



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Happy October! I'm looking forward to a month that includes Halloween, more college football, and, most importantly, Autumn Affair on October 13th! This year's Autumn Affair Co-Chairs, Gaylia Brunson and Suzanne Oliva, have been working hard with over 30 committee members to organize a fantastic event. In anticipating this year's Autumn Affair, I found myself also reflecting back on the history of Autumn Affair and the many years of memories this annual event has created.



Laura C. Mason

Autumn Affair (formerly known as Bench Brunch) has been the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation's signature event since 1983. From 1983 through 2007, the Bench Brunch was held on a Sunday morning and honored women across Texas elected to the bench. The event evolved into a special day with live and silent auctions to raise money for local charities, a "Wee Brunch" for children, and a growing group of guests and honorees. In addition, the BCWBF honored two outstanding lawyers each year by presenting the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award and the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award to two BCWBF members.

Each year, Bench Brunch created special memories as our organization reached new milestones. 2006 marked a particularly special year for the Bench Brunch, when the BCWBF celebrated raising a total of over \$1 million for Bexar County charities through this annual event since 1983. 2007 marked the Bench Brunch's 25th anniversary, and featured a wonderful reflection on the event since inception through the silver anniversary year.

In 2008, the BCWBF decided to revamp Bench Brunch and transformed the event to an evening event with "Bench Brunch Goes Prime Time." The 2008 event was held at the Witte Museum, where Autumn Affair has remained. The evening event featured the same important core components, including honoring women judges and presenting the Belva Lockwood awards. In addition, the evening event introduced a fun fashion show with models from the judiciary. The fashion show has become an annual tradition in recent years and will be featured in this year's "New York Fashion Week" themed Autumn Affair.

On October 13th, the BCWBF will celebrate 29 years of Bench Brunch/Autumn Affair. Please join us in the celebration, come visit with old and new friends, and help us make even more memories at this special event. I look forward to seeing you there!

OCTOBER 2011

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Suzanne Oliva



Gaylia Brunson

Autumn Affair, Just a Few Weeks Away

By Suzanne Oliva & Gaylia Brunson

The excitement is building for the 2011 Autumn Affair to be held on Thursday, October 13, 2011, at 6:00 pm at the Witte Museum. This event will once again bring together the legal community for an evening of fun while honoring women judges and presenting the Belva Lockwood awards to two outstanding attorneys.

Many thanks to Carol Jendrzey for organizing the “Stop and Drop” gift gathering party at La Gloria and to all who attended and donated items. It was a wonderful event and provided the opportunity get to know one other better, while preparing for a great cause—fundraising for the Center for Family Relations, a.k.a. Kid’s Exchange.

We are still welcoming sponsorships for the event (e-mail Monica J. Lerma at mjlerma@sr-llp.com) and silent auction or raffle item donations (e-mail Kristen Elizondo at Kristen.elizondo@bgllp.com or Elizabeth Haws Connally at ehc@tglf.com). Requested include travel vouchers, vacation condo usages, electronics, jewelry, dinner certificates, sports memorabilia, etc. Thank you to our sponsors (as of September 28, 2011) including:

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Thank you for the auction and raffle donations. Here is a sampling of the wonderful items you can win: Cheezy Jane’s, La Hacienda de Los Barrios, Canyon Springs Golf Club, Tre Trattoria, San Pedro Playhouse, Paesanos, Americus Diamond, Alamo Imax, Andie and Barbara, Grey Moss Inn, San Antonio Missions Baseball, Bell Mountain Vineyards, watercolor art work, BBQ grill, The Magik Theatre, iPadII, wine fridge, Mary Kay, Best Buy, Water 2 Wine, Santikos Theatres, La Cantera Golf, Spurs tickets or souvenir, Woodhouse Day Spa, El Jarro De Arturo, El Mirasol, El Mirador, Flying L Guest Ranch, sports memorabilia, Learning Express, and camera and digital frame. We look forward to seeing you soon at the Autumn Affair!

Congratulations!

Congratulations!

Belva Lockwood Award Winners!

By Suzanne Oliva and Gaylia Brunson

We are thrilled to announce that the 2011 Autumn Affair Belva Lockwood Award winners: Carol Jendrzej and Priscilla Camacho! Carol Jendrzej was selected for the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer award and Priscilla Camacho was selected for the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer award.



Carol Jendrzej, a KCI attorney and a former lawyer with Cox Smith, has been recognized as a top bankruptcy lawyer by The Best Lawyers in America[®], the “Texas Super Lawyer” edition of Law and Politics magazine, and Scene in SA. In addition to serving on numerous Bar committees, she has been a wonderful mentor to the young lawyers at Cox Smith and at KCI. A special place in her heart is reserved for helping with Special Olympics, in which she has served as a director and helped plan the annual Oscar Night America. Carol was chosen Chair of the

State Bar of Texas’s Women and the Law Section and has written papers and organized conferences around the State. A former president of the BCWBA/BCWBF and Bench Brunch Chair, Carol has remained an active member, demonstrating her devotion to the organizations and the goals of assisting disadvantaged women and children.



