



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

There is no time like the present, with all the buzz surrounding the upcoming presidential election, to highlight the importance of voting. Although Presidential elections routinely draw more voters to the polls than non-Presidential years, voter turnout remains relatively low when you look at the underwhelming participation of voting-age Americans. In 2008, 56.8% of the voting-age population made it to the polls, representing a slight increase from the 55.3% turnout in 2004 and the 51.3% turnout in 2000. While these numbers are considerably higher than turnout for recent non-Presidential year elections—37.8% in 2010, 37.1% in 2006, and 37% in 2002—the numbers are incredibly disappointing.



Emma Cano

I don't have statistics to confirm this, but I like to believe and hope that attorneys vote at considerably higher rates than the rest of the population. Surely our understanding of the process, our commitment to promoting justice, and opinionated personalities (yes, I'm talking about you!) encourage us to use our voice and exercise our right to vote for those candidates we believe will serve our communities and our country best. We must strive to stay informed about the issues and the candidates' stances on those issues. There is so much media coverage on the various candidates that it is sometimes easier to just distance ourselves from the barrage of information coming our way, than it is to process it all. But, there is no time like the present to educate ourselves on the candidates because only then can we properly exercise our constitutional right to vote.

In the interest of educating our members about the upcoming judicial election and the various candidates, the BCWB will host a Judicial Candidate Forum at the October monthly luncheon at Club Giraud. Lisa Alcantar and Denise Drake, our luncheons chairs, have put together a wonderful program aimed at allowing our members to get to know the candidates in the local judicial races. But, there are many more races that affect us and our community, so make an effort to learn about all the candidates so you can make an informed decision on November 6th. Use your voice. Vote!

Upcoming Events:

- October 2—BCWB Monthly Luncheon at Club Giraud
- October 11—Autumn Affair at the Witte
- October 25—Around Town Luncheon at Restaurant Gwendolyn
- November 6—BCWB Monthly Luncheon at Club Giraud
- December 14—Holiday and End of Year BCWB Luncheon at Hotel Contessa

OCTOBER 2012

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Monica J. Lerma
Autumn Affair
Co-Chair



Maurleen Cobb
Autumn Affair
Co-Chair

2012 Autumn Affair 30th Year Anniversary of BCWBF's Fundraiser

Autumn Affair is almost here. The event will be held on October 11, 2012 at the Witte Museum. We hope to see you there as we will celebrate our 30th year Anniversary by honoring our female judiciary, our beneficiary—Girls on the Run of Bexar County—and our two fabulous Belva Lockwood Award Winners.

Sylvia Cardona of Langley & Banack, Inc. will be awarded the 2012 BCWBF Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award and *Tiffanie Clausewitz* of Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen & Benson, LLP will be awarded the 2012 BCWBF Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

It's not too late to donate an item for our silent auction and raffle, sponsor a table, or attend the event. If you'd like to donate an item, please e-mail Tiffanie Clausewitz (tclausewitz@pulmanlaw.com) or Lisa Alcantar (lalcantar@prdg.com). If you'd like to sponsor the event, please contact Hella Scheuerman at (hschc@allstate.com) or Lorie Blount at (Lorie.Blount@uhs-sa.com). For any questions or last minute ideas, contact Autumn Affair co-chairs, Maurleen Cobb (210)378-8945 or Monica J. Lerma (210) 464-7408), (mjlerma@sr-llp.com).

We hope you can make it out to honor our judges, celebrate our beneficiary, and our Belva Lockwood Award winners on Thursday, October 11, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. at the Witte Museum.

Thank you to all of our Sponsors for their generosity and support:

PLATINUM SPONSOR (\$2000)

- *Cox Smith
- *Girls on the Run
- *Haynes and Boone, LLP
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- *Speights & Worrich
- *The Clausewitz Family
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GOLD SPONSOR (\$1500)

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- *St. Mary's School of Law/St. Mary's School of Law Alumni Association-
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Autumn Affair

Thank you to all of our Auction & Raffle Donors for their generosity and support:

