



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The BCWB has been working hard to plan fabulous activities throughout the year. April was a busy month for our organization and it was great to see so many of you join us for our various events. We kicked off the month of April with our first book club gathering, hosted by Gaylia Brunson. Under Gaylia's leadership, we look forward to continuing the book club throughout the year with several more gatherings. Keep an eye out for Gaylia's announcement regarding the next book club selection.



Emma Cano

The BCWB also hosted its annual Law Day Luncheon with the Fox Tech High School students. The students had a great time. Our local poster contest winner even earned second place at the state bar level! Thanks to Hella Scheuerman for spearheading the wonderful event. Later in the month, Connie Basel and Brittany Wild worked with Julian Gold to plan the perfect party to kick off Fiesta. It was well attended and was a great time for all.

If you missed out on the festivities, don't worry, there are plenty more events to come. If you are looking to give back to our community, we are looking for volunteers to help "Just Take One" at the BCWB's Night at the CJP Clinic. You might even win a prize for volunteering! And, of course, we'd love to see you at our monthly luncheons, or at any of our informal "Around Town" lunches.

Also, on June 7 and 8, be sure to join us in Fredericksburg for our retreat, The Art of Practicing Law...In Heels! It promises to be a wonderful retreat as Judge Renee McElhaney has done a splendid job planning the retreat, and we are almost sold out! Don't worry, there is still room, and we are trying to get some additional slots opened up, but you need to act fast. All in all, it has been a great year so far for the BCWB! And, it will no doubt continue to be a great year ahead! See you soon.

Upcoming Events:

- May 2: BCWB Monthly Luncheon at Club Giraud
- May 8: BCWB CJP Night
- May 17: Around Town Luncheon @ W.D. Deli on Broadway
- June 5: BCWB Monthly Luncheon at Club Giraud
- June 7-8: BCWB Retreat in Fredericksburg

MAY 2012

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Fiesta at Julian Gold!

By Connie Basel and Brittany Wild

On April 19, 2012, Julian Gold and its excellent staff, opened its doors exclusively for BCWBA. The event had a pre-fiesta theme and featured margaritas, appetizers, and wine to enjoy while our members shopped the store's contemporary collections and beautiful spring fashions. The spring trends encouraged us to experiment with vibrant colors, like tangerine and coral, on everything from shorts to shift dresses, as well as bold prints in ladylike silhouettes.

In attendance at the event were District Attorney Susan Reed, District Judge Karen Pozza, the Honorable Justice Sandee Bryan Marion, the Honorable Justice Karen Angelini, and numerous BCWB members. The evening concluded with the drawing of a \$200 gift certificate to Julian Gold, which was claimed by Tiffanie Clausewitz. Julian Gold is long renowned for providing the Alamo city with some of the most up-to-date and sought-after designer wear. As touted on the store's website, it is "the one store with the best of everything." Many, many, thanks to the wonderful hospitality of Julian Gold for hosting the evening.



Connie Basel



Brittany Wild





Maurleen Cobb



Monica J. Lerma



Lisa Alcantar

Save the Date & Beneficiary Nominations: BCWBF 2012 Autumn Affair

By Maurleen Cobb & Monica J. Lerma

Mark your calendars for the 2012 Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation Autumn Affair, taking place on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at the Witte Museum.

We are finalizing our committees and would love to have your help planning our signature fundraising event. Our monthly meetings will be held at the following dates and location:

Meeting dates:

Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Tuesday, July 10, 2012
Tuesday, August 14, 2012
Tuesday, September 11, 2012
Tuesday, October 2, 2012
Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Meeting Location:

PULMAN, CAPPUCCIO, PULLEN & BENSON, LLP
2161 NW Military Highway, Suite 400
San Antonio, Texas 78213
Telephone: (210) 222-9494

~ Help Us Nominate a Beneficiary ~

Now through Wednesday, May 9, 2012, we are accepting nominations from our membership for Autumn Affair Beneficiaries. We encourage nominations to focus on charitable organizations whose purpose is compatible with our mission—helping women and children in our community.

If you believe there is a deserving organization that would benefit from receiving funds from this year's BCWBF Autumn Affair, please email Monica J. Lerma at mjlerma@sr-llp.com with the name of the organization, as well as the organization's contact name and address.

If you are interested in helping us make Autumn Affair an event to remember by volunteering on a committee, please contact Autumn Affair co-chairs, Maurleen Cobb (210) 378-8945 or Monica J. Lerma (210.464.7408). We're looking forward to hosting a great event! Thank you so much for helping to make this year's Autumn Affair a success!

June Luncheon Announcement

By Lisa Alcantar

Please join us at Club Giraud on Tuesday, June 5, as we welcome leading security expert Dan Cornell of Denim Group. Dan will discuss Security and Privacy Concerns for the 21st Century Lawyer. Our iPhones, Blackberries and laptops are not going away, but you may not be aware of the security risks they pose to your clients' privacy. Come learn how to guard against these risks! RSVP by Friday, June 1, 2012 by clicking here or emailing events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Cost is \$25 (\$15 for students), payable online or at the door. For more information, contact Lisa Alcantar (lalcantar@prdg.com) or Denise Drake (ddrake@coxsmith.com). We hope to see you there!



