

## President's Message

### In the Room Where it Happens

In February, I attended the LEAD seminar's inaugural Winter Symposium in Fredericksburg. Along with the rest of the Steering Committee, I sat in the back of the room and watched over a year's worth of planning and work unfold. I was blown away.

While LEAD was imagined and came to fruition during my tenure as an officer, I was not down in the weeds until this year. As a member, I thought: "This pro-

gram - Lead. Empower. Advance. Develop. - is going to be amazing for someone else." As I saw the program develop, I wrote off topics like networking and rainmaking as something not meant for me. We have all attended continuing legal education presentations on these topics before. How many times have you left and thought "Fine for others, not for me"? The LEAD Winter Symposium marks a turning point for me, personally.

Pat Gillette's presenta-



tion energized the room with a passion I have not seen before. For once, I felt success, in all its varying shades, could be mine with a redirected focus and lens on myself rather than changing who I am. As I listened to her talk about rainmaking, for the first time in my practice, I realized I already have the skills I need to make

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## SAVE THE DATE: Central Market CLE

SAVE THE DATE! Our Cooking CLE is back!

Join us at Central Market at 6pm on Thursday, May 4 for a cooking demonstration, dinner and a presentation on "The Ethical Use of Social Media in the Course of Legal Representation" by Ellen Pitluk, Ethics Attorney with the State Bar of Texas. More details to come!

## Judicial Spotlight: Judge Angelica Jimenez



### **Why did you decide to become a lawyer?**

When I was in the third grade I played Rosa Park's attorney in the school play. I was so inspired by the fact that someone had the power to speak up for others and defend the rights of others before a court. Through this play I saw that the Court had the power to make things right. I decided then that I wanted to become a voice for those that had no voice and stand up for the rights of others.

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

I have been blessed to have many mentors in the legal community. They have each had a hand in helping me be

the best in my profession. One of the people that influenced me the most was Professor John Teeter of St. Mary's University School of Law. He inspired a thirst for knowledge, the determination to be prepared always and the courage to put my best foot forward and make the best argument I could. As a practicing family law attorney, the people that influenced me most were my clients. The need I saw in each of their families for a healthier, happier future gave me the desire to serve our community in this capacity.

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

I am most proud of the fact that whether as an attorney before or a judge now, the people I touch know that I respect everyone, I will work hard and I will think outside the box to resolve the issues in a just and fair manner. I have many years to work in this area for our community and I hope to only get better in this respect.

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

Become involved in our community. Work hard in your practice and in your network of support. This will help you understand what the community needs and will help you spread your message to many. Be sure that you have a strong core team in your family to give you the courage, support and stamina that you will need. Finally, do not forget to take care of yourself, remember to eat, sleep and exercise. It really helps.

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

I am looking forward to serving our community through the lives that I am able to touch in court and in the community in general. My goal is to help families heal and move on in a healthy manner. Family law is the majority of what is heard in court and the families that leave the courthouse must learn to work together in a whole new way. It is important to have the tools in place to help them be successful.

# Law Day Luncheon

By Hella Scheuerman

Please join us at noon on Tuesday, April 4th at The Plaza Club, as we recognize our Law Day winners from the Young Women's Leadership Academy.

Justice Luz Elena Chapa from the Fourth Court of Appeals, will discuss this year's Law Day Theme: "The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Transforming American Democracy"

**When:** Tuesday, April 4, 2017

**Time:** Noon to 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Plaza Club, located at Frost Bank Tower, 100 West Houston, #2100, San Antonio, TX 78205-1489.

**Cost:** \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, \$20 for students, payable at the door\* or online

**RSVP:** The Plaza Club has asked that we provide a headcount well in advance of the luncheon, so please RSVP by Tuesday, March 28, 2017 by clicking here. *You can now register and pay online!* Please 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 the Plaza Club's staff and no-shows will be billed.

For more information, contact Hella Scheuerman at hella@dilleylawfirm.com Serina Rivela at Serina.Rivela@uhsa.com.

