



# Equal Times®

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2010

## From the President

By Christine Reinhard

As we enter the month of March, I am reminded of Malcolm Gladwell's book, *Outliers*. As Gladwell strives to demonstrate through numerous intriguing examples, luck is as much a part of the "success" equation as anything else. In other words, while we may be the smartest, sharpest, and best women lawyers out there, our success may depend on how lucky we are and what opportunities come our way. Although I certainly believe hard work, perseverance, and other valiant factors also play into success, whether luck factors into the equation depends in part on how we define success.

Fortunately, however defined, the BCWB has been blessed with many "success" stories. On Tuesday, March 2, 2010, we get to hear from one of those

"success" stories, past BCWB President and newly named District Court Judge Renée McElhane. Judge McElhane, whose accolades both within the BCWB and out are plentiful, will be speaking at our March monthly luncheon about preparing witnesses for trial. We are thrilled to have her speak and congratulate her on her most recent success!



Although we in Bexar County have been fortunate to see a number of women take the bench, a recent study revealed such is not the case across Texas or the U.S. Our Vice President, Emma Cano, was kind of enough to put together a brief summary (con'd on p. 3)

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## Señoritas & Margaritas February Mentor/Mentee Event

By Nishma Shah

The 2010 Mentor/Mentee Program is officially underway! On February 18, 2010, BCWBA and the Women's Law Association at St. Mary's School of Law held a joint mentor/mentee event at Mama Margie's.

Early in the event, the attorneys and students introduced themselves and explained their respective practice areas or the practice areas that they're interested in. This way, the students could spend the greater part of the evening talking to the attorneys whose specialties interested them.

A lot of great connections were made and they will hopefully be fostered in the coming years. This is always a successful event, and this year was no different. We look forward to upcoming mentor/mentee events and hope that many more can attend!

The Bexar County Women's Bar Association and the Women's Law Association would like to extend a thank you to all that attended. I would like to send a special thanks to Beverly Smith and Laura Rodriguez for helping organize the event.



# Save the Date and Beneficiary Nominations

## BCWBF 2010 Autumn Affair

By Tiffanie Clausewitz & Laura Mason



Please mark your calendars for the 2010 Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation Autumn Affair, taking place Thursday, October 14, 2010 at the Witte Museum. We are already busy planning the BCWBF's signature fundraising event, putting together our committees, and soon will be choosing our potential beneficiary.



We need your help to identify potential beneficiary applicants for our premier fundraising event! Now through March 19, 2010, we are asking our members for the names of potential applicants. We will continue our traditional focus on charitable organizations whose purpose is compatible with our mission—those that are dedicated to helping women and children in our community. So if there is a deserving organization that you believe would benefit from receiving funds from this year's BCWBF Autumn Affair, please send the name of the organization, as well as a contact name and address to Pam Huff at [pbhuff@coxsmith.com](mailto:pbhuff@coxsmith.com). If you are unable to identify the correct contact person, we will be happy to help. Only organizations whose names are submitted will be sent applications.

If you are interested in helping us make the Autumn Affair an event to remember by volunteering on a committee, please contact either Tiffanie Clausewitz (413-1274 or [tclausewitz@feldmanrogers.com](mailto:tclausewitz@feldmanrogers.com)) or Laura Mason (299-2324 or [lmason@obht.com](mailto:lmason@obht.com)). We're looking forward to hosting a great event! Thank you so much for helping to make this year's Autumn Affair a success!

## From the President (con'd)

of the study for inclusion in this month's newsletter, which I encourage all to read. Apparently, women still have a long way to go reach equal numbers in the judiciary, a "success" milestone in the waiting.

In April, we hope to inspire some of our less-advantaged female high school students to strive for success. On April 6, 2010, the BCWB, with the help of Law Day Chair Marissa Helm, will welcome to our April monthly luncheon students from Fox Tech High School. Due to the numbers expected, the luncheon will be held at the Plaza Club instead of Club Giraud. Please join us as we help inspire young men and women in our community.

On that note, I must thank Beverly Smith, Laura Rodriguez, and Nishma Shah for setting up a very successful mentor/mentee event. I myself truly enjoyed reminiscing about my law school days (not the exam or bar part of course!) and imparting some

(hopefully) helpful advice and guidance to our soon-to-be colleagues. Thank you also to those BCWB members who were able to attend and shared their words of wisdom.

