

# theLariat



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**FORT WORTH**

WINTER 2023

VOL. 30, ISSUE 2

## What's Inside

Lena Pope Chapel Hill  
Academy SMaRT  
Camp Project

Show Life: It's Rodeo Time!

Diaper Bank Update

*...and more!*



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<sub>than me</sub> **bigger** 



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# President's Perspective

It is hard to believe that as we begin 2023, we are stepping into the second half of the Junior League year. However, when I reflect over the first half of the year, I am in awe of all that our members have accomplished in a six-month period. We have hosted a highly successful *Christmas in Cowtown* Holiday Gift Market, with more shoppers for the 16th annual Market than ever before. Our Fall Day of Giving volunteers returned over 600 hours to the community in a single day. Our Provisional members have spent hundreds of hours giving back in local schools through our Junior MINTS program in collaboration with Fort Worth ISD. We have served countless hours, alongside our 35+ community partner agencies, through Placement and Done in a Day opportunities, and we have hosted dozens of trainings and member events for all our members.

Our impact continues through the winter and spring, as we welcome 2023. This January we will host the best party in town, the 10th annual *Grand Entry Gala*, to kick off the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo season. We hope you will pull on your boots and join us on the dance floor. Our Rodeo Program Sales team will “Yell & Sell” through 23+ performances of the Rodeo. Our Provisionals will host a brand-new event, the 2023 In Her Boots 5K Run & 1 Mile Family Fun Walk, to promote the League in our community, and we will officially launch our new Paint a Playground program, painting our first elementary school playground later this spring.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to our members for giving so generously to JLFW and our community. The impact we make together is extraordinary!

We are already planning for our 2023-2024 Provisional Class, as well. If you know of any women who value our Mission and are interested in joining Junior League, please encourage them to visit the Junior League website to learn more about our Provisional experience and to apply. The application deadline is March 1, 2023.

As you read through this issue of *The Lariat*, I hope you see all that makes Junior League special: voluntarism, leadership development, passion for our community, and most of all, the power of women working together.

The impact is incredible, and the privilege of watching it all unfold is one what I will never take lightly.

I can't wait to see all the new year has in store.

All the best. Always.

Becky Escott  
Junior League of Fort Worth  
President, 2022-2023



## Mission

The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

## Vision

The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc. will strive to improve our community by directing our resources to positively impact the well-being of children and families by providing a legacy of trained volunteers.

Today, the JLFW comprises approximately 2,000 members and is part of The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc (ALJI) which constitutes one of the largest, most effective volunteer organizations in the world. For more information, please visit [www.juniorleaguefw.org](http://www.juniorleaguefw.org).

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## Board of Directors

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*Board of Directors Sustaining Advisor*

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ON THE COVER: Michelle Marlow (L) and Chelsea O'Connell (R) pose at the 2022 Grand Entry Gala.



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# Dreaming of Summer Fun



**"Seeing the joy on their face shows you how much of an impact this camp makes."**

— Shannon Quinn

## Lena Pope Chapel Hill Academy SMaRT Camp + Junior League of Fort Worth

*By Jordan Rolfe Stimpson*

**S**UMMER DAYS were more fun than usual this year for several SMaRT Camp participants. Thanks to the extraordinary work of Chapel Hill Academy (CHA) teachers and Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) volunteers, students received social and academic development through enrichment activities during summer camp.

SMaRT Camp is for 3rd through 8th graders at CHA, a division of Lena Pope. CHA is a Title I School, meaning at least 65 percent of the student population qualifies for a free or reduced breakfast and lunch.

JLFW made a commitment of \$40,000 and six volunteers to Chapel Hill Academy's SMaRT Camp. JLFW funding assists in bus transportation and admission to field trips, as well as curriculum and supplies for SMaRT Camp. This League year, JLFW volunteers accompanied campers on several field trips, including visits to the



Perot Museum, the Dallas Zoo, the Dallas Aquarium and Globe Life Field. JLFW volunteers also helped campers with science experiments and even joined in on an etiquette class.

