



Equal Times®

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2010

From the President

By Christine Reinhard

This past Friday night, as January drew to a close, I was out enjoying a magnificent casual dinner with friends in Boerne. As we left the restaurant, the waitress handed us boxes of those all-time favorite candy hearts. You know, the ones espousing great ideals, like "hug me" or "love bug." Not only did these treats harken me back to my elementary school days, but they also reminded me we are about to embark on a month all about the heart.

As you read the articles in this month's newsletter, I am certain you will see what I mean. Gaylia Brunson highlights for us the importance of taking care of our own hearts from a health perspective. To this end, I encourage all our members to follow her advice and take part in Go Red Day on Friday, February 5th. Also, if you are looking for other

ways to make your heart feel good this month, and at the same time support some of our local charitable causes, please read the monthly update from Michelle Weekly and her Community Service Committee.

As you further preview this newsletter, you will see our past president and all around outstanding gal, ileta Sumner, treats us with an incredibly touching article. (WARNING – tissues will be needed!). As one of our directors who had the privilege of reading ileta's article in advance said, it is powerful. From my own perspective, ileta's article prompted me to give my daughter, who is not too far away in Aggieland... (con'd on p. 3)



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January Luncheon: New Dogs, Old Tricks

By Nishma Shah

What a turnout! On January 25, 2010, BCWBA and the Women's Law Association at St. Mary's University held a joint meeting/luncheon on the St. Mary's University campus with a panel of amazing speakers. The panel was composed of Justice Sandee Bryan Marion, Lorina Rummel, Shannon Schmoyer, and Nissa Dunn. Emma Cano moderated the event and asked a variety of questions ranging from the path each panelist took to achieve her success to work/life balance to what employers look for in a potential candidate.

Over 80 students, attorneys, justices and professors attended and every seat in the house was occupied... there were even students standing in the back of the room! The students truly enjoyed hearing about the panelists' differing specialties, experiences and backgrounds. Each panelist brought a different perspective to the table and students walked away with great advice and usable suggestions. The Women's Law Association received countless compliments from students about how specific and candid the panelists were in their responses.

The Women's Law Association would like to thank all that attended and to send a special thank you to all of the great panelists, the moderator and Tiffanie Clausewitz for organizing the event. This event was a success because of you.



Panelists Nissa Dunn, Shannon Schmoyer, Lorrina Rummel & Justice Sandee Bryan Marion



Students listened intently as panelists addressed work/life balance issues.

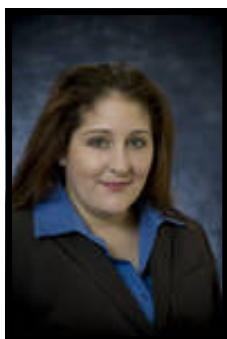
Membership Renewal

By Natalie L. Hall, 2010 Membership Chair

Just another reminder to send in your membership renewal of dues for the 2010 Bexar County Women's Bar Association! This is going to be an exciting year that you don't want to miss. Just a few of the gatherings include the retreat, CLE opportunities, monthly luncheons, health and wellness information, a fashion show, mentor/mentee events, community assistance programs, socials, and the always popular Autumn Affair! Be a part of our membership and join a committee so that, together, we can make a real difference in our community.



No matter whether you are female or male, a judge, lawyer, paralegal, legal assistant, student, or "friend," please join and personally invite a new member to join as well! You should have received an invitation and application by mail. You may complete the renewal process on line by logging into www.BexarCountyWomensBar.org. Thank you for your continued participation and support!



Please join us at our March 2010 Luncheon

In March, we are pleased to welcome as our luncheon speaker, Judge Renée McElhaney, past president of the BCWB and newly appointed Bexar County District Court Judge of the 73rd Judicial District Court. Judge McElhaney will discuss the ethical considerations in preparing witnesses for deposition. Her presentation will rely upon the Texas and ABA ethical rules, case law, and Restatement (Third) of the Law Governing Lawyers. CLE approval is pending.