Last, but not least, please keep your eye out for more information on our upcoming President's Party. Priscilla Camacho has quite generously agreed to chair this event, and I have no doubt it will be a terrific one. Please plan to join us as we celebrate the success of our BCWB Association and its outstanding members.

In the spirit of *Outliers*, I hope the month of March brings each of you the luck of the Leprechaun, and allows you to take some time away and enjoy the River Shannon (a/k/a San Antonio River) for a day. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!

## Health & Wellness Corner

By Gaylia D. Brunson



Easter is so deeply associated with the Christian tradition of the resurrection of Christ that we are hardly aware of its historical roots, but Easter has a history that reaches deep. Easter, like Christmas, is a Christian holiday that gets its name from a pagan holiday. The name comes from an ancient Saxon festival for the fertility goddess, Eastre, sometimes spelled Eshtar. Since the Eastre festival to welcome spring coincided with the time of the Christian observance of the resurrection, the transition from Eastre to Easter was easy. The church employed basic psychology to influence people by promising to keep a part of their beliefs, and weave them into the Christian rituals, if the pagans would agree to accept and become part of the church. Thus, the celebration of the resurrection was given the name “Easter” to pacify the former worshippers of the goddess “Eastre.”

Eggs have been a symbol of spring-time regeneration that has long been associated with Easter. And it seems the practice of hiding eggs, and the Easter Bunny, was popularized by a German children's book published in the 1600s wherein a bunny laid colored eggs in the garden for the children to find. The first edible Easter Bunnies of sugar coated pastry were made by the Germans in the early 1800s. Early Christians used red colored eggs to symbolize the Resurrection. England began the tradition of writing and drawing on eggs, by putting messages and dates on eggs, then exchanging them with friends and loved ones. In the 1800s, with the industrial revolution under way, ornate candied eggs were created. They were open on one end and a scene was put inside. They were used as table centerpieces.

It's fun and easy to use foods and flowers to make your own natural Easter egg dyes. The two main ways to use your own dyes are to add dyes to the eggs when boiling them or to dye the eggs after they

have been hard-boiled. It's a lot faster to boil the dyes and eggs together, but you will use several pans if you want to make multiple colors. Dyeing the eggs after they have been cooked takes as many dishes and more time, but may be more practical.

Try both fresh and frozen produce. Canned produce will produce much paler colors. Boiling the colors with vinegar will result in deeper colors. Some materials *need* to be boiled to impart their color (name followed by 'boiled' in the table). Some of the fruits, vegetables, and spices can be used cold. To use a cold material, cover the boiled eggs with water, add dyeing materials, a teaspoon or less of vinegar, and let the eggs remain in the refrigerator until the desired color is achieved. In most cases, the longer you leave Easter eggs in the dye, the more deeply colored they will become.

Here is the preferred method for using natural dyes:

1. Place eggs in a single layer in a pan. Add water until eggs are covered.
2. Add approximately one teaspoon of vinegar.
3. Add the natural dye. Use more dye material for more eggs or for a more intense color.
4. Bring water to a boil.
5. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.
6. If you are pleased with the color, remove the eggs from the liquid.
7. If you want more intensely colored eggs, temporarily remove the eggs from the liquid. Strain the dye through a coffee filter (unless you want speckled eggs). Cover the eggs with the filtered dye and let them remain in the refrigerator overnight.
8. Naturally-colored eggs will not be glossy, but if you want a shiny appearance you can rub a bit of cooking oil onto the eggs once they are dry. (con'd on page 7)

# Community Service Committee Corner

By Michelle Weekley



Spring is hopefully around the corner, and with the opportunities to start getting outside again, we have some exciting Community Service Opportunities for you to take advantage of:

First, we have the 2nd Annual Vision Walk: A Cure is in Sight - on March 13th. This event will start at 10 a.m. at Brackenridge Park. Vision Walk benefits The Foundation Fighting Blindness, the largest non-governmental provider of funds for research to treat, find preventions, and cure retinal diseases such as macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, and Usher Syndrome, the leading cause of blindness and deafness. Last year's event raised over \$120,000 and had strong support from the legal community. This year's event promises to be even better with lots of family friendly activities, including music, face-painting, and Moonwalks. Bring your pets and enjoy walking or running. If you are unable to attend, but wish to donate, click on <http://www.flightblindness.org/goto/brownfamily> to help former SABA director Steve Browne's team (of Langley & Banack, Inc.) and his wife Carolyn who are co-chairing the walk.

