corporation who exemplify an unwavering commitment to equality, justice and access to legal services for immigrants and their families.

This year PAPA is pleased to honor Mr. Dan Kowalski as the individual recipient of this first ever award. A leading advocate for immigrants and one of our nation's foremost experts on immigration law, Mr. Kowalski has also served as a board member for PAPA for many years. We are honored to present this award to Dan.

Our Leading Voice award to the corporate sector will be presented to Mr. Eddie Aldrete and IBC Bank. PAPA is honored to recognize Mr. Aldrete and IBC for their inclusion of immigrant families as they work to build stronger and healthier communities in Central Texas.

For more information on sponsorships or event details for *Fire and Ice*, please contact Sharon Mims, Development Director, at 512-478-0546, ext. 208. Additionally, event information is available on PAPA's website at <http://www.papais.org>. We hope you and yours will join us for an exhilarating evening of *Fire and Ice*!

314 East Highland Mall Blvd., Suite 501 Austin, Texas 78752  
512-478-0546 [www.papaustin.org](http://www.papaustin.org)

## PAPA Hires Director of Development

Sharon Mims has been named the new Director of Development for the Political Asylum Project of Austin (PAPA). Until recently, Mims served as the Director of Development for Candlelight Ranch where she was responsible for a 140% one-year increase in their annual gala fundraising efforts.

"Sharon is a great addition to our organization," says Chris Jimmerson, Executive Director of PAPA. "She brings high energy and 13 years of Austin based experience to our team. I am confident that Sharon will bring great success to our resource development efforts and am so impressed with efforts already in the short time she has been here."

Mims will be responsible for cultivating and building donor relationships with individuals, corporations and foundations. Additionally, she will plan and implement all funding development activities, including the production of PAPA's annual Gala, *Fire and Ice*, which takes place on June 12, 2008.

Sharon has also done fundraising work with the Challenged Athletes Foundation, the Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She has given numerous presentations on fundraising strategies, event planning and networking.

## PAPA Sees Large Client Increases

PAPA served a greater number of persons across all programs and services in calendar year 2007 than in 2006. According to year end statistics, PAPA provided direct legal services benefiting 3,011 persons in 2007, an increase of over 30% compared to the prior year.

In addition, PAPA provided 284 outreach and educational sessions to 3,039 people, an increase of 58% over the prior year. Much of this increase was due to a new San Antonio-based office that provides education and assistance to immigrants detained at the immigrant detention facility in Pearsall, Texas. Detainees are given information about what to expect in their detention, their rights, potential legal remedies and how to access legal representation, as well as workshops that provide self-help training.

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## Client Increases

*(continued from Page 1)*

In part, PAPA was able to provide increased services due to increased volunteer hours from attorneys who provided pro bono representation to clients. The number of pro bono hours in 2007 nearly doubled those provided in 2006. "We are so grateful to the attorneys and law firms that provided volunteer services in 2007," commented PAPA's Executive Director, Chris Jimmerson, "Their service allowed us to serve many more clients than we could have otherwise."

Mr. Jimmerson went on to add, "So far in 2008, we have continued to see an increase in needs and are trying to meet those needs by increasing services. The educational workshops in the Pearsall facility alone have been providing education to 300 to 400 people per month. Our staff attorney, Eric Tijerina, in San Antonio and our Accredited Representative, Mercedes Cabrera-Cuaresma, are doing such a great job with this program under difficult and challenging circumstances."

PAPA has found many more immigrants with potential legal cases being held in this detention facility than it has the resources to serve. It has even found U.S. citizens being held in the facility.

As the need for PAPA's service continually increases, our reliance on pro bono attorneys and other volunteers, as well as our dependence on financial support from the community we serve through grants, donations and funding events, will also increase. PAPA is grateful to all the wonderful people, organizations and businesses that make our services to our clients possible.

## Immigrant Family Waits Over Seven Years to be Reunited

Mr. Martin Aviles, a U.S. citizen, first applied for his parents to join him in the U.S. on October 17, 2001. When a U.S. citizen applies for a spouse, parent, or minor child, this person is considered an "immediate relative," for whom a visa is supposed to be immediately available. However, during initial processing, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) made a mistake on the family petitions and listed the relationship as that of a United States citizen applying for a brother and sister. Siblings of U.S. citizens are *not* considered "immediate relatives," according to USCIS and may face an incredibly long wait before they may apply for visas. For example, if a United States citizen were to apply for their Mexican national brother and sister today, as per the current processing times, they would be facing a wait of approximately 13 years (and 4 months).

