

President's Message

If you were unable to join us at our January luncheon at St. Mary's University School of Law, you missed a wonderful presentation from Justice Luz Elena Chapa of the Fourth Court of Appeals. During her presentation, Justice Chapa provided a Fourth Court update. She discussed her career and how women can help one another succeed in the legal field. Her words to BCWB members and St. Mary's University law students were heartfelt and

insightful about her path to becoming a judge. One comment she made stood out to me as something to share—"I wholeheartedly believe the women in our lives either make us or break us."

Justice Chapa went on to note that, "we as women fit in one of two categories: one, those who are willing to lend their shoulders to other women to lean on or launch off of; and two, those who use their shoulders like linebackers to knock down all women



around them." You have probably experienced both types, but it is those who lend a helping hand that provide the support you need to maximize your potential as a female lawyer. Paraphrasing Justice Chapa, (con'd on p. 2)

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February Luncheon: Constitutional Territoriality & *Hernandez v. Mesa*

The question of where U.S. Constitutional protections exist and to whom they apply is an issue with which our country's courts continue to wrestle. The U.S. Supreme Court has been asked to clarify exactly how far the Constitution reaches territorially and who may avail themselves of its protections in *Hernandez v. Mesa*, writ pending. Please join us at our luncheon on February 2 for an enlightening presentation by Professor Guinevere Moore, J.D., LL.M., on how the Court will

likely rule on this issue. Professor Moore will cover the intersection of U.S. domestic law with international law and the implications of the *Hernandez* case on important social and legal issues, especially in light of recent concerns over U.S. immigration policies and the use of force by law enforcement. Approved for 0.75 hours of CLE credit.

When: Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

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

RSVP: RSVP by Friday, Jan. 29, 2016, to events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand schedules change, but we cannot guarantee a seat for individuals who RSVP after the date above. For more information, please contact Rachel Skinner (rskinner@dykema.com) or Meagan McKeown (mmckeown@dykema.com).

San Antonio Bar Foundation's 2016 Fellows Class

The San Antonio Bar Foundation (SABF) recently selected its 2016 Fellows Class. The following BCWB members are included in the class:

Justice Patricia Alvarez, Fourth Court of Appeals

Nancy Belinsky, San Antonio Water System

Justice Luz Elena Chapa, Fourth Court of Appeals

Tiffanie Clausewitz, Rosenblatt Law Firm

Marissa Helm, Parallon Business Performance Group

Judge Lisa Jarrett

Justice Rebeca Martinez, Fourth Court of Appeals

Aida Rojas, Law Office of Aida Rojas



BCWBA/WLA Speed Networking Event

By Maurleen Cobb

Please join us from 5-7pm on Thursday, February 25, 2016, for the annual BCWBA/WLA Speed Networking event at St. Mary's University. The Spring Mentor/Mentee Social will follow the networking event.

Please RSVP to Maurleen Cobb at

mcobb@stokeslawoffice.com. If you received an email stating the event was on February 26, 2016, our apologies. The correct date is February 25, 2016. Thank you.



Nominations for this Year's Autumn Affair Beneficiary

By Leslie Hyman

The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation is soliciting nominations for this year's Autumn Affair beneficiary.

If you know of a deserving local organization serving women or children that would like to apply to be this year's beneficiary, please send the name and

contact information to Leslie Hyman at lhyman@pulmanlaw.com no later than Friday, February 26, 2016.

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

I hope you are able to surround yourself with women whose shoulders you can lean on, at work and through your relationships

within the Women's Bar; but more importantly, reciprocate that kind gesture to those who support you and those who will follow in

your footsteps. Find the courage to effectuate change when you know it's the right thing to do!

