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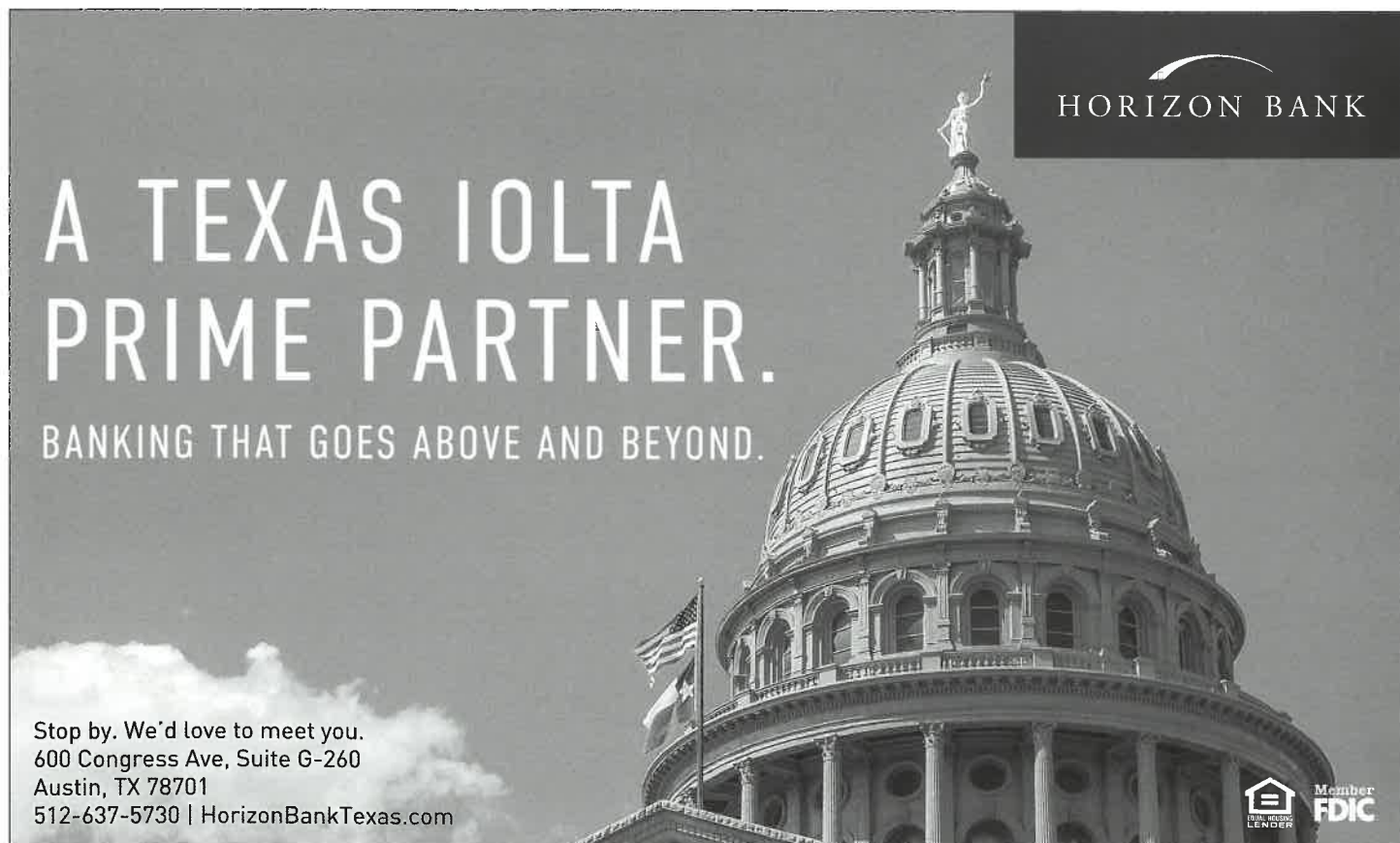


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A Lifetime Of Service

A Veterans Legal Assistance Program Volunteer Profile

BY DOUG LAWRENCE, MANAGING ATTORNEY FOR AUSTIN BAR ASSOCIATION'S LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

Chris Lavorato has spent his career in service to others. First as a member of the United States Army and second, after becoming a lawyer, as an active volunteer and pro bono participant. "I have always enjoyed righting wrongs and helping folks that have been seriously hurt by others' wrongful conduct," says Lavorato.

