



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

If you attended the BCWB's annual Autumn Affair event on October 11th at the Witte Museum, you probably witnessed many of the things that make this organization so wonderful. We recognized two very deserving and inspiring attorneys, Sylvia Cardona and Tiffanie Clausewitz, for their personal drive and selfless contributions by awarding them the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer and Outstanding Young Lawyer Awards. We raised funds for a worthy organization, Girls on the Run, to support efforts to empower girls and inspire them to be joyful, healthy and confident. We enjoyed seeing many of our local judges dazzle us as they strutted down the runway, showcasing some of the latest fashion trends from Julian Gold. But most importantly, we saw a tremendous group of hard-working women come together and contribute so much of their time and talents with the common goal of planning and executing a fabulously successful event. Maurleen Cobb and Monica Lerma, our 2012 Autumn Affair Co-Chairs, I could not have been more proud of our organization. Thank you for your leadership, your contributions and your hard work to make sure this event turned out as beautiful as it did. I can't wait to see what this organization has in store for next year!



Emma Cano



Shown left to right:
Maurleen Cobb,
Emma Cano &
Monica Lerma

Upcoming Events:

- November 6—BCWB Monthly Luncheon at Club Giraud
- November 6—Close of Nominations for the BCWB Board of Directors
- November 17—SABF's Annual Fun Run
- December 7—Deadline to return ballots for BCWB election
- December 14—Holiday and End of Year BCWB Luncheon at Hotel Contessa

NOVEMBER

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Monica J. Lerma
Autumn Affair
Co-Chair



Maurleen Cobb
Autumn Affair
Co-Chair

Thank You for Your Support~ Autumn Affair 2012

By Monica Lerma & Maurleen Cobb

Thanks to you and your continued support, our 30th Anniversary event was a smashing success! Whether you served on a committee, sponsored the event, solicited those amazing raffle, balloon, or auction items, modeled in the Julian Gold fashion show, escorted our beautiful models, volunteered at the event, or came out to support the BCWBF and Girls on the Run of Bexar County, thank you! We couldn't have done it without you!

We are glad you didn't let a few rain drops and humidity keep you from celebrating our fabulous female judiciary and our Belva Lockwood award recipients, **Sylvia Cardona** of Langley & Banack, Inc. and **Tiffanie Clausewitz** of Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen & Benson, LLP. We are very proud of these women and the work they do in our community.

We are also proud of the support your support has allowed us to give Girls on the Run of Bexar County so it can continue to strengthen our community through its curricula and support of young girls. We will present the organization with the proceeds from this year's Autumn Affair at our Christmas luncheon on December 14, 2012. We hope you can join us as we couldn't have done it without your support.

We would like to offer a special thank you to our corporate sponsors. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to this community and the BCWBF.

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(con'd on next page)

Thank You for Your Support~ Autumn Affair 2012 (con'd)

Silver Sponsors (con'd)

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St. Mary's School of Law & St. Mary's School of Law Alumni Association

We hope to see you on December 14th at our holiday luncheon at Hotel Contessa to celebrate your support of Girls on the Run of Bexar County. Thank you again!



Current President
Emma Cano
&
Past President
Christine Reinhard

President's Challenge Accepted!

By Emma Cano

As has been customary for the past several years, the President of the BCWB is tasked with helping to raise funds with which the Autumn Affair committee can purchase items to supplement our raffle and auction. Accordingly, I issued the President's Challenge to all past President's and former Bench Brunch/Autumn Affair Co-Chairs, asking them to donate \$150 towards the purchase of raffle and auction items for the big event. We had a great response from past Presidents and past Bench Brunch/Autumn Affair Co-Chairs, as they generously accepted the challenge. The following individuals accepted the challenge:

Nancy Anderson	Lisa Barkley	Emma Cano
Tiffanie Clausewitz	Malinda Gaul	Diana Geis
Marissa Helm	Pamela Huff	Carol Jendrzey
Abigail Kampmann	Cynthia Malone	Laura Mason
Judge Barbara Nellermoe	Suzanne Oliva	Christine Reinhard
Justice Rebecca Simmons	Pamela St. John	Mary Stich
Jill Torbert	Monica Trollinger	

Thank you to these individuals for your continued legacy, support throughout the years, and for accepting the 2012 President's Challenge! Because of you, we raised \$3,000 through the President's Challenge.



