



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The mission of the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation is "to protect and promote the well-being of Bexar County and other Texas families through legal, charitable and humanitarian services." Community service continues to be an important part of the Bexar County Women's Bar and our activities, as we work to fulfill this mission each year.



Laura C. Mason

The BCWBF's Community Service & Projects Committee, chaired by Lorie Blount, is providing a number of ways to volunteer this year. On May 10th, BCWBF members will have the opportunity to provide legal services through the San Antonio Bar Association's Community Justice Program ("CJP"). The CJP provides evening clinics, during which complete legal services are provided, including attorneys, district clerks, notaries, interpreters and judges working on a volunteer basis. The CJP provides legal services in three San Antonio neighborhood locations – the Texas RioGrande Legal Aid office near downtown, St. Mary's Center for Legal and Social Justice on the west side and the Wesley Community Center on the south side. Please see the separate article in this newsletter for details on how you can volunteer for our May 10th clinic.

The BCWBF also continues serving our community through publication and distribution of the Bexar County edition of the *Elder Law Handbook*. This valuable resource provides guidance to many elderly individuals in our area. If you know of someone who could benefit from the *Elder Law Handbook*, please refer them to our website at www.bexarcountywomensbar.org, to download a free copy in either English or Spanish.

We'll work together as an organization to raise money for a local charity when we hold the 2011 Autumn Affair at the Witte Museum on October 13th. We will be selecting this year's charitable recipient in the coming months. If you know of a worthy organization that you'd like to nominate, please contact Suzanne Oliva or Gaylia Brurson, who are co-chairing this year's Autumn Affair. Whether or not you have an organization to nominate, we hope you'll participate in a committee as we plan the Autumn Affair. The BCWBF has raised over a \$1 million for Bexar County charities through the Autumn Affair (formerly Bench Brunch) over the years, and we aim to grow this number this year with help from our members.

Whether through the May 10th clinic, the *Elder Law Handbook*, the Autumn Affair, or other opportunities presented throughout the year, we have the ability as an organization to improve our community. Please engage this year and help the BCWBF fulfill its mission.

MAY 2011

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BCWB and FoxTech Celebrate Law Day Luncheon

By Monica Lerma



Monica Lerma, Law Day Luncheon Committee Chair

On April 6, 2011, 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, criminal attorney Cynthia Orr shared captivating stories about defending unpopular clients to promote justice and defend the Constitution for everyone.

At the luncheon, the BCWBF also awarded four well-deserving students with cash prizes for their submissions in this year's Law Day Contest. The winners were:

1st Place: Stephanie Cruz and Adelind Sifuentes

2nd Place: Clarissa Beltran

3rd Place: Rosalinda Mitchell

Each of these young ladies put considerable thought and effort into their submissions and best exemplified this year's Law Day theme: Explore how lawyers in the past and present promoted justice by defending unpopular clients.

Thanks to everyone who stayed after the luncheon to visit with the students. We hope you can make it out again next year to show your support for these great students.



Stephanie Cruz, Monica Lerma, Adelind Sifuentes & Rosalinda Mitchell

Luncheon Announcements

May 4th Luncheon

Please join us on WEDNESDAY, May 4th at Club Giraud, 12 pm, as we welcome Traci Gomez, Michelle Muniz and Julia Anderson from the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas. The Children's Bereavement Center provides specialized support to grieving children, their families and their communities. Learn how you can use this valuable resource in both your personal life and in your practice. Please RSVP by Friday, April 29th. You can RSVP on the website, or by emailing mgiltner@prdg.com or lalcantar@prdg.com.

June 8th Luncheon

Please join us on WEDNESDAY, June 8th for the monthly BCWB luncheon held at Club Giraud. We welcome Dr. Martha E. Leatherman, M.D. Dr. Leatherman is a board-certified psychiatrist with a specialty in geriatrics. She will discuss issues relating to capacity that you may encounter in your practice. CLE credit is pending. Please RSVP by Friday, June 3d. You can RSVP on the website, or by emailing mgiltner@prdg.com or lalcantar@prdg.com.

