



Equal Times

Serving the BCWBA for 30 Years

President's Column

The Bexar County Women's Bar Association was established in 1983 to unite women attorneys in Bexar County, and to provide a local forum for dialogue and the exchange of ideas about women in the legal profession. The first organizational efforts were prompted by the desire to have a woman appointed to an open judicial seat in Bexar County, and to place more women in leadership positions in the San Antonio Bar Association. Approximately 70 people attended the original informational social in 1983. The initial membership roster listed 74 women and 3 men.



Fast forward 30 years. Our membership is almost 400 members strong, and includes attorneys, law students, paralegals and legal assistants, and friends. We have more than made our mark on the legal community. For example, in 1984, a BCWB committee designed a child-support formula which was accepted by the Bexar County District Judges. It became the model for the child-support formula eventually set by the Texas Supreme Court for the entire state of Texas. In 1990, BCWB welcomed the opening of the Teddy Bear Room in the Bexar County Justice Center, (con'd on next page)

March Luncheon: Alicia Calzada, First Amendment Freedoms and Texas's Anti-SLAPP Law

Please join us on Tuesday, March 4, to welcome Haynes & Boone, LLP Associate, Alicia Calzada. The National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) recently recognized Ms. Calzada's efforts and achievements with the creation of the Alicia Calzada First Amendment Award, an annual award recognizing individuals who support advocacy work in First Amendment freedoms. Ms. Calzada will discuss Texas's new anti-SLAPP law, as well her background in photography and her efforts to advance the NPPA's advocacy work in First Amendment freedoms. CLE accreditation pending.

When: Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

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

RSVP: RSVP by Friday, February 28, 2014 to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand that 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 Giraud's staff and no-shows will be billed. For more information, contact Lindsay Riley (lriley@coxsmith.com) or Lauren Horne (Lauren@rosenblattlawfirm.com).

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Events to Attend

- Feb. 27, President's Party
- Feb. 28: Around the Town Luncheon
- Mar. 24, Women in the Law CLE program
- June 12-13: Annual Retreat



Mentor/Mentee Program

By Hella Scheurman

We are looking forward to our Mentor/Mentee Program this year. We are fortunate to have a large group of volunteers, both in the mentor group and the mentee group! New for this year, we will offer small mentoring groups. Each mentoring group will consist of more than one attorney and more than one law student from St. Mary's University School of Law. This new format will allow the mentee a better opportunity to get to know more than one attorney during the program, and will also give the mentee the option to attend events with another law student within her

same section/year. The mentor will be able to work together with the other small group mentor in planning to attend events.

We invite all mentors and mentees to attend the BCWB President's Party at Tribeca, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 27, 2014. Tribeca is located at 4331 McCullough. It will be a great time to reconnect, celebrate the start of the new year, and enjoy time together.

"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something." ~ Sandra Day O'Connor

Join Us for Lunch on Friday, February 28, 2014!

The BCWB's second "Around Town" lunch for 2014 will be held at Noon on Friday, February 28, 2014, at Picnikins Patio Café, located at 6901 Blanco Road, 78216.

No RSVP is necessary. If you can make it, just show up and look for us!

Email [Connie Arambula \(carambula@lyndworld.com\)](mailto:Connie.Arambula@carambula@lyndworld.com) with any questions. We hope to see you there!

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

a special waiting room for children in the District Attorney's Office. BCWB sponsored the project after then Judge Susan Reed and state Senator Cyndi Taylor Krier told the membership about a similar project in California. BCWB also successfully lobbied in 1990 for amendments to the San Antonio Bar Association bylaws, allowing presidents of all the local minority bar associations to serve as non-voting members of the SABA board. Similar success was achieved in obtaining minority representation on the Texas Young Lawyers Association board.

Our contributions have extended to our local community as well. For example, in 1984, the BCWB began hosting its annual Bench Brunch to promote women in the judicial and legal fields and raise money for those most in need in our community. Now known as Autumn Affair, this annual event has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local community organizations benefitting women and children. Another example of our community service work is Wills Clinic. Developed around 2004 and co-sponsored by the San Antonio Bar Foundation, the primary goal of the Wills Clinic is to provide pro bono legal representation for low-income residents of San Antonio and Bexar County. This highly successful program is now offered to the community through the San Antonio Bar Association's Community Justice Program.