Next, we have the 2010 San Antonio Arthritis Walk on Saturday, May 22nd, also at Brackenridge Park at the Joske Pavilion (3910 N. St. Mary's St.). The Arthritis Walk is the Arthritis Foundation's signature event that takes place in communities nationwide to raise funds and awareness to fight arthritis, the nation's most common cause of disability. The Arthritis walk involves teams of people walking along a three mile route with a one mile option. Each participant is asked to raise a minimum of \$100 in donations. Participants will be able to join in a variety of activities while walking, from face painting and clowns, to cheerleaders and music, there is something for everyone. Awards will be given for the Best Team Spirit, Top Fundraising Team and more. For more information you can contact Gloria Johnson-Ramirez at 210-380-8171 or at [gramirez@arthritis.org](mailto:gramirez@arthritis.org). This event welcomes dogs too!

Finally, the Family Service Association is hosting a Uniform Drive to help public school children with needed uniforms. Family Service seeks donations of khaki pants, skirts, shorts, and white-collared shirts in all sizes. Donations will be collected at the following loca-

tions: Cowboy Cleaners or any Family Service location. Donated items will be distributed to kids who need a uniform but cannot afford to buy one. Many of the Family Service Association's programs help children and youth. The association helps their parents to communicate effectively. Family Service also offers counseling, helps vulnerable young moms and dads learn how to become better parents, provides assistance to youth by teaching them to become a positive force in the community and so much more. For more information you can go to their website at [www.family-service.org](http://www.family-service.org) or call them at 210-299-2400.

And there you have it! Take this opportunity to make a difference in other people's lives, by simply walking or donating. We never know when we might need help in one of these situations, or someone close to us. You can help make a difference, one event at a time! Happy Spring!

## Save the Date: Law Day Luncheon

By Marissa Helm

Please mark your calendar for the return of the BCWBF/Fox Tech High School Law Day Luncheon, scheduled for April 6, 2010 at noon at the Plaza Club. We are again partnering with Fox Tech High School and sponsoring the Law Day poster contest. We will present the winning artists with cash prizes and display their art work at the luncheon. Also, Chief Justice Catherine Stone will provide inspiring words to the students, encouraging them to stay focused on their personal and professional goals.

This is a great mentoring opportunity for both the students and our members. Through the years, I have enjoyed meeting these young women and speaking with them about their ambitions, and the Fox Tech teachers have conveyed that the students are inspired by meeting professional women in the San Antonio community. Please make every effort to attend. Please RSVP by April 1st to Marissa Helm at [mhelm@coxsmith.com](mailto:mhelm@coxsmith.com) or 554-5586. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members.

## Unequal Representation on the Bench?

By Emma Cano

Despite women comprising 48% of law school graduates and 45% of law firm associates nationwide, the percentages of women serving on the nation's state and federal benches hardly reach levels of equal representation. A recent study released by the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society<sup>1</sup> analyzed the gender makeup of state and federal benches throughout the country, finding that the gender gap is still wide when it comes to the judiciary.

Conducting a state-by-state<sup>2</sup> analysis of the gender makeup of the judiciary, the study found that not a single state had achieved equal representation of women in federal or state-level judgeships. While women fill 26% of all state-level judicial positions, they hold only 22% of federal judgeships.

The study ranked the states in accordance with the number of women holding judicial positions, and divided the rankings into the following tiers:

- Tier 1, with women at 30% or higher;
- Tier 2, with women at 20% - 29%;
- Tier 3, with women at 10% - 19%;
- Tier 4, with women below 10%; and
- Tier 5, with women being totally absent.

Texas was classified as a Tier 2 state, ranking 13<sup>th</sup> in federal judgeships, with women holding 25.4% of the federal judgeships, and ranking 25<sup>th</sup> in state judgeships, with women holding 25.2% of state positions. New Jersey led the way with women holding 44.4% of federal judgeships, followed by Connecticut at 38%, and Minnesota at 30.4%. With respect to state judgeships, Vermont led with 40.2%, followed by Massachusetts at 37.5%, and Rhode Island at 36.7%.

Only three states obtained a Tier 1 ranking in federal judgeships, and two states, Montana and New Hampshire, obtained a Tier 5 state, with no female federal judges. Fifteen states obtained a Tier 1 ranking in state judgeships, although no state fell below a Tier 3 classification.

