



Bexar County Women's Bar Association

President's Column

At our September monthly luncheon at the Club Giraud, we had the wonderful opportunity to hear Rhonda Wilson Williamson, President and CEO of Girls Incorporated of San Antonio, speak about the exciting projects planned for the young girls of San Antonio. For those of you who were unable to attend the luncheon, I interviewed Rhonda so that the Bexar County Women's Bar Association/ Foundation members could learn more about the beneficiary of the Autumn Affair 2013.

BCWBF: The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation is thrilled to be able to help raise funds for Girls Incorporated of San Antonio. In what way can these funds help assist Girls Inc?

Williamson: At Girls Inc. our mission is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. We take the "all" part of our mission statement seriously and work to remove barriers to girls' participation. For many of our girls, the primary barrier to participating in a program that can dramatically improve their self-esteem, self-



Suzanne Dapra Oliva

confidence, and lead to good decision making is cost. (con'd on page 6)

October 2013 BCWB Luncheon:

Justice Eva Guzman: 2012-2013 Supreme Court Update

Please join us at noon on Tuesday, October 1st, at Club Giraud as we welcome Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman. Justice Guzman will give us an update on Texas Supreme Court decisions from September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013, and will educate attendees on how these decisions impact Texas jurisprudence. CLE credit has been approved.

When: Tuesday, October 1, 2013

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

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

RSVP: Club Giraud has asked that we provide a headcount 48 hours in advance of the luncheon so please RSVP by Friday, September 27, 2013 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). We hope to see you there!

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Autumn Affair

By Hella Scheuerman and Leslie Hyman



Hella Scheuerman



Leslie Hyman

We invite you to join us at the 2013 Autumn Affair, on Thursday, October 10, 2013, at 6:00 pm, at the Witte Museum. This will be a very special evening, as we honor this year's Beneficiary, Girls Inc. of San Antonio, and this year's Belva Lockwood Award Recipients, Lisa Barkley and Molly Neck. The evening will include dinner, an auction, and a fabulous fashion show, honoring the Women of the Bexar County Judiciary.

Autumn Affair Sponsorships are still available at the following levels: Platinum (\$2000), Gold (\$1500) and Silver (\$1200). Please contact Carmen Samaniego, at carmen-sam@mac.com or Marissa Helm, at marissahelm@gmail.com, for sponsorship. If you are interested in donating an auction item, please contact Jami Nance at Jami.Nance@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation, we thank our latest sponsors:

- ACC South/Central Texas Chapter
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- St. Mary's School of Law, St. Mary's Office of Alumni Relations & Development & St. Mary's Law Alumni Association
- Strasburger & Price
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- Valero

61ST ANNUAL RED MASS

Thursday, October 24, 2013 ♦ 6 p.m. ♦ San Fernando Cathedral

All Members Please Attend!!!



Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller,
M. S.P.S., Presiding



Father Martin Leopold will serve as Homilist



Judge Larry Noll, 408th Bexar County Civil
District Court, will offer Reflections

**Reception follows Mass at the
Plaza Club**

**Frost Bank Building
100 W Houston St**

Wellness Column



Connie Arambula

By Connie Arambula

Please join the Bexar County Women's Bar Association at the Third Annual Dia de Los Muertos 5k Night Run at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 2, 2013 at McAllister Park.

Registration: Please join the BCWBA at this event by registering individually at http://www.huaracheturbo.com/event_muertitos_run.php. Registration for the event is \$35. Walk-ins on race day are welcome at \$40. Please let Connie Arambula know that you have registered at carambula@lyndworld.com.

Packet Pick-up: TBA from noon to 6:00 p.m. on Friday, November 1, 2013.

Event day: The Start/Finish for the race is at McAllister Park, Pavilion 2, located 13102 Jones Maltsberger Rd, San Antonio, TX 78247. Look for Connie Arambula at 5:30 p.m. near the registration booth.

Following the Event: Beer, snacks and drinks will be available. There may even be some dancing!

Attire: Running clothes or costume and a headlamp or flashlight.

Please contact Connie Arambula for further details at carambula@lyndworld.com or (210) 379-1025.