Emma Cano



Suzanne Oliva



Lisa Alcantar

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 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Be sure to check your mail for the ballot that will be due back by noon on December 7, 2012.

Please Join the Women's Law Association for Its Annual Silent Auction Benefitting Hispanas Unidas

The WLA Auction will be held Thursday, November 15, 2012, from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Law Alumni Room of the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library on the St. Mary's University School of Law campus. Refreshments will be served. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the auction. It is not necessary to be present to win – WLA members will contact you to make arrangements.

Last year, the WLA auctioned off over 150 items (including a raffle for an iPad 2 and Americus Diamond necklace) and raised over \$11,000.00 for Family Violence Prevention Services. The WLA hopes to top that amount for its new charity this year. The WLA would greatly appreciate BCWB's support and hope to see you there for a chance to win some incredible items! For more on Hispanas Unidas, please see www.hispanasunidas.org. If you would like to make a donation, please contact our Vice President, Sarah Anne Lishman, sarahannelishman@yahoo.com.

November Luncheon Announcement

By Lisa Alcantar

We've had a change of plans: Our previously-scheduled speaker, Cynthia Orr, is scheduled for oral argument before the Fifth Circuit on November 6th and won't be able to present as planned. Good luck, Cindy!

As an alternative, we will try something new. Join us at Club Giraud on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, for the opportunity to simply enjoy one another's company. Take the opportunity to enjoy a casual luncheon and network with your fellow Bexar County Women's Bar members on Election Day!

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. We hope to see you there!

When: Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

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

Please note we are now taking credit card payments at the door! RSVP by Friday, November 2, 2012 to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. For more information, contact Lisa Alcantar (lalcantar@prdg.com) or Denise Drake (Denise.M.Drake@tsocorp.com).



Regina Stone-Harris

Judicial Spotlight: U.S. Magistrate Nancy Stein Nowak

By Regina Stone-Harris



U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Stein Nowak recently retired after over 30 years of federal service. As a judge, Judge Nowak exemplified objectivity, fairness, and kindness. I was privileged to serve as Judge Nowak's law clerk for over five years. We have stayed in touch. I recently asked her to share her thoughts about her life after retirement with the BCWBA membership.



Q: What have you been doing since retiring?

A: My husband and I have taken advantage of the time we now have to travel and visit family out of state regularly. In fact, we've been to 18 states and one foreign country in the last six months! We also rediscovered camping and spent several glorious weeks this fall in the mountains hiking in the national forests and parks and meeting interesting people around campfires. When in San Antonio, I'm attending Southwest School of Art and learning how to weave cloth on a floor loom with a community of new friends.

Q: What do you miss most about being an active judge?

A: I miss the regular interactions with the dedicated people at the Courthouse who supported me and my work, and judges from across the United States and staff at the Federal Judicial Center with whom I'd worked on technology training for almost as many years as I was a judge.

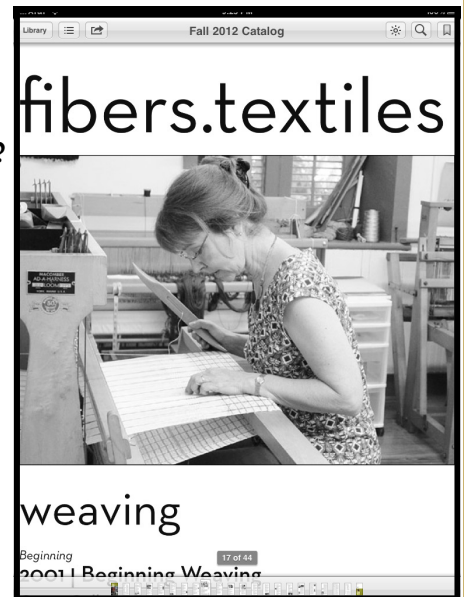
Q: What was the hardest part about retiring?