Law360 recently highlighted the study, quoting Dina Refki, director of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society:

The 33 percent threshold is important because it is the point where women become a critical mass and where their number is large enough to induce change in the normative conception of leadership and to exercise meaningful influence on the cultural norms which stereotype women's roles[.]<sup>3</sup>

The study concluded that “[t]he gender gap cannot be attributed to the lack of women who are qualified to serve on the bench, but to the lack of opportunity and access afforded to women.” (footnotes on page 9)

You can use fresh and frozen berries as “paints,” too. Simply crush the berries against dry boiled eggs. Try coloring on the eggs with crayons or wax pencils before boiling and dyeing them. Happy Easter!

### Natural Easter Egg Dyes\*

Lavender	Small quantity of purple grape juice Violet blossoms plus 2 tsp lemon juice Red zinger tea
Violet Blue	Violet blossoms Small quantity of boiled red onion skins Hibiscus tea Red wine
Blue	Canned blueberries Red cabbage leaves (boiled) Purple grape juice
Green	Spinach leaves (boiled) Liquid chlorophyll
Greenish yellow	Yellow delicious apple peels (boiled)

Yellow	Orange or lemon peels (boiled) Carrot tops (boiled) Celery seed (boiled) Ground cumin (boiled) Ground turmeric (boiled) Chamomile tea Green tea
Golden brown	Dill seeds
Brown	Strong coffee or instant coffee Black walnut Shells (boiled) Black tea
Orange	Yellow onion skins (boiled) Cooked carrots Chili powder or paprika
Red	Lots of boiled red onions skins Canned cherries with juice Pomegranate juice Raspberries

\* Courtesy of About.com (Chemistry)

## 2010 BCWBA Officers

**President—Christine Reinhard**  
**President-Elect—Laura Mason**  
**Vice President—Emma Cano**  
**Secretary—Marissa Helm**  
**Treasurer—Suzanne Oliva**  
**Treasurer-Elect—Natalie Hall**

**Directors—Toti Aubrey; Connie Basel; Gaylia Brunson; Graciela Cigarroa; Tiffanie Clausewitz; Elsa Marie Garza; Danielle Hargrove; Donna McElroy; Laura Rodriguez; Jaime Rose; Nishma Shah; Beverly Smith; Michelle Weekley**

**Immediate Past President—Monica Trollinger**

### *Equal Times*

**Editor-in-Chief—Regina Stone-Harris**  
**Layout—Maria Harris**

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Submissions for publications are encouraged, but the right is reserved to select material to be published. E-mail your announcements and submissions to Regina Stone-Harris at ReginaStoneHarris@yahoo.com no later than the 20th of the preceding month.

Views expressed in the *Equal Times* are solely those of the source of said item and are not attributable to the BCWBA.

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# Can We Talk?

## Celebrate Women's History Month Tuesday, March 9, 2010

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### ... about www = Women Working Worldwide!

Hosted by Women's Global Connection



Sr. Dorothy Ettlting, Ph.D. is a Professor at the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas, in the Ph.D. program in Organizational Leadership. She is a co-founder and Chair of Women's Global Connection, non-profit organization that promotes the leadership and learning of women, particularly in developing regions.



Women's Global Connection work in Tanzania and Zambia assisting 160 women entrepreneurs whose businesses support over 635 families – benefiting over 4,000 women, men, and children.

These women entrepreneurs are very busy farming, raising livestock, manufacturing baskets, clothing, banana beer... and marketing their products and services. All proceeds benefit their families, fund education, and foster the local and global economy. Dr. Dorothy Ettlting will share their stories and talk about how micro-credit helps the poorest -of-the-poor in big and sustainable ways. Watch a video of the rural women of Zambia and Tanzania.



**The Bright Shawl**  
819 Augusta Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78215

#### Event Schedule:

Shop'til you Drop Displays - 5p.m. to ??  
Networking – 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner – 6:15 p.m.  
Program – 7:00 p.m.

**\$35** – postmarked by Feb. 26, 2010  
**\$45** – after deadline and at the door

#### Attached registration form required

Send checks payable to "Can We Talk"  
c/o Pat Jasso  
326 Anton Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78223  
Contact info:  
can\_we\_talk\_sa@yahoo.com

Can We Talk is a coalition of over sixty-five women's organizations in San Antonio, Texas. Can We Talk events are scheduled each year in March, to commemorate Women's History Month, and on or near August 26, to commemorate Women's Equality Day and Texas Women's Independence Day. Can We Talk events are coordinated by a steering committee made up of representatives from member organizations.

