

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope you had a peaceful and fulfilling 2015, and are eagerly anticipating a prosperous 2016! "There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." - CS Lewis

2016 promises to be an exciting year for the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Foundation, and I am extremely honored to serve as President of this amazing organization. Our Officers and Board of Directors are women who are leaders and visionaries, including Presi-

dent-Elect Lisa Alcantar, Vice President Greta McFarling, Treasurer Hella Scheuerman, Treasurer-Elect Shari Mao, Secretary Lindsay Riley, Past-President Marissa Helm, and Directors Gaylia Brunson, Laura Cauley, Maurleen Cobb, Amanda Crouch, Lauren Horne, Leslie Hyman, Suzanne Patrick, Carmen Samaniego, Rachel Skinner, Brittany Weil, and Renée Yanta. I am excited to work with these accomplished women.

2015 was filled with many



Katherine Noll

accomplishments, including raising \$38,000 for the San Antonio Bereavement Center and the beginning of the development of a new leadership program—Lead Empower Advance and Develop Academy. Be on the lookout for more information on the LEAD Academy, (con'd on p. 4)

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January Luncheon: Cheer in the New Year" with Justice Luz Elena Chapa

Please join us for our first luncheon of the year on January 25, 2016, at St. Mary's School of Law as we welcome Justice Luz Elena Chapa of the Fourth Court of Appeals. Justice Chapa will discuss her career since graduating from St. Mary's University School of Law and how we, as women, can help one another succeed in the legal field. She will also present recent, impactful court

decisions from the Fourth Court of Appeals. CLE accreditation is pending.

When: Monday, January 25, 2016

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: St. Mary's University School of Law Sarita Kennedy East Law Alumni Room

Cost: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, payable at the door

RSVP: by January 18, 2016, to events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand schedules change, but we cannot guarantee a seat for individuals who RSVP after the date above.

For more information, please contact Rachel Skinner (rskinner@dykema.com) or Meagan McKeown (mmckeown@dykema.com). We hope to see you there!

December Luncheon Presentation

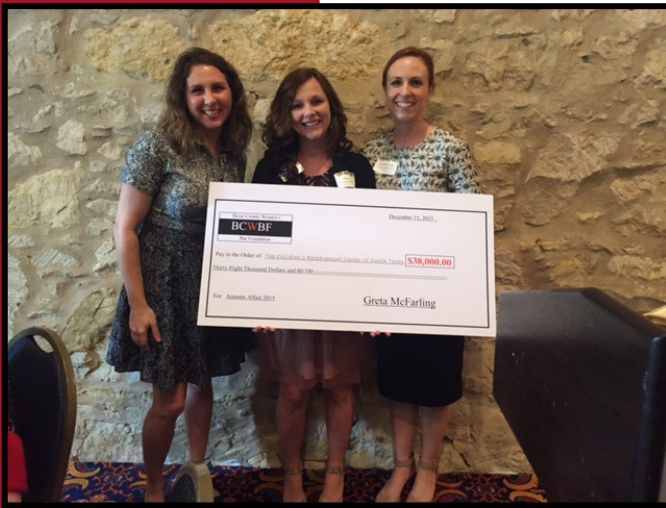
By Lisa P. Alcantar & Greta McFarling

If you missed our December luncheon, you missed our giant check unveiling! We were so excited to present the Children's Bereavement Center with \$38,000 which we - and by "we", we mean

YOU - raised through Autumn Affair 2015.

Denise Rizzo accepted the check on the Center's behalf and was visibly surprised and delighted. We suspect the giant check may find a permanent home in her office. We are thrilled

to know the funds will be put to such good use for our community. With that, 2015 Autumn Affair comes to a close and 2016 Autumn Affair planning begins anew. Stay tuned for beneficiary selection and volunteer opportunities!



Member Spotlight: Amanda Crouch



What's your current job?

I am a litigation associate at Jackson Walker LLP. I started at Jackson Walker as a summer associate and have been there ever since. I love the work I get to do and the people I get to work with on a daily basis.

How long have you been a member of the BCWB?

What's your best experience thus far?

I have been a member of the BCWB for two years. I have enjoyed meeting and interacting with the amazing women of this organization and serving alongside

them as we give back to the community. My favorite experience to date was serving as the Live Auction Co-Chair with Shari Mao for the 2015 Autumn Affair. We were tasked with coordinating a live auction for the first time at Autumn Affair and we had a blast doing it! I am looking forward to serving as a board member and chairing Autumn Affair with Shari in 2016.