As of 9/28/2012

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Senator Carlos Uresti
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Southtown Yoga Loft
Southwest School of Art
Spice of Life Catering
St. Mary's Alumni Association
Sunset Ridge Hardware Store
Suzanne Oliva
The Bandit Golf Club
The Menger Hotel
The Republic Golf Club & Forsight Golf
The RK Group
The San Antonio Talons
The Witte Museum
Tinsman & Sciano
Two Step Restaurant & Cantina
University Bowling
UTSA Paralegal Certification Program
Valero Alamo Bowl
Van's Restaurant
Water 2 Wine
Westin La Cantera Resort
Whimsy Art Studio
Yard House
Zoe's Kitchen



Lorie Blount

2012 Autumn Affair Beneficiary: Girls on the Run® of Bexar County

Lorie Blount

The beneficiary for this year's Autumn Affair is Girls on the Run® of Bexar County. Girls on the Run is a 501(c)(3), developmentally-focused youth sports program for girls in the 3rd through 8th grades. It combines training for a 5K run with positive youth development curricula. The objective of Girls on the Run is to educate and empower girls at an early age in order to prevent the display of at-risk activities in the future.

Girls on the Run inspires girls to be joyful, healthy, and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. The 8 to 13 year-old girls learn life skills through dynamic, conversation-based lessons and fun running games. The program culminates with the girls being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K running event. The goal of the program is to unleash confidence through accomplishment, while establishing a lifetime appreciation of health and fitness.

The Bexar County Chapter of Girls on the Run was established in 2010. The program is developing faster than ever, growing from 35 girls its first semester to over 100 last semester! The program's success resulted from the hard work and dedication of its coaches, parents, volunteers and community members. Girls on the Run is positioned for increased growth as more and more girls learn about the program! Its future success depends on continued support from the community. The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation is pleased to support this organization.

"Save the Date" for
A 30th Anniversary Celebration!

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation
Autumn Affair

Benefiting Girls on the Run of Bexar County

Witte Museum
Thursday, October 11, 2012
Six O'Clock in the Evening

For sponsorships and tickets, please contact
Lorie Blount at (210) 358-2047 lorie.blount@uhs-sa.com
Hella Scheuerman at (210) 482-4564 hsche@allstate.com
or visit www.bexarcountrywomensbar.org

*Honoring our Female Judiciary and
2012 Bexa Lockwood Award Recipients*
Sylvia Cardona and Tiffanie Clausewitz



Suzanne Oliva

Call for Nominations for the Bexar County Women's Bar

By Suzanne Oliva

Planning is underway for 2013 and we will soon vote for our incoming officers and directors. We are currently accepting nominations for candidates to fill six vacancies on our Board of Directors. If you or someone you know is willing to serve, please submit the names to the Nominating Chair, Suzanne Oliva, by email at oliva@satx.rr.com, or by phone at 210-875-4646. Nominations will close at noon on Thursday, November 1, 2012.



Connie Basel

Mentor/Mentee Mixer

By Connie Basel

Thank you to everyone who made the mentor/mentee mixer on September 20th a great success! We had a large turnout of St. Mary's Women's Law Association and BCWBA members, despite the election season. Everyone enjoyed great wine, Mediterranean style Hors d'oeuvres, and an inspiring presentation by Judge Renee McElhaney. We would like to extend a very special thanks to Judge McElhaney for hosting the event. Her beautiful home created the perfect ambience for this wine-themed mixer.

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 an 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 taking your mentee to lunch or coffee in the next few weeks to get to know each other.

We still have a number of students who need a mentor. If you were unable to attend the mixer, but you would like to mentor a law student, please contact Julia Mann at jmann@jw.com or Connie Basel at cbasel@lyndworld.com.



November Luncheon Announcement

By Lisa Alcantar

Please join us at Club Giraud on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, as we welcome Cynthia Orr. Cynthia's presentation centers on her practice as a criminal defense attorney, why she chose this practice and what keeps her motivated as a criminal defense advocate. RSVP by Friday, November 2, 2012, by clicking [here](#) or emailing events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Cost is \$25 (\$15 for students), payable online or at the door. Last November, the generosity of our members resulted in a huge donation of food to the San Antonio Food Bank. Let's do it again! Bring two cans of food for an extra raffle ticket.