Fitness Column: Get Moving



By Lindsey Riley

Southtown Yoga Loft's Basic Beginners Series

Southtown Yoga Loft (SYL) is holding a Basic Beginners Series on Sundays from 2:00-3:30 beginning February 21 and ending March 20 at its new Helotes location. Cost is \$99. The Basic Beginner Series is a 4-week class series designed to provide a foundation for building your yoga practice. You will explore some basic guidelines to help you prepare your body and mind for your practice. SYL will teach you how to properly utilize your breath, along with some helpful tools for remaining present and centered. You will explore how to find correct alignment, including how to properly modify all of the most commonly practiced yoga postures. Students who complete the course will receive a 20% discount on a 5, 10 or 20 Class Pass! If interested, please visit SYL's website for more information: <http://www.southtownyogaloft.com/>.

Natural Bridge Caverns Trail Runs

On February 7, get your Super Bowl Sunday started off right by running the only race in the world that starts in the belly of

a cave. This race begins in Texas's largest caverns, descending down to Pluto's anteroom, and then finishes on the open trail. Participants can choose a 5k, 10k, or half marathon. For more information, visit <http://solerssports.com/events/natural-bridge-caverns-trail-runs-2016/>.

Missions Marathon Half

On February 13, challenge yourself to the second annual creative endurance endeavor that winds its way through all four of San Antonio's historic Missions. Participants can choose from the half marathon, relay, 10K, 5K and Kids 1-mile fun run. For more information, visit <http://www.missionsmarathonhalf.com>

HEB Alamo Run Fest

On February 20 and 21, participants of the HEB Alamo Run

Fest can choose from the half marathon, 10K, 5K and the HE-Buddy Kids Classic. The half marathon course winds through historic Fort Sam Houston and ends at the Alamodome. Active duty military and their dependents are eligible for a 20% discount on race entries. For more information, visit <http://www.alamocityrunfest.com/Schedule---Activities.html>.

Glow in the Park 5k

On March 5, come out for the Glow in the Park 5K. This night glow run takes place at Fort Sam Houston at MacArthur Park. The course is filled with lighting effect, plenty of glow and music! For more information, visit <http://nsplit.com/glow-run-jbsa/event-details/>.

Shown below: Justice Luz Elena Chapa addresses attendees of the January luncheon.



Judicial Spotlight: Judge Susan Skinner



Judge Susan Skinner has presided over Bexar County's County Court of Law No. 14 since January 2015.

Why did you decide to become a lawyer?

I had a career in social work, including working as a Child Protective Service case worker, before I decided to become a lawyer. It was not until I was a Bexar County adult probation officer and worked closely with several district assistant attorneys, that I decided I wanted to be a prosecutor. With Judge Sarah Garrahan's encouragement, for which I am eternally grateful, I applied to St. Mary's University School of Law.

While in law school, I focused my studies on criminal law and interned with both the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and the Bexar County District Attorney's office. Upon passing the bar in 1992, I was sworn in as an assistant district attorney and proudly served for 15 years.

Who are the people who have had the greatest influence upon your legal career?

During my career, I have been blessed to have many great mentors, from law school professors, such as Professor John Schmolesky and Professor David Schlueter, who instilled the passion for learning the law, to my first-chair prosecutors, Jill Mata, Juanita Vasquez-Garner, and Michael Ramos, whose guidance helped sharpen my trial skills.

I have practiced before many of the judges who have had a significant influence on me, including Judge Anthony Ferro, Judge Andy Mireles, Judge Phil Chavarria, Judge Pat Priest, and Judge Ramond Angelini.

What are you most proud of so far in your legal career?

My proudest moment is that my father was here to see me sworn in as Judge of County Court at Law No. 14 on January 1, 2015. My father, John M. Campbell, passed away on September

11, 2015.

I am proud of the well-balanced experience I bring to the bench. I served 15 years as a prosecutor and 7 years as a criminal defense attorney before taking the bench. Most notably, I was a violent-crimes prosecutor specializing in the prosecution of gang-related crimes and drive-by shootings that plagued our community in the 1990s. My last nine years as a prosecutor I was a first-chair felony prosecutor responsible for the prosecution of child-death cases, domestic-violence murders and child-sex crimes.