One of BCWB's original goals was achieved in 1994 when five women were nominated for four director positions in the San Antonio Bar Association. Looking at the current SABA Board of Directors roster now, it is clear our voices are being heard: the Honorable Rebecca Simmons, this year's SABA President, is a former President of the BCWB. She, along with four other women, serve as SABA officers or directors; though not a "majority" of the SABA leadership, we are much closer than we were 30 years ago! Bexar County has several women in statewide bar positions as well. BCWB member Lisa Tatum continues to make all of us proud as the current President of the State Bar of Texas. Sara Dysart is one of two State Bar of Texas Directors for our region. BCWB member Priscilla Camacho is Secretary of the Texas Young Lawyers Association, and in the past several years, Syliva Cardona served as TYLA President, and Alyssa Long completed her term as Chair. (con'd on page 5)

Judicial Spotlight: Judge Laura Salinas, 166th Judicial District Court



Q. Tell us about your history as an attorney and then judge.

A. I received my law degree from Southern Methodist University in May 1997, and was licensed with the State Bar of Texas November 1997. For a little over a year and a half, I practiced civil litigation focusing on plaintiff's work. In February 1999, I started my solo practice focusing on criminal, civil and family law cases. In 2006, I was elected to County Court at Law No. 9 where I presided over criminal misdemeanor cases. During my term, I was also appointed by the Civil District Court Judges as an associate judge to assist with the civil district court cases from Presiding Court. I briefly returned to private practice until I was elected to the 166th District Court in November 2012.

Q. Did you always know you wanted to be a judge? What inspired you to make this decision?

A. Not at all. I loved being an attorney, representing my clients, protecting their rights, and especially being in the courtroom. The idea of being a judge never crossed my mind until several colleagues suggested I seriously consider it. Being able to continue serving my community in a different but equally important capacity inspired me to pursue a judicial position. The deep responsibility of hearing matters with an impartial ear, and knowing your decisions impact people's lives, was both frightening and yet extremely challenging and appealing. I was confident I could serve as a positive addition to the judiciary.

Q. Tell us about your history with the Bexar County Women's Bar and other women's organizations, and the impact you believe such organizations have on their members and the greater community.

A. I enjoy being a member of women's groups like the Bexar County Women's Bar that encourage, promote and motivate women's personal empowerment and equality. That empowerment not only benefits our immediate legal community, but our community at large.

Q. What has been the most surprising thing about being a judge? Something you didn't expect when you ran for the position?

A. I expected the responsibility of making decisions that impact people's lives to be challenging. I have been pleasantly surprised that those decisions many times are also extremely rewarding. When I was a criminal court judge, many times defendants returned to let me know how well they were doing and to thank me for helping them get on the right track. Opportunities often present themselves, such as in family law cases, where as a judge, my decisions place parents on a path that not only benefits the parents but also ultimately has a positive impact on the relationship with their children.

Q. Excluding the law – what are you passionate about?

A. Although an amateur, I love photography! I'm usually the one at parties and events taking pictures of everyone. I have tons of photos of my family, friends and places I have traveled. Capturing life's events, big or small, and creating photo histories is one of my favorite passions.

Q. Tell us a few of your favorite things.

A. Book? Unfortunately these days, with a very active and precocious 4 year-old daughter, most of my reading consists of case law or children's books. I look forward to the day when I once again have some quiet time for a good book and myself! (con'd on p. 5)

BCWBA Lites

Renee Foshee received an LL.M. in Taxation from SMU's Dedman School of Law on December 21, 2013.

Carmen Samaniego is happy to announce the opening of her own office concentrating on civil litigation, contested probate and guardianships. Carmen can be reached at: 14610 N.W. Military Hwy, San Antonio, Texas 78231; (210) 802-4888; Fax (888) 224-3924; attorneycarmen@me.com.

Strasburger & Price, LLP is pleased to announce that Katherine "Katy" David has been elected to the partnership. Katy counsels clients on tax matters, including federal income taxation and state margin and sales taxation. Her practice includes advising tax-exempt organizations. She also has experience advising clients with respect to like-kind exchanges. She is active in the community and serves as Board Chair of Lexi's Place, Director and Secretary for the Alamo Community College District Foundation, Member of the Saint Mary's Hall Alumni Executive Council, and Editor of *Family Foundation Advisor*, published by Civic Research Institute.

