By Christine Reinhard

Much has been written this year about our legal profession. Topics have ranged from attorney compensation and the downfall of the billable hour to the lack of legal jobs. Another frequent topic has been women in the legal profession and why there remains a “glass ceiling” of sorts. A host of surveys have been conducted in an effort to evaluate, understand, and perhaps locate the source of why women, despite being over half of law school classes, are few in number at the partner and judicial level.

I certainly cannot claim to know the answer to the issues facing our gender or profession. However, one of the best pieces of advice I heard was at a Women’s Leadership Conference hosted by my former firm for its women attorneys. There, a brilliant speaker from a large Chicago law firm talked about the ways in which men and women communicate and how we need to recognize, not necessarily solve, our communication differences.

As an aside and case in point, how many of you ever have gotten frustrated at your spouse or male colleague who wanted to solve immediately whatever problem you were telling them about? (con’d on p. 3)
Planning is in full swing for Autumn Affair! Our signature fundraising event will take place on October 14, 2010 on the beautiful grounds of the Witte Museum and will benefit Dress for Success San Antonio. Please see below for important announcements, including our upcoming kick-off party!

August Autumn Affair Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 12, 2010
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room,
Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison & Tate (Travis Park Plaza Building)
Lunch Served
RSVP to Laura Mason at lmason@obht.com

Autumn Affair Kick-Off Party! Save the Date!
Tuesday, August 31, 2010
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Hotel Contessa - Cork Bar
Watch your email inbox for more information!

Sponsorships
Please sponsor Autumn Affair and attend our fabulous event!
Contact Emma Cano at emma.cano@haynesboone.com or
Hella Scheuerman at hschc@allstate.com for more information.
Sponsorships are available for $2,000 or $1,200.

Auction/Raffle
Please donate an auction or raffle item to help raise money for Dress for Success!
Contact Jamie Rose at Jamie.Rose@usaa.com,
Kim Tindall at ktindall@ktanda.com, or
Katherine Patton at kpatton@coxsmith.com for more information.
From the President (con’d)

I know I have. I cannot count how many times I have told my husband, “I know what needs to be done. Can’t you just listen to me?” Turns out that is a communication difference between our genders – men want to solve the problem, while women just want them to listen. For myself, recognizing this difference has led to a lot less bickering.

Getting back on track, the speaker at this Conference pointed out that women need to do what they do best – talk about each other. Many studies have shown that women tend not to promote themselves or put themselves out there, be it for a raise, promotion, or in our context, to handle maybe a complex case. Women apparently tend to believe our hard work will be recognized without us ever having to “toot” our own horn. However, those same studies show that part of the reason a male might get the better job, raise, or case is because men generally are not afraid to promote themselves or say what they want. What the speaker, a women herself, challenged us at the Conference to do was not necessarily to change, but rather to take advantage of our strength – our willingness to talk about others (yes, that means gossip) – and promote each other. I personally think this is a valuable piece of advice, and it is something I have strived to do ever since attending the Conference a few years ago.

Now, as President of the Bexar County Women’s Bar, I hope I can encourage and challenge each of you, our members, to do the same. The next time you come across a wonderful woman, don’t be afraid to speak up on her behalf. By doing so, we just might be able to crack that glass ceiling some day.

To start off this challenge, I want to take the opportunity to promote a law student I met over lunch this past month, Emily Ray. Emily approached me after I was a guest speaker at a St. Mary’s Law School class and asked to have lunch. Following two cancellations (you can guess on whose part), we finally did. What a pleasure it was, and most of all, I left impressed. Emily was organized, had what she wanted to discuss planned out in advance, and was not afraid to ask my opinion or advice. Emily also is this year’s Solicitations Editor for The Scholar. She is actively looking for articles to publish. If you have something in hand or in the works that might work for The Scholar, please see Emily’s Call for Articles in this month’s newsletter. Until next month, I hope everyone enjoys the last “dog days” of summer!

September Luncheon

By Monica Lerma

At our September 7th luncheon, we are pleased to present Pamela Taylor, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Dress For Success--this Year’s beneficiary of the Bexar County Women’s Bar Association’s Autumn Affair. Ms. Taylor will tell us about the wonderful work Dress for Success does and the impact it has in our community.

In addition to learning about Dress for Success, we hope you’ll donating items to create gift baskets for the Autumn Affair silent auction. At the September luncheon, the Auction and Raffle Committee will collect Halloween-themed items. The idea is to create a basket with everything the purchaser would need to decorate for a Halloween Party. Please bring a Halloween item for the Basket to the September luncheon. Each donated item should have a retail value of at least $10.00. Some ideas for the Halloween basket include: Jack-O-Lanterns, Candles, Yard Signs, Spiders, Skeletons, Masks, Spooky Treats, Fun Cups, Plates or Serving Platters, Halloween Music CD, and Costumes. Help us make it Spootakular! RSVP to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org or mjlerma@sr-llp.com.
Communications Committee Update: Coming soon – online payments!

