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President's Message

I hope you can join us on March 9 for this year's President Party. The President's Party is a time for the Bexar County Women's Bar to celebrate its membership and honor new members and past presidents. The event will be held in Casa Alicia at La Fonda, a beautiful hacienda style private event space located behind the main res-

taurant. Drinks will be served and Cappy & Suzy Lawton have generously donated appetizers for the event.

We will also vote at the party on this year's Law Day contestants from the Young Women's Leadership Academy. The 2016 Law Day theme—*Miranda: More than Words*—explores the proce-



dural protections afforded to all of us by the U.S. Constitution, how these rights are safeguarded (con'd on p. 2)

March Luncheon: Laura C. Mason Succession Planning

Please join us on March 8 to welcome Laura C. Mason, a partner in Strasburger & Price, LLP's Corporate & Securities Practice Group. In her corporate practice, Laura represents large companies, closely-held businesses, business owners, and individual entrepreneurs in a wide variety of transactions and business disputes. She has served the BCWB as President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Past-President and 2010 Autumn Affair Co-Chair.

Laura will address strategies for succession planning to preserve family businesses and associated wealth. She will explore techniques for

using Texas limited partnerships and limited liability companies for creating, growing, and transitioning family businesses from one generation to the next. She will discuss real-world examples of successes and failures in succession planning, and ways to avoid some common pitfalls. Approved for .75 hour CLE credit.

When: Tuesday, March 8

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

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

RSVP: Club Giraud needs a headcount in advance of the luncheon, so RSVP by Thursday, March 3. You can now register and pay online! Include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand 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; no-shows will be billed.

For more information, contact Rachel Skinner (rskinner@dykema.com) or Meagan McKeown (mmckeown@dykema.com). We hope to see you there!

A New Year, A New Look, A New BCWB Website

After much effort from our team (a.k.a. Lawyers by Day, Designers by Night!), we have completed our new website. Everything except the web address is brand new.

We have added a news section, a constantly up-to-date events tab, and have dedicated pages to providing information regarding

Autumn Affair and our other big events, like our annual retreat. If you have news to share, you can send it to us to be included on the site.

You are able to register and pay for events online, add them to your calendar, and renew your membership.

As a benefit of membership, you can search our member directory. In the near fu-

ture, we plan to add a job posting board and forums where our members can interact with each other and exchange information.

As with most things, the website remains a work in progress. Notice a glitch? Want us to consider adding something? We welcome your feedback. Email Lisa Alcantar.

BCWB Annual Retreat: Focusing On Your “Boerne-ing” Questions

By Judge Renée A. Yanta

This year’s Retreat is scheduled for June 9-10. We’ll escape to the charm, slightly lower temps and peace of Boerne and its historic hotel, Ye Kendall Inn. We would LOVE your help in tailoring this year’s program so that it addresses those thorny, rascally, challenging, and inspiring issues you face in your practice, especially as a woman in a dynamic (and still pretty male-dominated) profession. We are calling these topics your

“Boerne-ing” (pronounced: burn-ing) Questions.

So ... please email me (renee.yanta@bexar.org), Leslie Hyman (lhyman@pulmanlaw.com), and/or Laurie Weiss (lweiss@grandecom.net) your “Boerne-ing” Question—the topics/issue you would really love to have fleshed out, discussed, and CREATIVE and HELPFUL tips shared. If you want to remain anonymous, just put your issue in an envelope and slip the envelope under

Shirley’s door (she’s the clerk of the 150th District Court—second floor of the old courthouse).

Write quickly! Please send your submission by March 2. We’ll review all submissions, and using your “Boerne-ing” questions, we’ll create the program and tap just the PERFECT speakers! We need to get busy! Thanks so much. I’m counting down the days to June 9!



President’s Column (con’d from p. 1)

by the courts, and why the preservation of these principles is essential to our liberty. Student contestants are encouraged to use creativity depicting the theme

to create art pieces in any medium desired (including, but not limited to, drawings, paintings, films, photographs, graphic novels, comics, etc.).

Come out for food, libations, and art, and help us vote on the YWLA student’s contributions exploring *Miranda: More than Words*.

Make a Difference!



By Brittany M. Weil

We are calling for volunteers to meet, inspire, and connect with

teen girls in the PEARLS program. The vision of PEARLS –also called Girls Court – is to invest in teen girls who are placed in foster care, helping them value their whole selves and their inherent strengths and providing them opportunities to develop their potential to lead healthy, educated, and successful lives.

On March 24, 2016, from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m., the PEARLS program is hosting a dinner for its girls, during which they will learn about healthy nutrition and appropriate etiquette in a social

setting – skills that will help them build positive outcomes for themselves. Our goal is to pair each girl with a BCWBA member with whom they can sit, interact, and practice their social skills during the dinner.