Monica Lerma

Luncheon Chair

When: Tuesday, March 2, 2010, Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Where: Club Giraud

RSVP by Friday, February 26, 2010 to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members, payable at the door. No shows may be billed. We hope to see you there!

From the President (con'd)

...an extra big hug this past weekend when I visited her. I am sure she wondered why, but a heartfelt story like ileta's cannot but impact us all. All I can say is her son is much more than hero!

Messages like ileta's remind me of how much of an impact one person can have. I encourage all of you to keep this in mind as we host our first Mentor/Mentee event on February 18. In this time of economic uncertainty (and a not so great job market), I hope you will join me in reaching out to our St. Mary's Women's Law Association members. These law students are very much in need of our guidance and support. In advance, I do want to thank Laura Rodriguez, Beverly Smith, and Nishma Shah for setting up yet another terrific BCWB event.

If you cannot make our February 18th event, I hope you will join us at our upcoming monthly luncheons. If those do not work with your schedule, then please keep an eye out for more information on our President's Party tentatively scheduled for March. You will also be hearing from us soon about our annual retreat. For those that attended last year, please spread the word about what a wonderful opportunity it was for CLE and making new connections.

In the meantime, keep your hearts filled with the good things in life, and have a happy Valentine's Day!

Health & Wellness Corner

By Gaylia D. Brunson



February is all about the heart. It's Valentine's and Heart Health Month, and while I can't help you with your significant other, I can give you some tips for a healthier heart.

The American Heart Association recommends seven steps to keep your heart healthy. The first step is to be active. Being active for as little as 30 minutes a day can reduce your risk of heart disease. So get up and go for a walk or a hike, especially now that the weather is so nice.

The second step is to control your cholesterol. The "bad" cholesterol is known as LDL but your cholesterol number is determined by a combination of both your "good" and "bad" cholesterol types. Anything at 200 mg/dL or more of cholesterol puts you at risk for heart disease. However, most people can keep their "bad" cholesterol in check by eating healthy and staying active (see steps one and three).

The third step is to eat healthy. What diet gives you permission to eat? I think I can handle this step. However, it is recommended that your diet consist of lots of vegetables, fruits, whole-grain products and fat-free or low-fat dairy products to get the nutrients you need and keep your heart healthy. It is also recommended that you eat fish at least twice a week and stay away from partially hydrogenated vegetable oils. Dang!! Not even the American Heart Association will give me free license to eat all the Sprees I want. What is so wrong with sugar?

The fourth step is to manage

your blood pressure a/k/a hypertension. Hypertension is the single most significant risk factor for heart disease. It's sometimes called "the silent killer" because it has no symptoms. One in three adults has high blood pressure, yet, about 21% don't even know they have it. Of those with high blood pressure, 69% are receiving treatment, yet only 45% have their blood pressure controlled. Changes that may reduce your blood pressure without the use of prescription medications include: eating a heart-healthy diet, which may include reducing salt; enjoying regular physical activity; maintaining a healthy weight; managing stress; limiting alcohol; and avoiding tobacco smoke.

Okay, it is bad enough when they tell me what to eat, but now I can't drink either. What about the old adage that a glass of wine a day is good for the heart? I think I'm going to have to do some experimenting. Besides, how can manage the stress without a little alcohol?

The fifth step is to make sure you are a healthy weight. It has been known for some time that being under weight is stressful on the heart. However, for the first time in history, obesity has become an independent risk factor for heart disease. Further, if you are a person whose body naturally carries extra weight around your waistline, you naturally have a higher risk of getting heart disease.

Step six is to reduce your blood sugar. The American Heart Association considers diabetes to be one of the six major (con'd on next page)

Community Service Committee Corner

By Michelle Weekley



With March right around the corner, we have three very worthy causes that we would like to share with everyone this month.

