



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy New Year! It's January, which means a new year, putting away holiday decorations, resolutions, and looking forward to all the possibilities of 2011. I am extremely proud to have the opportunity to serve as President, and will do my absolute best to continue to build upon the foundation our prior leaders have worked so hard to create.



Laura C. Mason

I am excited to work with all of the outstanding women of the BCWB, including our terrific new Officers and Board of Directors. All of us hope you will participate in the many activities we have planned for the coming year.

Our January luncheon at St. Mary's University is a great way to start 2011. This annual luncheon is a highlight – both for the law students who attend and for our BCWB members. Many thanks to Monica Lerma, a current Director and last year's Luncheon Chair, for coordinating this luncheon. Monica is passing the baton to two new and fabulous luncheon co-chairs, Lisa Alcantar and Maggie Giltner. We'll be returning to Club Giraud for our February luncheon. Please look for announcements on all of our upcoming luncheons.

We look forward to a variety of other enjoyable events in 2011. We will be planning mentor-mentee events with St. Mary's University School of Law. We will have special networking events for our members, including a President's Party. As we reflect on the relatively recent Autumn Affair (still seems like yesterday for me!), we will start planning another great event for 2011. We will provide opportunities for our members to get involved in the community, while working with other BCWB members. And all of these events just scratch the surface! Please check our website and announcements for information on events throughout the year.

I hope you will make one of your resolutions to be involved in the BCWB. Join us – we'd love to see you!

JANUARY 2011

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Panelist Monica Trollinger



Panelist Tiffanie Clausewitz



Panelist Natalie Hall

JANUARY LUNCHEON ANNOUNCEMENT

Please join us for the Bexar County Women's Bar Association & St. Mary's School of Law Women's Law Association Annual Joint Luncheon and Panel Presentation.

This year's panel will be discussing work life balance, suggestions for getting a job in this economy, and tips for paying back student loans. We hope you will take this opportunity to meet and share experiences with members of the Women's Law Association.

When: Wednesday, January 26, 2011, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: St. Mary's School of Law, Alumni Room, Law Library

Panelists: Monica Trollinger, Associate General Counsel at Southwest Research Institute; Natalie Hall, Shareholder at Cox Smith; and Tiffanie Clausewitz, Associate at Rogers, Morris & Grover, LLP

Moderator: Kristal Snelson (Thurmond), J.D.

RSVP by: Friday, January 21, 2010 to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org

We hope to see you there! Also, stay tuned for announcements regarding our monthly luncheon in February at Club Giraud on Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

MEMBER NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



- Renew your BCWBA membership.
- Invite others to join the BCWBA.
- Participate in a BCWBA committee.
- Attend the BCWBA's monthly luncheons.
- Volunteer to help organize this year's Autumn Affair.
- Mentor a St. Mary's University law school student.
- Connect with other BCWBA members at this year's President's Party.
- Pay membership dues and RSVP for events using the BCWBA's website.
- Contribute an article of membership interest to the *Equal Times*.



NEW OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce the results from this year's election process. The following individuals have been elected to an Officer position for 2011:

President:	Laura Mason
President-Elect:	Emma Cano
Vice President:	Suzanne Oliva
Treasurer:	Natalie Hall
Treasurer-Elect:	Marissa Helm
Secretary:	Danielle Hargrove
Immediate Past President:	Christine Reinhard

The following individuals were elected to a Director position:

Lorie Blount	Julia W. Mann
Gaylia Brunson	Katherine Patton
Maurleen W. Cobb	Jamie M. Rose
Monica Lerma	Nada Ismail Taha

These wonderful women will join existing Directors Elsa Marie Garza, Connie Basel, Beverly Smith, Tiffanie Clausewitz, and our St. Mary's Law Student Representative in 2011. Congratulations to all!

With the election process concluded, we are beginning to make plans for another exciting BCWB year. If you would like to serve on a Committee next year or have any ideas regarding new projects or events, please do not hesitate to contact any of the 2011 Officers and Directors listed above.



Panelist Tiffanie Clausewitz

BOOKMARK BCWB!

By Tiffanie Clausewitz

Be sure to bookmark www.bexarcountywomensbar.org on your home and work computers! The BCWB website has information about our organization, our bylaws, and our governing board. The site also includes event information and copies of past newsletters. In addition, you can renew your membership and pay your dues, as well as RSVP and pay for luncheons! Over the course of 2011, we'll be working to give our site a "makeover" and to make it even more

functional for all of our members. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at tclausewitz@rmgllp.com. Thanks!