Celebrate the 45th District Court's Quasiquicentennial Anniversary, Feb. 6, 2014

Nearly six years after the Legislature had organized the State's then-existing district courts into judicial districts and designated Bexar County's sole district court the 37th Judicial District, our Legislators resolved to ease its crowded docket by creating a second district court to serve the citizens of Bexar County. The Act of 1889 created the 45th Judicial District out of the northern and western portions of the 37th Judicial District, literally drawing the dividing line down the middle of the central hallway of the Bexar County Courthouse! Both courts were empowered to hear civil and criminal district court matters throughout the limits of Bexar County. Today, the County is served by 27 such district courts, and the 45th District Court devotes its time to a civil docket.

2014 marks the 125th anniversary of the formation of Bexar County's 45th Judicial District Court. Please join Judge Barbara Nellermeoe and the staff of the 45th District Court on Thursday February 6, 2014, from 2 to 4 p.m. to celebrate the 45th's quasiquicentennial. Memorabilia spanning the history of the 45th District Court (and the Bexar County Courthouse itself) will be on display for viewing. Light refreshments will be served.

2014 President's Party

Please join President Tiffanie Clausewitz in honoring past Bexar County Bar Association and Foundation presidents and welcoming new members at this year's President's Party on Thursday, February 27, from 5:30 to 7:30 at Tribeca in Olmos Park (4331 McCullough Avenue). Lite bites and wine will be served. We look forward to seeing you there!

Past BCWB Presidents:

1983 - Nancy J. Anderson
1984 - Bonnie Reed
1985 - Patricia Wueste-Whitted
1986 - Mary Brennan Stich
1987 - Lisa A. Vance
1988 - Hon. Ann-Marie Cerda "Sam" Aaron
1989 - Jane Freeman Deyeso
1990 - Victoria J. Waddy
1991 - Michele Petty
1992 - Shirley A. Ehrlich
1993 - Malinda Gaul
1994 - Rosa Cabezas
1995 - Demetra Koelling
1996 - Barbara Hanson Nellermeoe
1997 - Jill Torbert
1998 - Laurie Weiss
1999 - Pamela B. Huff
2000 - Elizabeth J. Lindell
2001 - Renee Forinash McElhaneey
2002 - ileta A. Sumner
2003 - Abigail G. Kampmann
2004 - Diana M. Geis
2005 - Dayla S. Pepi
2006 - Hon. Rebecca Simmons
2007 - Carol Jendrzej
2008 - Lisa Barkley
2009 - Monica Trollinger
2010 - Christine Reinhard
2011 - Laura Mason
2012 - Emma Cano
2013 - Suzanne Oliva

New Members:

Lauren Valkenaar
Sarah Weynand
Tara Richardson
Crystal Chandler
Abby Smith
Allison Moore
Meagan Marold
Meredith Cooper
Cassidy Larsen
Maureen Gonima
Michelle Gomez
Suzanne LePori
Jami Nance
Jessica Lambert
Ann Buonocore
Hilary Bell
Irene Morris
Jessica Gonzalez
Taelor Allen
Sharon Brown
Nicole Delahoussaye
Morgan Smedley
Kate Nanney
Aida Rojas
Jennifer Longfellow
Christine Lacy
Susan Skinner
Amber Nelson
Cynthia Trevino
Judge Genie Wright
Erica Benites Giese
Megan Young
Alice Warburton
Patricia Kalmans
Brenda Levenstein
Amanda Hazleton
Kathleen Church
Jeanette Sullivan
Susan Wilen
Deborah Harris
Rosa Barrera
Carolina Barrera

Employment Opportunity

Commercial Real Estate boutique seeks a Contract Attorney to assist with extra workload. Seeking an attorney who is licensed and practicing in Texas. Prefer candidate from a Top Tier law school, with 3+ years of commercial real estate experience. This position will begin part-time, and could turn into full-time for the right candidate. This is a great firm to work in, with a professional environment. Work ethic is key - need someone who is not afraid to be busy. Must know how to do title reviews and closings. If you meet these job requirements, send a MS Word formatted resume to: rani.spaulding@specialcounsel.com.

President's Column (con'd from p. 2)

A review of public officeholders likewise reflects the rise of women in leadership throughout the City and County, especially in terms of our judiciary. We are proud of our all-women Fourth Court of Appeals. Fourteen women serve as district court judges, and five sit in county courts. Women attorneys have made enormous strides in the last three decades, and the future is bright for all women seeking leadership and public service opportunities.

