



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As the end of summer break, back to school, football, and slightly less-hot temperatures signal the approach of Fall, the Bexar County Women's Bar has been busy planning its signature event, *Autumn Affair*, which will take place on Thursday, October 11, 2012, on the beautiful grounds of the Witte Museum. Under the direction of this year's event co-chairs, Maurleen Cobb and Monica Lerma, the committee has been working hard to ensure the 2012 *Autumn Affair* is even more spectacular and fun than the last. This event has always been a great success thanks to the generous support of the San Antonio legal community. We hope you have already made plans to join us, but if you haven't, there are plenty of sponsorship opportunities and tickets still available. You don't want to miss this year's *Autumn Affair*!



Emma Cano

Upcoming Events:

September 20: Mentor/Mentee Event at Judge Renee McElhaney's Home

September 27: Around Town Luncheon at La Madeleine (410/Blanco)

October 2: BCWB Monthly Luncheon at Club Giraud

October 11: Autumn Affair at the Witte

SEPTEMBER 2012

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Monica J. Lerma
Autumn Affair
Co-Chair



Maurleen Cobb
Autumn Affair
Co-Chair

BCWBF 2012 Autumn Affair 30th Year Anniversary of BCWBF's Fundraiser

By Monica J. Lerma

Autumn Affair is next month on October 11, 2012 at the Witte Museum. We hope to see you there! Thank you to all those who came out to help us gather some great auction items at our Autumn Affair "Kick Off" Party at Monterrey on August 30, 2012. We had a great turnout from past presidents, past and present Belva Lockwood Award winners, judges, and members. The excitement is in the air and Autumn Affair is just around the corner!

We will celebrate our 30th year Anniversary by honoring our female judiciary, our beneficiary—Girls on the Run of Bexar County—and our two fabulous Belva Lockwood Award Winners. *Sylvia Cardona* of Langley & Banack, Inc. will be awarded the 2012 BCWBF Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award and *Tiffanie Clausewitz* of Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen & Benson, LLP will be awarded the 2012 BCWBF Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

We hope you will consider supporting Girls on the Run by donating an item, sponsoring a table, or attending the event. If you'd like to donate an item for our silent auction or raffle, please e-mail Tiffanie Clausewitz (tclausewitz@pulmanlaw.com) or Lisa Alcantar (lalcantar@prdg.com). If you'd like to become a sponsor, please contact Hella Scheuerman at (hschc@allstate.com) or Lorie Blount at (Lorie.Blount@uhs-sa.com).

Come help discuss the finishing touches at our next planning meeting on **Tuesday, September 11**, at noon at Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen & Benson, LLP (2161 NW Military Highway, Suite 400).

If you have any questions or ideas, but cannot make the monthly meetings, just let us know. Please contact Autumn Affair co-chairs, Maurleen Cobb (210)378-8945 or Monica J. Lerma (210.464.7408), (mjlerma@sr-llp.com).

We hope you can make it out to honor our judges, celebrate our beneficiary, and our Belva Lockwood Award winners on Thursday, October 11, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at the Witte Museum.

"Save the Date" for
A 30th Anniversary Celebration!

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation
Autumn Affair

Benefiting Girls on the Run of Bexar County

Witte Museum
Thursday, October 11, 2012
Six O'Clock in the Evening

For sponsorships and tickets, please contact
Lorie Blount at (210) 358-2047 lorie.blount@uhs-sa.com
Hella Scheuerman at (210) 482-4564 hsche@allstate.com
or visit www.bexarcountywomensbar.org

*Honoring our Female Judiciary and
2012 Belva Lockwood Award Recipients*
Sylvia Cardona and Tiffanie Clausewitz



Connie Basel

**Mentor/Mentee
Happy Hour**

Thursday, Sept. 20
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Home of Judge
Renee McElhaney:
301 W. Hollywood San
Antonio, TX

For information about be-
coming a mentor:

Connie L. Basel
cbasel@lyndworld.com
or
Julia Mann
jmann@jw.com



Lisa Alcantar

**Become a Mentor &
Attend the BCWBA Mentor/Mentee Fall Happy Hour**

By Connie Basel

The BCWBA is hosting a Mentor/Mentee Happy Hour at the home of Judge Renee McElhaney (301 W. Hollywood) on Thursday, September 20 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Please join us for hors d'oeuvres and wine!