Graciela Cigarroa

ELDER LAW HANDBOOK PROJECT UPDATE

By Graciela Cigarroa

Thanks to a Texas Bar Foundation grant to the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation, we were able to print and distribute an updated 2010 version of the Elder Law handbook, Spanish and English. 13,000 handbooks are now being distributed. 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. 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 includes the latest legislative changes and revisions. The committee distributes 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 45,000 handbooks have been printed just in the last seven years thanks to generous grants including grants received from the Texas Bar Foundation and funding received for the prior republication from the San Antonio Bar Foundation. BCWBF is grateful to the Elder Law Project Committee members for their hard work in the republication of this great resource for our seniors. BCWBF 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 other information please contact 2009-2010 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 michellebartley@att.net. The updated version of the handbook, English and Spanish can also be found in the BCWBA website at www.bexarcountywomensbar.org

CENTRAL MARKET CLE

By Tiffanie Clausewitz

Thanks to all of you who attended last year's Central Market CLE! We had a great turnout, and everyone enjoyed the delicious dishes presented by the Central Market chefs! In between courses, attendees received helpful information on pretrial issues, mandamus proceedings, and emerging appellate issues. Special thanks to our wonderful presenters from the Fourth Court of Appeals: Justice Phylis Speedlin, Justice Rebecca Simmons, and Justice Marialyn Barnard. For those of you who missed this fun event, keep an eye out for it next year!

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

By Katherine Patton



Katherine Patton

Happy New Year! Once again, it is time to renew your membership for the 2011 Bexar County Women's Bar Association. The Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation have many exciting events planned for the year you will not want to miss. Just a few of the gatherings include the retreat, CLE luncheons, fashion show, mentor/mentee outings, community assistance programs, socials, and the always popular Autumn Affair.

As you are probably aware, the highlight of our year is the Autumn Affair. In the past, we have honored women judges in Texas and women lawyers in Bexar County, who have served the law and our community. This "high-energy" gala has also helped us raise hundreds of thousands of dollars over the past twenty-seven years for local charities, historically ones that provide underprivileged women and children with basic food, shelter and medical needs as well as work-skills training and access to the judicial system. Be a part of our membership and join a committee so that, together, we can make a real difference in our community.

Whether you are female or male, a judge, lawyer, paralegal, legal assistant, student, or "friend," I invite you to join and personally invite a new member to join as well! You should have received a renewal application and committee list by mail. You may complete the renewal process by logging into www.BexarCountyWomensBar.org.

Your membership renewal will entitle you to the following:

- Monthly electronic copy of our newsletter, the *Equal Times*;
- Bexar County Women's Bar monthly luncheons with .75 hours of CLE credit at a discounted rate;
- Membership Directory;
- E-mail announcements of events and activities of interest;
- Discounted tickets to legal community functions (*e.g.*, Peacemakers Gala, SABA Installation Dinner, SABA Law Day Luncheon), subject to availability;
- Profile on Bexar County Women's Bar membership website;
- Access to membership information and community postings on the Bexar County Women's Bar membership website;
- Access to the career center on the Bexar County Women's Bar membership website;
- Invitations to exclusive Bexar County Women's Bar functions, many of which are complimentary; and
- Network with some of the state's most powerful, amazing women.

Thank you for your continued participation and support! I look forward to receiving your application and sharing more details with you about the upcoming year!



Christine Reinhard

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINEES

By Christine Reinhard

The BCWB would like to nominate individuals from its own membership for the Texas Bar Foundation's annual statewide awards. The award categories are as follows:

- Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award – Awarded to a federal or state judge who exhibits an exceptional reputation for competency, efficiency and integrity.
- Lola Wright Foundation Award – Presented to a distinguished lawyer who exemplifies the highest standards of professional ethics.
- Dan Rugeley Price Award – Honors an attorney who serves the profession as a volunteer and legal scholar while actively practicing law.
- Outstanding 50-Year Lawyer Award – Recognizes attorneys who have practiced 50 years or more and adhere to the highest principles and traditions of the legal profession and the public.
- Ronald D. Secrest Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award – Awarded to a trial lawyer who has demonstrated high ethical and moral standards and exceptional professional conduct.
- Outstanding Law Review Article – Recognizes an outstanding article published in a law review of a Texas law school during the dates of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010.