Lisa Alcantar

Community Service Column

By Lorie Blount



Lorie Blount

The Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA) - a SAISD Charter School: Join BCWB on a visit to speak with YWLA's college-bound students! The BCWB will visit the YWLA on Friday, October 19th, to speak with 10th and 11th grade college-bound students. Please join us! During the 10:05-10:45 class period, we will speak with the girls about why we went to college and law school and describe our exciting, challenging, and ever-evolving legal careers! These students are excited about their education and will enjoy hearing about your career. If you are interested in speaking to students at YWLA, please contact Lorie Blount at lorie.blount@uhs-sa.com.

Information about the school: The YWLA is San Antonio's first all-girls public school, opened in August 2008 as a tuition-free college-preparatory school that focuses on math, science and technology – fields typically underrepresented by women. Students at YWLA receive a quality education, shaped by the core values of college preparation, responsible leadership and wellness life skills, and values that contribute to a well-rounded education. Consistently rated Exemplary by the State since its inception, YWLA is a collaborative effort between SAISD and the Foundation for the Education of Young Women.

All YWLA students are expected to attend and graduate from a four-year college or university. College preparation is ensured through a rigorous curriculum and a strong academic support system. College and career counseling is an integral part of the school's program. The young women at YWLA also learn responsible leadership through active participation in extra-curricular activities and service-learning opportunities. The girls are highly encouraged to not only participate, but to create their own clubs and service-learning opportunities. Leadership is infused in the classroom and developed through summer enrichment programs, such as creative writing, crime scene investigation and NASA camps. For more information, please see www.saisd.net/schools/ywla.

Upcoming Food Drive for Thanksgiving: The BCWB will collect donations for the San Antonio Food Bank at the November luncheon. We hope you will attend the luncheon and bring some canned and/or boxed food to the luncheon with you. The Food Bank's most wanted and needed items are: peanut butter, tuna, cereal, beans, rice, mac & cheese, chili, canned stews and soups, canned luncheon meat, full meals in cans or boxes, and pop top canned items. Last year, the BCWB donated over 100 pounds of food. The Food Bank staff was very appreciative. We look forward to your contribution this year so we can have an even more substantial donation!

Also, consider participating in the annual 5K Turkey Challenge scheduled for Thanksgiving Day. All registrations support the San Antonio Food Bank's efforts to place turkeys on the tables of needy families in our area. To register, see <http://www.thegreatturkeychallenge.org/> for more information.