"Seeing the joy on their face shows you how much of an impact this camp makes," said Project Chair **Shannon Quinn**.

JLFW believes every child deserves access to an exceptional education that encourages them to grow and learn. SMaRT Camp provides opportunities for children to learn about topics of interest to them, and in turn, increases their overall academic success. In addition, the program aids in preventing summer learning loss. JLFW is proud to partner with Lena Pope and looks forward to continuing this positive partnership for these deserving students.







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# Sustainer Spring Plans

By Madeline Hunt

**S**USTAINERS ARE EXCITED to offer a variety of fun events this spring. Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) Sustainer Chair **Peggy Sims** says that although some events are still in the works, usual gatherings such as the Book Club, Birthday Club, and Tarrant Area Food Bank volunteering will be arranged. Sims is excited to announce that Yell 'n Sell is also back by popular demand for Sustainers!

Along with the Junior League of Dallas Sustainers, JLFW Sustainers are invited to a Sip and Shop at the Round Up Inn followed by a Rodeo Performance at Dickies Arena on January 26.

This January, Sustainer transfers and Active transfers are planning a combined social that will include a tour of Bass Hall with dessert afterwards.

Other events that are still being planned include a Spring Luncheon and a Sustainer of the Year Celebration. Additionally, a social and tour with the Junior League of Dallas sustainers at the Dallas Arboretum is sure to be a fun time! Contact Peggy Sims with any questions.





# JLFW Diaper Bank Update

## A Desperate Need, Met with a Desire to Help

By Jordan Rolfe Stimpson

**O**NE IN THREE American families report experiencing diaper need. In fact, the average household is short 19 diapers per month. More than 18,000 families with children under the age of five are living in poverty in Tarrant County. Aiming to resolve this glaring need, the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) continues to serve as a mobilizer and connector for families and individuals with diaper need in Tarrant County.

JLFW has distributed more than 675,000 diapers since the program's intent was announced in 2019. In addition to filling the need for diapers, the program also distributes wipes and bed pads. In partnership with the Tarrant Area Food Bank, JLFW has been able to get diapers of all sizes, for all ages, into the hands of those needing them most.

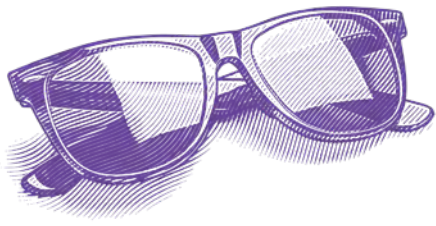
In honor of National Diaper Need Awareness Week (September 24 – October 2), a call for diaper donations was met with the generosity of League members and the community. In addition to the average 40,000 diapers Junior League Fort Worth distributes each month, in September, Junior League members collected an additional 43,000 diapers to mark the occasion. This League year alone, JLFW has distributed more than 157,000 diapers.

Led by Co-Chairs **Emily Paul** and **Danielle Dollahite**, this year's Diaper Bank committee has taken the initiative a step further by hosting fundraisers and successfully reaching out to local businesses and encouraging their involvement. The Committee even had a children's Sunday School class participate and collect thousands of diapers. With no plans of slowing down, the Junior League of Fort Worth is continuing to close the diaper need gap in our community. For more information and to learn how to support the JLFW Diaper Bank, email [diaperbank@juniorleaguefw.org](mailto:diaperbank@juniorleaguefw.org).



**In partnership with the Tarrant Area Food Bank, JLFW has been able to get diapers of all sizes, for all ages, into the hands of those needing them most.**





# Seeing Our Impact on Our Community

*By Camilla Taylor Wilson*



**T**HE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF Fort Worth's (JLFW) ongoing partnership with the Daniel Migael Foundation is having a direct impact on communities throughout Fort Worth. Members of JLFW voted to support the Foundation's work through funding and volunteer assistance in a two-year project. The project, All Eyes on ALICE: Keeping 76104 in Focus, is an unbridled success, and our support continues to ripple through communities in need.