ABWA – La Villita Chapter  
Air Force Women Officers' Association  
Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation  
Alpha Home, Inc.  
American Association of University Women –  
San Antonio Chapter  
American Society of Women Accountants  
Annie's List  
Association for Women in Communications, Inc.  
Association for Women Journalists  
Bexar County Democratic Women  
Bexar County Women's Bar Association  
BPW/TX, Region 1 – A La Nueva BPW; BPW Inc. of  
San Antonio; Mexican American BPW;  
Northwest Noon BPW  
Center for Women in Church and Society  
Children's Bereavement Center  
Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Dress for Success San Antonio  
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center  
Executive Women's Golf Association  
Family Violence Prevention Services

Federally Employed Women  
Financial Women International  
Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas  
Girls Inc. of San Antonio  
Government Affairs Council of Planned Parenthood  
Hispanic Women's Network of Texas – San Antonio Chapter  
Leadership Texas Alumnae Association  
League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area  
Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women  
Mujeres Unidas Contra El SIDA  
National Association of Professional Mortgage Women  
National Association of Women Business Owners  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, S. A. Chapter  
National Council of Negro Women  
National Ovarian Cancer Coalition  
National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.  
Network Power/Texas  
P.E.A.C.E. Initiative  
Pan American Round Tables of Texas  
Planned Parenthood of San Antonio & South Central Texas  
Rape Crisis Center  
SLEW Wellness Center

San Antonio College Women's Center  
San Antonio Silver Stars  
San Antonio Society of Women CPAs  
San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce  
San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame  
Sistas in Business, Inc.  
South Texas Women's Business Center  
Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation  
Texas Nurses Association, District 8  
Texas Women's Coalition  
University of Texas at San Antonio Archives  
WINGS  
Woman at the Well House  
Women of AT&T  
Women's Faculty Association  
Women's Global Connection  
Women's Pavilion at HemisFair Park, Inc.  
Women's Political Caucus of Bexar County  
Women's Sports Foundation  
Women's Studies Institute - UTSA  
Young Women's Christian Association  
Zonta Club of San Antonio



# Can We Talk?

**March 9, 2010**

- Attendees should complete contact and registration information, and enter Total enclosed
- Vendors/ad purchasers should fill in contact information, meal if desired, and enter Total

Registration and meal: **\$35 postmarked by 2/26/10; \$45 after 2/26<sup>th</sup> and at door**

<b>Contact Information</b>							
Name on Check				Organization			
Address				City/Zip			
Phone/Cell				Email			
<b>Registration and Meal Reservation</b>							
Attendee Name	\$35	\$45		Attendee Name	\$35	\$45	

**Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

<b>Program Ads Available</b>	\$25	\$35	\$60	\$100
Business Card=\$25 Quarter Page= \$35 Half Page=\$60 Full Page=\$100				
Provide camera ready ad to <a href="mailto:pj4169@att.com">pj4169@att.com</a> by February 26, 2010				

**Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

<b>Vendor Tables Available</b>	<b>\$55</b>
Check if electricity is needed <input type="checkbox"/> Check box to select 8' skirted table. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Complete contact information above and enter type of booth/merchandise: _____	
If meal is desired, check <input type="checkbox"/> \$35, \$45 based on date mailed, & fill in meal registration above.	
<b>Table reserved ONLY when Registration Form and Payment received.</b>	
Vendors questions ONLY, Contact Bonnie Ayer at (210)222-3295.	

**Sub Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Make check payable to Can We Talk and mail form to Pat Jasso, 326 Anton Drive, San Antonio 78223  
Registrations postmarked after February 26<sup>th</sup> also require an RSVP to (210)422-2245

**Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

1. *Women in Federal and State-Level Judgeships*, A Report of the Center for Women in Government & Civil Society, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University of Albany, State University of New York, Spring 2010.

2. The District of Columbia was also considered and included in the state rankings.

3. Jacqueline Bell, *Glass Ceiling Still Looms Over Judge's Bench: Study*, Law360 ¶ 3 (January 29, 2010) at <http://www.law360.com/articles/146426>.