



# Equal Times

Serving the BCWBA for 30 Years

## Congratulations Tiffanie!

Congratulations to BCWB President, Tiffanie Clausewitz, this year's St. Mary's University School of Law Distinguished Young Alumnus! Each year, the St. Mary's School of Law and Law Alumni Association recognizes three Distinguished Law Graduates, and recognizes one of the three as a Distinguished Young Alumnus.



The purpose of the award is to recognize graduates who have rendered service to their clients and the legal community in accord with the spirit of the mission of the University and the Law School. Tiffanie will be honored at an awards dinner on October 24 at the San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter. Proceeds from the dinner fund law school scholarships and alumni sponsored student services.

## October Luncheon: Candidate Forum

Please join us at noon on October 7, 2014 as we welcome Bexar County District Court Candidates to our Judicial District Candidate Forum. This is an excellent opportunity to interact with members and future members of the judiciary.

**When:** Tuesday, October 7, 2014

**Time:** Noon to 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Club Giraud, 707 N. St. Mary's Street

**Cost:** \$25 for members, 25 for candidates, \$30 for non-members, \$20 for students, payable at the door.

**RSVP:** Club Giraud needs a headcount in advance, so please RSVP by Thursday, October 2, 2014 to [Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org](mailto:Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org). 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 will be charged \$35 to cover the additional demands on Club Giraud's staff. No-shows will be billed. Make checks payable to the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation or BCWBF. For more information, contact Lindsay Riley ([liriley@coxsmith.com](mailto:liriley@coxsmith.com)) or Lauren Horne ([Lauren@Rosenblattlawfirm.com](mailto:Lauren@Rosenblattlawfirm.com)).

### Inside this issue

- 2014 Autumn Affair: A Night Under the Stars.....2
- Belva Lockwood Award Recipients .....3
- Autumn Affair Sponsors .....4
- Honoring Retiree Justices.....4
- Call for BCWB Board of Directors Nominations.....5
- Volunteers Needed for Community Justice Program.....5
- What I Have Learned Along the Way .....6
- Leslie Hyman and Dayla Pepi Win SAWCC Awards! .....10
- Speed Networking Event.....12
- The Reader.....12
- Swearing-In Event .....12
- Autumn Affair Kick Off Party a Success! .....13
- Women's Law Association Update .....16
- Pakistani Women Prosecutors Study Tour.....17

## 2014 Autumn Affair: A Night Under the Stars

By Connie Arambula

On October 16, 2014, the BCWBF will host its annual fundraising event Autumn Affair at the Veranda, located at 1746 Lockhill Selma Road, San Antonio, Texas.

Every year, the BCWBF selects a deserving local charity that provides services to women and families in our community. This year, the BCWBF is proud to announce that The Alamo Area Rape Crisis Center will be the beneficiary of our Autumn Affair earnings. The Alamo Area Rape Crisis Center provides comprehensive services for rape victims and their families, and conducts rape prevention and education programs throughout San

Antonio, Bexar County, and surrounding areas. The Center also provides the community with counseling services, a crisis hotline and hospital accompaniment services.

The BCWBF is proud to recognize Leslie Sara Hyman and Natalie F. Wilson as recipients of the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer and Outstanding Young Lawyer. Recipients are chosen based on contributions to the legal profession, work to improve the status of the legal profession, and contributions to the community in the form of charitable and volunteer work. Nominees are evaluated based on experience, reputation, and standing in the legal community.



The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation  
presents  
2014 Autumn Affair  
*A Night Under the Stars*  
Benefitting Alamo Area Rape Crisis Center

Honoring the Women of the  
Bexar County Judiciary & the  
2014 Belva Lockwood Award Recipients  
Leslie S. Hyman & Natalie F. Wilson

Thursday, October 16, 2014  
The Veranda  
6:00 p.m.

## 2014 Belva Lockwood Award Recipients

### Outstanding Lawyer Leslie Sara Hyman



Leslie is a Partner with Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP, where her practice focuses on all aspects of state and federal trial and appellate courts, bankruptcy courts, and arbitrations, with an emphasis on complex commercial litigation and bankruptcy. Prior to joining Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP she was a shareholder at Cox Smith Matthews Incorporated and clerked for the Honorable Edward Prado at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Leslie contributes to the community as follows:

- Serves as an officer on the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Center (“JCC”), having served on its Board of Directors, receiving an award for Outstanding New Leader, and serving as Chair of the JCC Youth and Camp Committee, which received an award for outstanding program.
- Volunteered and successfully represented a woman from Eritrea seeking asylum in the United States, which resulted in the receipt of the 2010 National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers Champion of Justice (Civic/Humanitarian) Award.
- Serves on the Board of Directors of the BCWBA/BCWBF, having served as co-chair for the Autumn Affair Committee in 2013 and the 2014 Annual Retreat Committee and holding various roles with Bench Brunch over 20 years.
- Chair Elect of the State Bar of Texas Standing Committee on Administration of Rules of Evidence, having been invited to take that role after two terms on the committee.
- Serves as Co-chair of the SABA Federal Courts Committee, having chaired the Civil Law Subcommittee for many years.
- Member at large of the board of the SABA

Appellate Practice Section, having co-chaired its programs committee for two years.

