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President's Message

April has arrived. With it comes the Bexar County Women's Bar annual Law Day celebration. Law Day celebrates the rule of law, with Congress recognizing it as a special day in 1958 in commemoration of the liberties, ideals of equality and justice, and the cultivation of respect for the law that is vital to our democratic way of life. This year's theme is entitled "Miranda: More than Words." I hope you can join us at the BCWB event at on April 5 at the Plaza Club, where the keynote speaker will be Justice Rebeca Martinez of

the Fourth Court of Appeals. This event offers an opportunity to connect with students at the Young Women's Leadership Academy, who look forward to receiving guidance and insight about the legal profession. The San Antonio Bar Association's Law Day event will be held on May 4 at the Briscoe Western Art Museum, and I hope you can join us there as well in celebration of the rule of law.

Another important local initiative is the Community Justice Program's Just Give One campaign. You may have



received a letter from SABA President Marty Truss about the Just Give One campaign. I recently had the opportunity to learn more about the importance for this fundraising effort. In the words of Christine Reinhard, a current SABA Board member and a past BCWB President, it is important to (con'd on p. 3)

April Luncheon: Law Day Luncheon

Please join us on April 5 to recognize our Law Day winners from the Young Women's Leadership Academy. Justice Rebeca Martinez from the Fourth Court of Appeals will discuss this year's Law Day Theme: "Miranda: More than Words"

When: Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Plaza Club, Colonel's Foyer/Plaza Room, 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 needs a headcount well in advance of the luncheon, so please RSVP by Tuesday, March 29, 2016 by clicking here. 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 the Plaza Club's staff and no-shows will be billed.

For more information, contact Hella Scheuerman at hella@dilleylawfirm.com or Brittany Weil at bmweil@curlstahl.com.

Just Give One!



By Christine Reinhard

What does that mean exactly? It means donating the equivalent of one billable hour to ensure the continued success of the Community Justice Program (CJP).

SABA's nationally acclaimed, nonprofit pro bono project has recently encountered a tremendous increase in the demand for its services. Since January, the CJP received triple the number of requests for services and more than 100 calls per day from low-income individuals needing legal assistance. To address the demands of a growing population of low-income clients, the CJP seeks to expand its operations and the number and type of clinics it provides. As part of those efforts, the CJP is partnering with other local organizations to create even more legal access to the poor and services to low-income veterans in our community. Very recently, it also has taken over all client intake and manage-

ment. Thus, to handle this expansion and increased demand in services, the CJP is in desperate need of additional staff and further funding.

What does that mean to you? The CJP needs your financial support. SABA is asking each and every attorney in the community, whether a member or not, to participate in the Just Give One Campaign and support the continued success of the CJP. All contributions are tax deductible.

To donate, you need simply click the "donate" button on the CJP's website at www.cjpsa.org.

Thank you for being a part of the CJP's success in the past, now, and well into the future!

You Are Summoned! Around Town Lunch in Presiding!



Who said Presiding Court is all work? To dispel that crazy notion, this month, Judge Renée Yanta will be hosting a different kind of Around Town Lunch. As the Presiding Judge in April, Judge Yanta is opening Presiding Court April 13 from 12:00 to 1:15 to Bexar County Women's

Bar Members to lunch together, meet other "sisters in law," and maybe even share some war stories!

So let's pack Presiding with BCWB members—and grow our legal sisterhood! Lunch will cost \$13.00, and will be catered by Jason's Deli.

To confirm your spot, please email Judge Yanta at renee.yanta@bexar.org by no later than noon April 12 to let her know you are attending.

Please understand that if you RSVP that you are attending, you will be charged the \$13.00 for your lunch (even if you get stuck at work and can't come; but don't get stuck at work!).





Law Day Luncheon

By Hella Scheuerman

Our annual Law Day Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, April 5 at The Plaza Club, where we will recognize this year's Law Day winners from the Young Women's Leadership Academy. Justice Rebeca Martinez from the Fourth Court of Appeals will discuss the Law Day Theme: "Miranda: More than Words"

The students who entered the competition were asked to interpret this year's Law Day Theme in the Editorial, Photography and Poster Contests. We are so proud of all of the students who entered this contest! This year, we had a record number of student participants, with 67 total entries. Students submitted 24 entries for the Editorial Contest, 19 entries for the Photography

Contest and 24 entries for the Photography Contest. At our recent President's Party, members voted for their favorite student entries and we will announce the first, second, and third place winners for each contest at the Law Day Luncheon. Thank you to all who participated in judging the Law Day Contest! We look forward to announcing the winners at the Law Day Luncheon.