I would have to say my most rewarding professional accomplishment was the successful prosecution of hundreds of sexual molestation cases against children. To this day, I still keep in touch with many former child victims.

What tips can you give other lawyers interested in becoming a judge?

If you are interested in becoming a judge, start thinking about campaigning. I will pass on some advice given to me: Every time you meet someone new, jot down where you met them and some note of interest that memorializes your meeting or conversation. When you begin to campaign, you will already have (con'd on p. 5)

Judicial Spotlight: Judge Skinner (con'd from p. 4)

a base of contacts.

Other tips are to have extensive courtroom experience and trial experience, know the law, be ethical, pray diligently to do the right thing, work hard, and to be respectful and professional at all times.

What are you looking forward to the most during your time on the bench?

County Court at Law No. 14 is a criminal misdemeanor court. I wake up every day looking forward to going to work and bringing my continued knowledge and experience to the bench to meet the challenge of moving court cases expeditiously and in administer-

ing justice fairly and compassionately.

Most recently, I have created a small start-up specialty court, which handles all of the misdemeanor animal cruelty cases. In creating this specialized docket, these cases are given the attention they deserve. I look forward to expanding the animal cruelty court in the coming year.

Upcoming Texas Women Lawyers CLE

By Katherine Noll

The Texas Women Lawyers will host its Annual Meeting and CLE in San Antonio at St. Mary's Law School on February 19, 2016. The Speakers' Reception will be held on February 18, 2016, at the Historic Menger Hotel. The conference is open to attorneys, paralegals and law school students.

A copy of the updated brochure is included at the end of this newsletter. This is a special opportunity for our members. It's the first year the conference will be held in San Antonio. BCWB had a great Happy Hour with the Texas Women Lawyers and the National Association of Women Judges. We hope you will support the group's annual CLE!

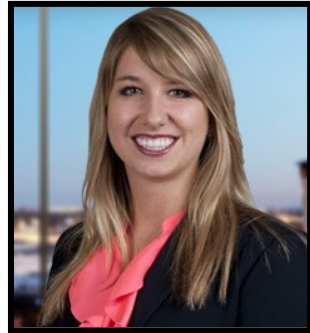
Save the Date:
 February Around Town Lunch
 Noon on February 25, 2016
 at Yellowfish on Wurzbach
 Hosted by Marissa Helm

Save the Date:
 President's Party
 March 9, 2016
 Location TBD

Attendees will vote on the winner of the Law Day Contest, which will be announced at Law Day on April 5, 2016, at The Plaza Club.

Save the Date:
 March 8
 for our March monthly luncheon

Member Spotlight: Rachel Skinner Fernandez



Rachel Skinner Fernandez is one of BCWB's new board members.

What's your current job?

I am a commercial litigator at Dykema Cox Smith.

How long have you been a member of the BCWB?

What's your best experience thus far?

I have been a member with BCWB since I started practicing in May 2013. It's impossible to narrow my favorite experiences down to just one because they have all been wonderful. The amazing and smart women in the San Antonio legal community make BCWB such a fun organization. BCWB's annual Autumn

Affair is probably what I look forward to the most each year.

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

Most mornings I'm a habitual snooze button pusher. By the time my alarm goes off for the fourth or fifth time, I can generally force myself out of bed. My husband and I then proceed to spend the next forty-five minutes fighting for space in our one bathroom as we get ready for the day. I'll then make my extremely long commute of two miles to the office and enjoy two hard-boiled eggs and some fruit with a giant cup of black coffee. Other mornings I'll switch it up and do something crazy like get up immediately when my alarm goes off at 5:00 a.m. and take the early morning class at Smart Barre.