Tip of the month – The benefits of running:

- 1 - Weight loss
- 2 - Circulatory and heart health
- 3 - Muscle and bone strength
- 4 - Strengthens immune system – reduces chance for certain diseases
- 5 - Boosts self esteem
- 6 - Better sleep
- 7 - Better social life
- 8 - Help charity

* From <http://www.tips4running.com/Benefits-Of-Running.html>.

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TEXAS WOMEN LAWYERS ANNUAL MEETING AND CLE

Rising Together
& Reaching Beyond



OLD RED COURTHOUSE, DALLAS, TEXAS

save the date 28 FEBRUARY 2014

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WLA Update

By Julia Null

The Women's Law Association had an exciting start to the school year! Our membership drive was a huge success bringing in a ton of interested and motivated students, both women and men.

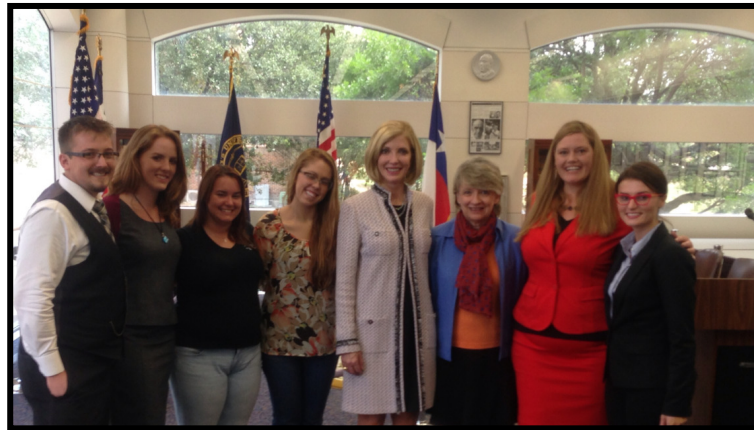
We were very honored to have Justice Sandee Marion at our First General Meeting on

September 18th. Her talk about her professional life inspired our young audience. Afterward, students asked questions during a Q&A session. It was a wonderful event and the start to many more exciting events to come this year.

With Autumn Affair wrapping up, Women's Law Association looks forward to its annual

Auction. Each year in November WLA holds an auction in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library for a chosen charity. This year we are pleased to announce our beneficiary will be Seton Home. If you would like to learn more about our auction or be a donor, please email juliaelizabethnull@gmail.com.

Shown from left to right: Kevin Bennett (Vice President), Ashley Graham (Secretary), Kerriann Elizabeth Britt (Treasurer), Kimberly Meyer (Alumni Relations Chair), Justice Sandee Marion, Bonita Roberts (Advising Professor), Julia E. Null (President), & Durime Fahim (Membership Chair)



Volunteer for a "Speed Networking" Event Sponsored by BCWBA, WLA, and St. Mary's School of Law Office of Career Services

Call for Volunteers: BCWBA/WLA Mentor-Mentees

The WLA is in the process of signing up law students looking for mentors. We're looking for mentors to match with students. Being a mentor does not have to be a huge time commitment. In this electronic age, many students are just looking for someone to email/text now and then for that "am I really doing this right" gut check. If you are interested in being a mentor, please email Leslie Hyman at lhyman@pulmanlaw.com and indicate whether you prefer someone looking for face-to-face or electronic interaction. We'll make every effort to make matches accordingly.

In an effort to provide additional mentoring and networking opportunities for students at St. Mary's Law School, the BCWBA is co-hosting a "Speed Networking Event" on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

We seek volunteers from the BCWBA membership to lead a round-table discussion with small groups of students from 5:30 to 6:30. Each BCWBA member will briefly discuss career opportunities and her chosen path and experience. Students will rotate tables every seven to ten minutes.

A "mixer" will follow from 6:30 to 7:30 to allow students to follow up with particular BCWBA members if they have more specific questions or points of discussion.

We expect approximately 50 students will attend and seek at least 16 BCWBA members to volunteer. If you can help, please contact WLA President Julia Null at juliaelizabethnull@gmail.com. Whether you are willing to host one of the tables or simply attend to visit with students, your participation is greatly appreciated.

