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President's Message

What an incredible October! Last month's Autumn Affair at the historic Pearl Studio was an amazing event demonstrating our membership's dedication to accomplishing the mission of the Bexar County Women's Bar and serving our local community. We recognized two inspiring attorneys, Cynthia Orr and Lauren Horne, for their commitment to supporting women in the practice of law by awarding them the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer and Outstanding Young Lawyer Awards. We also celebrated

our local judiciary and three trailblazing women Jurists of Bexar County, Carol Haberman Knight-Sheen, Rose Spector and Carolyn Spears-Peterson.

Our signature event would not be possible without the support of our volunteers. Thanks to the flawless leadership of Shari Mao and Amanda Crouch, our 2016 Autumn Affair Co-Chairs, and each and every volunteer who generously donated their time and energy to help make Autumn Affair a success. Thank



you, thank you! I am so very proud to be a part of this tremendous organization!

Make sure you attend our Holiday Luncheon on December 9 at Tre Trattoria to learn how much the BCWB raised for this year's Autumn Affair beneficiaries, Deborah's House and the Children's Shelter.

November Luncheon: U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman

Please join us on November 1, 2016 to welcome U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman. Prior to his appointment as District Judge, he served as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas and as a U.S. Magistrate Judge. Judge Pitman will provide his thoughts and reflections on his first two years as a federal district judge. He will foster conversation on the issues affecting federal court practice and provide an opportunity for members to ask questions on

the topic. Don't miss this opportunity to discuss federal practice directly with Judge Pitman! Approved for .75 CLE.

When: Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2016

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

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

RSVP: RSVP by Thursday, October 27. You can register and pay online! Include any die-

tary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand 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 staff. No-shows will be billed.

For more information, contact Rachel Skinner (rskinner@dykema.com) or Meagan McKeown (mmckeown@dykema.com). We hope to see you there!

It's Election Time for the Bexar County Women's Bar!

It is time for us to vote for our Officers and Directors for the 2017 year. Voting will be conducted electronically, so please keep a lookout for an email in the next week with a link to a Survey Monkey ballot. All members in good standing will receive a link to the ballot, each member can vote once, and all votes are completely anonymous—just like with previous paper ballots. The ballot will include photos and background information on each of the candidates up for election.

The slate of Officers follows:



President: Lisa Alcantar has served BCWBA in one capacity or another since graduating from St. Mary's in 2009 - everything from running luncheons to Autumn Affair. She is currently President-Elect. She practices commercial litigation with Porter, Rogers, Dahlman & Gordon, PC, with a focus on healthcare and employment issues. When not working, she keeps busy with her husband and two kids.



Candidate for President-Elect: Greta McFarling is a St. Mary's graduate who has worked as a staff attorney at the Fourth Court of Appeals for the past 11 years. She was elected to the Bexar County Women's Bar board in 2013 and currently serves as Vice President, having previously served as Treasurer and 2015 Autumn Affair co-chair.



Candidate for Vice President: Hella Scheuerman is a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law and has been in private practice since 1997. She is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Scene in San Antonio Magazine has recognized her as a Best Lawyer in personal injury (2009, 2012), civil litigation (2011), and general litigation (2013-2016). She

has been a Member of BCWB since 1997, Director 2011-2014, Treasurer-Elect 2015 and Treasurer 2016. Hella has been an Active BCWB Member on various committees, including: Co-Chair Autumn Affair (2013), Chair BCWB Family Event (2013), Chair Law Day (2012, 2015-2016), Chair Mentor-Mentee (2014), and Young Women's Leadership Academy Liaison (2015-2016). She is a Fellow in the Texas Bar Foundation, a member of the Grant Review Committee for Impact San Antonio and serves as a Faith Formation Catechist in her local Parish.



Treasurer: Shari Y. Mao is an associate in the Corporate & Securities section at Jackson Walker. Prior to law school, Ms. Mao was vice president of a flooring company, where she managed the North American operations and collaborated with factories in China and Taiwan. She was a Risk Manager on the Pulp and Paper Desk at Enron and was retained after the mass termination to un-wind and liquidate trades. Additionally, Ms. Mao was (con'd on p. 4)

Member Spotlight: Ashley Graham



What's your current job?