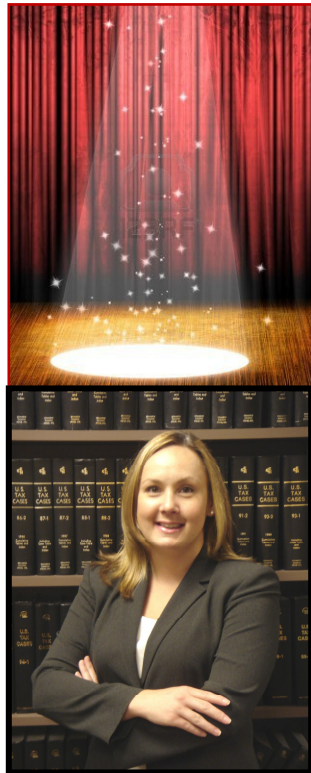
Please email Brittany Weil at bmweil@csg-law.com or Carmen Samaniego at attorneycarmen@me.com. If you are interested in this opportunity to be a positive and inspirational role model for a PEARLS girl! Location and additional details coming soon.

Katherine Noll
President of the
Bexar County Women's Bar
Association & Foundation,
invites you to the
2016 President's Party
Honoring Past Presidents &
New Members
Wednesday, March 9, 2016
5:30-7:30
La Fonda on Main
2415 N. Main Avenue
Margaritas and Appetizers will be Served
RSVPs are not required, but are encouraged!
Email your reply to
Greta.McFarling@txcourts.gov

March Around Town Lunch

Please join Gaylia D. Brunson on Thursday, March 24, 2016, at noon, for the Around Town Lunch at Paesanos 1604, 3622 Paesanos Pkwy, San Antonio, TX 78231. Paesanos serves traditional and contemporary Italian fare and, in Gaylia's humble opinion, the best calamari in the city. No need to RSVP! Gaylia looks forward to seeing you there!

Member Spotlight: Ashley Ressmann Gray



What's your current job?

I am a shareholder at Schoenbaum, Curphy & Scanlan, P.C., a boutique trusts, estates and tax firm. My practice areas are primarily Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Gift, Estate and GST Tax, and For Profit and Non Profit Entity Formation and Governance.

How long have you been a member of the BCWB?

What's your best experience thus far?

I'm embarrassed to admit it, but I've been practicing for close to 15 years and I just joined the BCWB last month. I kept running into

women who were BCWB members and was so impressed by them that I knew I needed to join.

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

I have a four year old. Does that answer the question? When everything goes according to plan (which it rarely does), I am up at 6:30 and out the door by 7:30 to drop my son off at preschool. Then, once I get to the office, I indulge in a caffeine fix while checking emails and reading the news websites before starting on the days' tasks.

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

That's a tough one. Honestly, I really enjoy the "everyday" moments when a client genuinely thanks me and appreciates the work that I have done for them. Also, I love meeting so many interesting people. I also enjoy teaching at St. Mary's School of Law and getting to witness the "aha" moments the students have when I am able to connect with them over a concept that I'm teaching.

What was your childhood dream job?

My father is a physician and when I was a child I thought I wanted to go into medicine. However, I ended up

being an Anthropology major and for a while I was pretty sure that I wanted to be the next Indiana Jones (female version). My parents gently suggested that I find a career that would allow me to support myself and get off of their payroll.

Guilty Pleasure: What can you not live without?

My favorite guilty pleasure these days is a night out with my husband. We love exploring all of the new restaurants around town.

What's the best career advice you've offered?

Figure out what is important to you and find a career or field that fits within those parameters. While my practice can be stressful at times, it typically has very predictable hours which allows me to have good work-life balance.

Welcome New Members

Robin Eubanks	Alison Packard	Susi Boss
Shekina Hammonds	Caroline Brown	Caroline Brown
Alice Morgan	Jacqueline Sandoval	Erin Camp
Susana Canseco	Jane Knapik	Kimberly Graves
Ashley Gray	Lyndsey Mott	Kathryn Kluge
Marie Reyna	Rebecca Page	Emily Landon
Gabrielle Oconnor	Jennifer Bruning	Amber Pang Parra
Ramona Lampley	Kellil Borbon	Sarah Sweet

Save the Date for Ethics Follies “Chicago” Wednesday, October 05, 2016

By Lauren M. Horne


The Association of Corporate Counsel's (ACC) South/Central Texas Chapter will present its 19th Annual Ethics and Compliance musical parody “Chicago”

with highlights from ethics issues from today's headlines set in the 1920s with flappers, gangsters and “all that jazz.” All licensed professionals will benefit from the edutainment event.