Community Services Column

By Lorie Blount



Lorie Blount

Greetings, all members of BCWB. It's hard to believe that May is already here. This month, there are some community service events that you may find of particular interest. Get involved and support our wonderful community with these charitable activities!

Bet Against Cancer Casino Night! The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Come join your friends for a fun evening at the Bet Against Cancer Night on Thursday, May 12th, 6:30 pm, at the Witte Museum! The evening will consist of Casino Tables, Texas Hold 'Em Tournaments, silent auction, live music by the Scrounge Lizards, private tours of the Amazon Exhibit, prime rib catered dinner and an open bar! Please come join this event to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the children of our legal community that are fighting blood cancer!

As you may know, the LLS is the world's largest voluntary health organization dedicated to funding blood cancer research and providing education and patient services. Founded in 1949, it is relentless in pursuit of the mission: Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. LLS activities include: investing in blood cancer research, providing critical information and support for patients and their families, and helping to support children in our community fighting blood cancer. The need is critical. An estimated 957,902 people in the United States are living with, or are in remission from, leukemia, Hodgkin lymphoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma or myeloma. Every four minutes, someone new is diagnosed with blood cancer. Every 10 minutes, someone dies. Leukemia causes more deaths than any other cancer among children under the age of 20.

LLS made 4.7 million contacts with patients, caregivers and healthcare professionals in fiscal year 2010, through its Information Resource Center (IRC), award winning Web site, and community-based patient service programs. LLS provides financial aid to any blood cancer patient who requests. Also, LLS invested more than \$750 million in research, approximately \$72 million in fiscal year 2010 alone. Research funded by LLS has led or contributed to advances such as chemotherapy, bone marrow and stem cell transplantation and new, targeted oral therapies.

Please support this wonderful event for LLS! To purchase tickets and tables or get more information about the event, please see <http://sctx.mwoy.llsevent.org/casinonight> and the attached table sponsor entry form.

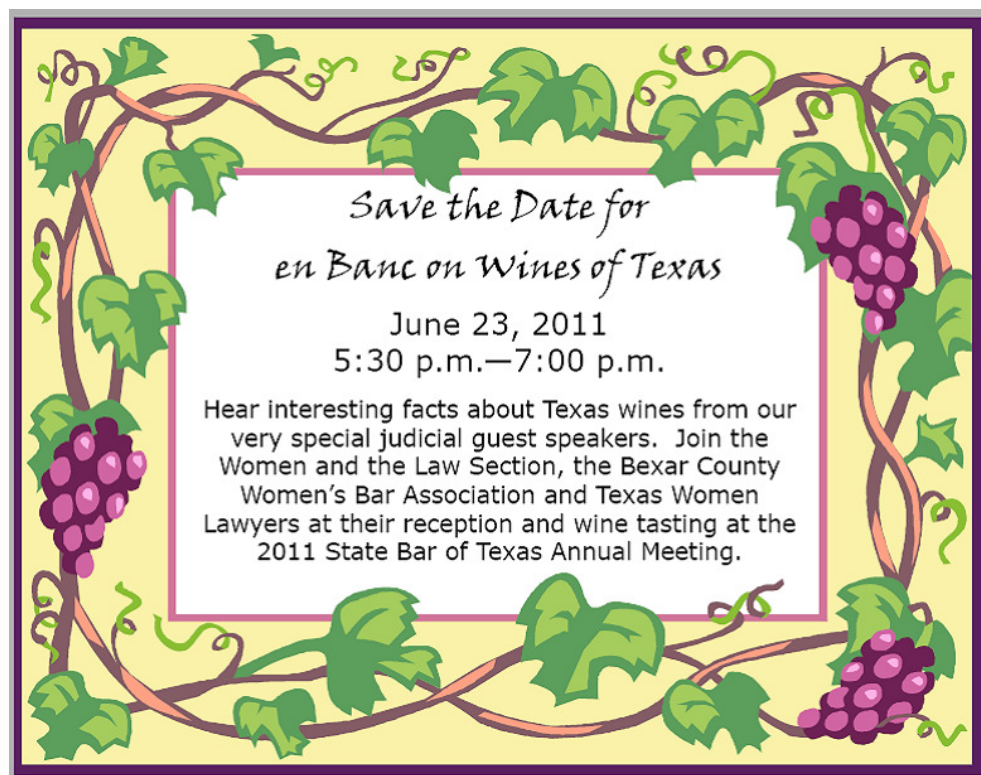
Mothers Against Drunk Driving - Walk Like MADD. The signature 5k walk/run for Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Walk Like MADD, is a fun, community-driven event that raises funds to save lives. The San Antonio ceremony takes place this year on Saturday, May 14th, at 9:00 am, with the walk/run beginning at 9:30 am at Brackenridge Park-Joske Pavilion. Every step taken and pledge made will help raise funds and awareness for MADD's programs and services to make our community safer. Walk Like MADD offers corporations, individuals and families the unique opportunity to enhance the health and safety of our communities.