I am an associate attorney at Oliva, Saks, Garcia & Curiel, LLP.

How long have you been a member of the BCWB?

I have been a member of the BCWB for 5 years, 3 years as a student member along with WLA and 2 years as an attorney member.

What's your best experience thus far?

To pick a best experience with the fantastic women who make up the BCWB is a difficult feat; but I would have to say probably being on the Autumn Affair Auc-

tion Committee this year. It has always been one of my favorite events and to see the "behind the scenes" of how much heart felt effort everyone really puts into it has been inspiring. I have really enjoyed assisting with even a small part of what makes up the final event that will benefit such worthy causes throughout San Antonio.

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

My morning rituals are rather boring really, I'm usually up by 5:00 AM and have a coffee with my husband before he heads to work. After I get him out the door I get in a good workout; it helps me clear my head and get ready for the day then I usually try to tackle 1 or 2 of my daily chores before I shower and head out the door for work. My husband and I do not have any children yet so I think my mornings are fairly light compared to most. We just moved onto 32 acres about a month ago though, so I'm looking to add some 4 legged children to the mix here soon!

What's your favorite moment of your career so far?

My favorite moment so far has to be the makeup of many small moments. Those small moments when a client is relieved and happy

with the outcome you achieve for them, the thank you's and grateful smiles are what drives me and makes me love what I do.

What was your childhood dream job?

Honestly if we're going to go back to the very first job I wanted; I wanted to be my parents "mail lady". Our mail was delivered around lunch time every day and I just figured if I did that, I could always come home and have lunch with my mom and dad. After years of school and growing up, even though my parents still play a huge part in my life, those plans changed of course. I always knew I wanted to do something with my life that would help people and I decided to go to law school when I was in college after working with an attorney who took me under his wing.

Guilty Pleasure: What can you not live without?

I hate to say it, but probably my phone. I try really hard to disconnect from everything when I'm home and not working but my phone keeps me connected to my parents, my grandmas and siblings. Never did I think when I was little I would be carrying around a small computer in my purse but I enjoy the fact it allows me to talk to them anytime, (con'd on p. 5)

It's Election Time for the Bexar County Women's Bar! (con'd from p. 2)

an associate at J.P. Morgan & Co., where she managed projects and implemented trade processing solutions in New York, London, and Tokyo. During law school, Ms. Mao interned for Chief Judge Fred Biery of the United States District for the Western District of Texas, where she researched and wrote memos for the court. She also worked as a student attorney at St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice. Ms. Mao received her B.A., magna cum laude, from Duke University and her J.D., magna cum laude, from St. Mary's University School of Law, where she was an associate editor and staff writer for *St. Mary's Law Journal* and a member of the Order of Barristers.



Candidate for Treasurer-Elect: Lindsay Riley received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. She attended Texas Tech University School of Law and served as the Managing Editor for the Law Review as well as a research assistant and teaching fellow. After graduating from law school in 2012, she served as Briefing Attorney to Justices Rebecca Simmons and

Patricia Alvarez on the Fourth Court of Appeals. In August 2013, Lindsay joined Cox Smith as a litigation associate. Her practice focuses on advising clients with complex litigation matters in the energy, utilities and natural resources sectors. She also advises clients with matters related to business and commercial litigation, including all stages of pretrial and trial work in state and federal court. Lindsay has enjoyed serving as a board member, luncheon chair and Autumn Affair subcommittee chair for the Bexar County Women's Bar Association.



Candidate for Secretary: Brittany M. Weil practices commercial litigation with Curl Stahl Geis, P.C., handling a variety of matters, including contract, business tort, real estate, construction, and natural resources disputes. Brittany has been actively involved in planning BCWB's annual Autumn Affair for the past four years, acting as co-chair for the event in 2014, and has served on the BCWB's Board of Directors for the past two

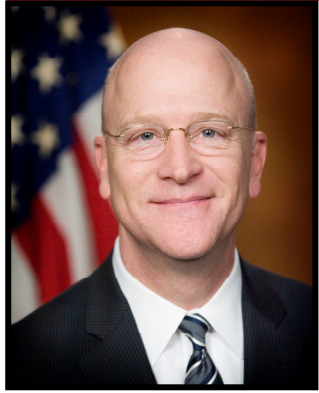
years. Brittany has been voted one of San Antonio's best business litigator's by Scene in SA Magazine. She is married to Charlie, and is the proud mom of son, Harvey, and terrier mix, Jolly.