A: The hardest part of retiring is making the decision to retire. It's a life-changing decision, one that is not easily reversed. I am blessed to have a husband with whom I was able to honestly assess the option, and who supported and, in fact, encouraged my decision.

Q: What is the best part of being retired?

A: There are so many! Being in my home during the day as the light travels across the rooms is near the top of the list. I know that my husband and I are eating better and we are both more relaxed. (con'd on next page)

At right, Judge Nowak masters the art of weaving. Anyone doubting her ability to master weaving can talk with my new grand-daughter. My grand-daughter recently made a cross-country trip, sporting a hand-crafted cap made by Judge Nowak. She was not only warm, she was fashionable.



Judicial Spotlight: U.S. Magistrate Nancy Stein Nowak (con'd)

Q: Do you have any advice for those contemplating retirement?

A: Yes. Determine what you need financially (not what you'd like; but what you need) and begin to consider what parts of yourself you've sidelined and sacrificed while committing yourself to your work that you'd like to rediscover and reawaken.

Q: If you could start your career all over, would you do anything differently?

A: No. I started my legal career sharing an office in exchange for doing "overflow" work for a solo practitioner. My first client was pro bono. I made friends with staff at the courthouse and pulled case files there to study what the pleadings I needed to file were supposed to look like. My earnings that first year were minimal but my learnings were "priceless." I later took a legal job for clerical wages with the federal court in Iowa and obviously that was a critical step in the progression of my career. I practiced Bankruptcy law for a short period and developed an appreciation for a system of dispute resolution that probably led to my work in mediation. My judicial career was greatly enhanced by my participation in national new judge training programs. That work flowed directly from having developed self-supporting clerical skills at the insistence of my mother back in high school. Everything contributed in some way to open up an opportunity later in my career.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: Our immediate plans include more travel, including celebrating our daughter's college graduation in Boston and our 40th wedding anniversary this spring. Beyond that, I plan to stay healthy and enjoy relationships more.



Judge Nowak with daughter Emily & husband Ray in Boston

Before taking the bench, Judge Nowak worked as a solo practitioner, briefing attorney for U.S. Magistrate Judge Jim Hodges, briefing attorney for U.S. Magistrate Judge Jamie Boyd, law clerk for then U.S. District Judge Edward Prado, an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and an Assistant U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee. A plaque now hanging in the federal courthouse appropriately reads: "From 1989 to 2012, her gentle but firm judicial demeanor provided a quiet sense of dignity and justice to all who had the opportunity to appear before her. Judge Nowak's most treasured characteristic is her unfailing kindness, which guides her work and life."

Photos from this Year's Autumn Affair



Maurleen Cobb, Monica Lerma & Tiffanie Clausewitz



Pamela St John, Judge Richard Price & Mary Stitch



Priscilla Camacho & Tiffanie Clausewitz



Carol Jendrzej & Sylvia Cardona



Justice Karen Angelini, Justice Rebecca Simmons,
Justice Phyllis Speedlin, Judge Lori Valenzuela,
Judge Melisa Skinner, Judge Lisa Jarrett,
Judge Cathy Stryker, Judge Irene Rios &
Judge Renee McElhane



Judges Jason Pulliam, Richard Price & Larry Noll

Community Service Column

By Lorie Blount



Lorie Blount

BCWB Visit to Young Women's Leadership Academy (YWLA): On October 19th, BCWB attorneys visited the YWLA—a SAISD Charter School—to speak with its 10th and 11th grade college-bound students. During the 10:05-10:45 class period, we met with the students and described our wonderful and ever-evolving legal careers. The students listened closely (and even took notes!) as we told stories about our college experiences, our selections of undergraduate majors, and how we ultimately decided to enter the legal profession. Of course, we also had the opportunity to describe our current jobs—with a variety of litigation, in-house and governmental attorney perspectives that the students found very interesting. The College Advisor was very thankful for our time and also gave us a brief tour of the school. We hope to make another visit to YWLA next year! For more information about the school, see www.saisd.net/schools/ywla.