This success leads us to an important question considered by the BCWB Board of Directors at our retreat this January: Is the BCWB still relevant? Our original goals having been met. Does the BCWB still have a place in our legal and local communities? After lively discussion and analysis of our past successes and problems still to be addressed, your board members determined the answer to this question is a resounding "YES."

In 2012, the ABA's Commission on Women reported women comprised just 31 percent of the legal profession. At that time, women held 26 percent of federal and state judgeships. In private practice, women represent 19.4 percent of partners, 15 percent of equity partners, and 6 percent of the 200 largest law firm's managing partners. On average, women's weekly salaries are 20 percent to 30 percent lower than male counterparts, and there is extensive research documenting the so-called motherhood or pregnancy penalty. Although substantial advancements have been made in the diversity count, women lawyers remain far from parity with our representation in the legal population. Progress is slow in the diversity count, and even slower in terms of meaningful and equal inclusion.

So long as law schools graduate equal numbers of men and women, yet women represent less than one-third of the profession, the BCWB is relevant. So long as women comprise only a fraction of firms' partners and leadership, the BCWB is relevant. Further, so long as there are women in our legal community struggling to determine how to practice law in a way that honors themselves, their goals, and their families, the BCWB is relevant.

When BCWB members are asked what they like most about our organization, the overwhelming consensus is the opportunities provided to get together with other women attorneys. Lest you or other attorneys you know believe the BCWB is a "sorority" providing only social opportunities for mingling and girl talk, you would be sorely mistaken. At our Board retreat, members discussed how the BCWB provides opportunities not only for networking, education, and socializing, but also for its members to come together and discuss the challenges and rewards of a situation unique to us all: practicing law as a woman in Bexar County. And we all agreed that we have been made better—better attorneys, better family members, better friends—because of the relationships grown and knowledge and support shared and gained through this organization.

So yes—the BCWB is relevant, and until the ladders have all been climbed, the glass ceilings shattered, and the stereotypes regarding women attorneys have been broken, it will remain so. I hope you will each take an active role in contributing to the BCWB's efforts to advance women attorneys in a way that benefits us all.

Judicial Profile: Judge Salinas (con'd from p. 3)

Movie? I'm a sucker for a good love story — *The Notebook*

Restaurant? Uchi — sushi restaurant in Austin

Pastime? I love spending time with my husband and daughter. She is growing so fast and we just love each new adventure we have with her every day.

Q. If you could give one piece of advice to up and coming female attorneys, what would it be?

A. Be confident. Never compromise your integrity. Your word is your bond.

The background of the entire invitation is a repeating pattern of stylized mandala flowers in white and yellow on a light beige background. The flowers vary in size and complexity, with some having multiple layers of petals and intricate geometric centers.

Tiffanie Clausewitz,
President of the Bexar County Women's
Bar Association & Foundation,
invites you to the
2014 President's Party
Honoring Past Presidents & New Members

Thursday, February 27, 2014 • 5:30-7:30
Tribeca • 4331 McCullough Avenue

Wine and Lite Bites will be served
Questions? Contact Greta McFarling at
greta.mcfarling@txcourts.gov

Save the Date!

Bexar County Women's Bar Retreat

June 12-13, 2014

Purple Sage Ranch in Bandera, Texas

Thursday evening June 12, through Friday afternoon June 13

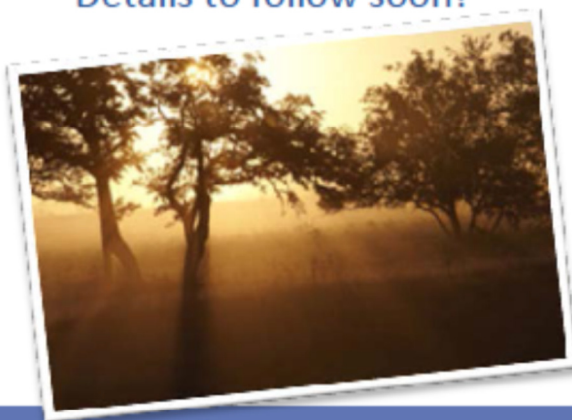
- Relax
- Reconnect
- Earn CLE credits
- Enjoy the beautiful Texas Hill Country



Purple Sage Reviews:
www.purplesageranch.com

Please join us for an
unforgettable Retreat at the
Purple Sage Ranch

Details to follow soon!



- Amazing scenery, world class food
- Top notch accommodations, down home hospitality