Priscilla Camacho, a family law, probate law and civil litigation attorney with Plunkett & Gibson, Inc., is a former President of the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association and a current Director of the Texas Young Lawyers Association and the San Antonio Bar Association. Her community service includes work with the Special Olympics, Junior League, St. Mary’s University, organizing a walk to end child abuse and hosting events for the children of the South Texas Bereavement Center. Priscilla, a former BCWBA/BCWBF director and Autumn Affair Co-Chair, is also an active member of the organizations.

Congratulations ladies! We look forward to presenting your well-deserved awards on the 13th!

September Recap

By Lisa P. Alcantar

In September, we welcomed the Center for Family Relations, this year’s Autumn Affair beneficiary. During our luncheon, we heard many of the great services this organization provides. Foremost among services is providing a safe environment for children to maintain or establish a relationship with both parents following a divorce or custody dispute. You can learn more about the organization at <http://centerforfamilyrelations.org/>.

October Luncheon Announcement

By Lisa P. Alcantar

October’s BCWBA luncheon will be at Club Giraud on Wednesday, October 5, 2011. We will welcome back former Texas Supreme Court Justice Scott Brister. Justice Brister will provide us with an update on this year’s significant opinions by the Texas Supreme Court. Justice Brister always draws a large crowd, so RSVP early. Please RSVP through the website or directly to lalcantar@prdg.com or mgiltner@prdg.com by Monday, October 3d.

Another Successful Mentor/Mentee Mixer

By Nada Ismail Taha & Marissa Helm

Thank you to everyone who made our mentor/mentee mixer on September 29th a smashing success! Despite the miraculous rainfall, we had a great turnout of St. Mary's Women's Law Association and BCWBA members. Everyone enjoyed great Mexican-style food and drinks and lively conversation. We would like to extend a very special thanks to Justice Rebecca Simmons for welcoming us into her beautiful home.

Attorneys who attended the event (or who previously indicated they would like to serve as a mentor) should soon receive an email with contact information for their assigned mentee. Please reach out to your mentee and introduce yourself if you have not met her in person. While every mentoring relationship is unique, we recommend that you take your mentee to lunch or coffee in the coming weeks to get to know each other.

In visiting with the students, we found that many of them have no idea what they want to do with their legal educations after the bar exam, so we thought it might be useful for them to see attorneys who have taken some of the many career paths available to licensed attorneys. In the coming months, we intend to support the WLA in preparing a program to showcase lawyers who have entered different fields and the paths they took to get there. More details on this exciting program to come!

If you were unable to attend the mixer, but you would still like to mentor a law student, please contact Nada Ismail Taha at nada.ismailtaha@nustarenergy.com or Marissa Helm at marissahelm@gmail.com. We still have a number of students who would like mentors, so please volunteer a little of your time to shape the next generation of female attorneys. Often, the mentors get as much or more from the relationship as the mentees!

November Luncheon Announcement

By Maggie B. Giltner

Please mark your calendars for the November luncheon. On Tuesday, November 1st, our own Pam Huff, with Cox Smith, will discuss "Taking Your Brand Beyond U.S. Borders." Pam's talk will include comments on evaluating global interests and the dangers of TM expansion, creating a branding strategy, and related issues. Pam will share some amazing stories about what her clients have faced in other countries.



We're rolling out the red carpet for...

THE BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR FOUNDATION

AUTUMN AFFAIR

Save the date

6 P.M.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011

WITTE MUSEUM

BENEFITING CENTER FOR FAMILY RELATIONS
(A.K.A. SAN ANTONIO KIDS EXCHANGE)



Beverly Smith



On August 12, 2009, O'Connor was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor of the United States, by President Barack Obama.

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

By Beverly Smith

SPOTLIGHT ON

Sandra Day O'Connor was born in El Paso, Texas and became the first woman to become a member of the Supreme Court in 1981. O'Connor was confirmed by the U.S. Senate with a vote of 99–0. In her first year on the Court, she received over 60,000 letters from the public, more than any other justice in history. She retired from the Supreme Court in 2005.

In 1952, Justice O'Connor graduated third in her law school class of 102 students, yet she was unable to find a job at a law firm because law firms at the time did not hire women. Eventually she found work as a deputy county attorney in California. This job sparked Justice O'Connor's lifelong passion for public service. She would go on to serve in all three branches of government, and at the local, state, and national levels.

Did you know that Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is a gamer?

