

President's Message

2016 is drawing to a close, but what an amazing year for the Bexar County Women's Bar. It has been an honor to serve as President and a pleasure to work with a fantastic group of officers, directors and members who have dedicated their energy and time to ensure our organization's success. 2017 is already shaping up to be terrific, so be sure to renew your membership so you can be a part

of our events and programs.

To finish off the year, we will celebrate at our annual Holiday Luncheon on December 9th at Tre Trattoria on Broadway, where we will present the beneficiaries of Autumn Affair, the Children's Shelter and Deborah's House, with the proceeds of this year's Autumn Affair. We will also collect donations for Haven for Hope, who noted a specif-



ic need for women's winter clothing and accessories. Don't forget to RSVP—you won't want to miss the mimosas, mingling and delicious food. (con'd on p. 6)

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

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

*Tre Trattoria
4003 Broadway*

Luncheon is \$40

Please help us spread holiday cheer at the luncheon by donating women's clothing or personal care items to Haven for Hope. There is a particular need for new women's undergarments and new or gently used winter clothing and accessories, such as hats, scarves and gloves. Receive a free raffle ticket for each donation.

2017 Board of Directors



By Lisa Alcantar

Our 2017 BCWB Board Election has ended and the votes have been tallied! The 2017 Board of Directors will be:

Officers:

Lisa Alcantar, President
Greta McFarling, President Elect
Hella Scheurerman, Vice President
Shari Mao, Treasurer
Lindsay Riley, Treasurer Elect
Brittany Weil, Secretary

Amanda Crouch
Durime Fahim
Lauren Horne
Leslie Hyman
Cassie Matheson
Serina Rivela
Rachel Skinner
Judge Renee Yanta

Board of Directors:

Gaylia Brunson
Laura E. Cauley
Kathleen Church

Kayhryn Kluge, Student Director

2017 LEAD Academy Class Members



The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation is proud to announce the members of its inaugural 2017 LEAD Academy class. Congratulations to these outstanding women leaders, from whom we expect to see great things in the coming year and well beyond!

Lara Brock
Espinoza Law Firm, PLLC

Stephanie Curette
Hornberger Fuller & Garza Incorporated

Ashley Senary Dahlberg
Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Jane Ann Fosson
Schmoyer Reinhard LLP

Vanessa Hernandez Kemmy
Frost Bank

Rebecca Magee
Haynes and Boone, LLP

Cassie Matheson
Hornberger Fuller & Garza Incorporated

Mary Lisa Mireles
Rosenblatt Law Firm

Patti Oviatt
Cokinos, Bosien & Young

Lindsay Riley
Dykema Cox Smith

Christine Rudy
Tessmer Law Firm PLLC

Vanessa Russell-Evans
Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union

Shavonne Smith

Thornton, Biechlin, Reynolds & Guerra, L.C.

Nada Ismail Taha
NuStar Energy L.P.

Kayla Tanner
Jackson Walker L.L.P.

Dannick Villaseñor-Hernandez
Plunkett & Griesenbeck, Inc.

The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation's inaugural LEAD Academy is a leadership-development program born out of a desire to assist women attorneys in attaining the highest level of success in their firms and organizations, in their communities, and in the legal profession. Class members are chosen based on their accomplishments in the legal community and demonstrated potential to become leaders. Visit www.bexarcountywomensbar.org/LEAD for more information regarding the BCWBF's innovative LEAD Academy program.

Member Spotlight: Danielle N. Rushing



What's your current job?

Commercial Litigation Associate at Curl Stahl Geis, P.C.

How long have you been a member of the BCWB?

Throughout law school at St. Mary's and currently as a first-year associate.

What's your best experience thus far?

Attending Autumn Affair to raise money for well-deserving organizations that better the Bexar County community.

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

Before heading into the office, I tackle some items on my to-do list, check emails, enjoy a cup of Community Coffee, and review my calendar entries for the day. Once I get to my desk, I spend around thirty minutes accomplishing administrative tasks before handling client matters.

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

Being sworn in by the Honorable Craig A. Gargotta, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Texas, for whom I interned and served as a teaching assistant during law school.

What was your childhood dream job?

I dreamed of helping patients through the toughest of times as a radiation oncologist before I realized my calling was to help people through effective advocacy.

Guilty Pleasure:

Trying new recipes for gluten-free desserts!

What can you not live without?

My purple and gold monogrammed coffee cup that helps me wake up each morning. Geaux Tigers!

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

Continuously network, seek strong mentors, and do not let the accomplishment of one goal keep you from the next.

St. Mary's Journal invites you to attend its **16th Annual Symposium on Legal Ethics**. The symposium will be held on Friday, January 27, 2016, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, at the Plaza Club in Downtown San Antonio. Six hours of CLE credit are available.

The prices are as follows:

Early Registration: \$100 (until Dec. 15)

Regular Registration: \$160

Government Employees: \$65

Registration includes breakfast and lunch. The link for credit card payment is as follows: <https://easypath.ecsi.net/stmarytx/825/Epay?pld=819>.

Mentor/Mentee Social at Piatti

By Gaylia Brunson & Serina Rivela

Joined by approximately 60 members of the Bexar County Women's Bar and students from the St. Mary's Women's Law Association, this fall mentor/

mentee gathering was a huge smash. This year's event was held at the Piatti's Eilan location and provided a wonderful opportunity for law students to meet and connect with their mentors while enjoying spirits and appetizers. It was a beauti-

ful evening and what we hope to be a great start to a meaningful and lifelong connection with your mentee. Many thanks to everyone for the event's great success!