ALICE, which stands for Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed, provides a vital need to the 76104 community. The League's continued support means more ALICE clinics will be available to focus on vision needs in the 76104 community. JLFW funding is also helping to maintain PopEye, the bus used as a lab during clinics.

There is a great deal of need for vision assistance in our community, and many clinics see patients who have been referred by friends or family members helped by the Daniel Migael Foundation. Clinics provide complimentary vision checks and prescription eyeglasses to those in need, and the level of direct impact on our community is humbling.



**There is a great deal of need for vision assistance in our community, and many clinics see patients who have been referred by friends or family members helped by the Daniel Migael Foundation.**



“I want to thank the members of the League for supporting this project. Your vote to support the Daniel Migael Foundation means hundreds of people will receive corrective eye care assistance this year!” said **Melissa Lindsey**, Daniel Migael Foundation Project Development Chair.

Lindsey also extends an invitation to every member of the League to attend one of the Foundation’s vision clinics, “You will have the chance to see the difference your “yes” is making in our community.”

The next vision clinic is in February. Contact Melissa Lindsey for more information on how you can get involved.



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# New Membership Recruitment and Sponsorship

By Lauren Nixon

**T**HE JUNIOR LEAGUE of Fort Worth (JLFW) serves our community because of the many amazing women who make up our League. To continue this important work, we must always be recruiting new membership and looking forward to the next Provisional class.

**Sarah Barrera** and **Timesha Brown** will lead the provisional class for the 2023-2024 League year. As the Provisional Assistant Co-Chairs, they are visiting community organizations to promote membership opportunities. "It's fun to be a community cheerleader for the League and get to share with others why membership is so great," Barrera said.



President-Elect **Robin Greenhaw** is looking for women who will build upon the League's strong foundation. She encouraged current members to proudly share the story and contributions of JLFW to inspire women of all backgrounds to apply for membership. "We welcome all women who value our mission," Greenhaw said.

Potential new members gathered at two Informational Meet and Greets during fall 2022. Women who would like to learn more may attend the final in-person Meet and Greet on Monday, February 13, 2023, from 6-7 p.m. at JLFW headquarters. Participation in a Meet and Greet is not required.

To apply, women must be at least 22 years old, and there is no maximum age at which one can join. As part of JLFW's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, rule changes enabled more women across a wider spectrum of life experiences to pursue membership.



Applications opened January 1, 2023, and will close March 1, 2023. Applicants need one Active or Sustaining sponsor, and assistance in securing a sponsor is available. More information can be found online at [www.juniorleaguefw.org/join](http://www.juniorleaguefw.org/join). Current and prospective members can contact Barrera and Brown at [provisionals-assistantchairs@juniorleaguefw.org](mailto:provisionals-assistantchairs@juniorleaguefw.org) with any questions.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- In-person Meet and Greet on Monday, February 13, 2023, from 6-7 p.m. at JLFW headquarters.
- Applications opened January 1, 2023, and will close March 1, 2023.



# In the



League members who serve as volunteers on this project attend class weekly and help provide reminders on blocking, timing, stage directions, line prompting and more.





# Spotlight at Casa Mañana

*By Lauren Nixon*

**T**HURSDAY EVENINGS are an important time at Casa Mañana Studios, the organization's performing arts school. From 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. students in their All-Abilities Class come together to learn about the art of theatre, develop their own talents and rehearse for special performances. This year, a group of volunteers from the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) also join weekly to support these students in their theatrical endeavors.

For more than 25 years, Casa Mañana has offered an All-Abilities Class for youth and adults with disabilities. These classes, specially designed to develop cognitive skills and encourage socialization, help champion equity in the performing arts world. Additionally, they provide an important artistic and

social outlet for individuals who no longer have access to the support and extra-curricular offerings of the K-12 school system.

The funds associated with this JLFW project enabled Casa Mañana to make their space more accessible. They constructed an ADA-compliant wheelchair ramp into the studio and also created two ADA-compliant restrooms within the footprint of the school. Both improvements better equip Casa Mañana to support their students and their families and caregivers.