Shows are Oct. 5 at 3:30 p.m. and Oct. 6 at 7:00 p.m. Group discounts and sponsorships available by calling ACC at (210) 723-8769 or online at ethicsfollies.com.

**THE ASSOCIATION OF CORPORATE COUNSEL'S SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER'S
19TH ANNUAL ETHICS & COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE**

**-2 HOURS ETHICS MCLE/REGULAR CPE
-BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PROGRAM
-NETWORKING WITH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH BELIEVE THAT
“GOOD ETHICS IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS”**



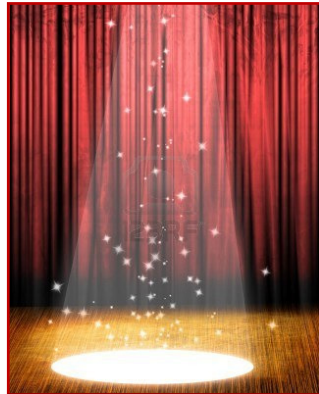
ETHICS FOLLIES

CHICAGO

A VERY ETHICAL PARODY

**OCTOBER 5 AT 3:30 P.M. AND OCTOBER 6 AT 7 P.M. CHARLIE MCCOMBS EMPIRE THEATRE
FEATURING TRILOGY DANCE CENTER REGISTER/SPONSOR AT ETHICSFOLLIES.COM**

Judicial Spotlight: Judge Laura Salinas



Judge Laura Salinas has presided over the 166th Civil District Court, Bexar County, since 2012.

Why did you decided to become a lawyer?

While I always had a great interest in the legal profession, it was my experience as a receptionist in a civil litigation law firm during college that solidified my decision to pursue a career in law. I worked very closely with clients that unfortunately due to their lack of education and economic status were placed in dangerous work conditions resulting in long-term illnesses. Being able to assist in their cases and

representation was very impactful and rewarding for me. That experience helped define my career path and my desire to represent, assist and protect the rights of those less fortunate.

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

Many of the people I have worked with or appeared before from the lawyers, judges to the support staff have all played a role in the progression of my legal career. However, the most influential has been someone outside of the legal field, my mother. Many of the values and lessons I have carried into my career I learned early on in life. My mother has always instilled values which I attribute my success to both in my personal life and legal career. I've learned to be hardworking, respectful, and humble and to not compromise my integrity. Those values have influenced me from childhood and continue to this day.

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

On June 26, 2015, I assisted Judge Karen Pozza in Presiding Court officiate over many same sex marriages. It was very moving and touching to meet couples who shared story

after story of waiting decades to have their commitment finally be acknowledged under the law. I was honored and proud to be a part of that historic day.

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

Aside from having knowledge of the law along with trial experience, it is equally important to possess good judicial temperament which begins during your tenure as an attorney. Litigants want not only someone who will listen to them, read and rule based upon the law, but most importantly, will treat them with respect and courtesy.

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

With each passing day, I enjoy and feel more knowledgeable by virtue of the cases I hear, the attorneys I see litigate and the cases I read. It's a blessing to be in a profession that allows me to continually learn and challenges me to excel. Knowing that with time will come the wisdom and experience I have admired in many veteran judges is exciting and what I look forward to the most.

Speed Networking Event: A Huge Success

By Gaylia D. Brunson

On February 25, 2016, BCWBA, the WLA and the St. Mary's University School of Law Office of Career Services co-hosted a Speed Networking Event in which students from St. Mary's University School of Law were able to spend time speaking with attorneys from our local legal community. Over 40 students attended. We were fortunate to have 10 practitioners present.

Each practitioner was stationed at a given table. The students were divided into groups that "rotated" from table to table in six minute increments. The general idea was to provide stu-

dents with a brief discussion of possible career paths, career tips and legal experiences. This unique setting provided students with the opportunity to practice their interviewing and networking skills, ask a wide variety of questions, and receive information based upon real work experiences. The students asked many insightful questions; the practitioners gave wonderful guidance.

Kathryn Kluge, 1L, stated one "...major piece of advice... gained from this experience is that multiple attorneys stressed the importance of having a mentor, and not just one mentor, multiple mentors because

each mentor will teach you something useful and will be someone that you can turn to for many years to come."

Cynthia Alanis, 1L, stated that "[t]his was a positive experience because it was strong, successful women who are helping empower us. I was told that as a woman, I am my strongest advocate and it's even more empowering because it's women helping women."

This event would not have been a success without the volunteer attorneys who participated and volunteered their time to interact with students. I send a special thanks to all of them.