Shown above from left to right: Lauren Horne, Leslie Hyman, Danielle Hargrove, Lorie Blount & Tiffanie Clausewitz.



Shown above: Julia Mann on far right with participating BCWBA members & YWLA members.

Reminder for the Upcoming Food Drive for Thanksgiving: The BCWB will collect donations for the San Antonio Food Bank at our November luncheon. Please 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, and the Food Bank staff was very appreciative. We look forward to your contribution this year so that we can have an even more substantial donation!

Call For BCWB Nominations!

We are currently accepting nominations for six vacancies on the BCWBA/F Board of Directors. If you, or someone you know, would like to serve, please submit the names to the Nominating Chair, Suzanne Oliva, at oliva@satx.rr.com or 875-4646.

Nominations close at 2pm on Tuesday, November 6, 2012.



WLA October Update

Alison R. Williams, President

WLA would like to open our update by inviting you to our annual Silent Auction on Thursday, November 15th, this year benefitting Hispanas Unidas and located at the law library at St. Mary's. We would love to see you all there. Please see our invitation in this edition of *Equal Times*!

October has flown by in a flurry of preparation, excitement and most importantly... FUN! WLA was delighted and thankful for the opportunity to get involved with BCWB's hugely successful Autumn Affair on October 11th. The volunteer list reached capacity quickly, and members enjoyed assisting with set up, balloon sales, auction distribution and the Judicial fashion show (as well as the delicious food and beverages!). What a fantastic event and a very deserving charity.



The BWBCA is grateful for the support of WLA volunteers (shown at right) who helped make this year's Autumn Affair a success. Thanks, Ladies!

On Saturday, October 13th, WLA held its annual Wine & Wit event. Held this year in Helotes at the beautiful home of our social chair, Jenny Zarka and her husband Tony, this is an informal, "kick your shoes off" type of event where members get to really spend time with old friends and make new ones in a relaxed setting with fabulous food and of course, great wine. Only this year, in addition to all of these elements, there was also a murder! A fake murder that is, put on by a professional company which required certain WLA members to dress up and get into character so the rest of the group could go around putting clues together to guess whodunit. And what's a murder mystery without a pool party to top it all off? All in all, the event had a fantastic turnout (60 or so members and their guests) and everyone had a wonderful time. Showing herself to be the incredible social chair, entertainer and hostess that she truly is, Jenny is already planning the theme for our second annual "Half Wit," which will be held at her home in the spring semester.

On Monday, October 29th, WLA will have its second general meeting and we are delighted to have District Attorney Susan Reed as our guest speaker for this event. Given that one of the objectives of the Association is to promote and encourage the professional and personal development of women law students so they may better develop those qualities necessary in achieving career success, we are very excited to hear from a woman who has achieved such success in a very prominent position in Bexar County's criminal law field. It will be held at the St. Mary's University School of Law Sarita Kenedy East Law Library in the Alumni Room from 12-1. There will be a catered lasagna lunch and BCWB members are invited to attend, as well.

In the weeks ahead, WLA looks forward to hosting the *Fisher* Forum on campus, an event wherein we have collaborated with other law student organizations to bring present a panel discussion concerning the affirmative action issue currently in front of the Supreme Court in *Fisher v. the University of Texas at Austin*. Given our close proximity to UT, we are fortunate to have among our panelists many individuals who have been personally involved in the development of this case.