We have 6 vacancies on the Board of Directors. The Candidates for Director are:



Kathleen Church- After completing a degree at Wake Forest University, I attended St. Mary's School of Law and became a licensed attorney in November 2010. Upon passing the bar, I started a law firm with my father, Church and Church PLLC; where I still work. With a focus on probate law and the transactional side of real estate, I do not see the courthouse regularly except for when I'm a volunteer mediator for the Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center in both their general litigation and family law cases. I've been an active member in the Bexar County Women's Bar Association for several years now and been heavily involved in such programs such as (con'd on p. 8)

Judicial Spotlight: U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman



What's your current job?
United States District Judge

How long have you been a member of the BCWB?

What's your best experience thus far?

Not a member, but would love to be an honorary member!

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

I'm a morning person, and my routine largely revolves around walking and hanging out with my ten-year-old border collie mix, "Jack." Then, weather permitting, I cycle to work.

What's your favorite moment of your career so far?

Presiding over a naturalization ceremony at which I had the privilege of swearing in 1200 excited and proud new citizens from 97 countries. It's the only thing

I do where everyone leaves happy.

What was your childhood dream job?

Veterinarian. Like James Herriot from "All Creatures Great and Small"

Guilty Pleasure: What can you not live without?

I overdo it with my bicycles. I have more than I need and upgrade more often than necessity would dictate.

What's the best career advice you can offer to others?

Don't be fear-driven. The things I regret are the times I didn't take risks. And everything I've done that was worthwhile entailed some degree of risk.

From the October luncheon, pictured left to right: Lindsay Riley (luncheon co-chair), Judge Laura Parker (candidate for 386th Judicial District Court), Angelica Jimenez (candidate for 408th Judicial District Court), Jan Ischy-Prins (candidate for 399th Judicial District Court), Libby Wiederman (candidate for 175th Criminal District Court), Linda Molina (candidate for County Court of Law No. 5) & Rachel Skinner (luncheon co-chair)



Book Review: *The Trespasser*



By Lisa P. Alcantar

The Trespasser by Tana French is the sixth book in the Dublin Murder Squad series. Unlike many crime serials, the main character in the Dublin Murder Squad isn't a seasoned detective, but rather the Murder Squad itself. Each book focuses on a different detective, who has played a secondary role in a prior novel in the series. Tana French spends each novel diving into the depths of the lead detective's character, which inevitably shapes the detective's

approach to the investigation, interaction with witnesses, and ultimately, the detective's role in the Squad. The nice thing in French's approach is that there's really no harm in picking up any one of the books in the series out of order. She's known for having strong female characters, which is always a bonus in a genre that often lacks non-victim female characters.

In Book 6, our focus is on Antoinette Conway and Stephen Moran—the two newest additions to the Murder Squad. Conway is abrasive, to say the least. In the Squad, she faces interference with her investigations, sexual harassment, and what most employment lawyers would describe as a hostile work environment. Conway and Moran spend much of their days covering domestic battery incidents, but are chomping at the bit to grab a juicy case to shore up their place in the Squad. *The Tres-*

passer follows their investigation of the Aislinn Murray case, an apparent domestic assault gone wrong. Conway's (excusable) distrust of her fellow officers runs rampant through the novel, muddying the waters at every turn.

I've thoroughly enjoyed this series and I was eager to snap this book up. I struggled to get into this one, though, because I found Conway so off putting and hard to like. However, the case takes Conway on a journey, leaving her both more destabilized and eventually less guarded. Another thing I enjoyed was the fact that French could have been lazy and left the victim a paper doll of sorts, but she does the hard work of (slowly) crafting a backstory that is as important as Conway's story. Bottom line: I enjoyed *The Trespasser*, but it was not my favorite of French's books.

