

Equal Times



December 2013

Bexar County Women's Bar Association

President's Column

After a peace-filled Thanksgiving dinner, I write this column at home while many battle crowds at Black Friday sales. It has been a truly amazing year. I am somewhat sad that it is almost over. I have worked with a fantastic group of officers and directors who have taken on the challenges set at the beginning of the year and far exceeded my expectations. These remarkable women have evolved from work associates into friends who I will truly miss visiting with at our monthly Board meetings.

Tiffany Clausewitz, the President-Elect, did a great job behind the scenes at the Retreat, organized a successful membership drive, and soon will be announcing the results of the BCWVB election;

Marissa Helm, our Vice President, organized the ever-popular Central Market CLE and invented our official drink entry for the SABA Installation Gala;

Katherine Noll, our Treasurer, made sure that our financial responsibilities were in order;



Suzanne Dapra Oliva

Lisa Alcantar, the Treasurer-Elect, gave us monthly updates on (con'd p. 6)

January Luncheon: Chief Justice Catherine Stone, Fourth Court of Appeals

By Lindsay Riley

Please join us at noon on January 21, 2014, for our annual luncheon at St. Mary's University School of Law as we welcome Chief Justice Catherine Stone of the Fourth Court of Appeals.

When: Tuesday, January 21, 2014

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: St. Mary's School of Law Sarita Kenedy East Law Library Alumni Room.

Cost: \$25, payable at the door or online.

RSVP: Please RSVP to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org by Friday, January 17, 2014. Include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP.

We understand that schedules change, but we cannot guarantee a seat to individuals who do not RSVP by the required date.

For more information, contact Lindsay Riley (lriley@coxsmith.com) or Lauren Horne (lhorne@br-lawfirm.com).

We hope to see you there!

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Wellness Column



Connie Arambula

By Connie Arambula

Exercise will make you feel relaxed and happy during this stressful time of year! Several running opportunities are available this holiday season. Of particular interest are the following:

Shape up for the holidays at the **2013 Jingle Bell Run/Walk**. This fun, festive event for the whole family begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at Valero Headquarters. Proceeds benefit the Arthritis Foundation.

Registration: Registration fees are \$20 for the snowman shuffle (1 mile), \$32 for the non-timed 5k walk/run, and \$37 for the timed 5k walk/run. Register at www.kintera.org/faf/home, or at the event for an extra \$3.

Packet Pick-up: Wednesday, December 4, 12:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Soler's Sports, 5933 Broadway, San Antonio, TX, or Thursday, December 5, 12:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Soler's Sports, 14405 Old Bandera Road, Helotes, TX.

Event Day: Activities begin at 3:00 p.m. at Valero Headquarters 1 Valero Way San Antonio, TX 78249. The snowman shuffle takes place at 4:30 p.m., followed by the 5k walk/run at 5:00 p.m.

Attire: Running clothes and reindeer antlers.

At right, BCWBA members at the SABA Fun Run

Front row: Jamie Nance & daughter Lexie Wilder

Back row: Judge Polly Jackson Spencer, Suzanne Oliva, Elizabeth Copeland, Rebecca Simmons & Carol Jendrzej

Work off your New Year's Eve indulgence at the **2014 Cobweb Chaser**. This 5k fun run has a late start at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 1, 2013, at McAllister Park. Proceeds benefit the SARR Scholarship Fund.

Registration: Registration is only \$10. Register at www.active.com, Fleet Feet, Run Wild, or Solar Sports. Race day registration is also available.

Event Day: The Start/Finish for the race is at McAllister Park, 13102 Jones Maltsberger, Pavilion No. 2.

Following the Event: Free refreshments and door prizes.

Start your New Year running with the **San Antonio Road-Runners (SARR)**. SARR hosts a free fun run for the entire family on Saturday, January 4, 2013, at McAllister Park Pavilion No. 1. The kids run begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by a ½ mile run, 1 mile run, and 3 mile run.

Not a runner? Try these other events to relax this holiday season.

Mediation in the Japanese Gallery. Practice 20-30 minutes of serene meditation in the Japanese Art Gallery at 10:15 a.m. on December 21 and 28, 2013 at 200 W. Jones Ave, San Antonio, TX 78215. Cushions and stools are provided and attendance is limited to 30 people.

Circuit Training in the Park. Meet for a fun outdoor workout at the fitness equipment at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at McAllister Park, 13102 Jones Maltsberger.

Questions? Contact Connie Arambula at carambula@lyndworld.com or (210) 379-1025.

Source: <http://www.fitcitysa.com/calendar/events>.