If you would like to mentor a St. Mary's law student during the 2012-2013 school year, please send a list of five things that describe you to Julia Mann at jmann@jw.com. Or you may complete the "What makes me, ME" form at the end of the newsletter and email your completed form to the same address. Your responses will be used to pair you with one mentee.

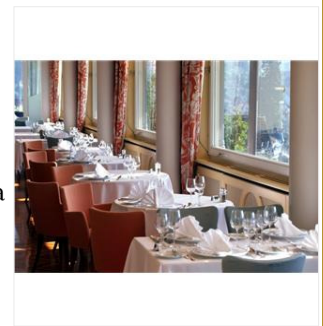
The students love to speak with practicing attorneys, and the mentoring relationship can be as easy as grabbing lunch or coffee with your mentee or even periodic email exchanges. The WLA students are very excited about this event and our on-going mentoring program. Please plan to attend and volunteer to be a mentor!

Can't Make the Event But Still Want to be a Mentor? If you can't make the happy hour but are interested in serving as a mentor, simply e-mail the completed form "What makes me, ME" to Julia Mann at jmann@jw.com. We will be sure to match you up with an eager law student!

September Luncheon Announcement

By Lisa Alcantar

Please join us at Club Giraud on Tuesday, October 2nd at 11:30 a.m. for a special Candidate Forum. Do you know the judicial candidates or their respective positions? Just in time for the election, we have invited Bexar County District and Appellate Judicial Candidates to participate in a Candidate Forum so that we can be informed voters! RSVP by Friday, September 28, 2012 by going to <http://www.bexarcountywomensbar.org/luncheons> or emailing events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Cost is \$25 (\$15 for students), payable online or at the door.



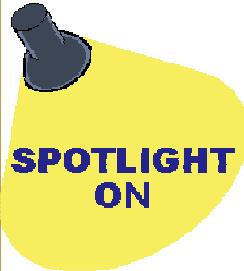
Also, mark your calendars for the November luncheon. On Tuesday, November 6th, we will welcome Cynthia Orr. Cynthia's presentation will center on her practice as a criminal defense attorney, why she chose this practice and what keeps her motivated as a criminal defense advocate. RSVP by Friday, November 2, 2012. Cost is \$25 (\$15 for students), payable online or at the door.



Tiffanie Clausewitz

Judicial Spotlight: Judge Antonia “Toni” Arteaga

By Tiffanie Clausewitz



Q: Tell us about your history as an attorney and then a judge.

In 2008, I became the first woman elected to the historic 57th District Court which was created in 1899. I graduated from the University of Texas in Austin with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Sociology, and earned my law degree from St. Mary’s University School of Law. However, I was first sworn in as a judge in 2006. Mayor Phil Hardberger twice appointed me as an Associate Judge and Magistrate for the City of San Antonio. By the way, my first judicial Oath of Office took place at my daughter’s one-year birthday party while standing in front of Crayola decorations (long story).

As an attorney in private practice, my caseload consisted of both family and criminal law. Soon into my career I gained a reputation as a trial attorney. When I closed my private practice to take the bench, I had tried almost 70 jury

trials to verdict. Personally, I took great satisfaction in helping those who so desperately needed assistance.

Q: Did you always know you wanted to be a judge? What inspired you to make this decision?

No. I always knew I wanted to be an attorney and never seriously considered being a judge or elected official until being asked by colleagues. But it was my family that inspired me to make the decision to serve.

In the summer of 2008, a group of my colleagues approached me and asked me to seek the nomination to fill a Democratic vacancy on the ballot. I declined because of my concerns for meeting the demands of being mother to my young children and running a successful campaign. My daughter was only three, and my son had just turned a year old. However, my colleagues wouldn’t take no for an answer and asked me once more to consider running. I again politely declined, but discussed this conversation with my father-in-law and that’s where the inspiration to serve as judge was born.

With his encouragement, I began researching and making calls to my professional mentors asking for their input. Despite their positive feedback, I knew it would be incredibly difficult to campaign with two children under the age of three, but then my sisters-in law sealed the deal, so to speak, when they came to me and said basically, “You need to do this. Bring us the babies and don’t worry about a thing.”

Q: What has been the most surprising thing about being a judge?

The most surprising thing about being judge is possibly also the greatest thing about being a judge – the other judges with whom I serve. There are 13 other people who could possibly understand what a day on the bench is truly like. (con’d on p. 5)

Judicial Spotlight: Judge Arteaga (con'd from p. 4)

I wish I could elaborate. My judges are incredible human beings. Yes, believe it... we are human!