The 15 students enrolled in this year's All-Abilities class range in age from high school to late 30's. In the first few weeks of the new class year, they will select their play, participate in auditions, learn choreography, practice lines, and begin

learning a musical number, all with their fall showcase and spring performance in mind. The five League members who serve as volunteers on this project attend class weekly and help provide reminders on blocking, timing, stage directions, line prompting and more.

**Janie Latimer**, who serves as the Project Development Chair, shared, "You don't have to be a theatre buff to be in this placement. You just have to be able to love on these students and care for them and help them succeed, and I think that shines through to our Junior League Mission."

Latimer also encouraged League members to attend the fall and spring performances put on by the All-Abilities Class to help support the performers and grow community awareness about the program.



# Show Life: It's Rodeo Time!

Grand Entry Gala and Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo Placements

By Madeline Hunt & Liz Confiliano



**T**HE FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW and Rodeo (FWSSR) is Fort Worth's most legendary event and the Junior League of Fort Worth kicks it off on January 7, 2023 at Will Rogers Coliseum with the *Grand Entry Gala* (GEG). GEG Communication Chair, **Vivian Bailey**, says "this year is one for the books as GEG kicks off the Rodeo season for the 10th year!" The committee was excited to welcome not just one, but three legendary country music artists to the stage – Tracy Byrd, Mark Chesnutt, and Neal McCoy. The 2022 event featured Sara Evans and raised \$293,969 with all proceeds going to further JLFW's Mission.

Additional placements for League members during the FWSSR include the Stock Show Art Contest, which hosts more than 1,800 entries across Texas and is open to children ages 5-18. Youth compete for more than \$80,000 in cash awards and scholarships, with support that stems from volunteer efforts and fundraising from the Stock Show's Guns & Roses Committee along with JLFW.



A special auction will be held at the *Grand Entry Gala* for the top six entries of the FWSSR Art Contest, which include Grand Champion, Reserve Grand Champion, and first through fourth place high school winners art work. This provides participants with an additional opportunity to obtain increased scholarship funds.

The most iconic example of JLFW's support of FWSSR is our League members "yelling and selling" the Rodeo Souvenir Annual in Dickies Arena for each and every Rodeo performance.







New for 2023 is the FWSSR's Pony Up! 50/50 Raffle. Thanks to legislation passed in 2021, professional rodeos are able to join with other professional sports as part of the Professional Sports Team Charitable Foundation Raffle Enabling Act, which is great news for the FWSSR and the many scholarship programs and educational initiatives it funds. The winner of the 50/50 raffle will earn half of the net proceeds raised while the other half is retained for charitable purposes.

"In 2023, League members were invited to apply for paid positions assisting the Show with selling these raffle tickets, but in the future we're hopeful it will be another way JLFW members can support the Rodeo through a new placement opportunity," said **Ashley Davis**, Special Events & Exhibits Manager for FWSSR and Major Leaguers Co-Chair for JLFW.

Sales of the Rodeo Souvenir Annual benefit not only FWSSR's scholarship fund, but also the JLFW. Two dollars from each program sold goes back to support JLFW's mission.



# Gittings Spotlight

## on Your Board of Directors



### ALLI D'ACOSTA

*2022-2023 Community Vice President*

Alli D'Acosta is this year's Community Vice President. She was born and raised in Houston, where much of her family still lives. In 2011, Alli moved from Austin to Fort Worth, after accepting a job with Pier 1 Imports. She and her husband, Tyson, have been married for four years after meeting in Cowtown in 2015. "Our two-year-old son, Nolan, is the light of our lives. He keeps us on our toes and smiling every step of the way." After joining The League in 2014, Alli's hope of serving alongside other women to make a difference in our community was fulfilled. "Now, eight years later, what a privilege and joy it is to give back to the community that I love so deeply with dear friends and to know, every day, we are making a positive impact for years to come."