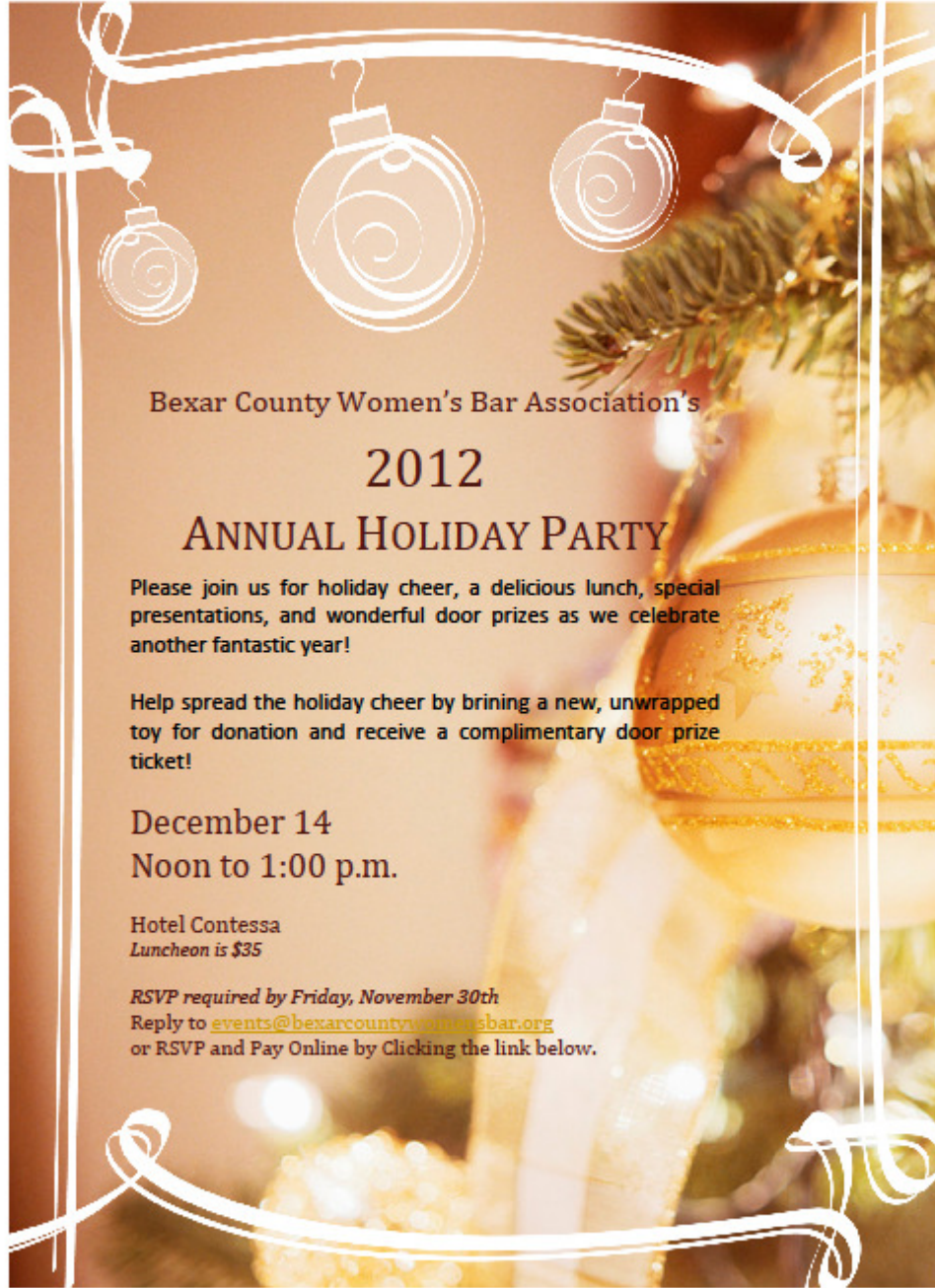
Upcoming events:

10/29: 2nd general meeting with guest speaker District Attorney Susan Reed

11/1: *Fisher* Forum

11/5: 3rd general meeting with Richard Loza of Texas Rio Grande Legal Aide

11/15: WLA's Silent Auction benefitting Hispanas Unidas, to be held in the Law Alumni Room



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@bexarcountrywomensbar.org
or RSVP and Pay Online by Clicking the link below.