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

For me, there is nothing better than going to trial, and my first jury trial was no exception. The moment the Judge announced a defense verdict for that case definitely makes the top of my career moments. After all the hard work the rest of the trial team had put into the case, it was a great feeling to know it had paid off for our client.

What was your childhood dream job?

I always dreamed of being a surgeon like my grandfather. But I quickly realized in college that science was not my gift (or my passion), and I changed gears to prepare for law school once I realized how much I loved the law.

Guilty Pleasure: What can you not live without?

Cheese in any way, shape, or form and preferably in pasta.

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

As a young litigator I still have so much to learn, but the last few years of practice have taught me the importance of perspective. The legal career can be very demanding, and it is so important to keep it in perspective in relation to your family and your health, among the other important aspects of life.



2016 ANNUAL CLE AND ANNUAL MEETING

*Embrace Your
Fire Power*

ANNUAL CLE | FEBRUARY 19, 2016 | 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
ST. MARY'S LAW SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
MCLE CREDIT | 5.25 HOURS (1 HOUR ETHICS)

MORNING SCHEDULE



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nicole Sheindlin

- 6:00-7:00 MORNING WALK/JOG**
3-mile tour of San Antonio (meet in The Historic Menger Hotel Lobby)
- 8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**
- 9:00-9:05 WELCOMING REMARKS**
- 9:05-9:35 A CONVERSATION WITH TEXAS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DEBRA LEHRMANN**
Facilitated by Deirdre Carey Brown, Hoover Slovacek LLP
- 9:35-10:00 MYTHS AND TRUTHS ABOUT MONEY**
Tips to Help Protect Clients From Common Legal Pitfalls in Financial Matters.
Michelle J. Gessner, Gessner Wealth Strategies
- 10:00-10:15 BREAK**
- 10:15-11:15 LIFE AND LAWYERING: RETOOL, RESTART, REINVENT, RETIRE, AND REBOOT YOUR LIFE**
Kathryn Childers, One of the First Women Secret Service Agents, Gives a Personal Story on Surviving the Unexpected and Thriving in Life.
- 11:15-11:30 BREAK**
- 11:30-12:00 SOCIAL ENGINEERING IN THE REAL WORLD**
Protecting Legal Files in the Age of Dirty Intelligence, Hacking and Other Covert Technology Uses.
Tom DeSot, Digital Defense, Inc.

AFTERNOON SCHEDULE

- 12:00-1:15 LUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER NICOLE SHEINDLIN**
ALL RISE - MAXIMIZING OUR IMPACT THROUGH MENTORING
Ms. Sheindlin, co-founded Her Honor Mentoring, is a Former Public Defender and Partner in Mentzer and Sheindlin in NY.
(with Mentor Robin Schlaff, Attorney, and Mentee Crystal Luna.)
The TWL 2016 Pathfinder Award will also be presented to Judge Judy Sheindlin.
Lunch is provided.
- 1:15-1:45 BECOMING AN AUTHORITY FIGURE WITH FREE PUBLICITY**
What Lawyers Need to Consider When Branding and Marketing Themselves in the Digital Era.
Christine Haas, Emmy Award Winning Anchor and Investigative Reporter
- 1:45-2:15 HOT TOPICS IN BUSINESS LAW**
Deborah D. Williamson, Dykema Cox
Abigail Ottmers, CPS Energy
Elaine Balagia Croucher, Apache Corporation
AJ Johnson, Kane, Russell, Coleman & Logan (moderator)
- 2:15-2:30 BREAK**
- 2:30-3:00 JINXED**
High Profile Criminal Law Issues from the Bench and Beyond
Susan Criss, Former Galveston District Court Judge, Criss & Rousseau Law Firm, LLP
- 3:00-3:30 TRYING LAWSUITS IN HEELS - A VIEW FROM 1ST CHAIR**
Laura Tamez, The Herrera Law Firm and TTLA Board Member
- 3:30-3:45 BREAK**
- 3:45-3:50 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**
- 3:50-5:00 RAPID FIRE JUDICIAL ROUNDTABLE**
Got Questions? Get Answers! Interactive audience question and answer.
Hon. Alia Moses, USDC Judge (WDTX-Del Rio)
Hon. Amy Clark Meachum, District Court Judge (Travis County),
Hon. Holly Williamson, Justice of the Peace (Harris County)
Hon. Stacey Mathews, District Court Judge (Williamson County)
Hon. Jeff Bohm, Bankruptcy Judge (USBC SDTX) (Moderator)
Justice Rebeca Martinez, Texas Fourth District Court of Appeals
- 5:00-6:00 NETWORKING RECEPTION**

