



Equal Times®

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

MAY 2010

From the President

By Christine Reinhard

For some reason, May has snuck up on me. I just can't believe it is here already. For me, May harkens the beginning of summer, the end of the school year, and of course, a time to thank all the moms out there for their endless support and love. (Yes, I'm talking about my own mom!) This month, we are fortunate to have another article in our newsletter by ileta Sumner celebrating motherhood. It is a touching tribute I encourage you all to read.

We are pleased to announce that the BCWB will once again fund the Single Parent Scholarship to be presented at the upcoming San Anto-

nio Bar Association/ Foundation Law Day Lunch. This will be the 15th year the BCWB has funded this scholarship, and one we hope to be able to continue to do so for many years to come. The purpose of the scholarship is to help defray additional expenses incurred by a single parent enrolled at St. Mary's University School of Law. We hope you will congratulate this year's recipient to be revealed at the May 7th Luncheon.



In April, we were fortunate to be a part of two other Law Day activities – our own Law Day Lunch with Fox Tech High School (con'd on p. 3)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| BCWB and Fox Tech Celebrate Law Day | 2 |
| Save the Date: Annual Retreat | 3 |
| ileta Sumner: Mother's Tribute | 4 |
| Community Service Corner | 5 |
| Communications Committee | 5 |

BCWB and Fox Tech Celebrate Law Day

By Marissa Helm, BCWB Secretary & Law Day Committee Chair

On April 6, 2010, the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation hosted a luncheon at the Plaza Club for the female law-magnet students at Fox Tech High School. As the students and members of the BCWBF enjoyed a buffet luncheon, Chief Justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals, Catherine Stone translated this year's Law Day theme—Law in the 21st Century: Enduring Traditions, Emerging Challenges—into easily accessible parables. Using everyday examples, such as illegal music downloading and access to life-saving healthcare treatments, Chief Justice Stone helped the students see that their generation will be faced with important legal issues we have not even considered yet.

Prior to the luncheon, students were invited to participate in the Law Day poster contest, depicting their perspective on this year's Law Day theme. A Fox Tech senior, Jon Garcia, was awarded a cash scholarship for his first-place poster, inspired by news stories regarding child abuse. Jon explained his poster is intended to remind us that child abuse is an ongoing legal problem in the 21st Century for San Antonio and Texas as a whole.

After the luncheon, the students stayed to visit with the practicing lawyers. The students asked questions about higher education, work/life balance, compensation, working while going to college, and student loans. Speaking with the women of the BCWB is truly an invaluable opportunity for the Fox Tech students to find out what it is really like to go through law school and practice law in San Antonio. The benefits are also felt by the women of the BCWB, who always enjoy this opportunity to meet San Antonio's next generation of leaders.



Law Day chair Marissa Helm with Chief Justice Catherine Stone and a student representative from fox Tech High



BCWB Director Michelle Weekley with students from Fox Tech High School



From the President (con'd)

students featuring Chief Justice Catherine Stone and the Federal Bar Association's Annual Pizza Lunch also with Fox Tech students. Both events were quite successful. I thank all our members who took time out their very busy days to share their insight and guidance with these students.

In keeping with our efforts to connect with the community, we are pleased to welcome Angela Dominguez, the Principal of the newly founded SAISD's Young Women's Leadership Academy, to our May luncheon. Ms. Dominguez will speak about her own struggles and how this new Academy is working to provide local students with the skills and hope to pursue their own college dreams. Please note that our luncheon will be on Wednesday, May 5th back at Club Giraud (not Tuesday, May 4th). We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Our next big event this year will be our annual Retreat & CLE. It is scheduled for June 17 and 18, 2010 at the JW Marriott. Last year, we brought back the retreat to a resounding success,

thanks to our Past President Carol Jendrzey. This year should be no different. Not only can you gain some much-needed CLE, but you will have the opportunity to network with many of our fine members and friends of the BCWB. Please see the save the date announcement in the newsletter and keep an eye out for more information to come.

With the Wills Clinic successfully under the oversight of the CJP, we are now looking for new ways in which the BCWB can contribute to the community. If you have any new legal service ideas, please let any of our Board members know.

Finally, before closing, I must thank Priscilla Camacho for organizing a terrific President's Party. I had such a great time catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. And the food was deliciously outstanding! I thank everyone who attended and look forward to attending as a past President next year. Last, but definitely not least, I wish all the mother's out there a very happy Mother's Day!

