



Equal Times®

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

JULY 2010

From the President

By Christine Reinhard

Summer is definitely upon us. Although this time of the year usually involves schoolchildren on break and individuals taking well-deserved vacations, the BCWB is not slowing down. In fact, on June 17 and 18, we held our annual retreat, this time at the new JW Marriott resort. I myself thought it was a terrific event, and I am already looking forward to next year's retreat (and more time in the lazy river!). I certainly want to thank all the members and non-members who attended, and even more so, our Retreat Committee led by Shannon Schmoyer. You all did an outstanding job!

Our next big event, which is sold out, is our July 6 luncheon at Club Giraud. Our featured speaker is gubernatorial candidate and former Houston mayor, Bill White. I want to thank our Luncheon Chair, Monica Lerma, and BCWB member, Hella Scheuerman, for making Mr. White's appearance possible. I also want to thank Monica for working hard to have both gubernatorial candidates tell us their visions for the State of Texas if elected. She has been in contact with Governor Rick Perry's campaign, and we hope he will accept our invitation to speak at another luncheon in the near future. (con'd on p. 3)



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July Luncheon

By Monica Lerma

Our July 6th luncheon will feature speaker and gubernatorial candidate Mayor Bill White. Our 70 spots sold out quickly, but we have a waiting list in case of any cancellations. Because of the limited space at Club Giraud, we will not be able to accommodate those who have not RSVP'd or who show up at the door. We are looking forward to a great luncheon. We would like to especially thank Hella Scheuerman who was instrumental in scheduling this luncheon.



Monica Lerma,
Luncheon Chair

If you would like to submit a question for Mr. White prior to the luncheon, email your question to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org beforehand. You can also bring a question to the luncheon as there will be an opportunity to ask Mr. White questions. We will start promptly at noon. We are still hopeful Governor Rick Perry will accept our invitation to speak at one of our luncheons in the near future. We will keep you posted. Our August luncheon is scheduled for August 3, 2010, at Club Giraud; our speaker will be announced soon. If you have any suggestions or ideas for future luncheon topics, please send them to Monica J. Lerma at mjlerma@sr-llp.com or 210-447-8033.

From the President (con'd)

This summer also has brought about a couple of changes to our BCWB Board of Directors. In particular, please welcome two new members, Teresa Reyes Bonar and Lorie Blount. Teresa Reyes-Bonar is the St. Mary's University Women's Law Association President for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year and will be taking over for Nishma Shah. Nishma graduated in May and from what I understand is busy studying for the bar in New York. (By the way, good luck to Nishma and all recent law graduates studying for the July bar!). We have no doubt Teresa will do a great job as our new WLA representative.

Lorie Blount will be filling the Director position recently vacated by Laura Rodriguez, who has moved to Irving, Texas. (Please see our new "Congratulations" section for more information on Laura.) Lorie is a Staff Attorney with the University Health System, and has been an active member of our Community Service Committee. She also currently serves as a Co-Chair of our Autumn Affair Honorees Committee. Lorie will fill the remainder of Laura's term, which expires on December 31, 2010. Although Lorie has some big shoes to fill, we know she too will be a terrific addition to our Board of Directors.

As you will see, this July newsletter features a new section entitled "Congratulations." One of the most powerful things the BCWB can do is to promote and recognize our members' achievements and momentous occasions. That is the very purpose of this new section. Although I will be culling various publications for announcements related to our members, I highly encourage you to send in a submission if you know or learn of any member, friend, or supporter of the BCWB who should be congratulated.

On a similar note, and before heading off to the beach (yes, to enjoy my own brief summer vacation), I want to encourage everyone to consider voting for the BCWB members who are running for a San Antonio Bar Association officer or director position: Diana Geis, Rebecca Simmons, Sara Dysart, Natalie Hall, and Kristal Cordova Thompson. Each of these fabulous women have given a tremendous amount of time and effort to the BCWB, and I have no doubt they will do the same for SABA. Please consider voting for them when you receive your SABA election ballot. Until next month, I hope everyone has a safe and fabulous July. Happy 4th!

Ronald McDonald House Charities of San Antonio

By Hella Scheuerman

The Ronald McDonald House is a home-away-from-home where families can stay while their children are being treated at San Antonio's various Medical Centers. A nightly fee of \$7.00-\$40.00 is charged for the room, but is waived for those who cannot afford it.

Often a child with a diagnosed disease lives far from the hospital. This creates an especially stressful situation for parents, as they must cope not only with a seriously ill child, but also with the burden of being away from home for days, weeks, and sometimes months.

Before the Ronald McDonald House, the only lodging alternatives were lonely and expensive hotel rooms, or hospital cots. Finding themselves in a strange city, away from the crucial support of friends and relatives, many parents found this to be a desperately unhappy experience— at a time when their child most needed their strength, and encouragement.