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTER ONLINE AT

<http://2016annualcle.eventbrite.com>

REGISTER BY MAIL

By submitting the form below

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (✓)

\$195 TEXAS WOMEN LAWYERS INDIVIDUAL
Cost includes TWL Conference, Lunch, Networking Reception and Annual Membership to TWL

\$150 GOVERNMENT AND ACADEMIC LAWYERS
Cost includes TWL Conference, Lunch, Networking Reception and Annual Membership to TWL

\$100 NEWLY LICENSED ATTORNEYS
(Licensed Attorney for 1 year or less)
Cost includes TWL Conference, Lunch, Networking Reception and Annual Membership to TWL

\$100 HALF DAY ATTENDANCE
Cost includes either morning or afternoon session only, includes networking reception

FREE LAW STUDENT
Cost includes TWL Conference, Lunch, Networking Reception and Annual Membership to TWL * Based on space availability

\$3000 CHAMPION SPONSORSHIP
Included in marketing materials as underwriter of event – Exclusive advertising and time to speak to the attendees – Six complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Exhibitor Table for promotional materials – Special recognition with company logo in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$2000 ADVOCATE SPONSORSHIP
Six complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Entitles sponsors to briefly welcome attendees – Exhibitor Table for promotional materials – Special recognition with company logo in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$1500 COUNSELOR SPONSORSHIP
Six complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Exhibitor Table for promotional materials – Listed in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$1000 MENTOR SPONSORSHIP
Four complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Listed in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$500 ADVISOR SPONSORSHIP
Two complimentary admissions to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Listed in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

\$250 PEER SPONSORSHIP
One complimentary admission to the Conference, Networking Reception, and Speakers Reception – Listed in course materials* – Listed on event signage* – Placement of materials in attendee bags

I CANNOT ATTEND THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE, but I have enclosed a donation in the amount of \$ _____ in support of Texas Women Lawyers.

Remember that for just \$250, you can become Part of TWL's PEER Group and you can be included in Sponsorship Listing!

NAME:

FIRM:

TITLE:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

ST:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE NO.:

STATE BAR NO.:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

PRIMARY PRACTICE AREA:

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THE COURSE MATERIALS? PRINTED ELECTRONIC BOTH (Additional \$10)

Checks payable to: Texas Women Lawyers, Send to: 5051 Westheimer, Suite 1200, Houston, Texas 77056

**TEXAS WOMEN LAWYERS ANNUAL CLE | EMBRACE YOUR HIRE POWER
FEBRUARY 19, 2016 | ST. MARY'S LAW SCHOOL • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

**TEXAS WOMEN LAWYERS
5051 WESTHEIMER, SUITE 1200
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77056**



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Talbots (in kind)
Cofy Law, PC
The Almaguer Law Firm

SPEAKER'S RECEPTION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Please join us for a cocktail reception with
our sponsors, speakers and guests.

Held at The Historic Menger Hotel from
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

St. Mary's Law School, Room LC105,
One Camino Santa Maria, San Antonio, Texas

SPECIAL ROOM RATES \$149

Good through January 19, 2016

The Historic Menger Hotel,
204 Alamo Plaza
San Antonio, TX 78205 210-223-4361
www.mengerhotel.com