First, the San Antonio CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Saturday, March 6, 2010 with registration at 9:30 AM and step-off at 10:00 AM, and again on Sunday, March 7, 2010 with registration at 1:30 PM and step-off at 2:00 PM. The CROP Hunger Walk is neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together, we raise awareness and funds to international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. The CROP Walk in San Antonio benefits the San Antonio Food Bank, Christian Assistance Ministries, San Antonio Community of Congregations and hunger projects around the world through Church World Service or donor designated international organizations such as Catholic Relief Services. For more information and to receive a registration packet, contact Don Khan at 691-0558 or khndnk@yahoo.com. The CROP Walk will be held at Mission County Park, 6030 Padre Drive.

Second, we have the Relay for Life, Medical Center, to be held on March 26 and 27 from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. at the University of Texas Health Science Center Intramural Field on Babcock and Merton Minter Rd. You can go on www.relayforlife.org/medicalcentersanantoniotx to register a team, dedicate a Luminarie in honor of a loved one, and learn more about the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life. The Relay for Life is an opportunity to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer. The strength of survivors inspires others to continue their fight. It also gives us a chance to remember loved ones lost to the disease. At the relay, those who have walked alongside others battling cancer can grieve and find healing, but it also gives us a chance to fight back. We relay because we have been touched by cancer and desperately want to put an end to the disease. Thank

you for making a commitment to save a life by taking up the fight.

Lastly, prom time is around the corner for many high school girls, but many of those girls cannot afford to buy a dress. If you would like to donate a new or gently used prom dress, please contact Michelle Weekley at ruttan03@sbcglobal.net. All sizes are needed, but especially size 14 and up. Thank you for helping a young girl to enjoy a wonderful prom evening.

When we get involved in our community we help so many people who might not otherwise have a chance or an opportunity at a better life. Take time to volunteer or get involved in some of these worthy causes. If you have a Community Service Activity you would like to share with our membership, please don't hesitate to contact Michelle Weekley at ruttan03@sbcglobal.net.

Health & Wellness Corner (con'd)

controllable risk factors for heart disease. Diabetics are two to four times more likely to have heart disease or a stroke than non-diabetics. That answers my question about what is wrong with sugar!

Step seven is to stop smoking. Until I researched for this article I never knew that smokers have a higher risk of developing a buildup of fatty substances in the arteries. Because I have asthma, I've never wanted to smoke, but I immediately imagine tar (like the stuff they use on roads) settling into my arteries and sticking - layer after layer. Yuck! One more reason not to smoke.

Now that you know how to keep your heart healthy, don't forget to Go Red on February 5th. The American Heart Association is sponsoring a Go Red luncheon in San Antonio on April 30, 2010. For more information go to www.goredforwomen.org.

My Son, My Hero

By ileta Sumner

“Hail Mary, full of grace...” One of the first questions I was asked when I began searching for a church here in Texas was, “Are you born again?” That puzzled me. Well, I was born June 19, 19?? I was baptized, and thus “born” into the Catholic faith in 1968. I was confirmed, and I guess technically, “reborn” in May 1975. However, it wasn't until May 8, 2009 that I was given a second chance at life.

“The Lord is with Thee...” On that day, my older son, Joshua, age 11, had contracted the flu and was ordered by his doctor to stay home, much to his chagrin. You see, Josh was in the 5th grade and he was one month away from receiving the Perfect Attendance award for elementary school. Nonetheless, after visiting the doc, he begrudgingly returned home with me.

“Blessed art Thou amongst women...” I was just about to serve Josh lunch when BAM!! It had never occurred before; still, I knew immediately what was happening: My implanted heart defibrillator was going off. I was dying.

“Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus...” Have you ever been hit by an 18-wheeler? Of course not, for if you had, you would not be here to read my account. You know on TV when a patient's heart stops and the doctor takes the paddles and bellows, “CLEAR!” There is a reason that the body hops a good foot off the gurney. Hence, when my defibrillator “blows,” it is not unlike being slammed by ten 18-wheelers through four brick houses... and this sound! I didn't know it until the third time it blew, but this uncontrollable, blood-curdling scream was coming from me!