- Active member of the William S. Sessions American Inn of Court, with a speaking role in a group presentation each year.

### Outstanding Young Lawyer Natalie F. Wilson



Natalie is an associate with Langley & Banack where her practice focuses on commercial restructuring and litigation. Prior to joining Langley & Banack, Natalie clerked at the Hawaii Supreme Court for Justice Simeon R. Acoba, Jr., and was in private practice.

Natalie’s community contributions follow:

- Founding member and membership chair of Moms-In-Law San Antonio, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting attorneys with children with balancing their professional and parental obligations.
- Serves on the Board of Directors for the Military Spouse JD Network (MSJDN) and works with the MSJDN “Homefront to Hired” initiative, which connects employers with military spouse attorneys.
- Volunteers as a member of the Writer’s Corps.
- Serves as the Articles Editor for the *San Antonio Lawyer* magazine, winner of multiple awards from the State Bar of Texas.
- Volunteered for two years as the Keyspouse for the 624 Operations Center, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and remains active in the 624’s spouse’s group.
- Member of the San Antonio Bar Association and served on the Publications Committee as a writer and copy editor.



**Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood**  
(Oct. 24, 1830 – May 19, 1917)

Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood was an American attorney, politician, educator, and author. She was active in working for women’s rights, although the term feminist was not in use. The press of her day referred to her as a “suffragist,” someone who believed in women’s suffrage or voting rights. Lockwood overcame many social and personal obstacles related to gender restrictions. After college, she became a teacher and principal, working to equalize pay for women in education. She supported the movement for world peace, and was a proponent of temperance.

Lockwood graduated from law school in Washington, D.C. and became one of the first female lawyers in the United States. In 1879, she successfully petitioned Congress to be allowed to practice before the United States Supreme Court, becoming the first woman attorney given this privilege. Lockwood ran for president in 1884 and 1888 on the ticket of the National Equal Rights Party and was the first woman to appear on official ballots.

## Autumn Affair Sponsors

Sponsors as of September 23, 2014:

### Sponsorship Levels:

#### PLATINUM (\$2,000)

Includes ten complimentary tickets to the event, premier "first level" seating for the fashion show, sponsor acknowledgment in pre-event advertising and at the event itself, champagne for your table and 10 raffle tickets for your guests.

#### GOLD (\$1,500)

Includes ten complimentary tickets to the event, premier "second level" seating for the fashion show, and sponsor acknowledgment in pre-event advertising and at the event itself, and 5 raffle tickets for your guests.

#### SILVER (\$1,200)

Includes ten complimentary tickets to the event, premier "third level" seating for the fashion show, and sponsor acknowledgment in pre-event advertising and at the event itself.



#### **Platinum**

Langley & Banack, Inc.  
Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry  
Schmoyer Reinhard, LLP

#### **Gold**

Chapa Law Group, PC & Scheuerman Law Firm  
Church and Church PLLC  
Clausewitz Family  
Cox Smith Matthews Inc.  
Curl, Stahl, Geis, P.C. & Diana M. Geis  
Haynes and Boone, LLP  
Jackson Walker LLP  
Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP  
Rosenblatt Law Firm  
Tessmer Law Firm, PLLC

#### **Silver**

Barkhurst & Hinojosa  
Federal Bar Association  
Carol Jendrzey  
NuStar Energy  
Porter, Rogers, Dahlman & Gordon, P.C.  
San Antonio Bar Association  
Sara Dysart, P.C.  
SAYLA  
St. Mary's University School of Law  
The Rape Crisis Center

For sponsorships and tickets, or to RSVP, please contact: Hella Scheuerman at [hell@dilleylawfirm.com](mailto:hell@dilleylawfirm.com) or Shari Mao at [smao@jw.com](mailto:smao@jw.com), or visit [www.bexarcountywomensbar.org](http://www.bexarcountywomensbar.org).