Member Spotlight (con'd from p. 3)

I can skype/facetime and see them real time etc.

What's the best career advice you've offered?

Be brave and be yourself. If you

"fall down on your face" just get back up and keep trekking. Everyone starts out at the bottom and we all make mistakes; it's how we recover from them that really matters. You always want

to be courteous and professional but don't lose yourself, balance is key.

Welcome New Members

Ashley Dahlberg

Christina Markell-Balleza

Holly Dekan

Shellie Reyes

Rebecca Magee

Jennifer Zarka

Autumn Affair

By Shari Mao & Amanda Crouch



Shown above: Autumn Affair Co-Chair Shari Mao, BCWB President Katherine Noll & Autumn Affair Co-Chair Amanda Crouch

On October 27, Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation hosted its annual signature event, the Autumn Affair. This year's event featured a new venue, the Pearl Stables. The event highlighted the women jurists of our community and the trailblazers of the Bexar County Women's Bar, in addition to raising money for this year's beneficiaries, Deborah's House and The Children's Shelter. The night opened with a cocktail hour featuring a signature "Trailblazer Margarita" and hors d'oeuvres. Guests perused the raffle and silent auction tables, which contained over thirty fabulous packages. During the cocktail hour, a slideshow was presented in the main ballroom honoring the sitting women judges and justices of Bexar County. The evening's program, which included a

gourmet three-course meal, premiered a video highlighting the careers of three trailblazing women judges of Bexar County, Carol Haberman Knight-Sheen, Rose Spector, and Carolyn Spears Peterson. The program also recognized the works and achievements of practicing lawyers, Cynthia Orr and Lauren Horne, who were honored with the Belva Lockwood Award.

True to the nature of Bexar County Women's Bar and our members, the evening included much giving to the beneficiaries, through the sale of mystery boxes, silent auction, live auction, and a raffle, all for the benefit of Deborah's House and The Children's Shelter. The live auction was kicked off with a special performance by the Children's Ballet of San Antonio, to the delight of the crowd. The live auction itself was orchestrated by Cass Ringelstein and his two young boys, Casper and Cross, who successfully auctioned off a hand signed Willie Nelson cowboy hat to a cheering audience. Highlights from the live auction also included a \$2,000 VIP shopping spree, generously donated by Lee Michael's Fine Jewelry, paired with a limo ride and dinner as well as a five-night tropical island getaway to the US Virgin Islands courtesy of Becker Properties. Attendees

had a great time raising their hands, voices and drinks in the hopes of winning some fabulous items!

The Autumn Affair presents the opportunity for old friends to connect and new relationships to be forged. We want to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and volunteers for making this year a resounding success. We are humbled by your support and dedication to the mission of our organization. We sincerely appreciate the donors, the contributors and the supporters within our community. Because of you, Bexar County Women's Bar has the opportunity to recognize the women who have laid the foundation to our legal community, continue to honor the attorneys who dedicate their work to the betterment of our practice, and raise money for deserving charities. The proceeds from this year's Autumn Affair will be presented to Deborah's House and the Children's Shelter at the BCWBF's Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 9th at Tre Trattoria. We look forward to seeing you there!

It's Election Time for the Bexar County Women's Bar! (con'd from p. 4)

the Autumn Affair, working on various committees, and the Mentor/Mentee program with St. Mary's Law Students.

I look forward to many more years supporting the BCWBA in whatever capacity is needed; and if elected to the board I hope to continue the long standing tradition the BCWBA has cultivated over the years of helping both the legal and non-legal community.



Durime Fahim is currently an associate attorney at The Law Offices of Lisa A. Vance, P.C., where our primary focus is family law. I have been an active member of BCWB for four years, and am currently helping with the Autumn Affair Decorations Committee. I have always loved the organization because I noticed in law school that BCWB is committed to providing the members diverse and enriching experiences, and this practice continues today. I think BCWB is unique and especially adroit at offering female law students and newly practicing female attorney's access to strong well practiced mentors in various fields of law throughout the community. I look forward to serving the organization in the

future as a board member if elected, and continue the long standing legacy of elevating the next generation of legal minds in our community and contributing to enriching experiences all of the members can attend.



