In June, we held our annual retreat. I’ve attended a handful over the years and, as I confessed to the other attendees, I dread events like these — they are so taxing to introverts! This year’s theme was Rekindle Your Love for the Law. Nicole E. Jackson, our newest board member, and Judge Renee Yanta, along with their committee, knocked it out of the park. In spite of my own internal worries, I had a great time. On the first night, we spent a few raucous hours together as we traipsed through history, learning and teaching each other about the women who paved the rough road to justice for us. Seriously, what an inspiring group of women who simply would not accept that they should be treated as lesser than based solely on their gender. I wonder whether these women would be impressed at where we are or disheartened by the lengths we still have to go.

Many of this year’s attendees are practitioners with whom I am familiar, but with whom I often feel too intimidated to speak at length. It was such a revelation to me — how silly that I didn’t know this already — that their experiences have mirrored mine! Facing change and uncertainty, it is so easy to feel lost in the fear of “what if?”.
Gals & Guns - Call For Sponsors

Are you or your company interested in sponsoring a fun, unique and empowering BCWB event? Last year, the BCWB hosted the first-ever Gals & Guns clay shooting social at the San Antonio Gun Club, which was a smashing success. We had a tremendous turn-out of ladies who received valuable safety and shooting instruction in a fun, non-judgmental setting, followed by mingling and happy hour.

We are calling for sponsors to help us make this year’s event even bigger and better than last year. If you are interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Brittany Weil at bmweil@csg-law.com.

July Around Town Luncheon Down On Grayson

Please join Hella Scheuerman on Friday, July 21 at noon for lunch at Down on Grayson, located downtown in the Pearl.

No need to RSVP but feel free to email Hella at hella@dilleylawfirm.com, if you want her to save you a seat. Otherwise, simply pull up a chair - we look forward to seeing you there!
Case Law Update - *Bristol-Myers v. Superior Court*  
By: Leslie Hyman

In recent weeks the United States Supreme Court issued two decisions arising in the class or mass action context. The first, *Bristol-Myers Squibb v. Superior Court*, concerns personal jurisdiction in cases involving plaintiffs from multiple states. The second, *Microsoft v. Baker*, concerns when a plaintiff may appeal the denial of class certification. *Bristol-Myers Squibb v. Superior Court*, No. 16-466 (June 19, 2017)

This case involved specific personal jurisdiction. As you may know, or vaguely recall from law school, personal jurisdiction falls into two categories – general and specific. General personal jurisdiction arises when a party’s contacts with the forum state are “so ‘continuous and systematic’ as to render them essentially at home in the forum State.” *Goodyear Dunlop Tires Operations, S.A. v. Brown*, 564 U. S. 915, 919 (2011). Where general jurisdiction exists, a court may hear any claim against the defendant, even if the complained-of conduct occurred elsewhere. Id.

Specific personal jurisdiction, on the other hand, may arise based on fewer contacts with the forum but requires that the lawsuit arise out of those contacts. Id. In other words, specific jurisdiction requires a connection between the defendant’s forum contacts and the claims.

Three years ago, in *Daimler AG v. Bauman*, 134 S. Ct. 746 (2014), the United States Supreme Court reasserted its recent limitations on a plaintiff’s ability to establish general jurisdiction against a corporate defendant. The Court rejected a formulation that would find general jurisdiction in each state “in which a corporation engages in a substantial, continuous, and systematic course of business.” Id. at 761 (internal quotations omitted). Instead, the Court stated that it would be the “exceptional
case” where general jurisdiction would exist in a state other than the state of incorporation or principal place of business. Id. at n.19. The Court explained that “[a] corporation that operates in many places can scarcely be deemed at home in all of them.” Id. at 762 n.20.