## Honoring Retiree Justices

By Katherine Noll

Our BCWB community has reached a milestone. This year we will celebrate seven female members of our judiciary retiring from the bench. Each has served our legal and public community well, and we will recognize their distinguished service at this year's Autumn Affair. Please thus join us on October 16, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. at the Veranda, as we honor not only all of our female judiciary, but especially the following retiring members:

Hon. Catherine M. Stone, Chief Justice of the 4th Court of Appeals

Hon. Tessa Herr, 186th District Court

Hon. Janet Littlejohn, 150th District Court

Hon. Barbara Neller-moe, 45th District Court

Hon. Polly Jackson Spencer, Probate Court No. 1

Hon. Sarah E. Garrahan, County Court No. 4

Hon. Martha Tanner, 166th District Court

## Call for BCWB Board of Directors Nominations

By Marissa Helm

Are you interested in serving on next year's BCWB board of directors? Nominations are open, and we're looking for candidates who want to serve this great organization! No prior board experience is needed. This is a great opportunity to see the inner workings of the BCWB.

The nominating committee will meet in early October to present the slate of officer and director candidates at the October 16th board of directors' meeting. If you're interested in running for a director position, or if you know someone who is interested, submit your nominations to Marissa Helm at [marissa.helm@parallon.com](mailto:marissa.helm@parallon.com). For questions, contact Marissa via email or via call or text to 478-6800.



## Volunteers Needed for Community Justice Program

By Carmen Samaniego

The Community Justice Program (CJP) has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to establish a bi-annual Wills Clinic to its clients. Habitat for Humanity helps to provide homes to low-income families that would otherwise be unable to afford a house. The CJP provides free legal services to low-income clients who can't afford the services of an attorney. The recipients of Habitat homes need a will to help protect their families and this new asset in the event of their death. The CJP already operates Wills Clinics for low-income clients and we are proud to be able to assist the hard working Habitat for Humanity families with this much needed service.

The inaugural CJP Habitat for Humanity Wills Clinic will be on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014 at the Strasburger law offices located at 2301 Broadway. There are two sessions in which we will serve 20 families each. The first session is 9-11 a.m. and the second is 12-2 p.m. We will conduct this clinic just like other Wills Clinics and offer free preparation of wills and ancillary documents by volunteer attorneys for pre-screened, qualified clients. There will be volunteer notaries, witnesses and probate experts on hand to assist. The CJP will provide refreshments and all of the necessary equipment and documents needed. All we need is you - volunteer attorneys!

To prepare our volunteers, we will offer a free Wills 101 CLE on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2014, at the Cox Smith offices 18th Floor conference room. This is a lunchtime session that will cover all of the basics needed to prepare a will for a CJP clients. The session will be conducted by a probate law expert. If you have any questions, or are interested, please email Amanda Reimherr Buckert at [amandab@sabar.org](mailto:amandab@sabar.org).



## What I Have Learned Along the Way

By Beth Smith



*Beth Smith operates the Law Offices of Elizabeth G. Smith, San Antonio, Texas, concentrating on creditor's rights and commercial litigation. She is currently a member of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) National Board of Directors and a member of the San Antonio, Texas, Chapter. Ms. Smith also serves on the State Bar of Texas Bankruptcy Council as historian and is the past statewide chair of the Money-Wise financial literacy program for high school students. She can be reached at (210)731-9177. Ms. Smith has enjoyed the ability to connect with so many fine attorneys through the FBA, but especially with women colleagues who have led by example, setting a high bar for leadership.*

*This article was first published in the July 2014 issue of The Federal Lawyer.*

Who can remember when they first decided they wanted a career as an attorney? Did you have the idea that you would win every case and the offending party would confess their fault or guilt on the stand? Did you imagine that the chances of winning cases would greatly depend on what you learned in discovery? And what were your thoughts about interacting with clients, attorneys, judges, and staff? Did you anticipate leaving the office at 5 p.m. every day? Did you think you would have the perfect script written for you like on TV shows so that your legal matter was resolved in 45 minutes?

I had no clue as to what my career would hold the day I was licensed by the Texas Supreme Court. I had many misconceptions about the practice of law, about the business of practicing law, and how my life would be impacted by my career.

I am sharing my thoughts about what I have learned along the way as an attorney, business owner, boss, employee, member of multiple bar associations, and woman. I share my thoughts, not as theories supported by research in footnotes, but based upon experience in the operational legal world. I hope sharing some of these stories will help newer lawyers deal with some of the surprises and hurdles they are likely to encounter on their own career path. Some of these tips are more meaningful to female attorneys, but I believe we can all learn from one another.

### **What's It All About?**

The practice of law has given me opportunities to help resolve conflicts for clients. The responsibility to clients is enormous, regardless of the type of case I am handling. Think about it, attorneys are entrusted with clients' legal matters that involve very personal issues, which can cause a range of emotional responses. On top of the emotions, clients are impacted financially by the bill they receive for the legal work performed and the outcome of the case. Add to all of this their fear of the unknown outcome. All of these issues figure into the recipe of representing a client competently, zealously, and with care.

