

On The Record . . .

Official Newsletter of BERTOLINO
LLP

November 2018



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Firm Announcements

A Huge Welcome to Our Newest Paralegal, Laura Ramos!



Ms. Ramos is a bilingual paralegal for BERTOLINO LLP who aides the firm's attorneys with legal research, drafting legal instruments, case management, and administrative work.

She began her studies at the University of Arkansas-Monticello (UAM), earning an Associate of Arts concentrated in Speech Communications and a minor in Political Science. During her time there, she was an active member of the UAM Speech and Debate Team as well as other academic organizations.

Upon moving to Texas in 2010, Ms. Ramos transferred to Texas State University in San Marcos (Texas State), where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Communication Studies and a minor in



Political Science.

Ms. Ramos obtained her ABA-approved Paralegal certification from Texas State and is currently completing her Master of Arts in Legal Studies, also at Texas State.

Please join us in welcoming Ms. Ramos to Team Bertolino. We are so glad to have her!

Live from the "BLAWG": 4 Best Practices on the Professional Licensure Process in Texas

Our firm not only represents clients in the midst of disciplinary proceedings by the various state boards and agencies, we help client's navigate the sometimes labyrinthine licensure processes of those boards and agencies.

Based on our experience, there are at least 4 things licensure applicants should keep in mind.

[Read more](#) at our "BLAWG" to find out!

Board and Agency Updates



Texas Sunset Advisory Committee Drops the Hammer on TREC and TALCB

One of the chief complaints the public has about the [Texas Real Estate Commission](#) (TREC) and it's sister board, the [Texas Appraiser Licensing & Certification Board](#) (TALCB) is the lack of customer service--particularly with regard to telephone wait times.

As the state government agency tasked with overseeing state agencies and boards, the [Texas Sunset Advisory Commission](#) (TSAC) advises the legislature on the effectiveness various state boards and agencies.

In a recently published [report](#), the TSAC



criticized TREC and TALCB for hoarding millions of dollars to fund new buildings for the agencies, rather than using the funds to improve and upgrade the agencies' infrastructure and operations. Such improvements and upgrades were especially necessary due to the growth of the real estate industry in Texas in recent years and the customer service issues that arose from it. For example, the TSAC received complaints from the public regarding "unanswered e-mails, a difficult-to-navigate website, and a slow licensing process."

Due to the above, the TSAC concluded that TREC and TALCB "failed to adequately assume and fulfill the critical oversight role the Legislature delegated to them under [self-directed semi-independent] status," which removed legislative oversight of the agencies' budgets and operations.



Team Bertolino Highlights

Viva Las Vegas! Members of the firm visited Las Vegas from October 18-21 to attend the Law Firm 500 awards gala. At the event, BERTOLINO LLP was honored with an award for being one of the fastest-growing member firms in the country. The keynote speaker, Erin Brockovich, spoke to the attendees about her upbringing, her rise to stardom, and the environmental causes she holds so dear.



All in all, it was a fantastic weekend filled with plenty of good food, events, and shows. I don't know about the others, but the author was grateful to rest his weary feet after all the walking we did!



A Word from the Managing Partner

I want to truly thank my attorneys and staff for all their hard work and dedication to the law firm. They are the reason why BERTOLINO LLP is one of the fastest growing law firms in the



country, and I am very proud to accept the 2018 Law Firm 500 award. Now, I'm very excited to see what 2019 brings!

T.R. NT

Hallmark Achievements - October 2018

Texas Medical Board v. J.B.

Our client was alleged to have had a sexual encounter with one of their patients. The Texas Medical Board (TMB) therefore set an informal show compliance conference (ISC), which we attended with our client. At the ISC, we successfully obtained a dismissal of the complaint based on evidence that the complainant was making completely false allegations and had a history of doing so, particularly with regard to making sexually-related claims against medical caregivers.

Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners v. T.H.

T.H. is a veterinarian who was alleged to have kept inadequate records after being called out by police in the middle of the night to aid in the apprehension of two horses running loose on the side of the road. The horses were extremely malnourished and sick, so T.H. ordered they be euthanized. T.H. successfully euthanized one of the horses without incident; however, the other horse was unruly and running wild. T.H. then obtained authorization to immobilize the horse with darts containing succinylcholine, but neither worked.

T.H. then determined that the second horse would also need to be euthanized, so T.H. discussed the same with the law enforcement officials on the scene. When initial efforts failed and the law enforcement officials could not procure the items needed to subdue the horse, they were forced to fire at the horse to bring it down.

After an investigation by the Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME), an informal conference (IC) was scheduled. We attended T.H. at the IC and presented evidence that he, at all times, was in strict compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

Upcoming Dates of Interest

Nov. 2 - All Soul's Day

Nov. 6 - General Election Day



Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day
Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving

The second week of November is National
Nurse Practitioner Week!

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