



Equal Times

Serving the BCWBA for 30 Years

President's Column

Happy New Year! Normally, January 1 fills me with a sense of dread. I have watched too many of my New Year's resolutions burst into flames before MLK day! Rather than set myself up for failure, this year I decided to take a gentler approach. Anne Lamott wrote, "You can either practice being right or practice being kind." My number one goal this year to be kind—kind to my family, kind to my friends, kind to my colleagues, and most importantly, kind to myself. I will spend less time bemoaning failed resolutions, and more time tending to the important stuff, including family, friends, and serving the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Foundation!



2014 promises to be an exciting one for the BCWB. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your President this year; I can hardly believe it is already here! Luckily for me, the BCWB is fortunate to have a group of hard-working, talented women serving on the Board of Directors.

Leading the BCWB this year are our officers: President Elect Marissa Helm, Vice President Katherine Noll, Treasurer Lisa Alcantar, Treasurer-Elect Greta McFarling, Secretary Maurleen Cobb, and Immediate Past President Suzanne Oliva. These women commit immeasurable amounts of their time and talents to the BCWB, and I am excited to serve alongside them this year. (con'd on p. 2)

January Luncheon: Chief Justice Catherine Stone

Please join us at noon on January 21 at St. Mary's School of Law to welcome Chief Justice Catherine Stone of the Fourth Court of Appeals. Chief Justice Stone will provide an update on recent, impactful decisions by the Fourth Court of Appeals, as well as discuss current and upcoming hot topics in the legal community. CLE accreditation has been approved.

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 (\$15 for students), payable at the door or online.

RSVP: Please RSVP by Friday, January 17, 2014, to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. 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. For more information, contact Lindsay Riley (lriley@coxsmith.com) or Lauren Horne (lhorne@br-lawfirm.com). We hope to see you there!

Inside this issue

- Central Market Cooking School & CLE Recap..... 2
- BCWBA Lites 2
- February Luncheon..... 3
- Autumn Affair Proceeds 4
- December Luncheon Photos..... 5
- Contact Info for the 2014 Committee Chairs 6
- Women in the Law CLE 7

Upcoming events

- January Luncheon: Jan. 21
- February Luncheon: Feb. 4
- Women in the Law CLE: Mar. 24



Marissa Helm

Central Market Cooking School & CLE Recap

By Marissa Helm

In November, a group of BCWBA members and healthcare professionals got together for our annual cooking class and CLE event at Central Market. Our speaker, Cindy Strzelecki from the Methodist Hospital system, offered her insights on the ethical treatment of personal healthcare information, while the Central Market staff shared some amazing dairy-free and vegan recipes with us for the holi-

days. Everyone left feeling educated, rejuvenated by fellowship (and wine), and ready to face the holidays with some non-traditional menu options!

Look for more fun CLE and social opportunities this coming year! If you have ideas for fun, non-legal, San Antonio events to which we can add a CLE twist, send your idea to Marissa Helm at marissa.helm@parallon.com.

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Send your ideas to Marissa Helm.*

BCWBA Lites

Marissa Helm recently moved from Cox Smith to establish the in-house legal department at the San Antonio service center for Parallon, which provides business and operational services to hospitals in San Antonio and Austin. Marissa's new work contact information is 210-581-4626 and marissa.helm@parallon.com.

Wanted: Paralegal interested in growing with a single-attorney in-house legal department in the healthcare field. Duties are expanding and changing on a regular basis but will likely include contract review, legal policy implementation, HIPAA-compliant release of information, and health insurance collections. Ideal candidates are flexible, enjoy learning new areas of the law, and are willing to pitch in on any task, however small. Job offers relaxed atmosphere and fun colleagues. Interested? Email your resume to Vanessa Njoku at vanessa.njoku-ani@parallon.com.

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

The officers are joined by the remaining members of the BCWB Board of Directors, as well as several committed members, in planning and executing the many events and programs offered to our members throughout the year. I hope you will thank all of the women mentioned below for their service, and more importantly, contact them if you are interested in helping with one or more of our projects!

Vice President Katherine Noll and Director Brittany Weil are co-chairing our flagship fundraising event, Autumn Affair. Expect the same fun-filled evening with a few new twists! We're looking forward to another fantastic evening benefitting a worthy cause.

Our Annual CLE Retreat is always one of our most highly-anticipated events, and with a beautiful new venue and fun activities, this year's retreat promises to be even better than before! Directors Renée McElhane and Leslie Hyman, along with BCWB member Laurie Weiss, are chairing this year's retreat. It is set for June 12 and 13, 2014, at the Purple Sage Ranch in Bandera, Texas. Mark your calendars and watch your email inbox for updates.