Concerned about the lack of knowledge among young Americans about civics and how government works, Justice O'Connor spearheaded the creation of "www.icivics.org," an online website of interactive games created for learning and teaching civics. As the featured speaker on Constitution Day at Roanoke College in 2009, Justice O'Connor told an audience, "Only one-third of Americans can name the three branches of government, let alone say what they do." The names of the judges on "American Idol" are common knowledge, O'Connor lamented, but less than 15 percent of the general public can identify a chief justice.

Justice O'Connor carries the torch for teaching civics in schools. The games created on www.icivics.org are challenging, fun, and engaging. Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be President of the United States for a day? Well, in *Executive Command*, you can be President for four years! Do you like to control your own money? Well, in *People's Pie*, you control the federal budget! Go to www.icivics.org. You will find several mind-stimulating games that were created to engage youth and to assist teachers by providing free access to these interactive on-line teaching tools. I challenge you to see how much you know about our three branches of government. My favorite game on the site is "Do I Have A Right?" In this game, you'll run a law firm specializing in constitutional law.

I had the distinct honor to meet with Justice O'Connor recently in Austin. Her presence generates enthusiasm and aspirations to help others. She encouraged members of the Texas State Bar to spread the word and actively promote the free online interactive civics games at www.icivics.org with parents, kids, teachers, and each other! Who knew gaming about civics could be so much fun? Oh, and educational, too.





Lorie Blount

Community Services Column

By Lorie Blount

As you may know, the Center for Family Relations is the BCWB Autumn Affair honoree this year. We hope you will attend Autumn Affair and support this wonderful organization.



Center for Family Relations
Helping Our Community's Most Precious Asset - Our Children

The Center for Family Relations (the Center, a/k/a San Antonio Kids Exchange) is a non-profit organization, founded in 1997, dedicated to helping children of all ages and their parents in divorce situations to redefine and restructure their families during a time of transition. Through supervised visitation and monitored exchange services, the Center provides a safe place for children to maintain relationships with both parents. The Center also provides services for parents and primary caregivers by offering parent education programs in the workplace and the San Antonio community.

Working in collaboration with the local courts, community agencies, and local police, the Center provides an important service, protecting our community's most precious asset – our children. The Center serves over 3,600 parents and children each year! For more information about the Center and its programs, visit www.centerforfamilyrelations.org.

Also, please join the BCWBF and the San Antonio Food Bank (the Food Bank) to fight hunger this holiday season! There are two great opportunities where you can make a difference:



The first way is to donate \$10.00 for The Great Turkey Challenge, a 5K Run/Walk Fundraising Event presented by HEB. This fundraising event will support the Food Bank's efforts to provide turkeys to needy families in San Antonio. For every \$10.00 donated, the Food Bank will provide one turkey to a family in need this holiday season! The individual registration fee is \$30.00. Learn more about the event or register for the event at <http://thegreatturkeychallenge.org>.

The second great way to partner with the Food Bank to end hunger is to help increase food resources for those in need. The Food Bank seeks donations of nutritious, non-perishable food items. The following list reflects the Food Bank's "Twelve Most Wanted Items:" peanut butter, cereal, tuna, beans, rice, mac & cheese, chili, canned stews, canned soups, canned luncheon meat, full meals (canned or boxed), and pop top food items.

At our next monthly luncheon, scheduled for November 1, 2011, you can help the Food Bank by signing up for The Great Turkey Challenge or by donating some non-perishable food items. Donations of food items will be collected at the luncheon.

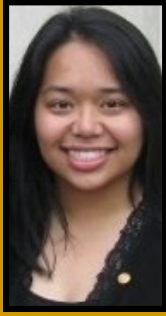


Emma Cano

Call for Nominations for the Bexar County Women's Bar

By: Emma Cano

Planning is underway for 2012 and we will soon vote for our incoming Officers and Directors. We are currently accepting nominations for candidates to fill 6 vacancies on our Board of Directors. If you or someone you know is willing to serve, please submit your names to the Nominating Chair, Emma Cano, by email at emma.cano@haynesboone.com, or by phone at 210-978-7405. Nominations will close at noon on Tuesday, November 1, 2011.



Victoria Marie S. Bongat
President, Women's Law
Association

Women's Law Association Update

By Victoria Marie S. Bongat

On September 15th, the Women's Law Association (WLA) officially signed up members for the 2011-2012 academic year. The officers answered questions from prospective and returning members near their Docket Call table in Pecan Grove, collected dues and membership forms, offered homemade mini-cupcakes, and distributed reminders for the upcoming mentor/mentee event and gift certificates to Landau, a jewelry store at La Cantera.