Welcome New Members

Kelli Borbon

Bianca Frisaura

Alison Packard

Deirdre Brown

Ashley Giordano

Donna Spicer

Ashley Butler

Lori Karam

Lauren Valkenaar

Cassidy Daniels

Andrea Morris

Beth Watkins

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

encourage all BCWB members to consider donating to this campaign. The Wills Clinic started out many moons ago as a BCWBF project. It grew to such a size and success that the BCWB handed over the baton to the Community Justice Program (CJP). The Wills Clinic is now one of many beneficial programs and clinics operated by the CJP. The CJP appreciates BCWB's continued support. One

way members can assist is by "Just Giving One." I hope all of you will join me, Christine, and your local colleagues in supporting this very worthwhile cause. More information on the campaign and how to donate is included in this newsletter, as are details about our Law Day Luncheon event.

In March, we celebrated past BCWB Presidents and New Members at the 2016

BCWB President's Party. Despite the weather, it was a perfect evening at La Fonda on Main. It was great to spend time with new and familiar faces. I hope everyone enjoyed the camaraderie, delicious food, and margaritas as much as I did. Thank you to Greta McFarling for planning the event. Thank you to Sue and Cappy Lawton for their generous support and hospitality at La Fonda on Main.

Member Spotlight: Charla Davies



What's your current job?

Family Law attorney with Langley & Banack, Inc.

How long have you been a member of the BCWB?

What's your best experience thus far?

I have been a member since 2001. My best experience was creating art work with some of the members' children that was auctioned off at the Bench Brunch. I was in charge of the day care for the brunch - and it was a great project for all the children to participate in.

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

I wake up at least an hour before anyone else, make the coffee and enjoy a cup before I have to interact with anyone.

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

Having a successful outcome in a recent jury trial.

What was your childhood dream job?

I wanted to be a fashion designer, then I saw LA Law and thought being a lawyer looked really cool.

Guilty Pleasure: What can you not live without?

Reality TV - especially the Real Housewives franchise - I watch them all!

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

"Put your Big Girl Pants on and Deal with It!"



From the March luncheon, pictured from left to right: Lindsay Riley (Secretary & luncheon co-chair), Speaker Laura C. Mason (Past-President, 2011), Christine E. Reinhard (Past-President, 2010) & Meagan McKeown (luncheon co-chair)

Color of Justice Program



By Justice Rebeca C. Martinez

Many thanks to the BCWBA for its continued support of the Color of Justice Program (COJ), a community program founded by the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ). The COJ aims to educate, encourage, and motivate students from local high schools, colleges, and universities to consider a career in the law and judiciary. In partnership with St. Mary's University School of Law and the San Antonio Bar Association, the COJ anticipates hosting hundreds of young women and minorities in high school, colleges, and universities throughout South Texas this summer. BCWBA's continued support and participation ensures the program's success.


This spring, NAWJ scheduled two COJ programs. The first was held at St. Mary's University on March 22-23, 2016, as part of programming for Women's History Month. The program included an inaugural program, From Bar to Bench, aimed at inspiring and educating female attorneys to pursue a career on the judiciary. The second event will be hosted by Texas A&M University on April 27, 2016. A promotional

flyer is included in this newsletter. Please note the BCWBA logo included on the flyer.

COJ programs include presentations by female attorneys and judges on topics related to career choices, preparing for law school, the legal profession, and practical advice for success. The April program will include a judge's panel and practitioner's discussion panel. BCWBA members are invited to serve as speakers and panelists for COJ programs. We need speakers

from a diversity of personal and professional backgrounds. If you have a recommendation for a speaker or panelist, please let me know.


If you have questions, wish to join our participant list, or require additional information, contact Justice Rebeca C. Martinez at 210-335-2693 or rebeca.martinez@txcourts.gov or Catherine Casiano at 210-431-5011 or ccasiano@stmarytx.edu.



The National Association of Women Judges presents:


Color of Justice Program


Encouraging Diversity in the Bar and Judiciary



Wednesday, April 27, 2016
 Texas A&M University San Antonio
 Main Campus, Central Academic Building
 Room 402 (Vista Room)

Panel of Judges, Lawyers and Law Students Discussion of Education and Career Prep. Presenters include State and Federal Judges, Law School Faculty, Attorneys and Students sharing personal and professional experiences in pursuit of a legal career.





**Law as a Career:
 Preparing the Way**
From 10:00 am – 11:15 am




**The Color of Justice:
 Making a Difference**
 [Judges Panel & Lunch]
From 11:30 PM – 1:30 PM

**Getting Real with the
 Bench & Bar**
From 1:45 am – 3:00 pm

Registration and box lunch is FREE!
 Space is limited, so register today!

For more information, contact [TAMUSA point of contact] or
 Justice Rebeca Martinez, NAWJ Director
rebeca.martinez@txcourts.gov, 210-335-2693.

With additional support from:

BCWB Lites



Lisa Barkley and Emma Cano, longtime BCWBA members, are pleased to announce the formation of their new law firm, Jefferson Cano Allison Barkley, PLLC, doing business as Jefferson Cano. With a combined 110+ years of litigation experience, the attorneys of Jefferson Cano offer top-notch litigation expertise, client service, innovative thinking and invaluable legal counsel to clients facing complex business disputes. Jefferson Cano focuses on a broad range of commercial litigation matters. For more information, visit their website at www.JeffersonCano.com.