After a fantastic year in 2013, Directors Lauren Zettler-Horne and Lindsay Riley graciously agreed to stay on as chairs of our monthly luncheons. From February through November, you can join us at Club Giraud at Noon on the first Tuesday of the month for delicious food, networking, and an educational presentation with CLE credit.

As we all know, mentors can be vital to a young attorney's growth and development, which is why the BCWB's Mentor-Mentee program with members of St. Mary's University School of Law's Women's Law Association is so important. Director Hella Scheuerman serves as Co-Chair of this year's Mentor-Mentee Committee, assisted by Student Director Bianca Frisaura. We hope each of you will consider participating in our mentor-mentee events this year.

BCWB member Melissa Morales Fletcher is chairing this year's Law Day Student Contest and Luncheon, held yearly in conjunction with the State Bar's various Law Day events. The annual event provides students in Fox Tech's law magnet program to have lunch with BCWB members and hear from an inspirational speaker on topics related to the State Bar's Law Day theme. You won't want to miss this special mentoring opportunity and inspirational event, to be held in April this year. (con'd on p. 3)

President's Column (con'd from p. 2)

Director Carmen Samaniego and member Sherry Barnash are co-chairing the BCWB Foundation's Community Service Committee. This committee's primary role is distribution of the Elder Law Handbook, made possible through a grant from the Texas State Bar Foundation. Additional past projects overseen by the Community Service Committee include a BCWB night at the Community Justice Program, as well as special events benefitting groups such as the San Antonio Food Bank, Avance, and the Battered Women's Shelter. Carmen and Sherry will make sure you are informed of our many opportunities to support our community throughout the year.

Treasurer-Elect Greta McFarling chairs this year's President Party. Tentatively planned for the last week of February, the President's Party will be held to honor new members and past presidents of the BCWB. Additional social events include a new family event, chaired by President Elect Marissa Helm and co-sponsored by BCWB and Moms-in-Law San Antonio; our annual Julian Gold Fiesta Party, chaired by member Brooke Waldrep; and our annual "social" CLE, chaired by member Molly Neck.

Secretary Maurleen Cobb and Director Gaylia Brunson are co-chairing our Membership Committee. Membership recruitment and retention are vital to the BCWB, and we are excited to have Maurleen and Gaylia take the lead in growing our organization to its fullest potential.

Director Connie Arambula, with the assistance of member Cari Rangel, chairs our Website, Communications, and Social Media Committee. Treasurer Lisa Alcantar chairs our Investments Committee, Immediate Past President Suzanne Oliva chairs this year's Honors & Awards Committee, and Treasurer-Elect Greta McFarling serves as our Judicial and Legislative Liaison. President-Elect Marissa Helm chairs our Nominations & Elections Committee, and Director Elsa Marie Garza continues her role as our Historian and Public Relations Committee Chair. Director Shari Mao will lead the Board of Directors through a review and proposed amendment of our organization's bylaws, ensuring they are up-to-date and adequately address the purpose and needs of the BCWB.

Finally, we are fortunate to have member Regina Stone-Harris continue in her role as editor of Equal Times, our monthly newsletter. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the Equal Times, and we hope you will continue to enjoy the publication and benefit from the wealth of information it offers.

As you can see, we have a full year ahead, and much to look forward to in 2014! On January 10 and 11, the Board is participating in a retreat to review our strengths and weaknesses, and form a strategy for growing our organization and better serving you, our members. Your input and feedback is invaluable. To that end, please do not hesitate to contact me at tiffanie@rosenblattlawfirm.com with your questions and comments. We are all here to serve you.

I hope your year has started off well and only gets better. If you made New Year's resolutions, best of luck in reaching your goals. As for myself, I will keep practicing kindness. Happy 2014!

"My number one goal this year to be kind—kind to my family, kind to my friends, kind to my colleagues, and most importantly, kind to myself."

February 2014 Luncheon: State Bar Presentation

Please join us at Club Giraud on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, for a special State Bar of Texas Presentation. Sara Dysart and Andy Kerr, State Bar Directors for District 10, will present "How the State Bar Serves Texas Lawyers." CLE credit will be provided.

When: Tuesday, February 4, 2014

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

Cost: \$25 (\$15 for students), payable at the door or online.

RSVP by Friday, January 31, 2014 to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org.

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 may be charged extra to cover the additional demands on Club Giraud's staff and no-shows may be billed.

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

Autumn Affairs Proceeds

By: Hella Scheuerman and Leslie Hyman

During our Holiday Luncheon this past month, BCWBF members joined us as we presented the Autumn Affair beneficiary check to Rhonda Williamson, President/CEO of Girls Inc. of San Antonio. Rhonda accepted the check, on behalf of Girls Inc. of San Antonio, and was delighted to see BCWBF members work together, to make Autumn Affair such a success. Thank you to our sponsors, silent auction donors, volunteers, and guests, who made the event so successful!