The first general meeting of the year took place on Monday, September 26. More than 50 members and potential members attended, 20 of whom paid their annual dues and picked up their t-shirts. The officers introduced themselves and made some organizational announcements. President Victoria Bongat asked that all the attendees become familiar with the student handbook and risk management policies. President-Elect Alison Williams informed the 1Ls about the upcoming elections for section senators. Vice President Jenny Zarka gave a brief orientation/introduction to the annual silent auction for charity, which will take place on November 3. She announced that this year's proceeds will benefit the Family Violence Prevention Services (FVPS). Zarka encouraged all members to solicit and secure one donation for the silent auction by first accessing the TWEN page and gathering the donation solicitation materials, and explained that each of the officers had pledged to secure 10 donations each. Secretary Kristen Hunter announced the dates for WLA events in October. Treasurer Alyse Haugen thanked members for their dues and explained that non-members would be denied access to certain sign-up sheets. Alumni Relations Chair Liz Gutierrez reminded members to sign up to attend the Mentor/Mentee Happy Hour with the BCWBA at Justice Rebecca Simmons' home on Sept. 29. She emphasized the importance of networking and making contacts. Professor Bonita Roberts, the organization's faculty supervisor, shared her knowledge of past mentor/mentee events by reporting that Justice Simmons had often hosted the event in the past. She also recommended that we arrive dressed in better than business casual attire. After President Bongat reminded members to retain the tickets they received upon entering for a drawing to win free membership dues, President-Elect Williams introduced the guest speaker, with whom she had interned over the summer.

Guest speaker Richard Loza, attorney at law and project director of the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid Family Justice Center, spoke about a number of topics. As a St. Mary's University School of Law alumnus, he shared some anecdotes of his time in school, including his experience as one of Professor Roberts's students. Loza took some time to encourage members to make the silent auction a success because FVPS is a worthy cause, and our funds will really help supplement areas where the budget was cut. He announced that he donated a bottle of wine for the auction. Although Loza offered numerous pieces of advice, a few stand-out things to remember were: don't ever let professors, other attorneys, or judges see you cry; find out what kind of law you want to practice and get as much experience with it as you can before graduation; and network, make contacts, take paying jobs and volunteer, if no paying jobs are available. When he finished speaking, President-Elect Williams thanked him for sharing his time and experience. Vice President Zarka concluded the meeting by drawing a ticket from the box and awarding the first of our two free memberships.

The noon meeting was a success and the entire presentation was well-received. We were fortunate to have it recorded for viewing by 5 p.m. meeting attendees. Interest in the Mentor/Mentee Happy Hour was so great that law students were turned away after reaching the 40-law student limit.

Upcoming Events: 1L Senator Elections, Wine and Wit (10/21), Second General Meeting (10/24), Annual Silent Auction for Charity (11/3), Social and Service (11/11-11/12).

The Autumn Affair
of the
Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation



Presents

*New York
Fashion Week*

*Benefiting
the Center for
Family Relations
a.k.a*

*San Antonio
Kids Exchange*

Witte Museum

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Six O'Clock in the Evening

*For sponsorships and tickets please contact
Monica Lerma at (210) 447-8033 or mjlerma@sr-llp.com
or visit www.bexarcountywomensbar.org*

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BCWBF

SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

We hope you will join us for holiday cheer, a delicious lunch, special presentations, and great prizes.

DATE

12/09/11

TIME

12:00

RSVP

Lisa Alcantar at lalcantar@prdg.com



59TH ANNUAL RED MASS

Thursday, October 27, 2011 + 6 p.m. + San Fernando Cathedral

The custom of a special Mass for the judicial community arose in France, England and Italy in the early 13th century to mark the opening of the courts of law and to ask guidance for all who seek justice. It became known as the Red Mass from the color of the priests' vestments and judges' robes. This tradition continues today in San Antonio as a time for the legal community to come together to pray for the cause of justice.



A Legacy of Faith and Law

St. Mary's University President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., and Charles E. Cantú, dean of the School of Law, invite the legal community and people of all faiths to join in the celebration of Red Mass, marking the beginning of the judicial year.

The Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S., Archbishop of San Antonio, will be the principal presider and homilist. The Honorable Rebecca Simmons, Fourth Court of Appeals, will offer reflections.

**Thursday, October 27, 2011
6 p.m.**

**San Fernando Cathedral
115 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas**

Reception to follow:
The Plaza Club
Frost Bank Tower
100 W. Houston Street
San Antonio, Texas

This tradition is coordinated annually by the St. Mary's University School of Law, the Catholic Lawyers Guild of San Antonio, and representatives from San Antonio's legal organizations, the judiciary and the State Legislature.

Judges will gather at the Fourth Court of Appeals at 5 p.m. for a reception and to robe and prepare for the solemn processional from the Cadena-Reeves Justice Center to the Cathedral. At the Cathedral, they will join representatives of the local legal organizations and process inside.

For more information, please contact Sister Grace Walle, F.M.I., St. Mary's School of Law campus minister, at (210) 436-3063 or gwalle@stmarytx.edu.

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