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

I try each day to wake up and go for a run in the morning before heading to work. I enjoy getting my workout in before my day starts and find that it helps with stress levels during busy days at work. I am also a habitual coffee drinker - French vanilla coffee with skim milk is my beverage of choice!

What's your favorite moment of your career so far?

I took over a very complicated case from another associate earlier this year. Exposure for our client was fairly substantial and we were able to settle the case favorably thanks to my work. Knowing that I played a part in resolving a complicated and stressful situation for our client was very

rewarding and reminded me why we all work long hours and balance busy schedules so that we can help our clients to the best of our ability.

What was your childhood dream job?

From an early age, I told everyone I knew that I wanted to be the first woman President. I am serving as President of the Defense Counsel of San Antonio next year - I guess that dream has been partially realized!

Guilty Pleasure: What can you not live without?

Dark chocolate. A co-worker keeps a jar of dark chocolate on her desk and I have to exercise self-control not to eat it all.

What's the best career advice you can offer to others?

Do what you love. In the words of Maya Angelou, "Don't make money your goal. Instead, pursue the things you love doing and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off of you."

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

which is being chaired by Tifanie Clausewitz!

As we move into 2016, the momentum keeps going. Shari Mao and Amanda Crouch are co-chairing our flagship fundraising event, Autumn Affair! Expect some dynamic changes in the programming and a new venue for the event.

BCWB events kick off the year with our January luncheon with Justice Chapa, which will be held at Saint Mary's University in the Law Alumni Room on Monday, January 25, 2016 beginning at 12:00 p.m. Then, starting in February, luncheons will be held generally on the

Second Tuesday of the month at Club Giraud (not the first Tuesday). Look out for luncheon announcements from Lindsay Riley and Rachel Skinner, who will continue to co-chair luncheons along with the addition of Meagan McKeown to the team. Come join us for great food and CLE!

Justice Renée Yanta has already started planning this year's BCWB retreat, which promises to be as educational and fun as always. We also have a number of other entertaining events planned throughout the year, including a family event (or two), community service projects, the president's party

(which is sure to be fun and all are invited!), mentor-mentee events with St. Mary's University School of Law WLA members, as well as the always rewarding Law Day Luncheon.

If you are interested in getting involved in any event planning this year, please contact me or any of the other members of the Board. We would love to have your help!

As you can see, this is already gearing up to be a dynamic 2016. I look forward to seeing each of you at our events this year. Together let's make this a wonderful 2016!

Welcome New Members!

Hillary Ann Bell

Marla Castro Echevarria

Katie Fraser

Julie Grant

Hannah Hembree

Karen Landinger

Trina Lozoya

Stephanie L. O'Rourke

Patti Oviatt

Serenity S. Rasmussen

Judge Lorina Rummel

Kathy Stephens

Clair Strom

Brook Swilley

Judicial Spotlight:

U.S. Magistrate Judge Diana Song Quiroga



The Honorable Diana Song Quiroga is a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Texas. Previously, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the criminal division and a legal aid lawyer counseling low-income small business owners.

Why did you decide to become a lawyer?

My life experiences and my interest in the power of words led me to become a lawyer. My parents are immigrants who owned a small grocery store. No one in our family or in our circles was a lawyer. However, as a young girl, I had a strong sense of what was right and wrong, and was moved by events in my family's life,

such as witnessing the transition of Argentina from a military dictatorship to a democracy. Instinctively and through my life experiences, I learned early on what the rule of law means for the lives of ordinary people. I also like to read, especially biographies and novels. I remember reading a children's biography of Abraham Lincoln and it impressed me that he also loved to read and became such an important man yet had humble origins and was honest and kind.

Who are the people who have had the greatest influence upon your legal career?

I have been blessed through the years with many people who have supported and encouraged me along the way. U.S. District Judge Keith P. Ellison, for whom I clerked after graduating from law school, was an early believer and mentor who steadfastly supported my commitment to public service. I am also privileged to work daily with many judges whom I consider friends and role models, each embodying all the traits I think a great judge must have: wisdom, intelligence, judicial temperament, common sense, humility, fairness, and integrity. In particular, Senior U.S. District Judge George P. Kazen, who has been on the

bench over thirty years and who has a tremendous work ethic, inspires me to contribute to the judiciary and serve my country and community for what I hope will be many years to come.