Rhonda Williamson forwarded the following note, thanking BCWBF, which we wanted to share with all of our members:

I wanted to thank Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation again for an incredible Autumn Affair. Friday's luncheon was so special – and the gift is incredible! Our girls have gotten the biggest kick out of that giant check. We have it on display in the front of the building and our girls and our families have enjoyed it. Thank you for choosing Girls Inc. This has been one of the best experiences from my time here in San Antonio. The women at BCWBF work so hard and do such great things. Thank you for all you do for non-profits in San Antonio.
THANK YOU!
Rhonda



Hella Scheuerman



Leslie Hyman



Photos from the Christmas Luncheon



Committee	Name	Position	Telephone No.	E-mail
Annual CLE Retreat	Judge Renee McElhaney	Co-Chair	(210) 289-9753	rmcelhaney@bmqpllp.com
	Leslie Hymen	Co-Chair	(210) 222-9494	lhymen@pulmanlaw.com
	Laurie Weiss	Co-Chair	(210) 270-7168	laurie.weiss@nortonrosefulbright.com
Autumn Affair	Katherine Noll	Co-Chair	(210) 554-5508	knoll@coxsmith.com
	Brittany Weil	Co-Chair	(210) 870-2655	bweil@curlstahl.com
Board Retreat	Tiffany Clausewitz	Chair	(210) 413-1274	tiffanie@rosenblattlawfirm.com
Bylaws Amendment	Shari Mao	Chair	(210) 978-7764	smao@jw.com
CLE Event	Molly Neck	Chair	(210) 226-7800	mneck@bhlawpc.com
Foundation - Community Service & Projects	Carmen Samaniego	Co-Chair	(210) 802-4888	attorneycarmen@me.com
	Sherry Barnash	Co-Chair	(210) 912-5319	barnashs@reagan.com
Historian & Public Relations	Elsa Marie Garza	Chair	(210) 384-3273	elsamariegarza@satx.rr.com
Honors & Awards	Suzanne Oliva	Chair	(210) 875-4646	oliva@satx.rr.com
Investments	Lisa Alcantar	Chair	(210) 547-9325	lalcantar@prdg.com
Judicial Liaison & Legislative	Greta McFarling	Chair	(210) 335-3966	greta.mcfarling@txcourts.gov
Law Day Student Contest & Luncheon	Melissa Morales Fletcher	Chair	(210) 225-0811	Melissa@themoralesfirm.com
	Lauren Zettler-Horne	Co-Chair	(210) 477-7443	lhorne@br-lawfirm.com
Luncheons	Lindsay Riley	Co-Chair	(210) 414-2766	lrliley@coxsmith.com
	Maurleen Cobb	Co-Chair	(210) 378-8945	mcoobb@stokeslawoffice.com
Membership	Gaylia Brunson	Co-Chair	(210) 269-9005	gayliabrunson@yahoo.com
	Hella Scheuerman	Co-Chair	(210) 225-0111	hella@dillelawfirm.com
Mentor-Mentee	Bianca Frisaura (WLA)	Co-Chair	(407) 937-8142	bfrisaura@gmail.com
Newsletter	Regina Stone-Harris	Chair	(210) 394-1000	reginastoneharris@yahoo.com
Nominations & Elections	Marissa Helm	Chair	(210) 581-4626	Marissa.Helm@Parallon.com
Social (President's Party)	Greta McFarling	Co-Chair	(210) 335-3966	Greta.Mcfarling@txcourts.gov
Social (Julian Gold Party)	Brooke Waldrep	Co-Chair	(210) 447-8033	bwaldrep@sr-llp.com
Social (BCWB/MILSA Family Event)	Marissa Helm	Co-Chair	(210) 581-4626	Marissa.Helm@Parallon.com
Website, Communications & Social Media	Connie Arambula	Co-Chair	(210) 798-8137	carambula@lyndworld.com
	Cari Rangel	Co-Chair	(210) 525-2106	crangel@travelers.com



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Women in the Law

...Leading, Empowering, Succeeding

*Cosponsored by the State Bar of Texas Minority Affairs Division,
the Women in the Profession Committee, and the Women and the Law Section*



Highlights

- Keynote Speaker: Linda L. Addison
- Defining Success! Every Woman Can Be Successful
- Ethical Marketing on Social Media
- Women in the Courtroom and C-Suite
- Addressing Implicit Bias in the Law Firm, Client Meetings, and Courtroom
- Effective Cross Examination
- Women Lawyers – Leading the Profession

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For more info, see: <http://www.texasbarcle.com/CLE/AABuy0.asp?IID=12715&sProductType=EV>.

For questions or to register by phone, call: 1-800-204-2222 ext. 1574.