Now, in Bristol-Myers Squibb v. Superior Court, the Supreme Court addressed limitations on the exercise of specific jurisdiction. The case involved product liability claims against Bristol-Myers in California state court brought by some plaintiffs who were residents of California and some who were nonresidents. The exercise of personal jurisdiction over claims by the California plaintiffs, who had taken the drug at issue in California, was uncontested. Using a “sliding scale approach,” the California Supreme Court concluded that California courts also had personal jurisdiction over Bristol-Myers for claims by the non-California residents because Bristol-Myers had extensive contacts with California and, therefore, similarities between the claims of the California residents and the claims of the nonresidents was a sufficient connection between the forum contacts and the claims. The United States Supreme Court rejected this methodology, holding that where specific jurisdiction is concerned, the strength of a defendant’s contacts with a forum state is irrelevant if those contacts are not related to the cause of action asserted. Because there was no connection between the nonresidents’ product liability claims and Bristol-Myers’ actions in California, the Supreme Court held that personal jurisdiction was lacking for the nonresidents’ claims. While this case arose from a decision of the California Supreme Court and concerned the California long arm statute, the decision concerns limits imposed by the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The opinion is thus is applicable in Texas, which provides for personal jurisdiction to the extent of the due process clause. See Guardian Royal Exch. Assur., Ltd. v. English China Clays, P.L.C., 815 S.W.2d 223, 226 (Tex. 1991) (“The broad language of the [Texas] long-arm statute’s “doing business” requirement permits the
statute to reach as far as the federal constitutional requirements of due process will allow.’”). Going forward, attorneys here and elsewhere must analyze specific personal jurisdiction separately for in-state plaintiffs and out-of-state plaintiffs.

Microsoft v. Baker, No. 15-457 (June 12, 2017) In Microsoft v. Baker, Xbox 360 owners filed a putative class action in federal court, alleging that the gaming system had a design defect. The trial court granted Microsoft's motion to strike the plaintiffs’ class allegations (based on the denial of class certification in a prior case involving the same facts). The plaintiffs sought permission from the court of appeals to appeal that order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(f). Rule 23(f) authorizes a “permissive interlocutory appeal” from adverse class-certification orders but only in “the sole discretion of the court of appeals.” When the court of appeals denied the plaintiffs’ request for review, they had several legally recognized options: (1) petition the trial court to certify the decision for interlocutory review under 28 U.S.C. § 1292(b); (2) proceeded in the trial court with the hope of convincing the court to later reverse course and certify the proposed class; (3) litigate the case to final judgment and then appeal; or (4) settle their individual claims. Instead, the plaintiffs voluntarily dismissed their claims with prejudice, reserving the right to revive the claims if the court of appeals reversed the trial court’s denial of class certification. The plaintiffs claimed that the voluntary dismissal rendered the class action decision “final” for purposes of appellate review. The court of appeals agreed, holding that it now had jurisdiction to hear the appeal of the denial of class action status under 28 U.S.C. § 1291, which empowers federal appellate courts to review final decisions of the district courts.

The Supreme Court reversed and remanded. The court undertook an extensive analysis of the finality principles embodied in 28 U.S.C. § 1291 and the history of Rule 23(f). The Court concluded that the plaintiffs’
voluntary-dismissal tactic impermissibly “invites protracted litigation and piecemeal appeals,” “undercuts Rule 23(f)’s discretionary regime,” and, contrary to the “evenhanded” approach of Rule 23(f), improperly “permits plaintiffs only, never defendants, to force an immediate appeal of an adverse [class] certification ruling.”

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June Luncheon Recap

On June 6, the Bexar County Women’s Bar resumed its regular monthly luncheons at Club Giraud with a fascinating presentation from St. Mary’s Law Professor Angela Walch on her groundbreaking blockchain technologies research. Professor Walch is a Research Fellow of the Centre for Blockchain Technologies of University College London, and she has presented her research worldwide, including at Harvard Law School and University College London. Professor Walch is an outstanding member of our local female legal community, and we are thrilled to have had the opportunity to hear her speak. Many thanks to Professor Walch and to everyone that came!