Judicial Spotlight

Judge Lisa K. Jarrett, 436th District Court



Judge Lisa K. Jarrett

By Greta McFarling

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

A: In 2009, I was appointed to the 436th District Court, a newly created bench that specializes in juvenile law. I was elected by the citizens of Bexar County in 2010. I graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. I received my law degree from the University of Houston in 1993 and served as an Assistant District Attorney in Harris County as an adult and juvenile prosecutor. I also served as an ADA in Bexar County in 1995. In 1996, I left the District Attorney's Office and went into private practice in the area of criminal defense in both adult and juvenile courts. During the last 5 years of private practice I served as a part-time Juvenile Referee. My career as an ADA and a defense attorney has been enlightening and a great asset to the position of juvenile judge.

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

A: I did not always know I wanted to be a judge. The turning point was in 2005, when Judge Laura Parker appointed me as a part-time Juvenile Referee. I enjoyed the interaction with juveniles and their families as well as the

opportunities to change lives. When the new juvenile bench was created, my colleagues pushed me to apply for the position. My husband also encouraged me in this process and has always been supportive.

Q: Tell us about your history with the Bexar County Women's Bar and other women's organizations, and the impact you believe such organizations have on their members and the greater community.

A: I became involved with the BCWB because I believe it plays a key role in motivating and enhancing women's impact in our community. By helping to promote the skills and knowledge necessary for personal development and professional advancement, I believe that women become more empowered through their association with the organization, thus contributing more to our community.

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

A: The amount of wonderful people I have met from all walks of life. I have learned about so many great organizations in Bexar County and the people that are behind these organizations. The impact that adult role models, including the judge, have on the lives of children and their families is vast and rewarding.

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

Traveling and reading are both great passions of mine. Learning about new cultures and new ideas are fascinating.

Q: Tell us a few of your favorite things.

A: Book? *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett and *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver. Both involve overcoming hurdles that have been placed in your way and are very inspirational.

Movie? Don't hold it against me, but I can recite every line in *The Man with Two Brains*. I have two copies of the DVD in case one gets scratched.

Restaurant? I don't have just one. The large influx of fabulous chefs makes dining out in San Antonio a great experience. If I have to pick . . . Bistro Vatel, Bite, and Bliss are wonderful.

Pastime? Again, reading—anything and everything!

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

A: Be yourself. Be passionate about what you do. Pick your battles and always take the high road in your professional and personal endeavors. Help others! Pay it forward!

Small Firm and Solo Practitioners Interviewing and Networking Event



Suzanne B. Patrick

By Suzanne B. Patrick

St. Mary's University School of Law's Office of Career Services is hosting interviews and a networking reception for small firms and solo practitioners looking to hire law clerks and associate attorneys. The event will be held at the law school on Tuesday, February 18, 2014. The event is designed to allow attorneys to interview in the late afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

and network with candidates in a social setting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This format is designed to help small firms and solo practitioners who have a hard time getting away from the office during the day to conduct interviews. For more information and to reserve a spot for the event, contact Suzanne Patrick, Director of Career Services, at 210-436-2511 or email her at spatrick@stmarytx.edu.

BCWBA LITES

Anne E. Ohlrich announces the re-opening of the Ohlrich Law Firm, PLLC! The firm serves all corporate and family based immigration needs, as well as small business formations and I-9 audits. This firm consists of Anne, Deborah Harris and Carolina Barrera. Deborah and Carolina recently joined the BCBW as paralegals. The firm is located at the corner of Alamo & Brooklyn, and provides personalized service to include fluency in Spanish, Portuguese, French and German.

Bexar County Women's Bar Association's
2013
Annual Holiday Party

Please join us for holiday cheer, a delicious lunch, special presentations, and wonderful door prizes as we celebrate another incredible year!

Help spread the holiday cheer by bringing new unwrapped books (English/Spanish) or art supplies for children ages birth to three and receive a complimentary door prize ticket! All donations will go to AVANCE, an organization dedicated to strengthening families in at-risk communities through parent education and support programs.

December 13
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Hotel Contessa
Luncheon is \$35

RSVP Required by Friday, Nov. 29
Reply to events@bexarcountywomensbar.org
or RSVP and pay online by clicking [here](#). Please include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP.

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WLA Update

By Julia E. Null, WLA President

St. Mary's University School of Law Women's Law Association (WLA) held its annual auction in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library on Thursday November 21st. This year WLA chose recipient Seton Home as its beneficiary for the event. In June, the WLA board set an event goal of \$10,000. We are pleased to announce that we reached our goal!