## Thank you to all members who have renewed!

### Welcome New Members:

Laura Tannenbaum

Amy Hardberger

Amelia Edelman

Monica Dobie

Molly Thomson

Marcie Trevino Ripper

Hilary Windecker

Kelsey Partipilo

Rashin Mazaheri

Shelly Calhoun

# February Luncheon Recap

By: Cassie Matheson

The BCWB February luncheon was a huge success as we welcomed Brandy Howard, a Staff Attorney with the Texas Advocacy Project. Brandy provided our members with critical information on how to represent domestic violence victims with their family law related cases.

Most importantly, Brandy reminded our members of the overwhelming need for attorneys to take on pro bono cases.

If you're interested in a pro bono representation or would like further information on the Texas Advocacy Project, please contact Brandy at [BHoward@texasadvocacyproject.org](mailto:BHoward@texasadvocacyproject.org)

## Autumn Affair Beneficiary Nominations and Call for Volunteers

**Save the Date for 2017 Autumn Affair!**

Autumn Affair will be on October 19, 2017.

Additionally, The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation is already working hard to put together its task force to help with Autumn Affair this year, and we need YOU!

Every year we put together specific committees to handle various

aspects of the Autumn Affair.

The committees include: Auction, Belva Lockwood, Decorations, Graphics, Historian, Honorees/Dignitaries, Kick Off Party, Publicity/Web Promotion, Set Up/Take Down, and Sponsorship.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees or just want more information on getting involved please con-

tact Rachel Skinner at [rskinner@dykema.com](mailto:rskinner@dykema.com).

# WLA Networking Reception

## April 6, 2017 from 4:00–7:00 pm

WLA is teaming up with the Office of Career Services, as well as other diverse student-run organizations, such as the Hispanic Law Student Association, Black Law Student Association, and the like, to host an event titled, "Highlighting Your Unique Characteristics During the Job Search and Beyond."

The event will take place on April 6, 2017 from 4:00-7:00 pm. A networking reception will kick off the event from 4:00-5:00, followed by a panel discussion from 5:00-6:00. We will still have the room reserved for those that wish to continue the discussion and network further once the panel discussion has ended. The event will be held on the St. Mary's School of Law Campus in the Law Alumni Room.

## President's Party Celebration Recap

By Serina Rivela

Many thanks to our members who joined us Thursday evening, March 23rd, at Edera Osteria in honor of our newly elected BCWBA's President, Lisa Alcantar, previous BCWB Presidents and New Members.

It was a great evening to socialize with new and

familiar faces while enjoying the wide variety of hor d'oeuvres and desserts. It was also a great time to view all of the artwork and editorials the Young Women's Leadership Academy submitted for this year's Law Day Contest, The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy.

Many thanks to those of you who participated in judging the Law Day Contest at the President's Party. We look forward to announcing the winners at the upcoming Law Day Luncheon on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, at the Plaza Club!

## Book Review: *The Mare: A Novel*

By Lisa Alcantar

I recently read *The Mare: A Novel* by Mary Gaitskill and promptly after finishing *The Mare*, I dove into *The Wonder* by Emma Donoghue. Simply based on the book jackets, these two novels are completely different--different centuries, countries, and cultures. Two weeks after finishing both books my brain settled into these books and overlapping themes became apparent: each novel features a tripartite relationship of a mother, her daughter, and a female stranger -- a non-mother.

In *The Mare*, we encounter Velvet "Velvet" Vargas, then eleven, as she navigates the social complexities of her neighborhood and her family dynamic. Her mother, Silvia Vargas, is emotionally and physically abusive to Velvet, but equally reliant on Velvet to translate on her behalf as well as to serve as a surrogate mother to her brother. It is clear Mrs. Vargas is barely holding her family together. Velvet is given the opportunity to participate in a "summer camp" for inner city children. With a bit of apprehension, Velvet boards the a greyhound bus and heads out into the unknown. She is met by Ginger and Paul, a middle aged, educated, white couple. Both Ginger and Paul have a history of addiction. Their marriage is a second one. while Paul has a college age daughter, Ginger has no children of her own and she's chasing the wisps of motherhood. Velvet is a test run for Ginger and Paul. To keep Velvet occupied and perhaps merely as a conversation starter,

Ginger introduces Velvet to the horses stabled across the street. It quickly becomes apparent Velvet has a knack and passion for riding. It becomes a carrot for Ginger to entice Velvet back to suburbia over the years; a carrot to eek Velvet through rougher aspects of her childhood and allow Ginger to fulfill her own maternal needs. *The Mare* is complicated. As a reader, it is hard to watch a child be subjected to abuse and to miss her potential. It's also uncomfortable to observe Ginger's both knowing and unwitting subversion of the parent-child relationship.

