



**From the Corner: Challenges of Change...**



Over the past few weeks, our Congress Plaza location has seen a lot of changes. Almost 70 employees have moved their offices to the 17th floor. The Environmental Practice Group has relocated to the 16th floor and the Compliance Group that was previously spread over two floors is now consolidated on the 16th floor. Paralegals

who were sharing offices now have individual offices and interns will be able to office with their assigned practice groups.

These changes will allow more of our attorneys and paralegals to be closer to the courts they serve, provide more opportunities for our employees to work together, and will allow us to more easily get to know one another. All of this translates into better service to our client representatives.

We understand that these changes, as so often happens, have led to temporary inconvenience, unexpected discomfort, and some frustration. However, you have met these challenges with grace, good will, and patience. We thank you for that.

In spite of the temporary challenges, change often helps us both as an organization and as individuals.

- ▶ **Personal Growth:** We grow and learn new things every time something changes. We discover new insights about different aspects of our lives. We learn lessons even from changes that did not lead us to where we wanted to be.
- ▶ **Flexibility:** Change helps make us more adaptable to new situations, new environments, and new people. As a result, we learn to better weather any storm.
- ▶ **Opportunities:** We never know what choices each change may present. When we turn from our usual path, many opportunities will await us. Changes present new choices for happiness and fulfillment.

When we embrace change, we become better equipped to handle the challenges that accompany it, allowing us to more ably fulfill our promise, "Of Service to All, According to Law." — Vince

**Happy Anniversary!**

**Thank you for your service to the public:**

|                      |          |                    |          |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| R.J. Hazeltine-Shedd | 2 years  | Nicholas Lykos     | 18 years |
| Yvette Jircik        | 3 years  | Barbara Callistien | 19 years |
| Evelyn Washington    | 3 years  | Clinton Gambill    | 23 years |
| David Brooks         | 10 years | Lisa Hulsey        | 26 years |
| Rosa Rodriguez       | 14 years |                    |          |



Before major renovations could begin on the 17th Floor, we had to make sure the roof was ready for us. Resurfacing the roof and some major sealing projects required that we install an external elevator to move supplies. The photo above shows the roofing crew getting to work. On the next page you'll see where internal renovations began.

**A new home for Protective Services**



Most in our Protective Services Group have finally made it to their home downtown. After nearly 15 years at the Murworth building, the group tasked with representing the State of Texas in cases involving abused and neglected children in Harris County is settling into the 17th Floor of Congress Plaza. The move was difficult at times — wonky elevators, a questionable air conditioner, and balky bathrooms— tested our resolve, but many team members stepped up to keep the ball rolling. "My hat goes off to a lot of the staff," Office Manager Curtrina Majors said. "They went out of their way to pack what was needed to keep us moving forward."

Many people are to thank for their cooperation and leadership throughout the moving process. Among those, are Zena Brown; Lynn Chamberlin; Jonathan Chan; Demetrice Collier; Jonathan Collins; Gina Dumas; Kathy Guenther; Barbara Hernandez; Teri Key; Curtrina Majors; Paul Morris; April Pool-Baker; Reginald Thomas; Toni Tyler; Hermalinda Venegas; Falein Wardlaw; and Evelyn Washington.

Below and on the next page, you'll see where the process began and where we are now: at home on the 17th floor.



**Connect5 Five questions for Virginia Garza**



Virginia Garza is an Investigator. She has been with our Office since 2011.

- What was your favorite song in High School?**  
All of the songs by Santana
- What's the worst movie you've ever seen?** Ground Hog Day
- If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be?**  
The Pope
- If you could time travel, to what era would you go?**  
The 1950s because I love the music
- If you were stranded on a desert island, what 3 items would you want with you?** My husband, a pot, and matches (dry)



The Office of Vince Ryan  
County Attorney

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HARRIS COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, BOTH LAWYERS AND NON-LAWYERS, ADHERE TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ETHICS AS WE SERVE THE PEOPLE OF HARRIS COUNTY AND STRIVE TO BE THE BEST PUBLIC LAW FIRM IN THE UNITED STATES.

**Useful Links**

County Attorney [SharePoint](#)  
County Attorney [Policy Manual](#)  
County Personnel [Regulations](#)

County Attorney [Website](#)  
Payroll Reports & Benefits [Online](#)  
County Attorney [Directory](#)

**Coming Attractions: All Hallows CLE**

On Friday, Oct. 31, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Driscoll Courtroom, our Office will host **Statutes that Govern Response to Disasters including Laws relating to Diseases, Death, and Disposition of Human Remains.**

CLE Credit: 1.5 Hours

**"PROGRESS**  
*is* IMPOSSIBLE  
WITHOUT CHANGE,  
& those who cannot  
CHANGE THEIR *minds*  
**CANNOT**  
CHANGE *Anything.*"  
- George Bernard Shaw

What was once the Harris County Law Library is now home base for our Protective Services Practice Group. With offices, conference rooms and dining areas for attorneys, support staff, and interns, the new 17th Floor is already bustling with activity. The giant drainage truck pictured below had to be called in when the basement flooded — the same day furniture was delivered for our new offices. But with a little bit of team work, we overcame our obstacles. A fun fact about this move: Lynn Chamberlin was the first to turn on the lights at the Murworth building on November 13, 1999 to wait for the movers. She was also last to turn off the lights on September 27, 2014 after the movers left. **Welcome to Congress Plaza, Murworthians!**