My first duty as an attorney is always to the client. I ask myself several questions before accepting representation of a client: (1) Am I qualified to represent this client?; (2) Do I have the time and staff to support this client's case?; and (3) Do I want to represent this client?

The first two questions are interrelated. The client's interest is at stake at every turn of the case, so I must have experience in the area of the law to competently represent the client. I look at whether I have the time and staffing resources to handle the case. I cannot neglect other clients' cases to represent a new client. It is better to decline representation of a potential client or refer him or her to another attorney when I do not have sufficient time and resources to dedicate to the case. Overextending oneself by accepting too many client cases may lead to disaster and a malpractice claim.

The answer to the third question comes with experience and the skill of reading people. I have often had to determine if the clients I am interviewing will understand how the facts of the case interact with the law and the outcome of the case. Will they hear me when I advise them of all options concerning resolving the case and then be able to make decisions based upon their own best interest instead of on emotion? Will the clients make good witnesses, or do they believe they are the "smartest person in the room," which can lead to disaster in the courtroom?

Representing clients has been very rewarding to me, both professionally and personally. Negotiating an outcome, prevailing in the courtroom, and even losing a case has taught me a great deal about the importance of caring for the client. I have learned that being an advocate for my clients requires not only legal competence, but patience, compassion, protectiveness, and keen listening skills. Being a woman and an attorney has helped me to be more sensitive to the needs of my clients. I believe most attorneys, man or woman, want to do a good job for their clients, but not all understand the need to be empathetic. I expect a good bedside manner from my physician, so I believe my clients expect the same from me as their attorney and advocate. (con'd on next page)

## What I Have Learned Along the Way (con'd from p. 6)

### Respect and Manners

Being respectful to everyone is essential to success in the legal profession. Respecting the profession means showing respect to your colleagues, your clients, the judiciary, support staff, and yourself.

I am a huge Aretha Franklin fan. I love to put on an Aretha Franklin CD in my car and sing along with her loud and proud. Some musicians might say my singing is strong and wrong, but it no doubt has heart and soul. Regardless, *Respect*<sup>1</sup> is one of my favorite songs to sing with the Queen of Soul. There is so much to learn from its lyrics in spite of the fact that the song is about an intimate relationship between a couple.

First of all, I have to respect myself, meaning I need to believe in myself in everything I do. Some might call this self-confidence, but I believe it goes beyond self-confidence. Respecting myself means I am not only confident of my legal skills, but I also trust my instincts. This trust is paramount in the operation of my legal practice as I trust my instincts about choosing clients, arguments in motions and briefs, how to interact with clients, how to interact with colleagues, what to say to the judge, when to step up, and when to step back.

I constantly remind myself that my client needs to feel respected. So often attorneys receive respect from the general public due to the title "attorney at law." Respect of the profession by others is fine, but it should be earned. I do not want my clients to be intimidated by me or by the legal process. I want my clients to know that I respect them and the legal situation they placed in my hands. I might not agree with their politics or religion, but I respect their desire to resolve the legal matter that they have entrusted me to handle. I am always hopeful that this approach earns their respect of me.

What about those colleagues I work with who make me feel less than collegial when we are working a case together? Yes, I need to respect them as well. Looking beyond super aggressive or offensive legal tactics by opposing counsel and looking to their need to zealously represent their client often helps me "play well with others". As my mother would have said, "Do not stoop to their level." I am not saying be a doormat to opposing counsel. Quite the opposite. I have to respect myself at the end of the hearing, and I cannot let my emotions get the best of me.

Regardless of whether it is right or wrong, a woman advocating for a client in a disrespectful manner can be viewed as offensive. It does not matter that your male counterpart used the same tactic. Using offensive advocacy tactics could hurt your client's position, and you will not like yourself later because you were untrue to yourself. I have represented clients in numerous cases where the judge at the end of the hearing or trial thanked the attorneys for behaving in a respectful and civil manner. Judges do not want to feel as if they have to referee the personal conduct of the lawyers. Being respectful to my male and female colleagues has translated to not only good relationships, but referrals of cases. Respect from your colleagues can be very beneficial financially.

Moreover, I have the utmost respect for the judiciary. I believe judges do their absolute best on the bench to hear both sides and give litigants their day in court with fairness and with respect. I have watched judges listen to testimony that simply did not make any common sense and ask questions of the witness themselves in a manner of compassion and respect. Judges control themselves even when the legal matter is not meritorious and rule without emotion because they respect the process and the fact that the litigants have a lot invested in the matter before them. Judges have been on the other side of the bench, and their respect of the past gives them a respect of the folks standing in front of them. I show my respect to the judiciary by my membership in the Federal Bar Association (FBA), which advocates for the needs of these tireless public servants.