### KATHLEEN CARTER

*2022-2023 Vice President of Fund Development.*

Kathleen Carter is this year's Vice President of Fund Development. Kathleen was born and raised in Colleyville. After graduating from college, she lived in Austin before making her way to Cowtown. She has been with her husband, Lance, after being introduced by a friend here and will be celebrating their eighth anniversary this year! They stay busy with their two children, JD, 5, and Lucy, 2 – and their black lab, Gus. Kathleen joined the League in 2012 after wanting to be involved in the community and Rodeo Program Sales. Coincidentally, Rodeo sales are her favorite placement to date, and the place she's met lifelong friends. When asked about what the League means to her, she says, "I am so grateful for the League! It has given me the opportunity to give back and be involved in the community while building lifelong friendships."



### LAUREN DRAWHORN

*2022-2023 Administrative Vice President*

Lauren Drawhorn is this year's Administrative Vice President. Lauren was born in North Carolina but has spent the majority of her life in Texas. After graduating TCU, Lauren went to Baylor Law School, after which she lived in Dallas for five years. She moved to Fort Worth in the summer of 2015. Lauren and her husband, Adam, just celebrated their 8-year anniversary after meeting in law school. Together, they have two children – Jefferson, 6, and Lottie, 3. Lauren joined The Junior League of Dallas in 2013 looking for opportunities to volunteer and connect with other women. "I transferred to Fort Worth in 2016 and the friendships and connections I've made in the Fort Worth League cannot compare."



## MEMBERSHIP VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT August 18, 2022 – November 11, 2022

### TRANSFER IN

Stephanie DeRosa A  
JL Tacoma, WA  
Kimberly Keiper S  
JL Tampa

Norma Ramirez A  
JL Wichita Falls  
Amber Tokaz A  
JL San Antonio

### TRANSFER OUT

Onyinye Akujuo A  
JL Houston  
Stefanie Beavers A  
JL Oklahoma City  
Allegra Grice A  
JL Texarkana

Caitlin Hodge A  
JL Dallas  
Taylr Sams A  
JL Jacksonville, FL

### CONDOLENCE

Pam Chevereaux S  
Loss of Husband  
Alli D'Acosta A  
Loss of Grandfather-in-Law  
Lori Evans S  
Loss of Sister  
Janet Hardin S  
Loss of Sister  
Courtney Patterson Lackey S  
Loss of Mother-in-Law

Meredith Lynch A  
Loss of Grandmother  
Loss of Uncle

Natalie Martin S  
Loss of Stepmother

Erica Mesa A  
Loss of Grandmother

Sydney Patterson A  
Loss of Father

Jordan Richter Pruitt A  
Loss of Mother

Jan Scully S  
Loss of Father

Tina Washington S  
Loss of Brother

### IN MEMORY

George Ann Carter Bahan  
Past President 1962-1963  
Sustainer Emeritus  
September 7, 2022

### Our Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

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# Voices of African American Women in the League

Conversations with Dr. Tara Reed, Diversity & Inclusion Chair

I RECENTLY HAD THE PLEASURE of interviewing three outstanding members of the Junior League of Fort Worth in the second installment of our D&I three-piece article covering diverse voices in the Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW). I am thankful to be able to add my perspective to the conversation as well. Each of these members represent our African American sisters and each are powerful in their own right! However, together their voices make music and teach us so much more about how our League can be inspiring, innovative and inclusive in an evolving community like Fort Worth.



Shay Gipson



Dr. Tara Reed



Satoya Williams



Dr. Mia Hall

**Tara:** What does being in Junior League mean to you as an African American woman?

**Shay:** I've been introduced to some great programs and nonprofits through JLFW and I'm better for it. I'd like to think those programs and nonprofits are better too, because I've provided a more diverse lens to their organizations.

**Tara:** Understanding the potential of the League, progress, inclusion and sisterhood without limitations is why I joined and what keeps me here.

**Satoya:** I am fortunate to have philanthropic endeavors in many avenues within our community. While I stepped away from a few, I chose to remain in the League due to our longstanding history and great service throughout our community.

**Mia:** I hope that my participation, advocacy and impact will encourage women of all races and walks of life to seek membership. Our differences are assets, and our contributions of thought and unique life experiences enrich the League and the greater community.