Movie Review: *Moana*

By Lisa P. Alcantar

We don't make it to the movies much, but during November, we managed to see both *Arrival* and *Moana*. Both movies had me in tears within ten minutes of the start of the reel. While I was much more excited to see *Arrival* (and I very much enjoyed the movie), I just want to gush about *Moana*. I didn't know anything about the movie and we (husband, five-year old daughter, and three year old son) were sheperded into the movie as part of a Thanksgiving fami-

ly bonding moment. I might get myself in trouble here, but here we go: I'm not a huge Disney movie fan. The princess movies, ladies, get me with the (1) parents dying almost every time, (2) the romance plot line, and (3) the damsel in distress. *Moana* is none of those things. Her parents are alive the whole movie; she isn't technically a princess. And, most importantly to me, there is no romance plot line in sight. This is simply the story of Moana, the Chief's daughter and future leader herself, fol-

lowing her heart, facing danger, and saving herself. I loved everything about this movie, as did my kids. Don't get me started on the soundtrack, penned in large part by Lin-Manuel Miranda of Hamilton fame, which is so catchy I find myself listening to it in the car long after I've dropped the kids off at school. This was a hit for both my entire family, but as a mother of a daughter, this movie spoke volumes to me about the role women can and do play.

It's Time to Renew Your BCWB Membership for 2017!

Look for a renewal email coming soon! Note that dues for 2017 are as follows: \$75 if licensed more than one year; \$55 friend, sustaining member or legal assistant/paralegal; \$25 new attorneys; and free for all students. Dues are a vital component of our budget, and we are increas-

ing them slightly for 2017. We have not raised dues in years, and this \$10 increase per category approved by the Board of Directors allows us to continue to provide amazing benefits to our members. We value your membership and look forward to another great year in 2017!

As you renew, make sure to update your profile with your practice areas. We plan on launching an updated directory to ease referrals among members in 2017.

December Around Town Lunch

Join Suzanne Patrick on Wednesday, December 14 at Noon at

Botika, one of the Pearl's newest restaurants

Botika is a Peruvian-Asian restaurant that opened this summer at the Historic Pearl Brewery. Its menu features "Chifa" (Chinese-Peruvian) and "Nikkei" (Japanese-Peruvian) cuisines, as well as inventive takes on traditional dishes from across Asia and Latin America.

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

Our organization is volunteer-based, and I want to thank all of our members for their contributions that make the BCWB and all of our events great. In keeping with BCWB tradition, I want to take this opportunity to especially thank the Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs who kept our organization running and tirelessly led our events this year.

This year, a special group of ladies headed by LEAD Academy Director Tiffanie Clausewitz put together our inaugural LEAD Academy. The class has already been selected with the help of Marissa Helm as Class Selection Chair. We have put a lot of effort into the program, and I cannot wait for LEAD class events to begin this month. Thank you to the entire Steering Committee who helped put the program together, including Christine Reinhard, Sylvia Cardona, Elena Villaseñor Sullivan, Lauren Horne, Leslie Hyman and Lisa Alcantar.

Thank you to President-Elect Lisa Alcantar, who chaired the Nominations and Elections Committee, and along with the help of Lauren Horne, set up a new website for the BCWB, Vice

President Greta McFarling, who is always willing to lend a hand and planned the President's Party and co-chaired the Membership Committee, and Treasurer Hella Scheuerman who kept our financial statements in order and helped with our annual Law Day celebration and partnership with the Young Women's Leadership Academy.

Shari Mao, our Treasurer-Elect, and Amanda Crouch and their team put on a stunning Autumn Affair. With the help of Lauren Horne and our Secretary Lindsay Riley chairing the Auction Committee, this year's Autumn Affair raised a record amount of funds for our deserving Beneficiaries.

The Annual CLE Retreat was once again led by Laurie Weiss and Renée Yanta. With the help of Leslie Hyman and a fabulous group of speakers, Retreat was yet again one of our best events of the year for fellowship, fun and legal education. Our luncheons were also educational and interesting this year. Great job Rachel Skinner, Meagan McKeown and Lindsay Riley for putting together an amazing program each month.

There are countless others I

want to mention. Thank you to Regina Stone-Harris, Editor, and Suzanne Patrick, Chair, for putting together our monthly newsletter the *Equal Times*, Gaylia Brunson and Serina Rivela for planning an excellent Mentor Mentee event, Leslie Hyman for chairing our Honors and Awards Committee, Alexine Friedman for heading up our annual swearing-in ceremony, Carmen Samaniego for setting up our annual CJP clinic, Laura Cauley for stepping in whenever needed, Claudia Galan, our St. Mary's Law WLA Board representative who brought an amazing group of WLA volunteers to help at Autumn Affair, and Brittany Weil, who helped chair Law Day and set up the first ever BCWB skeet shooting event! I could go on and on with the names of those who contributed to the success of our organization this year and in years past.

Thank you again to everyone for making 2016 memorable. Personal thanks to Marissa Helm, 2015 President, and Lisa Alcantar, incoming 2017 President, for the wisdom and advice you provided me this year. The organization is in great hands for 2017!

The *St. Mary's Scholar* will conduct its **Symposium** on February 24, 2017. The keynote speaker is Lucas Guttentag, Senior Counselor to the Director of USCIS at the Department of Homeland Security. A total of 6.75 CLE hours is available, including 1 in ethics. For more information, contact Claudia Galan at cgalan1@stmarytx.edu. Details are available at: <https://law.stmarytx.edu/academics/law-journals/the-scholar/scholar-events/>.