Similarly, I have a special respect for support staff, both in my office, my colleagues' offices, and the court. I would be in a world of hurt without my staff, as they not only perform the millions of tasks to run my office, but they cheer me on and believe in me and respect (con'd on next page)

## What I Have Learned Along the Way (con'd from p. 7)

me. The court staff run their judge's office and courtroom, handle attorneys who believe their matter is the most important on the court's docket, keep the judge on task and on schedule, all the while being the face of the court to the public. I think the court staff are the unsung heroes of the legal community.

If I do not respect myself and treat others with respect, how can I expect to receive it in return? I want female attorneys to be respected, not because we are a protected class and people have to, but because we have proven we work hard, we are good advocates, and we are committed to making our community and world a better place through our profession. In other words, we should be respected because we have earned it.

### **The Girl Scout in Me**

In addition to being respectable and respecting others, over the years, I came to value preparation. I learned early on in my career that shooting from the hip when litigating or negotiating a case was for the birds, as lack of preparation made me look frazzled and incompetent, and I felt like I had failed my client. So, I thought about my early years as a Girl Scout. Now you must know that I dropped out of the Girl Scouts, only making it to cadet for a couple of years and leaving the ranks with a mere three merit badges. But I took away three things from scouting: (1) a love of arts and crafts; (2) a love of s'mores (which can be made in the oven by the way); and (3) to be prepared. The first two Girl Scout takeaways allow me to be creative and know that indulging is OK. The third takeaway, is, not only a core Girl Scout principal, but a core principal in my life.

Being prepared reaches into every part of my practice. Years ago I heard a radio interview of Aretha Franklin, and in response to a question about her talent, she responded that she practices her craft daily. She works at her singing and playing skills and takes her craft seriously. I saw Aretha in concert several years ago, and it was clear she was prepared and in control of her performance and every aspect of the concert. Being prepared in a legal scenario is no different. I prepare for the obvious legal tasks like depositions, hearings, and trials. I try to know every possible fact or issue related to the case. I do not guess at answers, but instead defer to researching a matter and then provide an answer that is accurate. And I prepare my client for every aspect of the case, as the best surprise is no surprise.

Being prepared gives me a sense of confidence. If I know my client's case file and facts inside and out, then I will not be caught off guard by baseless allegations or red herrings that are thrown around. My clients deserve my best, and I cannot be my best if I am not prepared. I want female attorneys to be respected by the judiciary, the bar, and clients. Right or wrong, the way I represent my clients in or out of the courtroom reflects on the women's bar. Respect must be earned, and the only way I know how to earn it is to be prepared. I may not always win, but I will have done the best I could for my client by being prepared.

### **Just Ask**

In addition to being prepared, I have found that the legal profession requires me as the advocate to ask for all kinds of things for my clients. The word "ask" can be used in so many contexts in our profession. In a sales pitch, the conclusion of the pitch is "the ask". Our profession involves a constant sales pitch. We pitch to clients, our opposition, and the court. I have learned that I limit my success if I do not ask.

I am a basically a shy person, and it took me a long time to learn to ask even when the question should not be awkward. Asking for a retainer for services used to be awkward for me. Being paid for my services should not be awkward, but I was raised that talking about money is impolite! Asking for documents not produced or asking awkward and personal questions in depositions can be paramount to the success of my case, but I do not feel awkward because I am doing my job. Asking the court to consider a novel legal concept or to allow an amendment or to allow further briefing before ruling is good practice, and I have found that judges receive the ask well and are not offended. Asking opposing counsel for a continuance or to enter into settlement talks or to consider another approach to the case can tremendously impact the outcome of my case. Knowing when to concede is also important. We have all heard the phrase, "It never hurts to ask," and this is certainly true in the practice of law. (con'd on next page)



## What I Have Learned Along the Way (con'd from p. 8)

Some women have been taught that we are not as entitled to success in a legal career as our male counterparts. Regardless of whether such a misconception was imparted by family members, teachers, or peers, the influence of these folks can impact the confidence and success of women in the legal field. Know that as a female attorney, you have the right and a duty to those coming up the ranks to obtain and represent good clients, choose good cases, and be a success, both professionally and personally.

### **Be Good to Yourself**

Growing up, my dad used a simple phrase when he was dropping me off at school—"Be good to yourself." The phrase is along the lines of respect yourself, but it is more personal. My dad was one of my best cheerleaders in life. He believed in me regardless of the circumstances. The simple phrase "Be good to yourself" meant, "I know you will do the best you can. You might not win, but believe in yourself and keep going." So, I have taken this phrase to heart and applied it in my professional life. I have learned not to beat myself up over loss or regrets, but to keep working and do the best job possible and enjoy this profession that I love and am honored to be a part of.