“Holy Mary, mother of God...” When Josh heard me scream, he quickly pushed “F” on our alarm panic panel; dialed 911 and told the dispatcher that his mom had heart failure and was dying; called dad on his cell phone; got a copy of my medication/doctor list and my pre-packed backpack; ran next door and got a grown up to stay with him and explained to the EMT's what all had transpired, just as we had practiced.

“Pray for us sinners...” During all of this, I kept whispering the “Hail Mary” over and over while my defibrillator went off a total of five excruciating times. After Joshua had finished his tasks, he calmly got me out of the kitchen and walked with me repeating, “You're going to be OK, mom. Jesus kept me home for the first time to save your life.” (con'd on next page)

“Now and at the hour of our death...” And he had. My introverted, incredibly shy son stepped up to the plate and handled a life or death situation by himself. I am not out of the woods yet; in fact, my defibrillator went off seven more times a mere two weeks later. However, my son, my hero, learned that day that he can face life’s adversities head-on, and my whole family will do the same, one heartbeat at a time. “Amen.”

Joshua Sumner received the “Hero of the Year” Award from Crestview Elementary and was recognized by the Converse Fire Department. for his quick response in the time of need. Heart disease is the number one killer of women – get yours examined during your next physical.



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Equal Times

Editor-in-Chief—Regina Stone-Harris

Layout—Maria Harris

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Submissions for publications are encouraged, but the right is reserved to select material to be published. E-mail your announcements and submissions to Regina Stone-Harris at ReginaStoneHarris@yahoo.com no later than the 20th of the preceding month.

Views expressed in the *Equal Times* are solely those of the source of said item and are not attributable to the BCWBA.

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8:00 Welcome! Registration and Networking Breakfast

THE ART OF CLIENT IDENTIFICATION AND RETENTION

8:45 The Art of Client Identification & Retention

Nationally acclaimed experts explore the ethics and best practices of client identification and retention. What do "marketing" and "branding" mean in the context of the ethical rules?

Opening presenter and moderator: Amanda Ellis, Founder, Amanda Ellis Legal Search, Dallas

The marketing/branding of lawyers and law firms: Doug Williams, President, Fuse5 Communications, Houston

"Fuse5 gave me concrete ideas for marketing and immediate resources for legal publication; they became my personal marketing partner. My level of branding exposure has been raised to the next level."

Client identification, development & retention: Sally Schmidt, President, Schmidt Marketing, St. Paul, MN

A recognized marketing guru, Sally has written a marketing "Bible" for lawyers: *Marketing the Law Firm: Business Development Techniques*. Her talks always prompt rave reviews:

"I just wanted to drop you a line to tell you how much we enjoyed your presentation last weekend. I am delighted with the wealth of practical information you provided. Thanks again."

10:30 Break

THE ART OF TRIAL

10:45 The Art of Trial

The best trial? How does a lawyer, particularly a woman lawyer, achieve that best? Top judges, acclaimed lawyers, and a respected jury consultant offer their perspectives.

Moderator: Judge Rose Guerra Reyna, 206th Judicial District Court, Hidalgo County

Opening presenter: Robert R. Swafford, Trial Consultant, Strike for Cause Jury Consulting, Austin

"Robert's method really works! He highlights juror attitudes and gets strikes for cause."

Panel: Justice Gina M. Benavides, 13th Court of Appeals, Corpus Christi

Judge Patricia J. Kerrigan, 190th Judicial District Court, Houston

Sandra F. Clark, Partner, MehaffyWeber, P.C., Beaumont

Paula F. Sweeney, Founding Partner, Howie & Sweeney, L.L.P., Dallas

Robert R. Swafford, Trial Consultant, Strike for Cause Jury Consulting, Austin

12:00 Break

12:15 Networking Lunch – Enjoy a seated lunch and two special events!

- With author Betty Trapp Chapman, we explore the history of trailblazing Texas women lawyers, *Rough Road to Justice*.

- TWL 2010 Pathfinder Award

Presenter: Judge Maria Salas-Mendoza, 120th Judicial District Court, El Paso

Award Winner: To be announced soon!