Mr. Martin Aviles inquired about this error to immigration over the course of four years. Finally, the petitions were approved and in October of 2006 Mr. Aviles received the Immigrant Visa Packet from the National Visa Center. This is the second step in a two step process of immigrating family members from abroad, in which the intending immigrant's visa is processed first at the National Visa Center and then at the respective U.S. Consulate (in this case, in Ciudad Juarez). The necessary documents and fees were all sent to the National Visa Center by February 1, 2007. Subsequently, Mr. Aviles received several requests for already submitted additional documentation in order to continue the process. Mr. Aviles patiently responded to each request and provided all documents requested despite having already submitted them.

Finally, in November of 2007, Mr. Aviles' parents, Ernesto and Ofelia Morales, received their Immigrant Visa Interview notices, scheduled for January 29, 2008. With PAPA's help, all went well at their interview with USCIS and Mr. Aviles' parents now have their visas to enter the United States as permanent residents.



# Thank You!

## PAPA Thanks our 2007/2008 Fiscal Year Donors Thus Far

### Founders Circle (\$5,000+)

Lawyer Referral Service of Central Texas\*

### Ambassador (\$2,500-\$4,999)

Oliver Bernstein  
Dechert, LLP  
First Baptist Church of Austin  
Nelly Herrera and Paul Parsons\*

### Consul (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Conrad J. Derdeyn  
Dan Kowalski\*\* and Rebecca Henderson  
Andrews Kurth LLP  
Rembrandt Financial Group, LLC\*  
Maura Powers\*

### Diplomat (\$500-\$999)

John Bomhoff  
Juan Dekruyff  
Meghan Griffiths  
Jeannie Rollo  
Janna Welch  
Yong Wood  
Brad and Ginger Young

### Attaché (\$250-499)

Sonia Ansari  
Sondra and Duane Crowley, Jr  
Tara Cunningham  
Laurie Eiserloh  
Lisa M. Hinley  
Barbara Hines  
Gankeyan Kanthasamy\*\*  
Lee Manford  
Ann Shanti Nadaraja  
Natalie Taylor  
Shelton and Van Houten, CPAs, LLP\*

### Other Great Donors

Mary Ann Becker  
Heather Becker  
W. Terrell Blodgett  
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Debra Watkins  
Vicky Weiman  
Kendall Antonelli  
Elizabeth Zeck  
AMD Matching Gift Program

### One or more donors made their contribution in honor of the following people:

Dan Kowalski, Chris Jimmerson, Jeannie Rollo, Claire Slack

PAPA's fiscal Year runs from 09/01 through 08/31.

\* Contributed amount includes a sponsorship for *Fire and Ice*

\*\* Contributed amount includes an online annual pledge

*PAPA makes every effort to ensure donor listings are correct. If you believe your donation is not listed or would like a change to the way in which it is listed, please email us or call us at 512-478-0546, ext. 208. Includes the value of in kind gifts.*

*Updated March 31, 2008*

**PAPA gratefully acknowledges the following grantors for their support of our programs.**

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services -  
General Support

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance -  
General Support

Randall's Good Neighbor Program-  
General Support

Texas Bar Foundation-  
Toll Free Hotline, The Pearsall Project

Texas Chapter of AILA -  
Asylum and Detention

Texas Access to Justice Foundation  
(fund the following grants):

- Basic Civil Legal Services –  
PRISA Program
- Crime Victims Civil Legal Services –  
IVCPP Program
- Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts –  
ASAP Program
- IOLTA Special Grant --  
DERPTechnical Support

Texas Health and Human Service Commission -  
PRISA Program

Texas Office of the Attorney General,  
Other Victims Assistance Grant -  
PRISA Program

Texas Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division  
PRISA Program

Texas Council on Family Violence -  
Outreach and Education

The Trull Foundation -  
PRISA Program

Vera Institute of Justice -  
Legal Orientation Program

**PAPA Staff**

Chris Jimmerson, Executive Director  
Edna Yang, General Counsel  
Sharon Mims, Director of Development  
Carly Salazar, Staff Attorney  
Eric Tijerina, Staff Attorney  
Mercedes Cabrera-Cuaresma, Accredited Representative  
Lora Llenado, Accredited Representative  
Kendall Antonelli, Legal Case Worker for IVCPP  
Yasmine Farhang, Legal Case Worker for FBIACP  
Ingrid Grobey, Legal Case Worker for PRISA  
Raul Henriquez, Screening and Referral Specialist  
Brenna Troncoco, Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator

**Political Asylum Project of Austin  
(PAPA)  
Board of Directors, 2008**


Sonia Ansari (Programs/Infrastructure champion)  
Oliver Bernstein  
Gerardo Castillo  
Tara Cunningham  
Meredith Despain-Kelsey  
Meghan Griffiths  
Nelly Herrera (President Elect)  
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Grayson Paynter  
Maura Powers (Secretary)  
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Cathleen Slack (Treasurer)  
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Janna Welch  
Kirk Watson  
Brad Young (President)

**Want to join the PAPA supporters list?**

Please fill out and return the enclosed form or visit the website listed below and click on "donate."