We look forward to seeing everyone at our next luncheon on July 11 at Club Giraud.
Magdalena House: A Place to Begin Again

By: Kathleen Church

Since 2007, Magdalena House has provided a safe and stable home for women escaping harrowing circumstances and given them the platform to create a future for themselves. Women accepted into Magdalena House (MH) have all fled dangerous situations; ranging from domestic abuse to human trafficking. Not only are educational and legal services available, but MH also supplies counseling services as well as parental coaching sessions for the mothers and children residing in the program. MH offers residents all facets of care to ensure a fulfilling and self-sustaining life once the women leave the house. Reaching that goal takes time and residents can stay up to three years at MH as they complete their journey. Once a resident moves on to the next phase of her life, MH wants to make sure they provided every opportunity to start healing the past and being prepared for the future.

Running a long term transitional home housing multiple families at a time is quite the daunting endeavor, but MH does everything they can to make the program succeed. MH foots the entire bill for all necessities and expenses until a resident is able to start providing supplemental income for herself. All residents are required to attend schooling of some kind while they are a part of the program as well as be active in giving back to their own community through quarterly service projects. Career development classes and workshops help guide residents to employment; and, Life Enrichment programs teach residents the full spectrum of life skills, from the psychological abstracts to the basics of nutrition and exercise. Spiritual classes complete the tapestry of healing MH offer their residents. While MH originated with Magdalena Ministries, Inc., there is no religious affiliation requirement for acceptance into the program. MH focuses on a holistic approach to spiritual formation for their residents, instead of a focus on any specific doctrine.

MH has a variety of ways the community can help them help these at high risk women and their families. Of course a general monetary donation is always accepted, but they also provide a list of what specific amounts could help them procure. For example, MH asks for a donation of $60.00 for textbooks for one
college class all the way up to $2,500.00 for a year’s tuition for a victim of trafficking. Another much needed monetary donation comes in the form of gift cards. Gift cards allow MH and the residents to plan together and customize, as well as buy when needs arise. A gift card of any amount from stores such as H-E-B, Target or Walmart are always much appreciated. If instead of a gift card, you wish to donate something specific, MH also provides a Wish List of items always in high demand. Some of the items most needed are diapers and baby wipes, trash bags, kitchen foil, toilet paper and over the counter pain/fever medications. For those of us who shop on Amazon, MH has also partnered with the AmazonSmile program, where 0.5% of every purchase made will be donated to MH. A full list of what your monetary donation can buy, high priority items needed, as well as more information on the AmazonSmile program is available on their website.

Volunteering is MH’s lifeblood. They could not succeed without the thousands of hours graciously donated by the community. In 2016 alone, MH appreciated the contribution of over 4,000 volunteer hours. Volunteers aid in almost all aspects of MH’s operations and an application to become a volunteer is available online. Opportunities and projects include transportation of residents, family meals and teaching cooking basics, tutoring and mentoring for both the mother and her children, childcare, and computer lessons. Help with maintenance of the facilities as well as professional services are always needed. As the residents of MH can be vulnerable, especially at the beginning, volunteers with any sort of direct contact with residents will go through a screening process, but there are plenty of opportunities to volunteer without direct interaction. For example, MH has an annual fundraising gala in need of volunteers and they plan to start building more homes to accept more residents. If you are interested in more information and becoming more involved in Magdalena House, please visit their website http://maghouse.org or call them at (210) 561-0505.
July Luncheon: 
**Serving Texas Lawyers**

We are pleased to announce that the Honorable Rebecca Simmons and Fidel Rodriguez, Jr. will be our featured guest speakers at our July BCWB lunch at Club Giraud. Justice Simmons and Mr. Rodriguez will present on the valuable resources that are available to the members of the State Bar. Please come join us for this informative presentation! **CLE approved!**

**RSVP:** Please RSVP by Friday, July 7th by clicking [here](#). Please include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand that schedules change, but we cannot guarantee a spot to individuals who do not RSVP by the date above. **Walk-ins will be charged $35 to cover the additional demands our caterers and no-shows will be billed.**

For more information, contact For more information, email luncheons@bexarcountywomensbar.org.

*We hope to see you there!*
President's Column (cont.)