Just as soon as I finished *The Mare*, I heard an interview with Emma Donoghue, author of *Room* (also a movie), about *The Wonder* and left intrigued enough to immediately check it out from San Antonio's [online library](#). Although Donoghue never says, *The Wonder* takes place around 1859 in rural Ireland, a dreary, quiet place. Lib Wright, who in her own image is quite the esteemed nurse having trained under Florence Nightingale, accepts an assignment to be a private nurse for a family for two weeks. She's provided few details on her charge or the limits of her retention. Lib quickly learns her charge Anna O'Donnell, an eleven year old, who claim to have gone without sustenance other than water for any months, sustained only by God. Is she a miracle or a fraud? A local council arranged to investigate or substantiate Anna's claims arranges for Lib and a Catholic nun to watch the child

for a period of two weeks. Lib, a nonbeliever, is an immediate source of tension in the O'Donnell household. Instructed to never leave the child alone, she is a force between Anna and her mother. Like Ginger in *The Mare*, Lib is not a mother, but she is by virtue of the situation forced into a maternal position, supplanting Anna's own mother. Like Donoghue's prior novel, *The Wonder* takes place in an extremely limited setting--largely Anna's bedroom and the surrounding empty fields. The plot plods steadily along. Some readers may be put off by the slow pace, but I thoroughly enjoyed this novel.

I hesitate to give away details on either book. There are so many nuances that make the stories gripping in their own ways. For those of you looking for book group reading, *The Mare* and *The Wonder* open many avenues to explore--socioeconomic differences; cultural differences; physical mothers versus societal stand-ins. They are especially interesting read together. How does Ginger knowingly or unknowingly usurp Velvet's mother? And Lib? Do you think Lib or Ginger should have acted differently? As an outsider to the culture, how should Ginger or Lib have approached their charge differently, if at all?

Up next, *Behold the Dreamers* by Imbolo Mbue, which Connie Arambula kindly recommended.



# LEAD Academy Winter Symposium

By Lauren M. Horne



The LEAD Academy Steering Committee welcomed their 2017 Inaugural Class to a Winter Symposium on Thursday, February 2 and Friday, February 3, 2017 in Fredericksburg, Texas. The Symposium was an intense two-day program led by some of the nation's leading women: Patricia K. Gillette, J.D., Courtney R. Chavez, J.D., Cynthia Pladziewicz, J.D., Ph.D., Jennifer Ostrich, PCC, Gindi Eckel Vincent, J.D., and Gwen Brehm, M.Ed., LPC, LMFT. To learn more about the 2017 faculty, please visit: [www.bexarcountywomensbar.org/LEAD/Faculty](http://www.bexarcountywomensbar.org/LEAD/Faculty).



Patricia K. Gillete, J.D.  
speaking to the Class

Overall, the class members, steering committee, and speakers loved the event. Here is just a small sample of some of the class member's comments:

- Great panel of speakers
- Really helpful! LOVED the risk-taking portion!
- VERY practical and very helpful
- Good to discuss [subjects] in context of LEAD
- Wonderful and useful presentations
- Awesome and challenging
- Productive sessions
- So valuable!
- Wish we had longer

## LEAD Academy Reception

- [Presentations] helpful in reminding me of my abilities.

Speaker Patricia Gillette, J.D., a partner in Orrick’s San Francisco office, stated:

“You all put together a fabulous program that I believe will directly and substantially impact these women's personal and professional lives. I was so happy to be part of the inaugural event and I am certain this will be a model

for other bar associations to follow. Congrats on a great job!”