Participants can support MADD, a 501(c)(3) non-profit grass roots organization, by securing walk pledges or general donations from family members, friends, neighbors and colleagues. In addition, family and friends are encouraged to walk in memory or in honor of their loved ones. Register for this event and help MADD's mission to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime, and prevent underage drinking. For more information, check out www.walklikemadd.org/sanantonio. (con'd on next page)

Community Services Column (con'd)

Reminder - Join BCWB in Volunteering for the CJP. Looking for a rewarding experience? Have you been feeling like you want to do more for the community? Do you need CLE hours? The BCWBA Community Service Committee seeks volunteers to participate in the San Antonio Bar Association and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid's Community Justice Program ("CJP") on May 10, 2011 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Texas RioGrande Legal Aid office, at 1111 N. Main Ave., downtown. We need your support for this important event. Join us and provide free legal services to individuals who may not otherwise have access to the legal system.

As a volunteer, you will likely be assigned to an uncontested divorce case. You do not need to be a family law attorney to volunteer! Before the clinic, the CJP prescreens each case to confirm it is uncontested. On the night of the clinic, the CJP provides you with sample documents needed for your case, a page by page orientation, and an army of people to assist with issues you may need help on. In short, CJP is a great opportunity to engage in pro bono work within a comprehensive and efficient clinic setting. Plus, as a CJP volunteer, you are entitled to receive five free CLE hours, including one hour of ethics. To "Just Take One" pro bono case, RSVP to Lorie.Blout@uhs-sa.com. Your participation will help open the doors of the courthouse to those in need. We look forward to seeing you there!



BCWBA—Lites wants to hear from you!

BCWBA is interested in news of your professional accomplishments or activities, awards, marriages, changes of address, or other news you would like to share. Also, if you know any BCWBA member who is not receiving *Equal Times*, please send us a current address. BCWBA wants to stay in touch. Email your new information or announcement to Regina Stone-Harris at ReginaStoneHarris@yahoo.com.



Suzanne Oliva



Gaylia Brunson



Tiffanie Clausewitz

Save the Date and Beneficiary Nominations: BCWBF 2011 Autumn Affair

By Suzanne Oliva & Gaylia Brunson

Please mark your calendars for the 2011 Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation Autumn Affair, taking place on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at the Witte Museum. We are busy planning the BCWBF's signature fundraising event, putting together the committees, and soon will be choosing our potential beneficiary.

We need your help to identify potential beneficiary applicants for this premier fundraising event! Now through June 1, 2011, we are asking members for the names of potential applicants. We will continue our traditional focus on charitable organizations whose purpose is compatible with our mission—helping women and children in our community.

So, if there is a deserving organization that you believe would benefit from receiving funds from this year's BCWBF Autumn Affair, please send us the name of the organization, as well as a contact name and address. If you are unable to identify the correct contact person, we will be happy to help. Only nominated organizations will be sent applications.

If you are interested in helping us make the Autumn Affair an event to remember by volunteering on a committee, please contact either Suzanne Oliva (875-4646 or oliva@satx.rr.com) or Gaylia Brunson (gayliadb@yahoo.com). We're looking forward to hosting a great event! Thank you so much for helping to make this year's Autumn Affair a success!