Being good to yourself is important to female attorneys who often have many commitments pulling them in several directions at one time. Professional, family, and personal commitments can overwhelm anyone. Being good to myself reminds me to take time for me, even if that is just taking two minutes to breathe deep or call a friend. Recharging in whatever manner works for you is important. Being good to yourself allows all of us to center ourselves so that we can joyfully, zealously, and competently represent our clients.

I enjoy my profession. I dislike lawyer jokes because I respect the profession that I chose and I believe that my colleagues are committed, honest, and fair professionals. More women are graduating from law school every year than when I graduated. The comments about what I have learned along the way holds true for this next generation of female lawyers as tips that will make their own journey enjoyable, rewarding, and successful. So, be good to yourself.

### Endnotes

1*Respect*, written by Otis Redding & Annette Corte Allen. From Aretha Franklin's album, *I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You*.

## Save the Date!

Bexar County Women's Bar Association's  
Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 5, 2014

Marriott Plaza San Antonio  
555 S. Alamo Street

Invitation to Follow

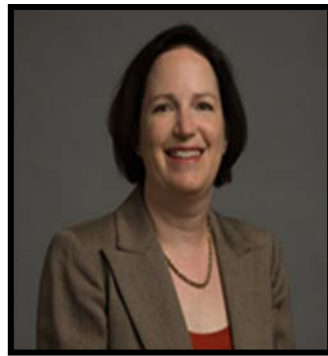
## Leslie Hyman and Dayla Pepi Win SAWCC Awards!

By Suzanne Dapra Oliva, BCWBA Honors and Awards Chair



Leslie Hyman and Dayla Pepi were recently nominated by the BCWBA for the San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce Constellation of Stars awards. Both won! Leslie was chosen for the Connect Award for mentoring and Dayla was chosen for the Empower Award for her history of empowering others.

It really should come as no surprise that they won given the impressive resumes of these two incredible women. Leslie Hyman, a partner with Pullen, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP, practices in the areas of complex commercial litigation and bankruptcy while Dayla Pepi is a Clinical Professor of Law at the Civil Justice Clinic of the St. Mary's University School of Law, Center for Legal and Social Justice.



As a current Board member, Leslie has been active with the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Foundation for nearly 20 years and recently co-chaired the Autumn Affair. Previously, she served on the silent auction, decorations and Wee Brunch committees—all opportunities to mentor new attorneys while raising funds for the various beneficiaries. She also chaired the annual retreat during which continuing legal education (CLE) lectures were given and members and friends of the legal community could exchange dialogue. As head of the BCWBA mentor-mentee program, she matched lawyers with members of the St. Mary's Women's Law Association and provided mentorship opportunities.

Besides being a co-leader of her daughter's Girl Scout troop, Leslie co-chaired the Federal Bar Association's annual lunch where female students from the Fox Tech law magnet program were joined by members of the legal profession to hear inspirational talks and learn about careers in the legal industry. Leslie mentors other attorneys at her current and previous law firms about general legal practice, ethics and legal conflicts and employment opportunities and, on a more formal basis, as a member of the Western District of Texas disciplinary committee. She has helped organize CLE lunches and often presents legal topics to fellow attorneys during the meetings of the William S. Sessions American Inn of Court. She has even won awards in the past for her pro-bono legal representation and mentoring of clients.

As Chair Elect of the State Bar of Texas Standing Committee on Administration of Rules of Evidence, Leslie drafts proposed rules of evidence for consideration by the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee. As Departments Editor of the *San Antonio Lawyer Magazine*, she helps spread the word about topics of interest to the legal community. She is an author of the *Texas Business Litigation Journal's* annual Antitrust Review and a co-author of the *SMU Law Review Annual Survey of Texas Law*. She originated the idea of a court facts sheet so that practitioners could learn the expectations of practice in the federal courthouse. (con'd on next page)



## Leslie Hyman and Dayla Pepi Win SAWCC Awards! (con'd from p. 10)



As winner of the Empower Award, Dayla Saraí Pepi has helped empower women, men and children with new skills and resources to accomplish their immediate and long term goals. A previous staff attorney for the Battered Immigrant Civil Legal Assistance Program, Dayla established a support group for immigrant survivor's of domestic violence. In her current position at St. Mary's, she supervises clinical law students who provide a segment of the community with legal services that they could not otherwise afford, thus empowering men, women and children with representation. She also teaches Civil Justice Clinic courses and has informally mentored female law students for 14 years providing advice on topics rang-

ing from obtaining employment to balancing work-life issues. As a past President of the BCWBA and the Mexican American Bar Association, she provided networking opportunities for attorneys during all stages of their careers. As President of the P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, she educated the public on issues of domestic violence and even appeared on local and national media. Dayla was appointed to the Gender Bias Reform Implementation Committee which created policy regarding the treatment of female attorneys during court proceedings. She also chaired the State Bar of Texas Racial Diversity in the Profession Committee which implemented programs to attract more minorities into the profession and provide opportunities.