The Winter Symposium is just one event in a series of year-long programming. If you would like additional information, please visit the BCWBF LEAD Academy website

([www.bexarcountywomensbar.org/LEAD](http://www.bexarcountywomensbar.org/LEAD)) or contact LEAD Director, Tiffanie Clausewitz ([Tiffanie@Rosenblattlawfirm.com](mailto:Tiffanie@Rosenblattlawfirm.com)).



LEAD Class Members



Gindi Vincent Eckel, J.D. presents on risk-taking



## President's Message (cont.)

it rain. Her presentation was electric.

As we went through StrengthsFinder, I was so interested to see the strengths the Class and Steering Committee had in common and what stood out for each person. Personally, there was a value in seeing I had similar strengths to some of the women I admire most. On a larger level, pulling back the curtain on how *and* why we work well together may very well change how we approach future events by leveraging each other's strengths.

The Symposium led into areas in which I am uncomfortable—Planning! Envisioning! Goals! Networking!—and made me an active participant in confronting those “scary” parts of my career, which are quite simply holding me back. In one exercise with Gindi Vincent, we cast

out future goals and sold them to partners. I announced my goal there and I'll repeat it here: write for myself and for others. Writing was my first passion and I've cast it aside. Thinking about writing in the past has always seemed mere fantasy, but setting a goal and talking it through made me realize writing has the power to both fulfill my personal needs while also enhancing my work.

As I drove back from Fredericksburg, I was already missing the energy I found among the Class, the speakers, and the Steering Committee. What I wished for most was more time to delve head long into the topics we have broached. Almost a full month later, the true value of LEAD for me is starting to sink in: only my fear of being not enough is holding me back.

The beauty of LEAD is that each

subsequent class will bring its own energy. I hope you will consider how you can benefit from LEAD and apply for LEAD 2018. I can't wait to see what the future sessions of LEAD bring. In the meantime, I practiced owning my fears and wrote another book review.

## March Around Town Luncheon

**March Around Town Lunch  
with Serina Rivela**

**Friday, March 31 at 11:30 AM**



Join Serina Rivela on Friday, March 31 at 11:30 a.m. at Sangria on the Burg, located near the Medical Center at 5115 Fredericksburg Road.

Recently featured in San Antonio Express News, Sangria on the Burg is a craft house of locally sourced sliders, tacos and salads. No need to RSVP. I look forward to seeing you there! Please feel free to contact me with any questions at [serina.rivela@uhs-sa.com](mailto:serina.rivela@uhs-sa.com) or by cell at 416-0604.

***Be sure to look for Serina when you arrive!***

# Get Fit in 2017!

How are your New Years' Resolutions going? Needing some encouragement? Come join BCWB at community fitness events in March and April—we hope to see you there!



CULINARIA™

The Culinaria 5K will be on March 18, 2017. Culinaria is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to benefiting the San Antonio community and promoting San Antonio as an ideal wine and food destination.

For more information or to register for the run, visit: <http://culinariasa.org/san-antonio/5k-wine-beer-run-details/>

The Junior League of San Antonio is hosting the fifth annual Viva SA 5K/10K Race on March 25, 2017. The race is sponsored by Whole Foods Market and starts and ends at Hemisfair. The post-race celebration will include lots of Whole Food goodies, a DJ and Alamo Beer. Participants will receive a T-shirt, Fiesta finisher medal and a swag bag full of coupons and discounts. For more information or to register for the race, visit [www.jlsa.org/viva-sa-race](http://www.jlsa.org/viva-sa-race) or email [acrouch@jw.com](mailto:acrouch@jw.com)



**VIVA! SA RACE**



OLLU is hosting its first-ever 5K Confetti Run and Walk on Saturday, April 1, 2017, on campus. The family-friendly event will include the race in addition to crafts, balloon art, an Easter egg hunt, pictures with the Easter Bunny and other activities. Participants will receive a T-shirt, customized bib, finisher medal and drawstring bag. For more information or to register for the race, visit [www.ollusa.edu/5K](http://www.ollusa.edu/5K).