

International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers

U.S.A. Chapter

January 9, 2009

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Dear IAML Fellows:

Happy New Year! I wish you all much joy, happiness and friendship.

The Spring meeting of the USA Chapter of the IAML meeting is almost upon us, and I wanted to formally invite you all to our Texas meeting, Wednesday March 4 through Sunday March 8, 2009. We hope it will give everyone a true taste of the American West. Texas is a unique state, almost a country unto itself in many ways, both in size and culture, and has some of the most outgoing and fun people around. It is also close to my heart as I spent a significant amount of time there while I was working for Mrs. Lyndon Johnson during the Johnson Administration, often at their ranch in the Hill Country, and frequently eating Texas barbecue and listening and laughing to the tales of a Texas Tall Tale Teller. The cornerstone of Mrs. Johnson's role as First Lady was beautifying our country, and in the spring when you see wildflowers growing along the side of highways, you can thank Mrs. Johnson. I hope to share some of my love of Texas with you during the conference. To that end, we have some fun events planned! Unlike many other conferences, our activities take place mostly in the late afternoon and evenings. There is so much to do and see right in and around San Antonio that is within easy walking distance of our hotel that we thought you would have fun exploring on your own after the educational programs. We are right on the River walk with fabulous restaurants and bars lining the river, we are within walking distance of the Alamo and an easy tram ride from the famous Market Square, and much else. We will put together a list of suggested activities and have it ready for you in your welcome packets. In addition, you may want to rent a car one morning and drive out to the Hill Country, it's beautiful and there are also several wineries you can tour within an easy drive.

Wednesday evening we will have our welcome reception, with very heavy hors d'oeuvres, a mariachi band, right on the river.

Our Thursday activity is close to my heart, and I will do my best to share the Johnson history and legacy with you. After the morning educational program (which I think will be quite exciting, we will hear about the Texas polygamy case a.k.a. Yearning for Zion), we will take a bus to Austin for a special tour of President Johnson's Library. This promises to be a fun tour where you will be able to step back in political history, and whether you are interested in Mrs. Johnson's dresses, the Presidential limousine, or other political memorabilia, there is something for everyone. After the tour we will drive across town to Mrs. Johnson's Wildflower Center where we will tour her gardens as the sun sets, followed by dinner under the stars. There is no dress code for this event, but do bring a light jacket or a wrap as it can get cool in the evenings in Texas (the average high in Austin in March is 73F, and the average low is 51F).



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Friday we will give you a taste of Texas, in every sense! We will drive out to the Hill Country outside of San Antonio to the Don Strange Ranch. We have arranged for a rodeo, armadillo races, "Texas-style" games, a fantastic barbecue, a live country band and line dancing lessons after dinner for those so inclined. Dress is casual, and make sure to bring your cameras. There are long horn steer all over the ranch and they are quite a sight.

Saturday we will have our President's reception on river boats, and take a leisurely ride down the San Antonio river with cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres on the boats. We'll be picked up directly from the hotel, and return to the hotel for our President's dinner. We have a real treat post-dinner, a Texas Tall Tale Teller. Mary Sue Koontz is nationally known and is in high demand for her amazing story telling abilities, and she has graciously agreed to tell us some of her beloved stories after dinner. This will truly be an event unique to Texas, and we guarantee a fun time. Unlike many President's dinners, this will not be Black Tie inasmuch as our evening begins on the river boats. We recommend cocktail attire (slacks are fine for women as well), and bring a coat or a wrap for the boat ride in case it gets chilly.

We are staying at the Westin Riverwalk, and we have reserved a block of rooms (ask for the "IAML" block). However, the block is filling up fast, so we recommend you make your reservations sooner rather than later. March is apparently high season, and our hotel is already almost booked solid for the week. The contact information is as follows:

Westin Riverwalk
420 West Market Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205
1-888-627 8396 (inside US) or +1 210 224 6500 (outside US)

In the event we exceed our room block, please contact me at mmaddox@maddoxlawoffice.com for suggestions of other nearby hotels.