**Tara:** As JLFW reaches 100 years, what do you hope to see more of in terms of leadership, inclusion and community affiliation?

**Shay:** My hope for JLFW is to see more women of all races and ethnicities not only join the League, but to serve in leadership roles and to see JLFW participate and co-program with some of the other dynamic women's service organizations such as the four Divine Nine sororities, Links, or Jack and Jill, on a consistent basis.

**Tara:** JLFW is primed and positioned to collaborate with a diverse group of community organizations in Fort Worth. I hope to see consistency in our growth and willingness to be bold and vocal to promote inclusion, accessibility and belonging in JLFW and the community.

**Satoya:** With my recent slating as Vice President of Education, a League member shared that representation matters. As I reflected on that as well as similar sentiments that have been shared from various spaces, it is important that we not just strive to serve our community, but also reflect our community when possible.

**Mia:** I hope that the League will continue to expand their footprint throughout the Fort Worth community, especially those that have historically been marginalized and underserved.

**Tara:** What connections do you feel the League needs to make in our local African-American community to become more inclusive?

**Shay:** Certainly, the Black Chamber of Commerce would be a great resource to JLFW to find out how we could better serve, as well as community organizations such as Como Lions Heart or the Glencrest Civic League.

**Tara:** A great step in growing our connections was with LGBTQ Saves as well as working with our Divine Nine Sororities. We must continue reaching out and not wait for organizations to reach out to us first.

**Satoya:** I would love for us to build upon and expand on multicultural collaborations throughout our community. I believe it brings an awareness and understanding of other organizations and often times cultures.

**Mia:** I hope that we will broaden our influence by partnering with the various Chambers of Commerce, women leadership organizations, governmental entities, and nonprofits dedicated to the advancement of our communities most vulnerable and marginalized citizens.

Thank you to our panelists for sharing their experiences and stories. To learn even more, make sure to sign up to attend the Voices of African American Women Table Talk Training this winter!

*To read the full interview, please visit:  
[www.juniorleaguefw.org/jlfwvoices](http://www.juniorleaguefw.org/jlfwvoices)*



## LITTLEST LEAGUERS

### Our Growing Community



Harris Lee Davis

Diana Bockus and Spencer Davis welcomed their son, Harris Lee Davis, on July 28, 2022.



Oliver Reid Chianese

Anna and Ethan Chianese welcomed their son, Oliver Reid, on October 25, 2022.



John Chandler Hibbs

Haley and Christian Hibbs welcomed their son, John Chandler Hibbs, on October 30, 2022.

## Life in the League

### ENGAGEMENTS



Abby Oliver became engaged to Matt Henderson on May 28, 2022.

### MARRIAGES

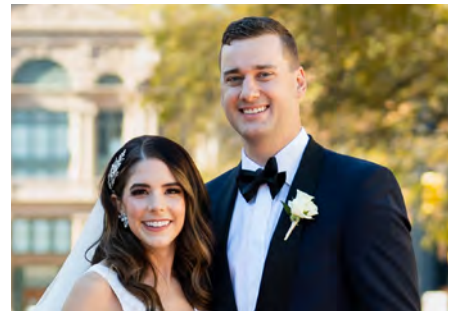


Paige McNamara married Travis Higgins October 29, 2022.

### MARRIAGES



Shannon Roussy married Marcial Sanchez on October 15, 2022.

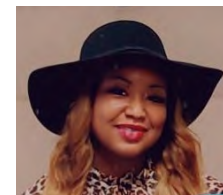


Grace Gau married Mark Killen on November 5, 2022.



Shay Dial Johnson married Gerald Gipson on November 11, 2022.

### CONGRATULATIONS



Brittnee Adams on purchasing her first home with the help of realtor Rochelle Baumia.

Dr. Jenna Conan Simpson on completing her Ph.D. in Learning Technologies from the University of North Texas.

Kaitlin Kerr on being promoted to partner at Naman, Howell, Smith, & Lee, PLLC.



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Freeman

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*“Michaela  
and her husband  
David are  
amazing  
agents! They  
are so knowledgeable  
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