



Equal Times

Serving the BCWBA for 30 Years

President's Column

Beginning my term as BCWB President, I was excited about what the long year ahead would bring. The year turned out to be not very long at all. In what seems to have been the blink of an eye, I am at the end. I am proud of all we have accomplished, and forever grateful to the many women who dedicated their time and talents to ensure our successes. It's impossible to express all my thanks in the next few lines, but I want to take this opportunity to thank a special few.



First, thank you to Autumn Affair Co-Chairs Katherine Noll and Brittany Weil for a truly outstanding event. Katherine and Brittany, along with their team of many, many committee members, planned a stunning evening during which we celebrated our retiring women judges, honored our Belva Lockwood award winners, and raised a (con'd on p. 2)

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation's

❄️ Annual Holiday Party ❄️

December 12
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Marriott Plaza San Antonio
555 S. Alamo Street

Luncheon is \$35*

Please join us for holiday cheer, a delicious lunch, special presentations, and wonderful door prizes as we celebrate another fantastic year! You can help spread holiday cheer at the luncheon by purchasing an angel tree card supporting students of the Young Women's Leadership Academy. Receive a free raffle ticket for each angel tree card purchased.

RSVP required by November 28th to events@bexarcountymenbar.org

*On-site parking is an additional \$10.

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“We must find the time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives.”
John F. Kennedy

President’s Column (con’d from p. 1)

record amount for The Rape Crisis Center (attend the Holiday Luncheon to learn specifics!). The number of hours it takes to oversee such an event is daunting, and I am so appreciative of the commitment and sacrifices made by all involved with Autumn Affair. Thank you!

Second, thank you to Shari Mao and Amanda Crouch for planning and executing our first (and hopefully, annual) Swearing-In Ceremony. When this idea was first mentioned at our Board Retreat, we were all surprised no one had thought of it before – especially since hardly any of us (if any) had gone to Austin for the official ceremony for our own swearing-ins! The idea presented a wonderful opportunity to honor our newly-licensed attorneys and introduce them to local organizations like the BCWB. Our modest expectations were exceeded. The event would not have happened without the hard work of Shari and Amanda, who single- (or double-) handedly planned the entire event. Thanks to both for this new tradition!

Third, thank you to Annual CLE Retreat Co-Chairs Judge Renee McElhaney, Leslie Hyman, and Laurie Weiss. This is one of my favorite BCWB events. This year’s event was the best yet. At the beautiful

Purple Sage Ranch (summer camp for grown-ups!), we ate, drank, listened to fantastic CLE speakers and panelists, and even watched a Spurs playoff game! The CLE is the “official” benefit of our retreat, but the fun and fellowship with our fellow sisters-in-the-law epitomizes BCWB’s spirit. It was a big event, requiring months of planning and preparation. Our co-chairs did not disappoint. Thank you Judge Renee, Leslie, and Laurie!

Finally, thank you to Luncheon Co-Chairs Lauren Horne and Lindsay Riley. This year’s luncheons saw record attendance, no doubt in response to the informative speakers lined up by Lauren and Lindsay. Assisted by Rachel Skinner, Lauren and Lindsay committed several hours each month for the past two years, planning and managing these luncheons. I am grateful for their dedication to providing educational, entertaining speakers for our members’ benefit. Thank you Lauren and Lindsay!

I could go on and on, but I’ll stop and continue these thanks at another time. Thank all of YOU for allowing me to serve the BCWB during 2014. It has been an honor and a privilege which I will never forget. Tiffanie



BCWB Election Results

By Marissa Helm

BCWB is happy to announce the results of its recent election. The following members were elected as officers:

President-Elect: Katherine Noll
Vice President: Lisa Alcantar
Treasurer-Elect: Hella Scheuerman
Secretary: Connie Arambula

These ladies will join the officer panel with Marissa Helm as President, Greta McFarling as Treasurer, and Tiffanie Clausewitz as Immediate Past President.

The following members were elected to serve as new Directors:

Gaylia Brunson	Shari Mao
Maurleen Cobb	Suzanne Patrick
Leslie Hyman	Brittany Weil
Carmen Samaniego	

The new directors will join incumbent directors — Lauren Horne, Judge Renee McElhaney, Lindsay Riley, Elsa Marie Garza — and the President of St. Mary’s Women’s Law Association, to complete our Board of Directors.

Swearing-In Ceremony

By Shari Mao

Swearing-in ceremonies are a time-honored tradition in many cities across the country; however, San Antonio did not hold this type of event until this year. The Bexar County Women’s Bar Foundation hosted the inaugural event with SAYLA this year.

U.S. District Judge Xavier Rodriguez and Chief Justice Catherine Stone of the Fourth Court of Appeals presided over the ceremony, which was held in the Bexar County Cadena-Reeves Justice Center and open to all who passed the July Texas Bar Exam. The inaugural event was a tremendous success, with over 40 inductees and over 200 attendees, including representatives from a wide variety of local bar organizations and support networks who provided information to the new attorneys. A catered reception followed the ceremony. The event was sponsored by the St. Mary’s University School of Law Alumni Association and San Antonio Bar Association.



