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CUTTING EDGE Hello, Baby!

Another Victory for Texas' Personhood Law

In another victory for Texas' "personhood law," the Prenatal Protection Act, the state's highest criminal court unanimously upheld the conviction of a San Antonio man for murdering a pregnant girl and her "thirteen-week-old unborn child."


The groundbreaking Prenatal Protection Act recognized, for the first time in the history of Texas, the personhood of "an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization until birth" and made it possible to prosecute for violent crimes of assault and murder against unborn persons.

In its opinion, delivered on June 16, the nine-member Texas Court of Criminal Appeals relied heavily on an *amicus curiae* (friend-of-the-court) brief submitted by Texas Alliance for Life (TAL). TAL's brief defended the constitutionality of the Prenatal Protection Act, which was passed by the legislature and signed by Gov. Rick Perry in 2003.

In 2005, Adrian Estrada, a youth director at a San Antonio church, murdered through "multiple stab wounds and strangulation" 17-year-old Stephanie Sanchez, who was carrying a child fathered by him. It was the third time she was impregnated by Estrada, with the first pregnancy ending by abortion and the second by miscarriage.

The Court noted that *Roe v. Wade* permits states to criminalize the homicide of an unborn child so long as the law does not restrict the mother's right to terminate her pregnancy.

"Once again the legal personhood of the unborn child has been upheld in Texas so that our legislature can protect mothers and unborn babies from violent crimes," says Joe Pojman, Ph.D., TAL's executive director. "Although the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* opinion forbids Texas from protecting unborn children from abortion, we believe the Prenatal Protection Act creates a foothold for someday overturning *Roe*."

This is the fourth time the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has upheld the Prenatal Protection Act and the third time TAL has submitted a brief to that court. In each case, the Court's opinion was consistent with the arguments in TAL's brief. 

Dinner to Feature Former Planned Parenthood Director

Save the date for TAL's 2010 Annual Benefit Dinner featuring Abby Johnson, the former director of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility who now tours the country as an advocate for the unborn!

Join us at the Hilton Austin on Tuesday, October 19, to hear Johnson's testimony of how a sonogram image and the witness of pro-lifers helped to transform her heart, and to listen to her unique perspective on current pro-life initiatives in Texas.

Johnson, the highest-ranking Planned Parenthood official to join the pro-life side, has been featured on a number of national outlets including *The O'Reilly Factor*, *The Huckabee Report*, and *Focus on the Family Daily Broadcast*.

Plan now to attend! Online registration for TAL's Annual Benefit Dinner will begin in August at www.TexasAllianceforLife.org. 



Save
the
Date!

Tuesday, October 19



Get Out the Pro-Life Vote This November!

by Joe Pojman, Ph.D.

Success in the elections this fall depends on our support — yours and mine — for all of our pro-life candidates, from Gov. Perry down to the state house races.

The stakes are so high that abortion advocates — Planned Parenthood, Texas Abortion Rights Action League, and Annie's List — are already hard at work. They know well that winning elections requires getting money and votes for their candidates.

We need to do the same. The lives of thousands of innocent unborn babies depend on it.

How can you help? It's easy!

First, make sure you, your family, and all of your pro-life friends are registered to vote.

Second, note the dates of the general election: Early voting begins Monday, October 18. Election Day is Tuesday, November 2.

Third, use our new Personalized Voter Guide at www.TexasAllianceforLife.org to enter your address and get the list of pro-life candidates endorsed by the TAL PAC who will be on your ballot.

Don't stop there! You can even click on the candidates' names to go to their campaign websites to learn how to volunteer for them in these crucial months leading up to the elections.

Pro-life voting has never been more critical, but now it has never been easier.



Life & Liberty Dinner Encourages Renewed Commitment to Pro-Life Issues

August LC Luncheon to Feature Neurologist, Bioethics Expert

by Kayo O'Keefe, Chair of Financial Development Committee

On June 10, Texas Alliance for Life hosted the Life & Liberty Dinner in Dallas. The dinner was held prior to the Republican Party of Texas Convention and featured Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, Railroad Commissioner Victor Carrillo, State Sen. Dan Patrick (R-Houston), and State Rep. Phil King (R-Weatherford).

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Each of the speakers encouraged those attending to continue to stand for a culture of life and make sure that those who serve in the government are doing the same. *Watch the videos on the Life & Liberty Dinner page at www.TexasAllianceforLife.org.*

On August 19, *Leadership Circle* members and their guests will gather at Great Hills Baptist Church in Northwest Austin for the third luncheon of the year. The featured speaker will be Robert J. Buchanan, M.D.

Buchanan is the Chief of Functional and Restorative Neurosciences for the Seton Family of Hospitals based in Austin. Buchanan serves on the board of directors of the prestigious National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. His talk will be entitled "Is Bioethics Obsolete?"