JEFFERSON CANO

Dykema Cox Smith Associate
Melanie Fry and her husband
welcomed their second child,
daughter Hanna Elise Fry, in
February.

Dykema Cox Smith Associate
Summer Bruington Greathouse
and her husband welcomed
their second child, daughter
Everley Greathouse, in
February.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES

1001 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1138, Washington, D.C. 20036
T: 202 393 0222 F: 202 393 0125 W: www.nawj.org

The Color of Justice

A Career on the Bench and Bar—the Plan and Possibilities

*The National Association of Women Judges, St. Mary's University School of Law, and Bexar County Women's Bar Association, invite you to attend and participate in the **Color of Justice Program** scheduled on Wednesday, April 27, 2016, 10:00– 3:00 pm in the Vista Room at Texas A&M University, San Antonio, Texas.*

The purpose of the **Color of Justice Program** is to educate, encourage and motivate students from our local high schools, college and universities to consider a career in the law and judiciary.

Students will be attending this program to learn more about the legal profession. The program focuses on education and career preparation, panel discussions with judges and lawyers sharing personal and professional insights, and small group discussions during box luncheons. Students will have an opportunity to meet and talk to attorneys and judges in an informal setting. During the presentation, Judges will discuss why they chose the judiciary as a career, their role and responsibility, and the challenges and rewards of their profession. Attorneys will share personal and professional experiences related to law school and to their practice in different areas in the law, including practical advice for success.

We ask ourselves: "who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous"? Actually, who are you not to be?

—Nelson Mandela, 1994
Johannesburg, South Africa

For additional information, please contact **Justice Rebeca Martinez**, NAWJ Director, at 210-335-2693 or rebeca.martinez@txcourts.gov; or **Catherine Casiano**, St. Mary's Law Career Services, 210-431-5011, ccasiano@stmarytx.edu.

Book Reviews



By Lisa Alcantar

I've been on a long reading hiatus. I checked out a series of must-read books from the library and, one by one, I let the time lapse without reading a single word. This year is off to a running start and it honestly has felt too self-indulgent to spend any of my spare time reading. And, then, I realized, like I do, that reading is my essential "me time"—no less important than going for a run or gardening (my waist line wishes I would choose running). Like the first workout after a long break, picking up my first book of this year, took some actual effort, but left me replenished. I randomly chose and read three books back to back. Quite possibly the most different books I could have picked, and yet, they all have central characters who are isolated.

First up, I read Jim Shepard's *Book of Aron*. Published in 2015, *Book of Aron* follows Aron, a 13 year old Jewish boy and his family in the Nazi-era Warsaw ghetto. Aron is and has been for much of life a disappointment to his family. Even before his family moves to Warsaw, he never seems an integral part of

his family, but stands apart as an observer. He finds a quasi-family by joining a gang of children in smuggling needed food and goods. Because Aron remains so apart from his family and quasi-family throughout much of the novel, the brutality of life in Warsaw is communicated bluntly, lacking much of the normal emotive descriptions. As the novel progresses, Aron's story collides with that of Dr. Janusz Korczak (a fictionalized interaction with a real-life hero) and his orphanage. In the orphanage, Aron ceases for the first time in his short life to be alone. This book was no less devastating for its brevity.

I then read Colm Tóibín's *Brooklyn*, which was made into an Oscar nominated film (which I have yet to see, because ... two kids). *Brooklyn* tells the story of Eilis Lacey as she finds herself unexpectedly swept from her life in Ireland to Brooklyn, steered by her glamorous older sister Rose. Just like the first book, I felt an emotional disconnect from Eilis for much of this story. Eilis simply floats through the book, carried on by outside currents—whether her sister or her fellow boarders. Arriving in America, Eilis has to make choices all her own and establish her own vision for life. It takes her a while, and it took me a while to be caught up in this book. But when the book hit that magic spot, I was just swept up in this story; it was both endearing and heartbreaking to watch Eilis make her choices—the inevitably closing of one door, opening of another,

unexpected path. Tóibín's novel left me wanting to know so much more of Eilis. Let's read, watch the movie, and compare notes! Is that ever fair?

I finished out the week with *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal. *Kitchens* tells the story of Eva, a phenomenal hipster chef who hosts exclusive supper clubs, through the stories of the people in her life. These chapters don't necessarily reveal how the character is (if, at all) still connected to Eva, but the closing of this book brings it all together. It is a strange, but very sweet book. There were characters' chapters I wished would end sooner and others that left me longing for the rest of that character's story. This is a perfect beach read.

Congratulations to the following BCWB members who were elected to the San Antonio Bar Foundation Fellows Program Class of 2016:

Nancy Belinsky
Justice Luz Elena Chapa
Tiffanie Clausewitz
Marissa Helm
Judge Lisa Jarrett
Justice Rebeca Martinez
Aida Rojas

2016 President's Party Photos