THE ART OF NEGOTIATION

1:30 The Art of Negotiation

Litigation, family practice, transactions: Negotiation skills in every legal practice. Is it a puzzle for the zealous advocate? What are some best skills that lawyers can use?

Opening presenter and moderator: Kimberly Cutchall, CEO/President, Accendo International, Houston

Kimberly, an insightful communications expert, will provide a powerful, short talk on critical essentials in presentation and speaking techniques, particularly as apply to women lawyers.

Panel: Denise A. Hansen, Senior Counsel, Siemens Corp., Houston
 Peggy Brenner, Partner, Bracewell Giuliani LLP, Houston
 Elaine Block, Mediator, Attorney-at-Law, Houston
 Kimberlee S. Cagle, Senior Counsel, Burleson Cooke LLP, Houston
 Janice E. Pardue, Partner, Attorney & Mediator/Arbitrator, Cornell & Pardue, Houston

THE ART OF IN-HOUSE COMMUNICATION

2:40 The Art of In-House Communication

Lawyers - the great communicators! Yes, but are there gaps in communication between outside counsel and in-house counsel? What communication difficulties do in-house counsel face? How do we bridge those gaps - ethically and responsibly?

Moderator: Deborah L. Cordova, Associate, Kittleman, Thomas & Gonzales, LLP, McAllen

Panel: Victoria T. McGhee, Managing Counsel-Litigation, Shell Oil Co., Houston
 Kelly K. Satel, Partner Relations Attorney, H-E-B Grocery Co., San Antonio
 Charlene Ripley, Senior Vice President, Linn Energy, LLC, Houston
 Samara E. Silverman, Esq., Director of Business Affairs, PLS, Inc., Houston
 Marie R. Yeates, Managing Partner, Vinson & Elkins LLP, Houston
 Regina D. Adams, Associate, Johnson Radcliffe Petrov & Bobbitt PLLC, Houston

3:30 Break

THE ART OF LAW PRACTICE

3:40 The Art of Law Practice

A skill rarely taught in law school. How do we successfully run our practices and our firms within all legal requirements? Do business acumen and law mix? What does "profitable" mean today?

Moderator: Mary Evelyn McNamara, Associate, Brown McCarroll, LLP, Austin

Panel: Sharla J. Frost, Managing Partner, Powers & Frost, LLP, Houston
 Lisa H. Pennington, Managing Partner, Baker Hostetler LLP, Houston
 Regan Potter Bowman, J.D. & Director, Providus Group, Houston
 Lauren E. Waddell, Founder, The Waddell Law Firm, P.C., Houston
 Debra Tsuchiyama Baker, Founding Partner, Connelly - Baker - Wotring LLP, Houston

4:30 TWL Election of Officers 2010-11

4:35 Cocktail Reception

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For more information, please call: Mary Evelyn McNamara at 512.472.5456 or
Andrea M. Johnson at 713.358.1733.

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Registration is easy -- online or by phone, fax or email!

All attendees who sign up by February 8, 2010, receive a \$ 25 discount!

In addition to this outstanding program, all attendees receive:

- 6.5 hrs. CLE credit (pending)
- Program materials (plus TWL membership, if you aren't a member yet!)
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- All day refreshments
- Cocktail reception
- Goodie bag
- Networking opportunities!

Tuition:

\$ 200 – TWL Members (or only \$ 175 if you register by 2/08/2010)

\$ 225 – Non-TWL Members (or only \$ 200 if you register by 2/08/2010)

\$ 165 – Judges (or only \$ 140 if you register by 2/08/2010)

\$ 100 – Students (or only \$ 75 if you register by 2/08/2010)

Parking: \$ 10 for the day at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (valet)

Full refunds available until 2/8/2010; thereafter, partial (50%) refunds till 2/12/2010.

No refunds after 2/12/2010.

Check out TWL on the web, www.texaswomenlawyers.com, on Twitter, and on Facebook!