Q: Something I didn't expect when I ran for the 57th?

What is the space limitation for this article? There is so much. Personally, I didn't expect to be recognized as "Judge Arteaga" at my HEB. Now, I at least attempt to dab on some mascara and lip gloss before leaving the house. Professionally, I didn't expect the pressure – perhaps self-imposed. I don't mean the pressure of a horrific child abuse case, gut-wrenching custody fight or even the stresses of a month long trial resulting in a \$57 million verdict with news media in the courtroom. I can handle that kind of pressure. However, I didn't expect to feel such an incredible responsibility as a role model, especially to other women. As you know, young women often face greater demands and expectations both personally and professionally. As a (still fairly) young professional woman in a very visible position, I feel I'm duty-bound to set a high standard by which other young woman can benefit. It's difficult to explain (in a politically correct manner) and perhaps would better expressed in a one-on-one conversation.

Q: Excluding the law- what are you passionate about?

My family. I covet my personal time, and make no apologies when it comes to making time for my children, their school events, doctor's appointments, etc.

Q: Tell us a few of your favorite things. Book? Movie? Restaurant? Pastime?

Currently, my favorite book is *The Help*. This book truly helped me, no pun intended, get through some very long training runs when preparing for my first half-marathon.

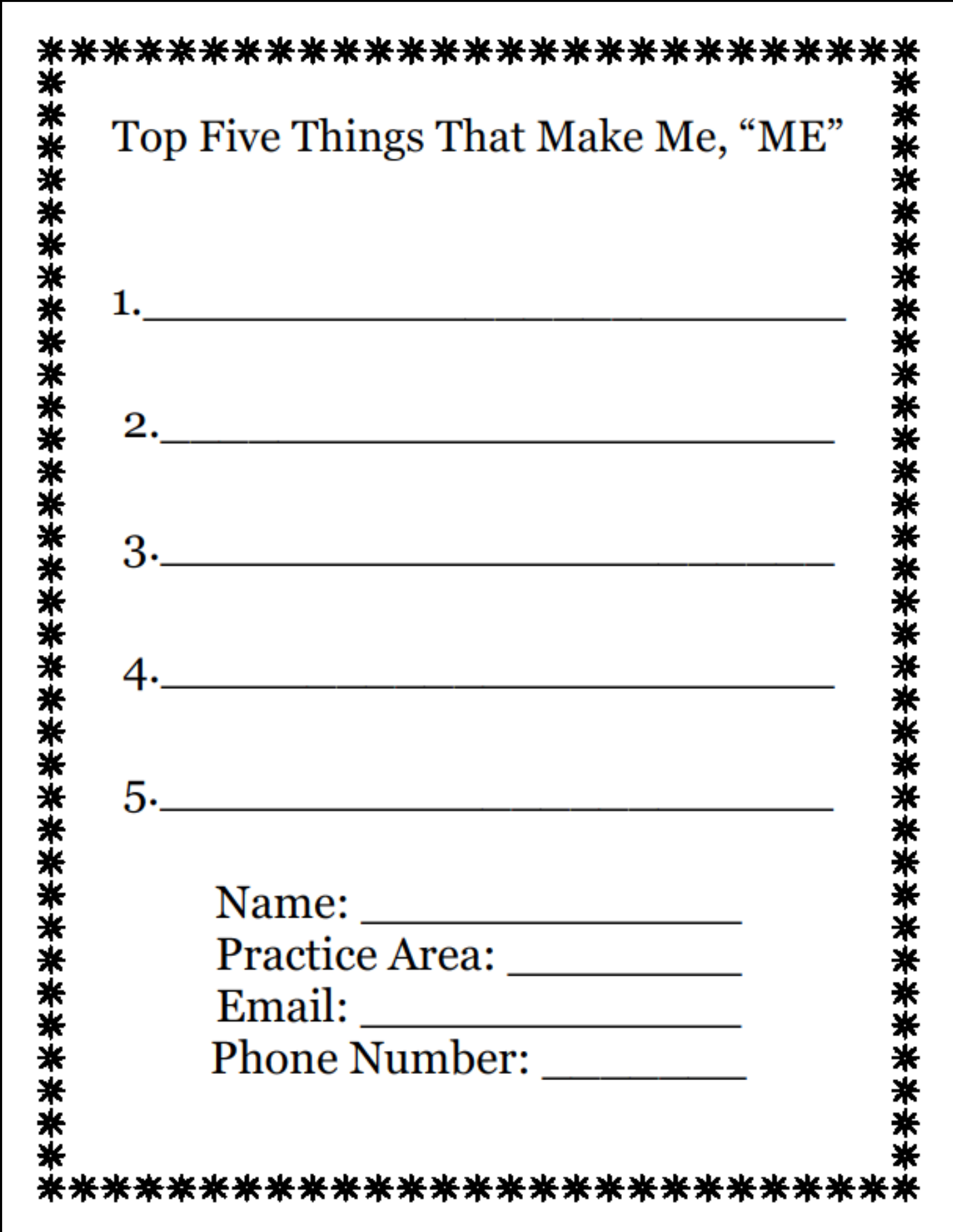
I love disaster flicks, like *The Poseidon Adventure* (the original one) and great chick-flicks, like *The Notebook*.