Please go to www.iaml.org for additional details of the schedule of events, both educational and social. There are several meetings taking place prior to the Wednesday welcome reception for the IAML Executive Committee, the IAML Admissions Committee and the IAML Nominating Committee (all 3 part of the International chapter as opposed to the USA chapter). If you are on one of these committees and need further information about these meetings, please send me an email. The US Chapter Board of Managers meeting is 8:00 a.m. on Thursday and again at 8:00 a.m. on Friday if need be. The Annual General Meeting of the USA Chapter will be held on Saturday. We have a very interesting educational program lined up that is sure to interest those fellows from the US and abroad alike. I have attached the registration forms to this email.

I hope to see you in Texas!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcia M. Maddox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcia M. Maddox
President, USA Chapter

Registration Form
IAML--USA Chapter Meeting
San Antonio, Texas
March 4, 2008 – March 8, 2009

Full name of Fellow:
(i.e., Marcia M. Maddox)

Name Fellow wants on his or
her name tag (i.e., Marcia Maddox):

Fellow's e-mail Address:

Fellow's full name and mailing address (Exactly
as it should appear on an envelope)

Chapter affiliation: (if any)
(i.e., European Chapter)

Name of spouse or significant other, if any,
as his or her name should appear on his or her
name tag
(i.e., Jane Doe):

Name of each guest, if any, as the name should appear on his or her name tag (i.e., Katharine Maddox)

Children under 17 require no registration fee but will need to pay full price for any events they attend.

Total # in party, including you, your spouse or significant other, and other guests:

Requests for refunds will be honored and paid only if they are made in writing 60 days prior to the event. Unfortunately, because of financial commitments we make on your behalf, no refunds can or will be paid if you cancel on or after January 4, 2009.

*Send Inquiries, Registration Forms and Checks To Marcia M. Maddox, Maddox Cole & Miller PC,
8221 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 101, Vienna, Virginia 22182*
Phone: + 1 (703) 883-8035 • Facsimile: + 1 (703) 356-6120 • E-mail: mmaddox@maddoxlawoffice.com

Calculation Of Registration Fees

Registration fee for Fellow or proposed Fellow

\$650

Registration fee for spouse, significant other and other guests

Number of people in your group in this category ____ x \$500

\$ _____

Taste of Texas Welcome Reception

(Wednesday, March 4, 2008; heavy hors d'oeuvres, you will not need dinner reservations after the reception)

Number of attendees (no charge) ____

No Charge

Lyndon B. Johnson Library tour and tour of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin Texas, followed by dinner at the Wildflower Center (Thursday, March 5, 2008; dinner included)

Marcia worked with Mrs. Johnson during the White House years, and has used her contacts to arrange for a special tour of the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library. Presidential libraries are more similar to museums than traditional libraries, and this tour will allow you to relive an exciting part of American history, from the election to highlights of the presidency. You will see artifacts from all aspects of Mr. Johnson's tenure including a full reproduction of his Oval Office and many of the First Lady's dresses. No president before or after Mr. Johnson did as much to promote civil rights as Mr. Johnson, and many attribute the recent election of Mr. Obama to the policies implemented under Mr. Johnson. This will be both a fascinating, and timely, tour.

Following the tour we will take our coach to the other side of Austin where Mrs. Johnson left her mark on Texas. In addition to beautifying highways and parks across the nation with her emphasis on nature, Mrs. Johnson's pet project was promoting wild flowers over more traditional cultured gardens, as both better for nature and more whimsically beautiful. We will take a sunset tour of her beloved gardens at the Wildflower Center, and following our tour we will eat under the stars in a gorgeous outdoor setting. In the unlikely event of inclement weather, we will dine in a room overlooking wildflower fields. We will have a picnic theme to complement the outdoors that Mrs. Johnson loved so dearly.

These two events are being run in conjunction with each other as we will travel by coach from San Antonio to Austin. The two tours will begin mid-afternoon and continue into the evening.

Number of people in your group attending ____ x \$150

\$ _____

The Don Strange Ranch – A real Wild West experience!