What are you most proud of so far in your legal career?

I am most proud of having my 89-year old grandmother, who was not given an education because she was born a girl in a very poor Chinese family, attend my law school graduation and my judicial investiture. I felt I was honoring her and my parents' sacrifices and hard work and fulfilling for them the promise of the American Dream.

What tips can you give other lawyers interested in becoming a judge?

Work harder than anyone else you know, always be prepared for court and to effectively represent your client's interest, and be curious because you will always be learning. With time, someone will see your qualities and will nudge you in the direction of becoming a judge.

What are you looking forward to the most during your time on the bench?

One of the most rewarding things I get to do as a federal judge is to administer the oath and (con'd on p. 6)

Judicial Spotlight: Judge Quiroga (con'd from p. 5)

pledge of allegiance to groups of new citizens. For a first-generation immigrant like myself, it humbles me and gives me great honor to be able to share with new citizens how the values that built our nation that they studied for their citizenship civic exam are real and will help them realize their hopes

and dreams, just like I and my family were able to achieve our dreams.

I love my job and look forward to coming to work every day tackling the wide array of legal issues we encounter on a daily basis with the support of an amazing, skilled staff, including

my judicial assistant, Michelle Valdez, who has worked with me for more than ten years. My chambers and everyone else in the federal courthouse in Laredo are part of my extended family and it is my honor and joy to serve on the bench alongside them.

Happy Hour with Texas Women Lawyers

The Texas Women Lawyers will hold its annual CLE and meeting in San Antonio on February 19, 2016. Details for the meeting are attached to this newsletter. To celebrate the meeting, please join the Bexar County Women's Bar, Texas Women Lawyers, and members of the local Bar for a happy hour on Friday, January 22, 2016 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. If you haven't renewed your BCWB membership, the happy hour event will be a great opportunity to do so. We'll announce the location for this event by email.



Joshua Charles Patrick, born to Suzanne Patrick on Dec. 29, 2015 at 7:11 a.m., 7 lbs 15 oz, 19.5"



Ander Arambula, born to Connie Arambula on Dec. 10, 2015 at 6:13 a.m., 6 lbs 8 oz, 19.5"



2016 ANNUAL CLE AND ANNUAL MEETING

*Embrace Your
Fire Power*

ANNUAL CLE | FEBRUARY 19, 2016 | 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
ST. MARY'S LAW SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
MCLE CREDIT | 5.25 HOURS (1 HOUR ETHICS)

MORNING SCHEDULE



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nicole Sheindlin

- 6:00-7:00 MORNING WALK/JOG**
3-mile tour of San Antonio (meet in The Historic Menger Hotel Lobby)
- 8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
- 9:00-9:05 WELCOMING REMARKS**
- 9:05-9:35 A CONVERSATION WITH TEXAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DEBRA LEHRMANN**
Facilitated by Deirdre Carey Brown, Hoover Slovacek LLP
- 9:35-10:00 MYTHS AND TRUTHS ABOUT MONEY**
Tips to Help Protect Clients From Common Legal Pitfalls in Financial Matters.
Michelle J. Gessner, Gessner Wealth Strategies
- 10:00-10:15 BREAK**
- 10:15-11:15 LIFE AND LAWYERING: RETOOL, RESTART, REINVENT, RETIRE, AND REBOOT YOUR LIFE**
Kathryn Childers, One of the First Women Secret Service Agents, Gives a Personal Story on Surviving the Unexpected and Thriving in Life.
- 11:15-11:30 BREAK**
- 11:30-12:00 SOCIAL ENGINEERING IN THE REAL WORLD**
Protecting Legal Files in the Age of Dirty Intelligence, Hacking and Other Covert Technology Uses.
Tom DeSot, Digital Defense, Inc.

AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

- 12:00-1:15 LUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER NICOLE SHEINDLIN**
ALL RISE - MAXIMIZING OUR IMPACT THROUGH MENTORING
Ms. Sheindlin, co-founded Her Honor Mentoring, is a Former Public Defender and Partner in Mentzer and Sheindlin in NY.
(with Mentor Robin Schlaff, Attorney, and Mentee Crystal Luna.)
The TWL 2016 Pathfinder Award will also be presented to Judge Judy Sheindlin.
Lunch is provided.
- 1:15-1:45 BECOMING AN AUTHORITY FIGURE WITH FREE PUBLICITY**
What Lawyers Need to Consider When Branding and Marketing Themselves in the Digital Era.
Christine Haas, Emmy Award Winning Anchor and Investigative Reporter
- 1:45-2:15 HOT TOPICS IN BUSINESS LAW**
Deborah D. Williamson, Dykema Cox
Erin Seki, HEB
Elaine Balagia Croucher, Apache Corporation
AJ Johnson, Kane, Russell, Coleman & Logan (moderator)
- 2:15-2:30 BREAK**
- 2:30-3:00 JINXED**
High Profile Criminal Law Issues from the Bench and Beyond
Susan Criss, Former Galveston District Court Judge, Criss & Rousseau Law Firm, LLP
- 3:00-3:30 TRYING LAWSUITS IN HEELS - A VIEW FROM 1ST CHAIR**
Laura Tamez, The Herrera Law Firm and TTLA Board Member
- 3:30-3:45 BREAK**
- 3:45-3:50 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**
- 3:50-5:00 RAPID FIRE JUDICIAL ROUNDTABLE**
Got Questions? Get Answers! Interactive audience question and answer.
Hon. Alia Moses, USDC Judge (WDTX-Del Rio)
Hon. Amy Clark Meachum, District Court Judge (Travis County),
Hon. Holly Williamson, Justice of the Peace (Harris County)
Hon. Stacey Mathews, District Court Judge (Williamson County)
Hon. Jeff Bohm, Bankruptcy Judge (USBC SDTX) (Moderator)
- 5:00-6:00 NETWORKING RECEPTION**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTER ONLINE AT

<http://2016annualcle.eventbrite.com>

REGISTER BY MAIL

By submitting the form below

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (✓)

\$195 TEXAS WOMEN LAWYERS INDIVIDUAL
Cost includes TWL Conference, Lunch, Networking Reception and Annual Membership to TWL

\$150 GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIC LAWYERS
Cost includes TWL Conference, Lunch, Networking Reception and Annual Membership to TWL

\$100 NEWLY LICENSED ATTORNEYS
(Licensed Attorney for 1 year or less)
Cost includes TWL Conference, Lunch, Networking Reception and Annual Membership to TWL

\$100 HALF DAY ATTENDANCE
Cost includes either morning or afternoon session only, includes networking reception

FREE LAW STUDENT
Cost includes TWL Conference, Lunch, Networking Reception and Annual Membership to TWL * Based on space availability

\$3000 CHAMPION SPONSORSHIP
Included in marketing materials as underwriter of event – Exclusive advertising and time to speak to the attendees – Six complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Exhibitor Table for promotional materials – Special recognition with company logo in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$2000 ADVOCATE SPONSORSHIP
Six complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Entitles sponsors to briefly welcome attendees – Exhibitor Table for promotional materials – Special recognition with company logo in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$1500 COUNSELOR SPONSORSHIP
Six complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Exhibitor Table for promotional materials – Listed in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$1000 MENTOR SPONSORSHIP
Four complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Listed in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$500 ADVISOR SPONSORSHIP
Two complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Listed in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$250 PEER SPONSORSHIP
One complimentary admission to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Listed in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

I CANNOT ATTEND THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE, but I have enclosed a donation in the amount of \$ _____ in support of Texas Women Lawyers.

Remember that for just \$250, you can become Part of TWL's PEER Group and you can be included in Sponsorship Listing!

NAME: _____

FIRM: _____

TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

ST: _____

ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE NO.: _____

STATE BAR NO.: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

PRIMARY PRACTICE AREA: _____

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THE COURSE MATERIALS? PRINTED ELECTRONIC BOTH (Additional \$10)

Checks payable to: Texas Women Lawyers, Send to: 5051 Westheimer, Suite 1200, Houston, Texas 77056

**TEXAS WOMEN LAWYERS ANNUAL CLE | EMBRACE YOUR HIRE POWER
FEBRUARY 19, 2016 | ST. MARY'S LAW SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

**TEXAS WOMEN LAWYERS
5051 WESTHEIMER, SUITE 1200
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056**



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SPEAKER'S RECEPTION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Please join us for a cocktail reception with
our sponsors, speakers and guests.

Held at The Historic Menger Hotel from
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

St. Mary's Law School, Room LC105,
One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas

SPECIAL ROOM RATES \$149

Good through January 19, 2016

The Historic Menger Hotel,
204 Alamo Plaza

San Antonio, TX 78205 210-223-4361

www.mengerhotel.com