The Ronald McDonald House is a home for these families. The House gives them a place where they can break away from the hospital, yet be available at a moment's notice. Just as important, it is a place where parents can meet and talk with other families who are experiencing some of the same fears and concerns, and support system so critically needed at this time.

The San Antonio locations of the Ronald McDonald House are:

- 4803 Sid Katz, San Antonio, TX 78229, 210-614-2554,
- 227 Lewis Street, San Antonio, TX 78212, 210-223-6014, and
- St. Johns Hall, 333 N Santa Rosa Street, San Antonio, TX 78229, 210-704-3860.

There are many items you can donate to help San Antonio Ronald McDonald Houses to run smoothly. Please see the list attached to this newsletter.



Diana Geis, Rodney McGee &
Laura Mason at the June Luncheon

Community Service Committee Corner

By Michelle Weekley

Summer is here!! What a wonderful time to spend quality time with our families! But make sure you are getting your kiddos active and not just letting them sit in front of the TV or play video games. Here are suggestions:



- It is best for your children, and you, to get at least 60 minutes of physical activity - go for a walk, a hike, go for an evening swim.
- Play doesn't have to be structured, let your child's imagination run wild - bubbles outside, chalk on the sidewalk, make a slip and slide, or just run through the sprinkler. Water balloons are great fun.
- Teach your kids games you played as a child: hopscotch, jacks, marbles, jump rope, "Red Light, Green Light," "Simon Says," kick the can. They will enjoy these games even more if you take time to do them with them. Let the child in you come and play too. Play together as a family!
- Visit your local YMCA for more ideas. YMCAs are the largest providers of lifestyle health and well-being programs. Visit the Humane Society and help walk the dogs! Ask your kids for their ideas and let them know you value their input on family activities.

Take time to recycle more this summer and get your kids in the habit of doing it too!

- Recycle paper - if you can use the back of a paper for scratch paper, use it twice. You can leave in staples, clips and spirals when you recycle, the metal will be filtered out by the machines. Don't include any paper that has food stains (pizza boxes) because they can contaminate the recycling process.
- Recycle plastics - but remember to take the tops off bottles because they are made of a different plastic which can mess up the recycling process here. Return plastic bags to the stores, donate them to Senior Centers - or better yet, use the new special bags offered by grocers and other stores.
- Recycle glass - rinse out any bottles or jars, don't worry about the labels.
- Recycle metal - include clean pie tins, foil, metal bottle caps, wire coat hangers, scrap metal - any kind of cleaned out cans.

While you are at it, reduce the amount of gas you use this summer:

- Slow down. By driving 10 miles less per hour you can save almost 50% at the gas pump.
- Check your tire pressure monthly and you can improve your mileage by about 3%.
- Remember to regularly replace your air filters and you could save as much as 15%.



News of the Annual Retreat

By Shannon B. Schmoyer

The new JW Marriott Resort and Spa was the site of this year's Annual Retreat and CLE, which was held on June 17th and 18th. The event kicked off with an opening cocktail party, followed by an entertaining and light-hearted presentation on "The Financially Savvy Lawyer's Top 10 in 2010" by Jennifer Scroggins. Thereafter, attendees enjoyed the amenities of the beautiful resort and broke into smaller groups for dinner and social time. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. The following day contained a full-day of CLE on a variety of topics, including an entertaining and educational luncheon speech by Mary Rauch entitled, "How to Bridge the Gender and Generational Communication Gap."

A special thank you to Valero Energy Corporation for serving as our Gold Sponsor and to all of our other wonderful sponsors, including Frost Bank, Special Counsel, Barefoot Digital Solutions, Compex, DepoTexas, Legal Preference, Kim Tindall & Associates, Whatataburger, Litigation Technology Consulting, Inc., Charlotte P. Yochem, SW Legal, and Gulfstream.

Thank you also to all of our wonderful speakers who made this event possible: Jennifer Scroggins, Malinda Gaul, Judge Monica Guerrero, Christine Reinhard, Eileen Sommer, Mary Rauch, Ann Smith, Justice Paul Green, Justice Karen Angelini, Justice Marialyn Barnard, Kimberly Keller, Shannon Schmoyer, Kathleen Devine, Michael Gibbs, Carolyn Shellman, and Karen Thompson.



Natalie Hall, Mark Murphy, Laura Mason & Priscilla Camacho at the at the Law Day Luncheon

Elder Law Handbook Project Update

By Graciela Cigarroa

Thanks to a Texas Bar Foundation grant to the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation, the printing and distribution this year of an updated version of the Elder Law Handbook, Spanish and English, is now in progress. Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$9 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably-funded bar foundation.