Gifts for Autumn Affair



On August 15th, members of the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation gathered at Elaine Turner Boutique and The Impeccable Pig Boutique on Broadway to kick off the fundraising for the Autumn Affair. Participants brought donations for the silent auction, enjoyed drinks and appetizers, and mingled while enjoying the opportunity to shop with friends. See the page 1 and 6 for more photos of this fun event.



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

The funds raised from the Autumn Affair will provide scholarships for girls to attend workshops and camps at our center, and provide programs at local schools. We have set a goal of serving 3,500 girls this year. The funds from this event allow us to open our circle wider for girls who might not otherwise get this kind of opportunity.

BCWBF: Can you tell me about your favorite success story that you have encountered with Girls Inc?

Williamson: Asking me to choose my favorite girl success story is like asking me to choose my favorite child! Each girl has her own individual victories that are fascinating to watch. Joi is our first high school graduate. She is a brilliant young woman who had the deck stacked against her. After three years of Girls Inc. programs, she set a goal of earning \$1 million in scholarships, and worked diligently until she had earned \$1.6 million. She is at Davidson this year pursuing a biochemical engineering degree as the first member of her family to go to college. Ariana was a girl who hit puberty earlier than the other girls. She hated her body and was angry at the world. Over a summer with Girls Inc. she learned to communicate respect for others and herself, and give herself the grace she needed to grow into her new body. Maxine and Marisol are sisters who come from a rough background. Over a summer with Girls Inc. they learned to express their gratitude to one another and build a strong sisterhood instead of

fighting.

But, my personal favorite success story is from my own daughter, Shyla. Shyla is a very introverted girl. I know Glenda Woods Girls University is a great program, but through her I get to see the daily impact it has on girls. Every summer we end with a graduation ceremony where each girl is given a unique superlative chosen by the other girls and staff to reflect her abilities. Two years ago we moved to a new community where she knew no one. In the second week at her new school they assigned a project: memorize a poem and recite it in front of the class – complete with gestures and voices. The year before, she would've rather been drawn and quartered than stand up in front of a group and recite something. Even though she possesses an extremely dramatic personality, she lacked the confidence to own that. She received the assignment on Tuesday. By Thursday she was reciting the poem from memory – with voices and gestures. When I commended her on an excellent job she said, "Of course I can do this! Remember? Girls University said I was 'most likely to be an actor' at graduation." She was empowered by a superlative at graduation to boldly be who she is. If we have this much impact on one girl, I marvel at the collective impact of the 3,000 girls we serve each year!

BCWBF: Besides the obvious goal of fundraising, what other opportunities are there for our members to get involved?

Williamson: We have an opportunity for everyone – depending on your skill set, what you'd like to do, and how much time you're willing to give. Interested in robotics, building, designing, and engineering? Come help us out as a mentor and prepare for girls for FIRST Lego League competition. Want to inspire a girl's career interests? Come be an MVP Mentor for our 13-18 year old girls. Love events? Help us plan and setup for Science Festival, our luncheon, or monthly workshops. Want to facilitate a Girls Inc. curriculum with girls you know? Come be trained in facilitation and let us work with you to bring that curriculum to your

girls. Like the organization, but don't want to work directly with girls? We also have openings on our Board of Directors each year, and many committee responsibilities. Sofia Gayou is the Program Coordinator who manages volunteers. She can be reached at sgayou@chshel.org or at 210-212-2574.

Wow! Each time I talk to Rhonda I learn more and more about this organization that is doing great things here in our community and making a positive impact on people's lives. Come join us at the Autumn Affair on October 10th at the Witte Museum to honor our women judges and support a great cause!





*Bexar County Women's
Bar Foundation*

Autumn Affair

Benefiting Girls Inc. of San Antonio

Witte Museum

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Six O'clock in the Evening

Honoring

2013 Belva Lockwood Award Recipients

Lisa Barkley and Molly Neck

and

the Women of the Bexar County Judiciary

For sponsorships and tickets, please contact
Marissa Helm at marissahelm@gmail.com,
or Carmen Samaniego at carmensam@mac.com,
or visit: www.bexarcountywomensbar.org.

Attire: Island Chic

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Versi Salon