Begun in 2006, the *Leadership Circle* is a special way to support TAL's efforts through an annual donation of at least \$1,000. Built into *Leadership Circle* membership are educational and networking opportunities that give members an edge on the latest pro-life initiatives in Texas, including a table for 10 at TAL's Annual Benefit Dinner and two plates at exclusive *Leadership Circle* luncheons held three times a year.

Learn more about joining the *Leadership Circle* at www.TexasAllianceforLife.org.



Robert Buchanan, M.D.



Pol. adv. paid for by Texas Alliance for Life, Inc., and the Texas Alliance for Life PAC.

(Above, clockwise from top left) Keynote speaker Dr. Richard Land, Gov. Rick Perry, and TAL Executive Director Joe Pojman, Ph.D., address guests at the Life & Liberty Dinner held June 10 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas.



Walk 2010 Raises Funds to Protect Lives, Assist Women

Texas Alliance for Life's Walk 2010 raised more than \$60,000 for efforts and agencies that protect innocent human lives and assist pregnant mothers.

Walkers gathered from 9:30 a.m. to noon at each of the three Walk locations — Georgetown (May 22), Seguin (June 5), and Austin (June 19) — to enjoy fellowship, music, food, and fun activities for the kids. Following the 2-mile walk, awards were presented to the top churches, individuals, and youth groups.

Austin walkers enjoyed a special presentation by Abby Johnson, the former director of a Planned Parenthood abortion facility who is now a committed pro-life advocate (see page 1).

To view award participants, site and church totals, and additional pictures from the Walk 2010, visit www.TexasAllianceforLife.org.

Funds raised benefit TAL's life-saving efforts. A portion is given as grants to local pregnancy resource centers.





TAL Welcomes Four Summer Interns

Every summer, the TAL office welcomes student interns who assist with special projects and legislative research. This year, we welcome four students who are helping with background research on the Sonogram Bill and other key issues for the upcoming 2011 Texas legislative session:

Hello, Baby!

Wondering how big your unborn baby is? There's an app for that, thanks to Pampers!


The Hello Baby Pregnancy Calendar app (application) for the iPad shows the development of the baby in the womb with vivid, life-size images, audio, and key facts about the baby at each stage of development.

Users can plug in their estimated due date, name, size, and weight; track the growth of their unborn baby; and share updates with family and friends.

Some pro-life sidewalk counselors are excited about the prospects this app holds for their outreach outside of abortion facilities. Imagine being able to supplement the alternatives to abortion information an abortion-minded woman may be getting with these beautiful pictures of a baby like her own!

TAL commends the app's developers for popularizing current medical knowledge about life in the womb — let's hope this touches many hearts and minds!

This free app can be downloaded through the iTunes App Store.

Above: TAL's director of communications, Valerie Pokorny, 29 weeks pregnant, gets a kick out of the new iPad app developed by Pampers. 

Texas Alliance for Life (TAL) is a nonsectarian, nonpartisan, pro-life organization of people committed to protecting innocent human life from conception to natural death. TAL is a statewide organization based in the Texas capital.

◆ **Phillip Henderson**, a Georgetown native, is studying philosophy and literature as a sophomore at Ave Maria University, where he is active with the campus Students for Life organization.


◆ **Brittany Williamson** graduated in 2009 from Texas A&M University with a history major and geography minor.

In her words, "I sought an internship with TAL because I passionately believe it is our responsibility to defend those whose most fundamental right, the right to life, is not being recognized, respected, or protected." Brittany currently lives in Liberty Hill.

◆ **Erin Blauvelt** is pursuing a law degree at The University of Texas School of Law. She sought an internship with TAL after hearing Executive Director Joe Pojman, Ph.D., speak at a Christian Legal Society meeting.

"Interning at TAL is a great opportunity for me to use my legal education to give a voice to those who do not have one," says Erin. "I cannot imagine a more rewarding way to spend my summer." Erin hails from Cinnaminson, New Jersey.

◆ **Will Munsil** is pursuing a law degree through the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. He graduated from Colorado Christian University in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. Will is working with TAL as part of the prestigious Blackstone Legal Fellowship, run by the Alliance Defense Fund.

"I hope that this summer at Texas Alliance for Life will further prepare me for a life spent fighting for the things that matter, and that I'm able to do some small thing to help the cause of life in Texas in these six weeks," says the Scottsdale, Arizona, native. 



TAL Summer 2010 Interns: Phillip Henderson, Brittany Williamson, Erin Blauvelt, and Will Munsil.

Did you know...?

...20 states currently have laws related to a woman's right to see the sonogram image of her unborn child before an abortion.

...In Texas, a woman at an abortion facility has no legal right to see or even be told about a sonogram of her baby.

...TAL's goal is to pass a Sonogram Bill to recognize the right of every woman in Texas to see her unborn child and hear the heartbeat before she consents to an abortion.

State Sen. Dan Patrick (R-Houston) and Rep. Geanie Morrison (R-Victoria) will author the Sonogram Bill in the 2011 Texas legislative session.



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