FAX, EMAIL OR MAIL THIS PAGE TO:

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Online Registration & Credit Card payment through Acteva.com:

<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevalD=189191>

SOME HOTELS IN THE AREA:

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 Downtown Houston

713.739.8800

\$ 99 (discounted rate, limited number of rooms)

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 Houston, Texas 77002
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832.366.1000

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400 Dallas Street
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 Downtown Houston

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Friday, February 19, 2010

- 9:30 – 9:35 a.m. ***Introduction*** – *Carlos Cardenas, President, El Paso Bar Association*
- 9:35 – 10:00 a.m. ***Developments in Law and Technology*** – *Scott Huseby, Keith & Miller Court Reporters, Inc. Charlotte, N.C.*
- 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. ***Jury Consulting*** – *Jonathan Leach, Trial Lab, LLC, Dallas, Texas*
- 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. ***Developments in Transportation Law*** – *Carlos Rincon, Rincon Law Group, El Paso, Texas*
- 11:30 – 12:15 p.m. ***Court's Charge in Construction Cases*** – *E. Link Beck, Beck & Hall, P.C., El Paso, Texas*
- 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. ***Lunch on your own***
- 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. ***Evidence Jeopardy*** – *Honorable Linda Yee Chew, District Judge, 327th Judicial District, El Paso, Texas; Honorable Thomas Spieczny, Judge, County Court at Law # 7, El Paso, Texas and Honorable Carlos Villa, Judge, County Court at Law # 5, El Paso, Texas*
- 3:00 – 3:45 p.m. ***Legal Malpractice*** – *Steven C .James, Attorney at Law, El Paso, Texas*
- 3:45 – 4:00 p.m. ***Afternoon Break***
- 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. ***Family Law and the Military*** – *Donald Williams, Attorney at Law, El Paso, Texas*
- 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. ***Twombly – Iqbal and New Pleading Standards*** – *Kenneth Krohn, El Paso City Attorney's Office, El Paso, Texas*

Saturday, February 20, 2010

- 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. ***Breakfast***
- 8:30 – 9:15 a.m. ***Supreme Court Update – Honorable Chris Antcliff, District Judge, 168th District Court, El Paso, Texas***
- 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. ***Ethics Jeopardy – Honorable. Linda Yee Chew, District Judge, 327th Judicial District Court, El Paso, Texas; Honorable Thomas Spieczny, Judge, County Court at Law # 7, El Paso, Texas and Honorable Carlos Villa, Judge, County Court at Law # 5, El Paso, Texas***
- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. ***Morning Break***
- 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. ***Love & Collections in the Time of Recession – Scott Vogelmeier, Attorney at Law, El Paso, Texas***
- 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. ***Immigration Issues in Civil Practice – Hon. Chief Justice David Wellington Chew, 8th Court of Appeals, El Paso, Texas***
- 12:30 – 1:15 p.m. ***Advertising in the Social Network Era – Eugene Majors, State Bar of Texas, Austin, Texas***

COURSE MATERIALS PROVIDED TO ALL ATTENDEES IN THE FORM OF A FLASH DRIVE

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Check Southwest, U.S. Air/America West for airfares to Las Vegas.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Please check online for room rates on the various hotels in Las Vegas including the Wynn and the Encore. If you choose to stay at the Wynn/Encore please call (888) 770-7989 and reference the invitation code of RCWV to get a room rate of \$119 (Sunday – Thursday) and/or \$189 (Friday & Saturday), you will also receive a \$25 RESORT CREDIT – please note this is based on availability of rooms. You can also go to Southwest Airlines and check out their Vacation Packages which includes Airfare & Hotel and you can find some really great deals. You can also go to Hotels.com and find terrific specials. Don't forget to go to the hotel websites to see what they have to offer. You have many options to finding a great deal on a hotel room at the hotel of your choice.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Door prizes will be given throughout the seminar.

**REGISTRATION FORM
COST**

**\$300.00 – Members of EPBA
\$325.00 – Nonmembers of EPBA
\$225 – Legal Assistants**

Name: _____

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