While president of the BCWBA, Dayla planned mentoring events to empower young law students to transition to the roles of new associates. She also presided over an event where local high school students were invited to learn more about the different roles in the legal system and to help empower the students to believe that, with hard work and perseverance, they too could become lawyers and judges. She even helped start the Wills Clinic which still provides free estate planning documents to low income Bexar County residents. She has coordinated various CLE events on topics in the Family Law arena to empower her peers with knowledge to successfully represent their clients. She published a law journal article warning attorneys of the undesired effects of conflicts of interest in the law and helped draft the *Elder Law Handbook* in English and Spanish, providing resources for over 12,000 elderly individuals and their caregivers.

Congratulations ladies, both truly deserving recipients!

### Join Us For a Night of Fun and Friendship at the Bexar County Women's Bar Association/Foundation 2015 Membership Drive

November 18, 2015

5:30 to 7:30 pm

StoneWerks – Lincoln Heights

999 E Broadway, Suite 130

Bring in your 2015 Membership Form and Payment and Receive a Free Drink Coupon, bring a Friend with their Membership Form and get a second Drink Coupon!



## Speed Networking Event

By Hella Scheuerman

The Speed Networking Event is almost here! Women's Law Association, Bexar County Women's Bar Association, and St. Mary's University School of Law Office of Career Services are hosting the Speed Networking Event at St. Mary's University School of Law on Wednesday, October 29, 2014, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. We still need attorneys to lead roundtable discussions in each of the following practice areas: Oil & Gas/Real Estate, Family Law, Criminal Defense, Civil Litigation, In-House & Corporate, Personal Injury/Insurance Defense and Transactional/Administrative Law. If you are interested in participating in this Speed Networking Event, please e-mail me at [hella@dilleylawfirm.com](mailto:hella@dilleylawfirm.com).



## The Reader

By Lisa P. Alcantar

This month I find myself torn between two books. I read *Orphan Train* first. Published last year, the novel made it to the top of the New York Times best sellers list. Set in 1929, the novel recounts the journey of a train full of kids - plucked from the streets, orphanages, and shelters - and deposited in Minnesota - a Christian rehoming of sorts. For the littlest of children, the program seems to work just fine. For the older children, the system essentially places them in the position of indentured servitude. The story cuts from the trek made by a young Irish girl to the present day interactions between the now-90 year old woman and a teenage foster child. The story is a compelling, fast read. The end was a bit rushed for my taste, but overall well done.

My second book, *Ship of Brides* by JoJo Moyes, was also historical fiction and details the arduous and uncertain trek made by WWII brides from Australia to England to join their husbands. The story follows four young women as they board a retiring aircraft carrier full of soldiers to make the six week journey to their new lives. Although the book starts off with an obnoxious college age woman dragging her 80 year old grandmother through India, we luckily don't have to endure Jennifer for terribly long before delving head first into the ship. The author slowly reveals the backgrounds of each of Maggie, Avice, Jean and Frances. Their journeys from Australians to English women, brides to wives, girls to womanhood was captivating.

How strange to stumble upon these two books. I don't think I fully realized how overlapping the themes of these books are until I sat down to write this. Both of these novels are full to the brim with complicated, thought out, flawed female characters. I highly recommend reading both.



## Swearing-In Event

By Shari Mao

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation and San Antonio Young Lawyers Association will host a Swearing-In Ceremony on Thursday, November 13, 2014, open to all who pass the Texas Bar Exam. Chief Justice Catherine Stone, Fourth Court of Appeals, will preside over the event. The event will begin at 4:00 pm in the Central Jury Room located in the Cadena-Reeves Justice Center, 300 Dolorosa, San Antonio. Families of newly licensed attorneys are welcome to attend the ceremony. A reception will follow.

So we can properly accommodate all who wish to participate, please RSVP on the BCWB website by selecting "San Antonio Swearing-In Ceremony" on the Events Calendar, November 13, or at [https://sayla.memberclicks.net/index.php?on=com\\_mc&view=mc&mcid=form\\_176526](https://sayla.memberclicks.net/index.php?on=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_176526).