Hearing the life experiences and career trajectories of these other women feels like a life raft in the uncertainty. “Ding, ding, Lisa! You’ve finally figured out mentorship!”

mentor
[men-tawr, -ter]
noun
1. a wise and trusted counselor or teacher.
2. an influential senior sponsor or supporter.

I left this year’s retreat recharged and excited about opportunity, so much so that I had coffee with another practitioner and talked through a vision board for my practice, repackaging my skills with a fresh perspective. I met another practitioner for lunch later the same week and we spent the whole time impressing upon our mutual friend all she had missed out upon. It never ceases to amaze me how much we can do when we open ourselves to the possibilities and let go (or at least lower the volume) of our fear. I say this time and again: BCWB has given me a priceless community of resources. The longer I practice, the more I reap from BCWB, if only because I am more willing to seek out the wisdom of this group. The best part is that we have events all year long where our members can connect with one another. You, dear member, have so much to offer. Will you tell me how you would like to connect with our community? You can email me your ideas at President@bexarcountywomensbar.org

Nicole Jackson is already thinking of retreat 2018. If you’d like to offer your input on what you liked or what you would like to see at next year’s retreat, we would welcome your feedback at NJackson@nejlaw.com. Check out the full spread of pictures from this year’s retreat!
Welcome New Members!

Elizabeth Assunto  
Daniela Gonzalez de Serna  
Brittany Lastition  

Veronica Vasquez  
Angelica Powers

San Antonio Young Lawyers Association and Bexar County Women’s Bar Association  
Presents

![Despicable Me 3 poster]

Join us for a free movie for the entire family!

Alamo Drafthouse-Park North  
Saturday, July 22, 2017  
11:00 a.m.

We have rented out the entire theater for our members and their families to watch “Despicable Me 3” free of charge! Please note food and beverages are not included.

To R.S.V.P., please visit sayla.org/upcoming-events-list. In your R.S.V.P., please note how many adults and how many children will be attending. For questions, contact Collanne West at cwest1@stmarytx.edu.

Thank you to our sponsor!

[Institute for Women's Health logo]

[Sayla logo]

[BCWB logo]
Recap of Family Event from Big'z Burger Joint

Big Fun was had by all at the Bexar County Women’s Bar and Moms-in-Law San Antonio family event held at Bigz Burger Joint on Sunday, June 25. Thank you to all who attended. Members and their families had a great time socializing and enjoying delicious burgers. The kids ran around and played and overall had a great time meeting new friends. You know everyone had a great time by the pink cupcake icing left on everyone's clothes at the end of the evening. Hope to see everyone for the next family event!

SAVE THE DATE
Autumn Affair - October 19, 2017
"A Night of Hollywood Glamour"

[Image of event poster]

Presented by the Bexar County Women’s Bar Foundation
I have never enjoyed cooking. In early adulthood, I cooked because I was a wife and mother, and because no one else was interested in, or capable of, cooking. Years later, I cooked because I must eat and because cooking is a healthier option than eating out. Despite the practice, most of my cooking has risen to little more than survival cooking – well-prepared and nutritious – but far from memorable. Recently, I found myself “finished” with cooking, such that I was ripe for a friend’s offer to “gift” me three free Blue Apron meals. Skeptical of “free” anything, I investigated before accepting the “gift.”

A free gift offer often comes with an obligation. With Blue Apron, the obligation begins with creating an account. Creating an account triggers a weekly delivery of three two-person meals per week at a cost of $60. Deliveries continue until you call Blue Apron to cancel. Although you aren’t charged for the free gifted meals, you’re likely to pay for a week of meals even if you call right away to cancel. The “gift” is more like a “hook” – an opportunity to get you hooked on Blue Apron. I decided to give Blue Apron a try. I’m glad I did. Here’s why.

1. **No waste.** Blue Apron sends exactly what you need to prepare a meal. If a recipe calls for one carrot, you receive one carrot. If you need one cage-free egg, you receive one cage-free egg. Thus, no carrots, eggs, or any other food goes bad before you figure out what to do with it.