Rachel Skinner Fernandez is originally from San Antonio, Texas. She received her undergraduate degree in Pre-Law from Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida. She went on to attend law school at Baylor University School of Law, and served as the head of Alumni Relations and Assistant Editor for the *Baylor Law Review*. After graduating from law school in 2013, Rachel joined Cox Smith, now Dykema Cox Smith, as a litigation associate. Her practice focuses on advising clients in commercial litigation in disputes involving breach of contract, fraud and insurance coverage. She routinely practices in state and federal courts throughout Texas and advises clients in all stages of pretrial and trial work. Rachel is an active member of the Junior League of San Antonio, San Antonio Bar Association, and San Antonio Young Lawyers Association. She has enjoyed serving as a luncheon co-chair and Autumn Affair subcommittee chair for the Bexar County Women's Bar Association for the past three

years and as a member of the Board of Directors for the past year.



Leslie Hyman is a partner with Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP, where she practices in the areas of commercial litigation and appeals, and antitrust and trade regulation counseling. She has served on the BCWB Board of Directors for four years, during which she co-chaired Autumn Affair and the membership Retreat. In 2014, she was awarded the Belva Lockwood outstanding lawyer award and was selected by the San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce as one of its Constellation of Stars honorees.



Nicole E. Jackson - My practice involves representing clients in a wide range of litigation and administrative matters, including those before the Texas Workforce Commission, the EEOC, and the (con'd on p. 10)

Autumn Affair Photos



It's Election Time for the Bexar County Women's Bar! (con'd from p. 10)

Texas Juvenile Justice Department. I represent clients in personal injury, professional liability and family law matters, including adoptions and surrogacy. In addition to general litigation or matters before a state agency, I draft and revise company handbooks and policy specific for company needs. Additionally, I provide company training and human resources support in the areas of discrimination law and disability issues.

I have been recognized by Texas Monthly magazine as a Super Lawyer Rising Star in 2014 & 2015. I have also been named a Rising Star by the San Antonio Scene magazine in 2012, 2013 & 2016. I have prepared and/or presented numerous speeches on the Grievance Process and Personal Injury topics for organizations such as Texas Bar CLE, TAPS and the Bexar County Woman's Bar Retreat.



Cassie Matheson is an associate attorney at Hornberger Fuller & Garza, Inc. Her practice focuses on civil litigation, with an emphasis on fiduciary and trust disputes. Prior to joining Hornberger Fuller & Garza, Cassie

was a litigation attorney with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, where her practice focused on complex commercial litigation and intellectual property disputes. She also has experience in many areas of public interest law, including human rights and immigration.

Cassie received her B.A. in International Studies from Baylor University and her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law. Cassie is also the proud mother of twin girls, Emily and Isabel. Cassie has been an active member of the Bexar County Women's Bar for many years and would love the opportunity to serve on its board of directors.



Serina Rivela is a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law ('97 J.D.) and is an attorney serving as Associate General Counsel for Bexar County Hospital District d/b/a University Health System providing representation in a variety of legal matters including contract law and regulatory health law. Her primary practice area focuses on negotiating and drafting a wide variety of contracts such as managed care service agreements, physician employment

agreements, real estate leases, research agreements, and purchase and license agreements. She also provides guidance on medical, ethical and open government issues; advises the Privacy Officer on privacy and matters; and reviews corporate policies. She is a member of the Grant Review Committee For Impact San Antonio, San Antonio Bar Association, Bexar County Women's Bar Association (BCWBA). Serina recently joined BCWBA's Board in August 2016 and has assisted with various committees including: Mentor/Mentee, Law Day and Autumn Affair.

November Around Town Lunch
Join us for lunch at Madhatter's in Southtown (320 Beauregard) on Thursday, November 17 at noon. No need to RSVP! Look for Laura Cauley and Greta McFarling in the back room!

Photos from last month's Guns & Gals Event





Save the Date!

*Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation's
Annual Holiday Party*

*December 9, 2016
Noon to 1:00 p.m.*

*Tre Trattoria
4003 Broadway*