Mom, Mommy, Mama, Ma: A Rose by Any Other Name Would Still Be As Sweet!

by ileta A. Sumner

By now, many of you know of me as the woman who harps about the American Heart Association's February "Go Red for Women" campaign. That is when those afflicted with heart disease spread the word that heart disease is the #1 killer of women, not breast cancer or anything that has to do with a cold speculum and our feet hoisted strangely up in the air. Nope, I don't think I want to go down as that girl. I would prefer to be remembered as a mommy.



Yep, I want to go down in the annals of history as a mom, even though both of my sons, BOTH, said DA-DA first! Am I the only one? I recall the first time I changed the boys' diapers. You might recall that my mom had 2 girls; my sis who was 18 years older than me had 2 girls; my niece had 2 girls. Me? I got 2 boys...what the heck do you do with BOYS?!?! Well my friends, especially those of you expecting your first Y-chromosome offspring, you DO NOT smile a big open mouth smile while changing a diaper...that's doubly true if you have an overhead fan blowing. That's a mistake ONCE, believe me!

After your maternity break, you can't wait to see your friends, show off pics of your little wonder of the world (who other people are trying to figure out if "it" is a boy or a girl (after 10 or 12 "ohhhh, it's sooo sweet!" you'll catch on!), and so on. Well, after I returned back to work, I had a very important dinner function to attend and at which a nationally known attorney from San Antonio would speak. A locally hot lawyer introduced Jay and me to this famous person and you know what he says? He gives me the once over, turns 90° and says, "So, Mr. Sumner, where do you practice?" Okay, I'll give him the fact that Jay was wearing "the uniform," (khaki pants, white shirt and red tie); nonetheless, my hubby saved the day. Jay says, "oh, ileta is MY counsel. We have a new baby, so I'm 'Mr. Mom' and she earns our living." Wasn't that sweet?

Not long after that I was getting gas at Fort Sam. When we didn't have children, it was easier to get gas there for we either worked out at the gym there or bought our groceries at the commissary. This older gentleman came over to me and said, "I haven't seen you in a while. Who are these guys 'Joshua' and 'Jayson' on your back window?"

"They're my sons," I replied.

"Yeah, Yeah," he responded slowly. "In fact, the last time I saw you, you were pregnant...VERY pregnant."

I didn't have the heart to tell the old officer that both of my kids are ADOPTED!

Happy Mothers Day to all moms, daughters, sons, grandmas, single dads, pet owners and those of us who have lovely memories of Mothers Days Past...

Community Service Committee Corner

By Michelle Weekley

This month, an article in the April issue of *Ladies Home Journal* caught my eye. It was about a former elementary school teacher from Boling, Texas, who saw first hand the poverty some of her students lived in and with. She decided to start helping them with something as simple as a new pair of pajamas, one thing many of our kids take for granted, where many of these kids never had new pajamas, if at all. She held the drive to benefit her local Child Protective Services for the children who were taken away from families or brought there for various reasons. It is amazing how something so simple can make such a difference in a child's life!

So this month, with the help of *Ladies Home Journal*, I have three ways for you to help make life just a little brighter for a child in need:

1. Collect suitcases, bags and backpacks and donate them to our Local Child Protective Services. Many kids they service carry their belongings in trash bags.
2. The organization "Walk Me Home" hosts a 5 K event nationwide to help raise money for foster-care associations – visit walkmehome.org to find out about a fund-raiser near you – or maybe, just maybe, we have some of our own membership that would be willing to go out on a limb to help set up one here?
3. Mentor or tutor a child who has been placed in foster care. You can do it virtually through the online program vMentor. You can learn more about this program at casey.org/getinvolved.

And there you have it. Three relatively simple ways to make a difference in a child's life.

As always, if you know of a community service event that is coming up, please don't hesitate to contact me, Michelle Weekley at ruttan03@sbcglobal.net so that we can keep our membership updated on all the wonderful opportunities they can get involved with.

TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING: Throughout the years, many of us have come to possess various items related to the BCWB. If you have any of these items and wish to get them off your hands (or out of your office, garage or attic), please feel free to contact our President Christine Reinhard at creinhard@sr-llp.com or 210-447-8034. We are working on creating an inventory of BCWB items and determining the best place and method to store them for future use or need.

Communications Committee Update: Website Assistance Needed

By Connie Basel and Toti Walia

If you are interested in volunteering on the communications committee, we are looking for individuals with website and website design experience to assist in updating/maintenance of our BCWBA website. It is an extremely user-friendly site, and any one with a little time to learn the instructions could assist in this project. Our goal is to update news, events, pictures, and publicize all the wonderful projects our membership and organization is up to on a consistent basis.

If you would be interested in being a member of the communications committee and assisting with this endeavor, please contact Connie Basel at (210) 798-8137 or Toti Walia at (210) 733-8191 for more information. Our next committee meeting will be the second week of May. Thank you!!