2. **Saves time.** If you have olive oil, salt, and pepper, you have what you need to prepare a Blue Apron meal. Because Blue Apron sends you what you need to prepare a
Books I haven’t Been Reading

by Lisa Alcantar

Thanks to a friend’s recommendations for reading, I added all of these titles to my library wish list:

The Idiot
The Twelve Lives of Samuel Hawley
A Piece of the World
The Nix
All the Missing Girls

And I managed to not read any of them. I’m hoping to get to them sometime this summer. I

I did read My Cousin Rachel (avoid if you don’t like endings that leave you hanging!); Moonglow (the strangest memoir I’ve possibly ever read which was indescribably poignant); and Anything is Possible (a follow up to My Name is Lucy Barton, a fast read that left me in awe of Strout’s ability to see her characters as fully realized people).

meal, there’s little need for grocery shopping.
3. New food horizons. Blue Apron meals use foods I would not otherwise purchase or prepare: radishes, pink lemons, rhubarb, tarragon, mint, lemon grass. If it’s edible, Blue Apron probably has a meal that includes it. If you want to try something new, Blue Apron may be for you.

4. Variety. When I cooked for my family, figuring out what to cook was burdensome. At times, it seemed like it would have been easier if family members placed an order rather than guessing what everyone might eat on a given evening. I often gave up on variety and opted for foods I knew would be eaten. Meal time became boring. Blue Apron meals are far from boring. Last week, my meals included: Seared Steaks & Salsa Verde with Fingerling Potatoes, Asparagus, & Radishes; Persian-Style Chicken & Crispy Rice with Summer Squash, Currants, & Lemon Yogurt; and Crispy Catfish & Spicy Vegetable Curry with Charred Lime. There’s no way I would prepare such meals without Blue Apron.

5. Instructions. Cooking a Blue Apron meal is sort of like painting by numbers. Each meal includes
step-by-step instructions. After a long day, the instructions simplify cooking. The instructions include photos to guide the effort. All that’s required is to turn on some music and follow the instructions.

6. **Flexibility.** Blue Apron pre-selects three meals for each week, but you can change the selections up until six days before your next delivery. You can select meals from eight options. Options include some “easy” meals requiring less preparation time. Also, Blue Apron allows a subscriber to opt out of some items: pork, beef, lamb, shellfish, poultry, fish, and vegetarian meals. If your household includes more than two people, you can opt for a family plan. Finally, you can schedule your delivery day. If you don’t have time to cook during a particular week, or you’re going to be out-of-town, you can skip deliveries. If you always work late on weekdays and don’t want your Blue Apron box to sit on the porch until you get home, you can schedule your
deliveries for Saturdays. Sundays and Mondays are the only days you cannot receive deliveries.

7. **Nutrition info.** If you count calories or carbs, Blue Apron makes it easy. All meals come with nutrition information. If a meal has too many carbs for you, simply cut your portion in half. Meal sizes are “plenty” for an adult female, and just about right for an adult male.

8. **Tasty meals.** I have prepared and consumed eight weeks of Blue Apron meals. Each meal was tasty, but most were delicious. I still hate cleaning up, but I enjoy meal time.

Overall, I give Blue Apron a thumbs-up. If someone offers to “gift” you three free meals, consider the offer. It will likely cost you $60 dollars for two weeks of meals – the free week and the week it takes to cancel, but in the meantime, you’ll avoid the dreaded question of “what’s for dinner?” You can simply answer, “we’re eating what Blue Apron delivered.”

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**BCWB Lites**

**Renee Foshee, JD, LLM, CPA** was elected President of the San Antonio CPA Society for the 2017-2018 term.
The mission of the Bexar County Women’s Bar Foundation is twofold: to provide educational opportunities to its members; and to protect and strengthen local families by supporting legal and charitable programs.

Edited by
Amanda Crouch
Lisa Alcantar
Julie Grant

Please Direct All Questions, Comments and Submissions to:
Newsletter@BexarCountyWomensBar.Org