**Want to join the PAPA volunteer team?**

Visit our website at [www.papaustin.org](http://www.papaustin.org) and click on "volunteer" or call Brenna Troncoco at 512-478-0546, ext. 207.

FIRE  
AND  
 ICE

JUNE 12, 2008

## *"Fire and Ice"*

### *2008 Gala Fundraiser for PAPA – Political Asylum Project of Austin*

Get ready for a most creative, exciting and entertaining evening! On June 12, 2008 PAPA will present its benefit gala, Fire and Ice, at the Monarch Event Center in Austin, Texas. This dazzling event will feature dancing and diamonds, the fire of smooth Latin jazz, the ice of bejeweled cocktails and absolutely delectable cuisine. Indeed, a wonderful opportunity to gather with your network of friends and colleagues to support our mission of providing free and low-cost legal services to Central Texas immigrants and their families.

In honor of PAPA's upcoming rebranding, we will be presenting a new award conceived especially to commemorate this event. The Leading Voice awards will be presented to an individual and a corporation who exemplify an unwavering commitment to equality, justice and access to legal services for immigrants and their families. PAPA is pleased to honor Mr. Dan Kowalski, J.D. as the individual recipient and Mr. Eddie Aldrete and IBC Bank as the corporate recipients.

We hope you will join us for an exhilarating evening of Fire and Ice!

#### *Title Dinner Sponsor: \$10,000*

*(availability: 1 only)*

- Naming rights to dinner along with corporate name and logo on all printed materials, including invitation, inside front cover of program, poster at the event entrance, and multi-media presentation during dinner
- Receive a leadership award at the event
  - Co-present "Leading Voice" award to selected recipient during event
- Mention of dinner sponsorship in all press releases and media communications
- Name and logo on the PAPA Website page about the event, with a hyperlink to company's Website
- Two corporate center tables of 8 with prominently posted logo at the gala
- 1/2 page in the auction program for comments

#### *Title Reception Sponsor: \$5,000*

*(availability: 1 exclusive or 2 co-sponsors)*

- Naming rights to pre-event reception along with corporate name and logo on all printed materials including invitation, inside front page of program, poster at the event entrance, and multi-media presentation during reception
- Mention of sponsorship in all press releases and media communications
- Name and logo on the PAPA Website page about the event, with a hyperlink to company's Website
- Tickets for 16 guests to pre-event reception and two corporate center table of 8 at the gala

#### *Corporate Table Sponsor: \$2,500*

- Premier recognition at the event along with corporate name listed on invitation and in program, poster at the event entrance, and logo rotated throughout multi-media presentation during event
- Name listed on PAPA Website page about the event, with a hyperlink to company's Website
- Corporate name in auction program
- Tickets for 8 guests to pre-event reception and a corporate center table of 8 at the gala

#### *Individual Event Sponsor: \$1,000*

- Recognition at the event and along with individual name listed in program
- Tickets for 8 guests to pre-event reception and a table of 8 at the gala

*Individual Ticket Prices: \$150 each or 2 for \$200, available for purchase after May 12th*

*Sponsorships and tickets may be purchased online at [www.papais.org](http://www.papais.org) or by calling Sharon Mims at 512-478-0546 ext. 208 or cell 512-413-6633*

***"Fire and Ice" Sponsorship Purchase Form***

**YES!** My company would like to support the 2008 "Fire and Ice" Gala Fundraiser!

- \$10,000 Title Dinner Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your company's name as you would like to be listed for event)
- \$5,000 Title Reception Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your company's name as you would like to be listed for event)
- \$2,500 Corporate Table sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your company's name as you would like to be listed for event)
- \$1,000 Individual Event Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your company's name as you would like to be listed for event)
- \$200 for 2 Individual Tickets X \_\_\_\_\_ for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_, available for purchase after May 12th
- \$150 Individual Ticket, available for purchase after May 12th

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Website Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment:

Check enclosed  Please bill the following credit card

CC # \_\_\_\_\_

CC type: Visa  MC  Discover  Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

3-digit security code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of authorized signer:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Please contact Sharon Mims at 512-478-0546 ext. 208 or via cell at 512-413-6633 with any questions  
Please mail this form with your check or fax it with a credit card*

***Political Asylum Project of Austin  
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Austin, TX 78752  
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www.papais.org***