Co-Chairs of Inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony,
Shari Mao & Amanda Crouch with
Chief Justice Stone

San Antonio Jackson Walker Women Receive ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award

Jackson Walker L.L.P. and Jackson Walker partners Stephanie Chandler, Lauren Ciminello, Julia Mann, and Elena Villaseñor Sullivan have received the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce's ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award. The award honors organizations that actively create a culture that encourages women employees to achieve their leadership potential and give back to the larger community of women and girls by providing and/or supporting leadership development opportunities and initiatives.

Jackson Walker was selected as a result of the successful women who lead both within the San Antonio Jackson Walker office and external to the firm in the community as well as for the firm's programs that encourage other women to be successful, including the jw^2 women's initiative. Dedicated to the attraction, retention, and promotion of women professionals, jw^2 creates opportunities for women attorneys to build strong networks to sustain a successful and satisfying legal career. At the same time, jw^2 supports women in their efforts to make an impact in the community.



Ms. Chandler is Co-Chair of the San Antonio office's Public Company practice and statewide chair of the firm's Technology practice. She assists clients with the formation of organizations, public and private offerings of securities, governance issues and shareholder proxy contests, as well as Securities Act and Exchange Act compliance matters. Outside the firm, she serves on the Board of Directors of the North San Antonio Chamber, where she recently wrapped up her year chairing the Chamber's SustainAbility initiative. She also serves on the Board of the Women's Energy Network – South Texas and the San Antonio Medical Foundation. She has also invested her time serving on the Boards of programs such as the United Way's Masters Leadership Program and the Family Service Association of San Antonio. She previously was selected for an Athena Young Professional Award for Community Service. She and her extraordinarily supportive husband, Chip, are the parents of two super-active boys, Wyatt and Brady Chandler. (con'd on next page)

ATHENA Organizational Leadership Award (con'd from previous page)

Ms. Ciminello is statewide chair of the firm's Family Office practice. She regularly represents sophisticated family offices by advising on business operations, tax and wealth planning issues, succession planning, and structuring and negotiating corporate and finance transactions for the assets held by such families and their operating businesses. Ms. Ciminello also serves as hiring partner for the San Antonio office and has served over the years as a mentor for law students during the firm's summer clerkship program. Outside the firm, Ms. Ciminello serves on the Board of Directors for the Family Service Association of San Antonio and has been actively involved with the National Association of Women Business Owners, serving twice on the judging panel for the Entrepreneurial Spirit Awards, presented to outstanding women entrepreneurs in the San Antonio community. Ms. Ciminello has provided pro bono legal service to several non-profit organizations in San Antonio, including Haven for Hope as they embarked upon the financing of their leading edge campus serving the homeless. She and her husband, Vito, have been married for 9 years and have been blessed with a beautiful daughter, Harper, and a baby on the way.

Ms. Mann is chair of the San Antonio office's Litigation practice. Ms. Mann is the first woman to hold this position in the San Antonio office. Her primary focus is on oil and gas litigation, commercial litigation and e-Discovery. Her practice encompasses contractual disputes, professional liability claims, royalty disputes, and business torts such as fraud, negligent misrepresentation, breach of fiduciary duty, tortious interference, and creditors' rights. Licensed to practice in both Texas and Oklahoma, Ms. Mann's practice is not limited to San Antonio, although she has litigated claims unique to South Texas, such as defending record land ownership traced to original land grant by the Government of Spain. Outside the firm, Ms. Mann serves on the Board of Directors of the National Charity League, and she has also served on the board of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association. Ms. Mann and her husband of 20 years, Greg Mann, are the parents of three lovely girls – Hannah, Sarah and Jessica.

Ms. Sullivan leads San Antonio's jw² business development initiatives in San Antonio. She is a commercial trial and appellate attorney who has been described by the San Antonio Business Journal as tenacious in the courtroom "when she represents business owners and corporations in fiery litigation." Outside the firm, Ms. Sullivan serves on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement South Texas, serves on the National Association of Women's Business Owner's foundation committee encouraging teen girls to pursue entrepreneurship and higher education, represents indigent women pro bono through the Community Justice Program, and was recently selected as one of sixteen Latino Leaders in San Antonio by Latino Leaders Magazine. She is married to Boston native Chris Sullivan, and they have a two-year-old daughter, Lucia.

BCWBA Lites

Mary Lisa Mireles, formerly with the Davis Law Firm, is now an associate at The Rosenblatt Law Firm where she practices primarily in the area of transactional law. Ms. Mireles can be reached at 210-562-2900 or marylisa@rosenblattlawfirm.com.

2015 Membership Drive

By Maurleen Cobb



Since the beginning of our 2015 Membership Drive, more than 100 attorneys and paralegals have joined, or renewed their membership with, the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Foundation! If you haven't done so, you can join or renew online at <http://www.bexarcountywomensbar.org/membership>- or at the Christmas Party. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like a pdf membership form emailed to you, please contact Maurleen Cobb at mcobb@stokeslawoffice.com.



From the November luncheon, pictured from left to right: Lauren Horne, Maurleen Cobb, Speaker Patrick F. McCann & Lindsay Riley



On October 1, 2014, BCWB Secretary Maurleen Cobb, a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. Shown above, Maurleen's husband, Lt Col David Cobb & Maurleen's boss, Mr. Craig Stokes, pin on Maurleen's new rank. Shown at left, Maurleen's dad, retired Lt Col Robert Worley, administers the oath.