A United States Army veteran, Lavorato served as an aviation officer and piloted the UH-60 Blackhawk as his primary aircraft. His service included flight support for governmental counter-drug entities in the Republic of Panama, and serving as a headquarters company commander for an Apache battalion during Operation Desert Thunder in the Persian Gulf. He enjoyed working with the amazingly talented men and women of our armed forces.

After graduating from the University of Santa Clara School of Law in 2002, Lavorato went to work at his father's law firm in Monterey County in California. The first eight years of his practice focused on family law,

criminal defense, and smaller personal-injury lawsuits. He then went to work for a major plaintiffs' law firm in San Francisco to focus on complex civil litigation, aviation accidents, wrongful death, and serious injury.

During the early years of his career, Lavorato co-founded Veteran Lawyers of San Mateo County that served veterans in need of legal services. He also served on boards for a local bar association, a trial lawyer association, and a state organization that focused on consumer protection.

Now living in Austin, Lavorato works at Howry, Breen and Herman, a civil litigation law firm. His primary focus is on wrongful death, personal injury, product liability, and construction defect cases.

"People need help. I believe that most people have times in their lives where they need

support, encouragement and yes, lawyers. I believe that we have a very noble profession, similar to healthcare. As stewards of our profession, we have an obligation to give back to our community as much as we can," said Lavorato.

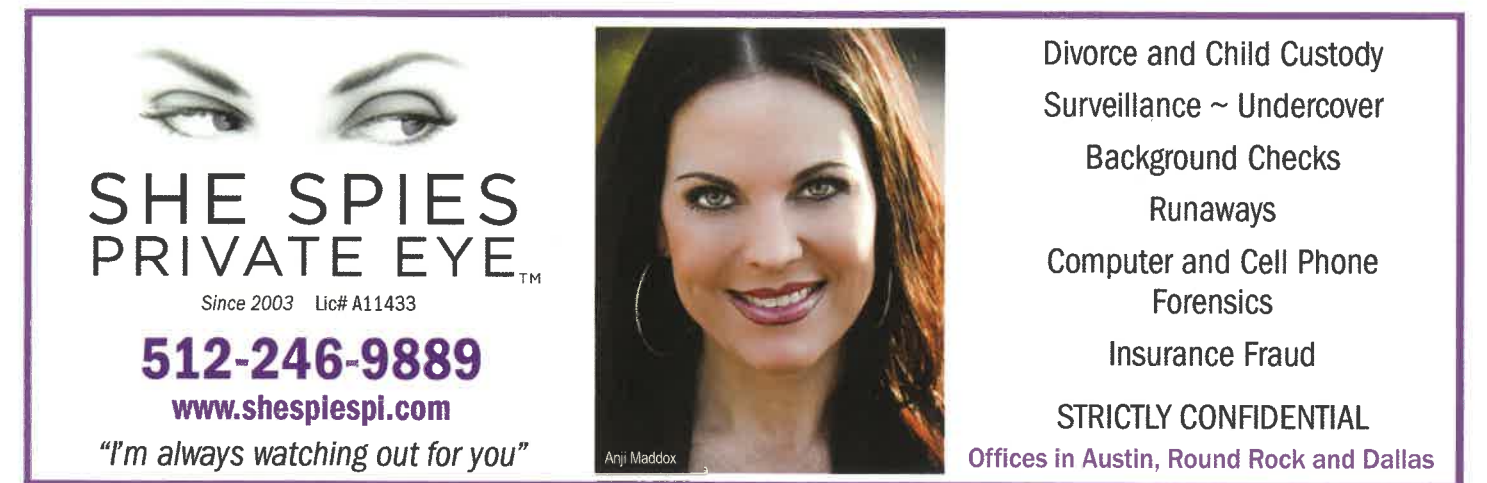
"I volunteer with the Austin Bar Foundation for the legal clinic that is provided to military veterans. The clinic provides a vast array of legal advice and legal services to veterans each month. Many veterans cannot afford legal services (or consultations)—and the clinic provides those vets with immense support," said Lavorato. He also serves on the board of directors for The Playful Child Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to the advancement of physically and emotionally healthy kids living in Central Texas.

Lavorato recently finished a pro bono case for a Vietnam vet-



eran who was injured in an automobile accident. The veteran's insurance company wouldn't pay for the medical expenses. With the help of Lavorato, the veteran received full compensation for injuries.

"There are people who, for many various reasons, can't help themselves and need help. I believe that people who have legitimate claims and need legal services should get those services—period," says Lavorato. "And—on a more selfish note—the gratification one receives from helping another in need is priceless." ^{AL}



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