Last Call for 2011 BCWB Renewals!

By Tiffanie Clausewitz

Have you renewed your BCWB membership for 2011? In the next few weeks, we will be sending an email to all previously-registered BCWB members who have not renewed their membership for the 2011 year. That email message will provide you with instructions and a direct link to membership renewal on our website. On June 1, 2011, all members who have not renewed their membership will be moved to "inactive" status, and will no longer be sent newsletters, announcements, or invitations from the group.

If you would like to go ahead and renew your membership now, please visit our website at <https://www.bexarcountysomensbar.org>. Click on the "About Us" pull-down menu, then click on "Membership." If you have any questions, contact Membership Coordinator Katherine Patton at Membership@bexarcountywomensbar.org.

Update your Profile! Have you updated your membership profile lately? Please confirm we have your most recent information in our database! To access your profile, go to: <https://www.bexarcountysomensbar.org> and log in. Click on the "Member Center" pull-down menu, and then click on the link under "Update Your Member Profile Today!"

Women's Law Association Update

By Teresa Reyes-Bonar

This spring semester has flown by! It's already that time of year again: finals are underway! April was a particularly exciting month for WLA. We elected the 2011-2012 executive board. The new officers are: Victoria Bongat (President), Alison Williams (President-Elect), Jenny Zarka (Vice-President), Alyse Haugen (Treasurer), Kristen Hunter (Secretary) and Liz Gutierrez (Alumni Chair). We hosted our end of the year happy hour at Fatso's Sports Garden on April 7 and then the headed over to Paloma Blanca for our traditional 'Old Board/New Board' exchange dinner. It gives the outgoing officers and newly elected officers an opportunity to get to know one another better and pass along any helpful information regarding officer positions. I am confident this fantastic group of women will continue to make WLA an outstanding organization at the law school.

I am pleased to announce that WLA was able to make end of the year charitable contributions this year to three charities. The charities are Morgan's Wonderland, the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (San Antonio Chapter), and a national literacy program.

As my time as a law student and with WLA comes to an end, I want to thank everyone at the BCWBA for the opportunity to get to know you and work alongside you. It has been an exciting opportunity and a privilege to be a part of your executive board. I have been a part of WLA since my first month as a law student so it is bittersweet for my time with the organization to come to an end. I look forward to seeing you all again soon!



Teresa Reyes-Bonar
President,
Women's Law Association



WLA board of directors: Liz Gutierrez, Jenny Zarka, Alison Williams,
Victoria Bongat, Alyse Haugen & Kristen Hunter



WLA "Old Board/New Board" exchange dinner

BET AGAINST CANCER Casino Night



LEUKEMIA &
LYMPHOMA
SOCIETY®
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WITTE MUSEUM - MAY 12, 2011
Proceeds Benefitting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

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Name of Organization: _____
Representative: _____
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Telephone #: _____ Email Address: _____

_____ \$1500 - ROYAL FLUSH SPONSOR – Table of 10; \$4,000 worth of chips for each
Attendee; Champagne at the table.

_____ \$1250 - STRAIGHT FLUSH SPONSOR – Table of 10; \$3,000 worth of chips for each
Attendee; Wine at the table.

_____ \$1000 - FOUR OF A KIND SPONSOR – Table of 10; \$2,000 worth of chips for each
Attendee; Wine at the table.

In recognition of this Sponsorship, the following name(s) should be used at the event:

METHOD OF PAYMENT

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Credit Card Payment: _____ Please charge the following credit card in the amount of \$_____
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Exp Date _____ V Code: _____
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\$_____ Online Donation: <http://sctx.mwoy.llsevent.org/KimT>

Please return form to:

Kim Tindall
KIM TINDALL & ASSOCIATES
645 Lockhill Selma
San Antonio, Texas 78216

ktindall@ktanda.com If you have questions, please call Kim Tindall at (210) 697-3400.

THANK YOU!