## Autumn Affair Kick Off Party a Success!

By Suzanne Dapra Oliva

Members of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association gathered on September 18, 2014 for the Autumn Affair Kick Off Party. The event was held at Grove Hill Boutique in the Quarry. This was a great time to mingle, grab a bite to eat, shop and gather items for the silent and live auctions of our annual fundraising gala. Many thanks to co-chair, Carmen Samaniego, committee members, Carol Jendrzey and Monica Trollinger, and the owners of Grove Hill, Kay and Gretchen, who helped made this event a success!



## August Luncheon Photos



Luncheon speaker Justice Gina Benavides & Chief Justice Catherine Stone



Katherine Noll, Marissa Helm & Tiffanie Clausewitz

**Date: Wednesday, October 29th**

**Time: 4:30pm - 6:30pm**

# Speed Networking

Hosted by:  
WLA, BCWBA and Office of Career Services

*You've heard of Speed-Dating?*

*Join Women's Law Association, Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Office of Career Services for our Speed-Networking... Speed-Dating for your attorney connections event!*

*Business Attire is a must as you will be meeting attorneys from many different areas of practice.*

*Come take advantage of the opportunity to mix and mingle with essential contacts.*

*In order to attend this event you must RSVP on Symplicity! Dinner will be served. The event will be held in the Law Library Alumni Room.*

**Space is limited, sign-up now!**

**NOTE** 1L's cannot access Symplicity until Oct. 15th so to RSVP please email Kim Meyer at [kmeyer3700@yahoo.com](mailto:kmeyer3700@yahoo.com) with your name and that you're a 1L RSVPing for Speed Networking.



## September Luncheon Photos



During the September luncheon, Mary Chevront and Miriam M. Elizondo, co-executive directors of The Rape Crisis Center, informed attendees about the services The Rape Crisis Center provides, what can be accomplished with the support received from the Autumn Affair, and how to get involved.



## Women's Law Association Update

By Bianca Frisaura

Women's Law Association (WLA) kicked off the new school year with over 140 members. At Docket Call, WLA had ice cold popsicles, embellished sunglasses, and a photo booth. We were privileged to have the head Staff Attorney, Dinah Gaines, as our guest speaker at our first general meeting.



Upcoming Events: October brings a busy and fun filled month for WLA. Our second general meeting will take place on October 22. During the event, several licensed attorneys will form an attorney panel. Our Speed Networking event with the Office of Career Services and BCWBA will occur the following week, on October 29. Students will "speed network" with a table of attorneys, quickly moving from each table to get a helpful insight on different legal specializations and genres.





## Pakistani Women Prosecutors Study Tour

On September 25, the BCWBA hosted a reception in honor of a delegation of women prosecutors from Pakistan who are visiting parts of the United States as part of a study tour sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. The twelve prosecutors enjoyed chatting with our members about the work they are doing in Pakistan and the differences between our legal systems. A huge thank you to Cox Smith Matthews Inc. for lending us the reception site and the beautiful view of the San Antonio skyline!



**The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation**  
**presents**

**2014 Autumn Affair**  
**A Night Under the Stars**

**Benefiting The Rape Crisis Center**  
**Honoring the Women of the Bexar County Judiciary**  
**and the 2014 Belva Lockwood Award Recipients**

The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation will hold its annual charitable fundraising event, Autumn Affair, at its new location, the Veranda, at 1746 Lockhill Selma Road, San Antonio, Texas on Thursday, October 16, 2014, at six o'clock in the evening. Proceeds from Autumn Affair will benefit the Rape Crisis Center

The Rape Crisis Center was founded in 1975 to provide comprehensive services to victims of sexual assault and their friends and families. Today, it serves the community by offering counseling services, a crisis hotline, hospital accompaniment, and primary prevention programs across Bexar County and the surrounding areas. The proceeds from this year's Autumn Affair will help extend its primary prevention education curricula for middle and high school students.

In addition to raising money for the Rape Crisis Center through a raffle and silent auction, the 2014 Autumn Affair will shine a spotlight on the Center's important work in our community. The event will also allow the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation to recognize two local attorneys as recipients of the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer and Outstanding Young Lawyer Awards.

**For sponsorships and tickets, please contact:**

**Hella Scheuerman** at [hella@dilleylawfirm.com](mailto:hella@dilleylawfirm.com) or **Shari Mao** at [smao@jw.com](mailto:smao@jw.com),  
or visit [www.bexarcountywomensbar.org](http://www.bexarcountywomensbar.org).

**Sponsorship Levels (all levels include acknowledgment and advertising):**

**Platinum (\$2,000 – “first level” seating and raffle tickets for 10 and champagne)**

**Gold (\$1,500 – “second level” seating for 10 and 5 raffle tickets)**

**Silver (\$1,200 – “third level” seating for 10)**