(Friday, March 6, 2008; dinner included)

Join us for a Wild West experience at the Don Strange Ranch in the Texas Hill Country just outside the San Antonio city limits. At the Don Strange Ranch we will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and cocktails while we watch a real Texas rodeo. The rodeo is organized by Cody Dutton, a native Texan and professional rodeo circuit rider who has taken first place in rodeos around the country for expert riding and showmanship. We will also personally take part in armadillo races, Longhorn cattle feeding, and ranch games. Following this, we will have a traditional Texan Bar-B-Q (don't worry, we will also have food for vegetarians!) with live country and western music.

The Don Strange Ranch is a working ranch with many Longhorn cattle on the grounds, which Mr. Strange has informed us are more like pets to him than traditional cattle. Mr. Strange's Bar-B-Qs are so famous that he has travelled to the White House to provide catering services and he has been featured on the Food Network. If you want a true taste of the Wild West, this is a must!

We will travel by coach, and this event is scheduled to begin in the late afternoon and will continue into the evening. **Bring your cameras!**

Number of people in your group attending ___ x \$175

\$ _____

President's Reception and Dinner

(Saturday, March 7, 2008; dinner included)

Our goal is to take advantage of our hotel's wonderful location right on the River San Antonio. Our pre-dinner cocktail reception will therefore take place on river boats, and we will enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and wine as we take a leisurely hour-long voyage down the river. We will have guides on all boats, who will be happy to answer any questions you have about San Antonio and who will point out landmarks along the way. Of course, if you would prefer to simply mingle, our guides will be happy to cater to that as well.

Following our river boat reception, we will have dinner at the hotel followed by a Texas treat, a Teller of Tall Tales. When Marcia worked for the Johnson administration, she often visited the Johnson ranch where they would have

— Texas Tall Tale Tellers provide the evening entertainment after the meal. A good teller of Texas Tall Tales will make you laugh and will make you cry, and we have a wonderful one lined up for our dinner. Our teller of Tall Tales promotes herself as follows: “OH MERCY! Mary Sue is talking about it all! Her story telling skills were bred in the bone and honed on a thousand legendary evenings where guests included movie stars, international cattle buyers, notable Texans [and] *Town & Country* correspondents.” Be prepared for entertainment unlike any other, and unique to Texas! If you were considering leaving on Saturday, it will be well worth it to continue your stay through Sunday so that you can take part in this fun event.

Number of people in your group attending: ___ x \$165

\$ _____

— Note that we are trying to arrange a private tour of the Alamo as it can become overrun with tourists. If we are successful in organizing this, we will provide everyone with details and pricing. Otherwise, everyone can visit it on their own as it is only a few blocks from our hotel. We will provide a list of suggested day time activities with your registration packets at the hotel.

Payment of Total Registration Fee

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____ for the total registration fee for my party and me.

The check is made payable to the "IAML – USA Chapter."

By signing below, I am hereby authorizing you to charge the amount of my Total Registration Fee to the following credit card:

Exact name on credit card: _____

Circle one: VISA or MasterCard
(we are sorry, but we are not able to accept any other credit cards)

Credit Card number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Date of signing: _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

A limited number of rooms have been reserved for the meeting the USA Chapter of the IAML at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio. You must make your own room reservations.

The hotel contact information is as follows:

20 W Market Street, San Antonio, Texas 78205 U.S.A.

Tel: +1 888 627 8396 (inside US) or +1 210 224 6500 (outside US)

In the unlikely event we exceed our room block at the Westin, there is another hotel directly next door to the Westin. Please contact Marcia Maddox for contact information if the Westin is booked. **Please note that March is San Antonio's "high season" and we strongly recommend that you book your rooms sooner rather than later as hotels often sell out in March.**

Send inquiries, Registration Forms, and checks to:

IAML - US Chapter

Marcia M. Maddox, President

Maddox Cole & Miller P.C.

8221 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 101, Vienna, Virginia 222182, USA

Phone: +1 (703) 883-8035; Facsimile: +1 (703) 356-6120

Email: mmaddox@maddoxlawoffice.com

We look forward to seeing you in Texas!