Seton Home is a non-profit organization that has served the San Antonio community since late 1970s. At that time, there was no facility that could readily meet the specific needs of a pregnant teenager in crisis who wanted to keep and parent her child. Seton Home offers a warm and secure place to stay. Seton Home fosters childbirth and parenting and works to break the cycle of abuse and poverty by providing a caring home, education and support services necessary to transform the lives of teen mothers and their children. It provides 24-hour safe shelter in a residential setting, healthcare, education and supportive services to help teen mothers develop skills necessary to become loving parents and independent, self-sufficient members of society who can provide for their children and are not dependent on the social welfare system.

The WLA would like to give a special thank you to Leslie Hyman, Tiffanie S. Clausewitz, and the Bexar County Women's Bar Association's Board. This group's donations helped make the event a success. Thank you.

We also would like to brag about a few WLA members and their accomplishments. WLA President-Elect, Bianca Frisaura and WLA Member Elizabeth Germano were chosen for the St. Mary's School of Law Jessup Moot Court Team for the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition hosted by The International Law Students Association (ILSA). ILSA provides students with opportunities to study, research, and network in the international legal arena. Congratulations ladies.

We would also like to congratulate WLA President, Julia E. Null and WLA Member Andrew Trevino for winning the 2013 L. Wayne and Maxine Scott Negotiations Competition. The St. Mary's University School of Law Board of Advocates hosted the annual competition. The teams did their best to come up with the best possible agreements for their clients. They were judged on preparation, ethics, flexibility, strategy, teamwork, good faith dealings with the competition and overall performance. Professor L. Wayne Scott played a critical role in directing the Alternate Dispute Resolution program at St. Mary's University. Allen Craddock, Ph.D., Adjunct Negotiations Professor established this endowed competition to honor the Scotts for their tireless support of the school's advocacy program. We would also like to congratulate WLA Member Malloory Myers and her partner Courtney Miller for making it to 2nd place in the finals round. This was a great accomplishment by all.



Auction preparation day with the WLA Exec Board



Auction Preview Morning



Board of Advocates with 2013 L. Wayne & Maxine Scott Negotiations Competition winners Julia E. Null & Andrew Trevino

President's Column (con'd from p. 1)

our investment accounts, sent out the global e-mails to the membership and made sure that our website was up to date;

Maurleen Cobb, our Secretary, hosted a fabulous retreat as co-chair;

Emma Cano, Past-President, submitted entries for honors and awards;

Renee McElhaney once again served as Retreat co-chair and rounded up an interesting and diverse group of guest speakers;

Lauren Horne and Lindsay Riley provided the organization and guest speakers for our monthly luncheons as well as worked to increase the membership;

Gaylia Brunson promoted our movie night, recruited attor-

neys to volunteer for the Community Justice program, organized our Law Day luncheon with the Fox Tech H.S. students and drafted The Elder Law Handbook;

Hella Scheurman provided fun for families at the San Antonio Missions baseball outing, and did a fabulous job as Autumn Affair co-chair;

Leslie Hyman was also an Autumn Affair co-chair who helped lead our fundraising event and provided the WLA with mentor/mentee events including the speed-networking event at St. Mary's;

Elsa Marie Garza, our historian and official photographer, memorialized our events for years to come;

Carmen Samaniego kept our members happy at the mem-

ber happy hours and rounded up Autumn Affair sponsors who contributed to the success of our gala;

Brittany Weil, along with Melanie Castillo, organized the President's Member Party where the membership had the chance to mingle;

Connie Arambula helped keep us fit and healthy with her wellness articles and entries into local 5K runs;

Greta McFarling helped with The Elder Law Handbook, movie night, Community Justice program and Law Day, and introduced us to the local judiciary with her judicial spotlight articles in the newsletter;

Shari Mao organized the Julian Gold networking mixer and helped us foster relationships with members of the WLA;

Julia Null, our WLA representative, kept us up to date with information about the WLA and coordinated the mentor/mentee speed networking event;

Regina Stone-Harris once again edited and published our newsletter and did a terrific job keeping our membership "in the know."

As you can see, it has been a very busy, fun and information-filled year of CLEs, socials and fundraisers. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all your hard work! It has been an honor to serve as your President. I thank you for your trust in me to manage the wonderful organizations of the BCWBA and BCWBF. Here's to 2014 that I know will be fabulous with Tiffanie Clausewitz at the helm!



At left: Judge Richard Garcia, Suzanne Dapra Oliva & Judge Charles Montemayor at the November 2013 luncheon.

Above: Judge Garcia addresses members