By Connie Basel and Toti Walia

We are just a few weeks away from offering on-line payment capability through the BCWBA/BCWBF website located at Bexar-CountyWomensBar.org. Convenient on-line payments will be accepted for lunch registration, Autumn Affair sponsorship, Autumn Affair tickets, membership applications, and renewals through the applicable forms. Look for more information on this exciting new feature in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in volunteering on the communications committee, we are looking for individuals with website experience to assist in updating/maintenance of our BCWBA website. It is an extremely user-friendly site, and anyone with a little time to learn the instructions could assist in this project. Our goal is to update news, events, pictures, and publicize all the wonderful projects our membership and organization is up to on a consistent basis. If you would be interested in being a member of the communications committee and assisting with this endeavor, please contact Connie Basel for more information.

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SAVE THE DATE

THE BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN’S BAR FOUNDATION PRESENTS

An Autumn Affair
benefiting Dress for Success

OCTOBER 14, 2010, 6 P.M.
THE WITTE MUSEUM
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
Community Service Committee Corner
By Michelle Weekley

Back to school is almost here, and many students will not be able to afford to purchase new school supplies! You can help "Stuff the Bus" by bringing brand new school supplies to all participating HEBs in San Antonio on August 6th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Or stop by and buy them while you are shopping. Start the new year out right for many kids that otherwise would not experience that excitement of the new school year.

Membership Dues Poll!
By Natalie Hall

Did you know that the BCWBA has not raised dues in many years?!?! Our membership dues are a vital component to our budget. Membership dues allow us to provide amazing benefits that we cannot afford to reduce due to budget constraints.

Current membership dues are $40 for attorneys licensed 1-3 years and $50 for attorneys licensed 3 years or more. We need your thoughts about whether a $15 increase for all membership dues would be acceptable. Please email nlhall@coxsmith.com with your vote: “yes-progress” or “no-go.” We value your membership and want to hear from you!

Save the Date:
November 11, 2010, 6:30 p.m.
BCWBA Central Market Cooking Class and CLE.
More details to follow.
By Suzanne Oliva

Recently, Laura Mason, President-Elect of the BCWBA/F, and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the 2010 Bar Leaders Conference, sponsored by the State Bar of Texas. Representatives from legal organizations across Texas were invited to Houston to learn about new programs initiated by the State Bar as well as participate in panel discussions and workshops in order to share ideas about successful fundraising and community service projects.

One initiative by the State Bar of Texas is the Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans program. This initiative responds to the high number of military veterans suffering from alcoholism, substance abuse, mental health issues and homelessness. This program matches qualified veterans with pro bono legal clinics and attorneys willing to volunteer legal services for equal access to justice. Additional information about the summer 2010 launch of this program can be found on the State Bar of Texas website at www.texasbar.com/ under the State Bar President heading. Additional “Access to Justice” information can be found at http://www.texasatj.org/.

Congratulations to the following BCWB members:

- Jan King and Eileen Sommer on their North Chamber Small Business Leaders Award for Community Service.
- Justice Rebecca Simmons and Sara Dysart on their election to SABA Officer and Director positions, respectively.
- Toti Walia on her acceptance in the University of Washington’s LLM program.
- Monica J. Lerma on her election to Chair Elect of the Rape Crisis Center.

There’s no doubt there are many more BCWB members who deserve congratulations for various achievements and life milestones. If you want to congratulate or recognize a BCWB member in this newsletter, send your submission to Christine Reinhard at creinhard@sr-llp.com or Regina Stone-Harris at reginastoneharris@yahoo.com.
Call for Articles

By Emily Ray

_The Scholar: St. Mary’s Law Review on Minority Issues_ is currently accepting article submissions for Volume 13. The publication is committed to raising awareness of issues faced by minorities and other individuals who have traditionally lacked a voice in the law. _The Scholar_ furthers legal discourse on issues concerning race, class, gender, sexual identity, class, and religion, among others. Please email submissions to lawscholar@stmarytx.edu, or send inquiries to Emily Ray, Solicitations Editor, at rayemi@gmail.com.
Can We Talk about the Status of Women in Bexar County!

Host: Mayor's Commission on Status of Women

Celebrate Women's Equality Day
Thursday, August 26, 2010

The Bright Shawl
819 Augusta Street
San Antonio, Texas 78215

Come hear Juanita Firestone, Ph.D., UTSA share results of study about women in San Antonio. Dr. Firestone will reveal some surprising statistics about women in our community.

Mistress of Ceremonies: Soña Rodriguez
Chair, Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women

$35 — postmarked by August 20, 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

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

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 26th, 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.
Can We Talk?  August 26, 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 8/20/10; $45 after 8/20th and at door

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<td>Table reserved ONLY when Registration Form and Payment received.</td>
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<td>Vendors questions ONLY, Contact Bonnie Ayer at (210)222-3295.</td>
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Make check payable to Can We Talk and mail form to Pat Jasso, 326 Anton Drive, San Antonio 78223
Registrations postmarked after August 20th also require an RSVP to (210)422-2245

Total Enclosed $ _____