The handbook is made available to the general public in the Bexar County area. It is provided at no charge to thousands in our community educating them in a simple format about legal issues senior citizens and their families face. It can also be found in the BCWBA website. Through a licensing agreement with the Houston Bar Association, it is reproduced with allowed modifications tailoring it to include local resources and reference information for Bexar County residents. The updated version will include the latest legislative changes and revisions. The committee will be distributing the handbooks to senior organizations, community centers, churches and other agencies providing services to the elderly which in turn distribute it to the public.

Over 35,000 handbooks have been printed just in the last five years thanks to generous grants including grants received from the Texas Bar Foundation and funding received for the last republication from the San Antonio Bar Foundation. BCWBA is also grateful for the continued participation in this project by members of the Elder Law Section of the San Antonio Bar Association.

If you know of any senior organizations, community centers, churches or other agencies that would like to order the updated handbooks, or if you would like to join the elder law handbook committee or need other information, please contact Elder Law Project co-chairs Graciela Cigarroa at 210-558-2870 or at GCigarroa@aol.com, or Michelle Bartley at 210-222-2020 or at michelle-bartley@att.net.



Emma Cano, Justice Marialyn Barnard & Trace Blair
at the Law Day Luncheon

Below is a wish list of nice-to-have-items that would helpful at San Antonio Ronald McDonald Houses:

Household Supplies

Laundry detergent
Bleach
Cleanser
Fabric Softener Sheets
Disinfectant
Trash Can Liners - 33 gallons
Vinegar
Bathroom cleaner
Rubber Gloves
Dishwashing Detergent
Furniture Polish
Glass Cleaner

Kitchen Items

Spices
Storage Containers
Sugar
Pots and Pans
Silverware
Dish Towels
Zip Lock Bags (all sizes)
Cooking Oil

Bath Items

Bath Towels
Hand Towels
Washcloths

Bedroom Items

Plastic Pillow Covers
Quilted Pillow Covers
Twin Sheets
Quilted Mattress Covers (twin, full & queen)
Plastic Mattress Covers (twin, full & queen)
Twin Blankets

Miscellaneous

Postage Stamps
Calling Cards
Prepaid Via Bus Passes
Grocery Gift Cards
Document Shredder
Clock Radios
Scanner

SAN ANTONIO BAR FOUNDATION – POSITION VACANCY NOTICE

CLOSING DATE: July 2, 2010 – 5:00 p.m. CST

STARTING SALARY RANGE: \$35,000 - \$45,000 annually based on education and experience

HOURS: 30 Hours Per Week (with reasonable accommodations)

POSITION: Executive Director

LOCATION: Bexar County Courthouse, 100 Dolorosa, San Antonio, TX

EMPLOYER DESCRIPTION: The San Antonio Bar Foundation was formed in July 1984 to promote justice through educational and charitable activities. The Foundation has evolved into a dynamic organization with more than 500 Fellows. We support community programs that help the youth, the elderly, indigent citizens and others who face special challenges in the pursuit of justice in our society. The primary projects of the Foundation include the Fun Run, a community walk/run event; the People's Law School, an on-going educational program that offers a free one-day seminar on legal topics of general interest; and the annual Peacemaker Awards, a city-wide event that honors peacemaking and community-service efforts. The primary focuses of the Foundation's charitable giving include supporting the Amigos in Mediation (AIM) program, a school peer mediation program, and the Community Justice Program, a *pro bono* legal program. The Foundation is currently seeking an Executive Director.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS: High school diploma or equivalent required; college degree preferred. Requires management and office experience, with knowledge of the Bexar County legal community. Must have excellent organizational skills, strong interpersonal skills and the ability to grow, with a strong attention to detail and the ability to multi-task. Must be able to address the public in a courteous, professional and knowledgeable manner, while performing multiple tasks. Requires the ability to communicate effectively and efficiently. Computer skills including Windows, Microsoft Office, Internet, data entry and e-mail systems required. Includes some evenings and weekends.

BENEFICIAL SKILLS: Grant writing experience or skills.

PRIMARY FUNCTIONS:

1. Oversight and coordination of all Foundation activities and events (which may require early arrival, attendance and wrap-up at evening or weekend events)
2. Overseeing Foundation committee activities
3. Attending monthly Board meetings
4. Handling the administration of the nomination and invitation of new Fellows
5. Assisting with budgeting
6. Preparing agendas and reports for Board review and use
7. Coordinating with part-time employee and other organizations
8. Working and coordinating with the staff of the San Antonio Bar Association
9. Performs other duties as assigned

Please submit a cover letter and resume to Jennifer Gibbins Durbin at i) 6243 IH 10 West, #700, San Antonio, TX 78201, (ii) 210-738-8036 (facsimile transmission), or (iii) jdurbin@asdh.com no later than July 2, 2010.