Women's Law Association Update

By Alison R. Williams, President, Women's Law Association

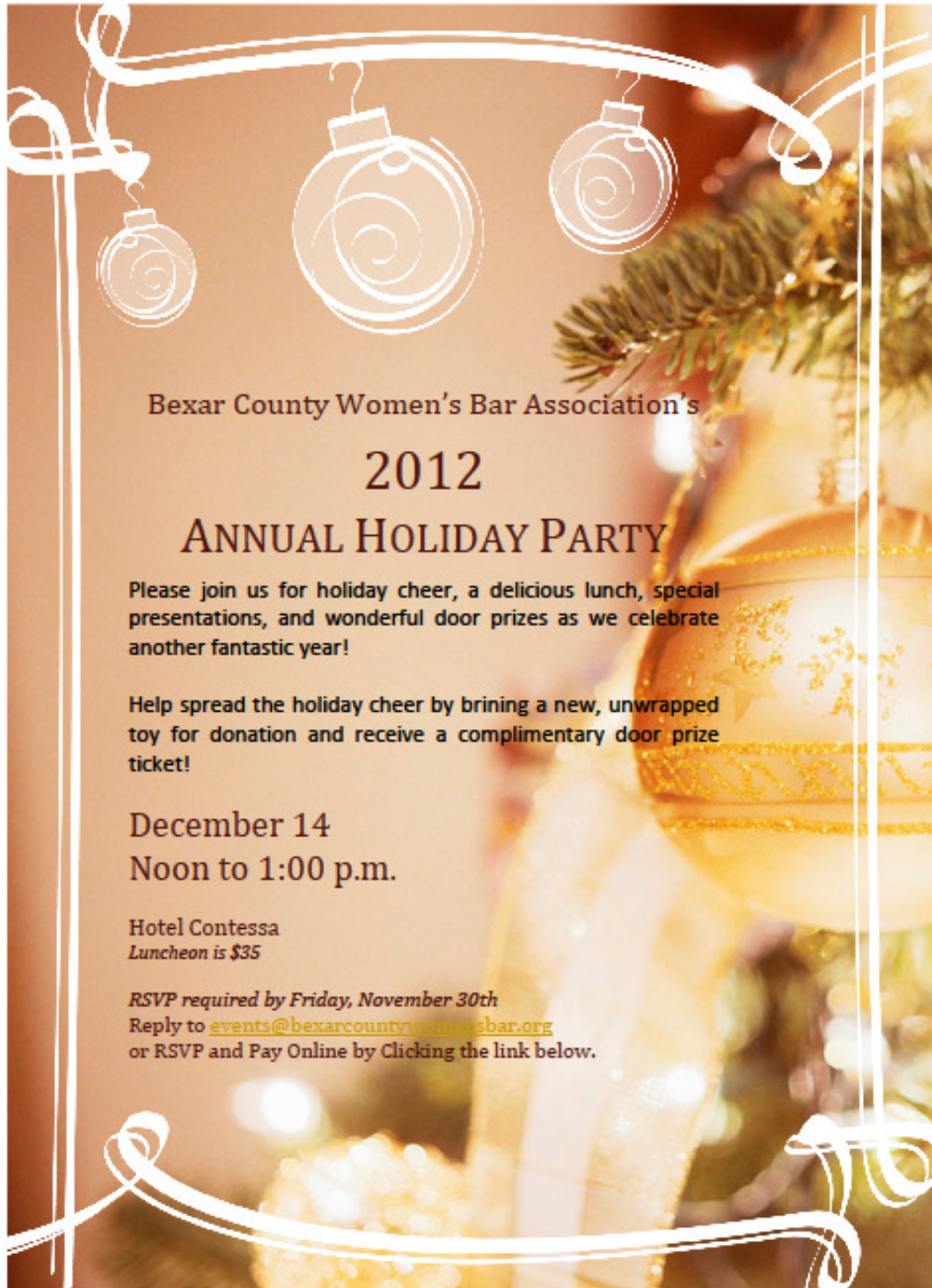
September was a fantastic month for WLA. After a successful kolaches and doughnuts tabling session, we had a great turnout at Docket Call for sign ups...in spite of the rain. Nearly 50 students signed up and membership has doubled since then with more requests for membership forms coming all the time. Shortly thereafter, our members enjoyed a wonderful evening at Judge McElhaney's lovely home for our mentor/mentee event with the Bexar County Women's Bar. We really enjoyed this opportunity to meet new members, catch up with old ones and, of course, to spend a very enjoyable evening with our sisters in BCWBA. WLA members are excited to begin their relationships with their mentors. We so appreciate this event that we've come to look forward to every year.

Our annual first meeting was very well received. The meeting began with introducing Board members. After board announcements, BCWBA's Diana Cavazos and Lauren Horne discussed the upcoming Autumn Affair event and its beneficiary, Girls on the Run. Members responded to the call for volunteers with great enthusiasm and all volunteer positions were filled! We look forward to supporting the BCWBA for this wonderful event.

The main speakers for the general meeting were Tiffany Duong and Brett VanGheluwe of the Bexar County Civil District Courts Staff Attorney's Office. St. Mary's Law grads, Tiffany and Brett gave invaluable insight and advice concerning the job application/interviewing process, as well as business etiquette and knowing how to *keep* your job once you've secured it. Specific pieces of advice included researching the entity you are interviewing with, being careful what you say at the courthouse (judges don't always "look" like judges when they're in plainclothes!) and a general but important reminder to always use common sense and courtesy. Our members benefitted greatly from this candid and enlightening presentation. Overall, the meeting was a huge success. As always, we continue to look forward to all of the exciting events we have coming up...bring on the month of October!



Upcoming Events: Autumn Affair (10/11), Wine and Wit: A Party to Die For, Murder Mystery Masquerade (10/13), October general meeting in Sarita Kenedy Law Alumni Room, guest speaker: District Attorney Susan Reed (10/29)



Bexar County Women's Bar Association's

2012

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

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

Help spread the holiday cheer by bringing a new, unwrapped toy for donation and receive a complimentary door prize ticket!

December 14

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Hotel Contessa

Luncheon is \$35

RSVP required by Friday, November 30th

Reply to events@bexarcountywomensbar.org

or RSVP and Pay Online by Clicking the link below.