If you know of any current or former member you would like the BCWB to consider for an organizational nomination, please send your recommendation to Christine Reinhard at creinhard@sr-llp.com by no later than January 4, 2011. The BCWB Board will then review all recommendations for submission to the Texas Bar Foundation by the deadline of January 11, 2011.

BCWBA-Lites wants to hear from you!

BCWBA is interested in news of your professional accomplishments or activities, awards, marriages, changes of address, or other news you would like to share. Also, if you know any BCWBA member who is not receiving Equal Times, please send us a current address. BCWBA wants to stay in touch. Email your new information or announcement to Regina Stone-Harris at ReginaStoneHarris@yahoo.com.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Shannon B. Schmoyer named as
Outstanding Labor and Employment Lawyer
By the *San Antonio Business Journal***

SAN ANTONIO, TX – December 9, 2010 - Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is pleased to announce that Shannon B. Schmoyer has been selected as the Outstanding Labor and Employment Lawyer in San Antonio by the *San Antonio Business Journal*.

Shannon B. Schmoyer is a partner in the labor and employment law firm of Schmoyer Reinhard LLP. Ms. Schmoyer has been Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 1998. Her practice focuses on the representation of employers in employment litigation, including class-actions, and labor arbitration. She also counsels employers on all aspects of labor and employment law and advises management on strategic and complex employment decisions. Additionally, her practice includes conducting training programs for managers and supervisors on various employment-related topics.

Ms. Schmoyer is a 1987 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Oklahoma, graduating first in her class and being named to the Top Ten Seniors list. Thereafter, she received her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1991. Ms. Schmoyer is a member of the Executive Council of the State Bar of Texas Labor and Employment Law Section. Ms. Schmoyer is a fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and she serves on the Board of Directors of Family Service Association.

The award recognizes San Antonio attorneys for excellence in their practice area. This is the inaugural year for this award, and the publication selected 17 attorneys to be awarded the title of Outstanding Lawyer in their respective area of practice. The winners were selected from a large pool of nominees and each attorney was profiled in a one-page feature in the November 19th edition of *San Antonio Business Journal*. The winners will be honored at a luncheon on December 14th.

About Schmoyer Reinhard LLP

Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is a San Antonio-based law firm that focuses on advising and representing employers throughout the Southwest United States in all areas of labor and employment law. Both founding partners, Shannon B. Schmoyer and Christine E. Reinhard, are Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and all of the attorneys at the firm have experience counseling their clients on best practices to avoid litigation. When litigation does arise, Schmoyer Reinhard's qualified trial attorneys help achieve the best possible result for the client.

For more information, please contact Christy Meador, Director of Marketing and Account Services at Schmoyer Reinhard LLP, at 210.447.8033 or cmeador@sr-llp.com.

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FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS

San Antonio, Texas

JOB VACANCY NOTICE

State Job Title: Attorney V
Annual Salary: \$79,750

Closing Date: Until Filled
Location: San Antonio, Texas

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

The Court is in need of a Staff Attorney that will work under the general supervision of Justice Rebecca Simmons. The position performs highly advanced attorney work with in-depth analysis and preparation of legal memoranda; interprets laws and regulations; provides legal advice and counsel. Works with direction from a justice with opportunity to use initiative and mature judgment.

ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS:

Conducts manual and computer assisted legal research; analyzes statutes, judicial decisions, and other legal sources. Prepares memoranda and proposed orders and opinions in civil and criminal appeals. Participates in pre- and post-submission conferences. Performs related work as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Must possess a license to practice law in the State of Texas; knowledge of legal principles in civil and criminal law; excellent legal research and writing skills; knowledge of Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure, Uniform System of Citation, and Texas Rules of Form. Ability to identify, analyze, and present issues, both orally and in writing. Proficient in computer research and word processing skills. Ability to prepare, plan, and organize work to communicate clearly and effectively.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Previous appellate court experience as a briefing attorney or staff attorney. Three to six years in private practice. Top 20% of graduating class; law review, law journal experience; moot court and/or mock trial experience.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Applicant must submit (1) State Job Application form (see <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/>), (2) a writing sample, and (3) a list of three references to:

Keith E. Hottle, Clerk,
Fourth Court of Appeals
Cadena-Reeves Justice Center
300 Dolorosa, Suite 3200
San Antonio, TX 78205-3037

In addition to the State Job Application, a resume may also be submitted.

The Fourth Court of Appeals is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, any requests for reasonable accommodation needed during the application process should be communicated by the applicant to the Clerk of the Court.