My favorite restaurant all depends on the occasion. Daily favorite – El Mirador. If I need to meet a campaign supporter – Paesano's. On Date Night - Joe's Crab Shack. Celebrating report cards – Incredible Pizza on West Avenue.

Pastime: an interest or activity that one pursues in his/her spare time. NOT APPLICABLE

Q: If you could give one piece of advice to up and coming female attorneys, what would it be?

Find a mentor, more than one, whom you trust and keep in regular, if not daily, contact with him/her.



Top Five Things That Make Me, “ME”

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

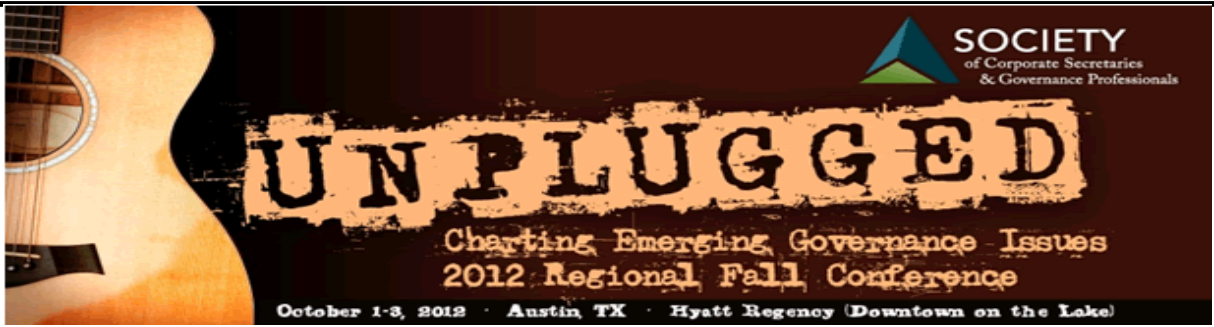
5. _____

Name: _____

Practice Area: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____



2012 Regional Fall Conference
Sponsored by the Houston Chapter
All Society Members and Non-Members Are Invited To Attend
October 1-3, 2012
Hyatt Regency (Downtown on the Lake)
Austin, Texas

Join us in Austin this year - the “Live Music Capital of the World” – where we will learn about up-to-the minute governance happenings and will network in a tranquil setting on beautiful Lady Bird Lake that provides the best view of downtown. The Hyatt Regency is surrounded by the entertainment districts of South Congress, the Warehouse District, and 2nd and 6th Streets. Plan to come to Austin with us for the perfect combination of learning and fun!

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Go to the websites below for program details or to register online for the Conference. An “Early Bird” discount is available for those registering by September 10, 2012. *Application is being made for CLE accreditation for attending the Conference.*

Prices:

Early Bird Registration (through September 10, 2012)

Members \$400.00

Non-Members \$450.00

Beginning September 11, 2012

Members \$450.00

Non-Members \$500.00

Post-Conference Only (October 3rd)

(Ethics Workshop or “Nuts & Bolts” sessions)

Members & Non-Members \$150.00

The conference hotel room rate is just \$175.00 per night and is subject to applicable taxes.

For program details, go to: <http://main.governanceprofessionals.org/GOVERNANCEPROFESSIONALS/Chapters/SocietyChapters/Houston/>

To register, go to: <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1114216>