Tiffanie Clausewitz

Judicial Spotlight: Chief Justice Catherine M. Stone

By Tiffanie Clausewitz



**SPOTLIGHT
ON**



Q. Tell us a little bit about your history as an attorney and then judge.

A. I graduated from law school and was fortunate to work for one year as a briefing attorney at the Fourth Court of Appeals. I then worked for more than 8 years at a personal injury litigation firm, then known as Watkins, Mireles, Brock & Barrientos. I had great mentors at the firm. As I had more children, I felt the need for more flexibility in my schedule, so I opened my own solo firm in 1991, which I maintained until I was appointed to the Fourth Court by Gov. Ann Richards in March of 1994. Throughout my practice I specialized in appellate law, and have been board certified in civil appellate law since 1987. I have been a justice on the Fourth Court since 1994, and have been the chief justice since January 1, 2009. I am currently serving a two-year term as the chair of the Texas Council of Chief Justices, affectionately known as “Chief of the Chiefs”.

Q. Did you always know you wanted to be a lawyer and a judge? What inspired you to make these decisions?

A. No, for many years my plan was to join the foreign service and see the world as a representative of the US government and people. I did consider law school during my senior year in college, so after I married a Texan and moved from New England to East Texas, I again thought of law school. By then I knew that Texas was as foreign a land as I would ever live in, so I decided on law school. For me the legal profession offered the perfect mix of intellectual challenge, social justice, and financial independence.

Q. Tell us about your history with the Bexar County Women’s Bar and other women’s organizations, and the impact you believe such organizations have on their members and the greater community.

A. I first joined the BCWBA in about 1985 when I was in practice with the small PI firm. I felt somewhat out of place because the association seemed to have more members from large firms. JoChris Lopez was instrumental (and inspirational) in keeping me on the membership rolls. The Women’s Bar, along with other women’s groups I belong to (National Association of Women Judges, SA 100, Jan King’s Power Women, Olga Brown’s Lucky Girls) are life-giving groups that provide inspiration from the many talented women who overcome odds, reinvent themselves when necessary, and understand the experiences of women professionals who raise families and bring home the bacon, too.

Q. What have you learned from your spot on the bench about women as legal advocates?

A. The female legal advocates I see are highly motivated, multi-talented multi-taskers. They are organized, generally in-tune with their clients and family, and very professional. Huge generalization, but sometimes women take questioning or losing more personally than men. (con’d on p. 5)

Judicial Spotlight: Chief Justice M. Stone (con'd from p. 4)

Q. I know how important it is to you to mentor young women in the legal community. Who have been your mentors and role models over the years?

A. My most immediate mentors were the women of my large extended family: grandmothers and aunts, in particular. These women raised their families and worked every day in factories and offices until well into their 60s. My mother was a very smart and talented woman who struggled with alcohol addiction, so I learned a lot from her...some great examples of what to do, and other examples of what not to do. My school teachers were smart and encouraging women who lifted me up and instilled in me a desire to achieve academically. In the legal practice, I have long admired women like Jane Macon, Sue Hall, Rose Spector, and Polly Jackson Spencer.

Q. I remember when I was serving as your briefing attorney and pregnant with my youngest child, you provided invaluable advice to me about the importance of children seeing their mothers go to work for their families and excelling at what they choose to do—be it inside the home or out. Did you struggle with the “elusive” balance all moms seek? How did you prioritize and keep things in perspective?

A. Struggle with the “elusive” balance between profession and child-rearing? Are you kidding? I fear that I will end up in hell, which will consist of forced viewing of an endless loop of all my “monster mom” moments! It is a great challenge to balance both professional life and motherhood, but millions of us do it every day and we can learn from one another. Having a great husband as a partner in the adventure is a priceless gift that makes the journey so much easier. My two mantras that I have tried to keep in the forefront are: (1) family first; and (2) I can have it all, but not at the same time (which goes right back to “family first”).

Q. Tell us a few of your favorite things.

A. **Book?** I played hooky in 9th grade to finish the last 200 pages of *Gone With the Wind*; I cried through *Cry My Beloved Country*; and I cheered for Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Movie? Anything from the Twilight Trilogy (of course not!!). I watch two versions of *Pride and Prejudice* every year; I enjoy *Chocolat*; and I love, love, love, *Love Actually* (particularly the closing credits which include a montage of candid shots of people greeting their loved ones at airports).

Restaurant? That changes all the time: currently I am enjoying Gourmet Burger Company, Perrico's, and Grey Moss Inn. And of course, the summer isn't complete without lobster at Huot's at Camp Ellis Beach, Maine and blueberry pancakes at The Maine Dinner in Wells, Maine.

Pastime? Getting riled up about politics with my husband (we're right, the others are... misguided), hanging out together with our sons (and daughter-in-law and grandson), reading, and playing tennis.

Q. If you could give one piece of advice to up and coming female attorneys, what would it be?

A. Never ever compromise your personal sense of fairness or your integrity. You are smart and competent, otherwise you would not have made it through law school, so there is no need to stoop to low levels. If something doesn't seem right, speak up and do what you can to tactfully change the situation, or if necessary, walk away from it. (con'd on p. 7)



Lorie Blount

**JOIN US FOR THE MAY
AROUND TOWN LUNCH!**

When:
Thursday, May 17, 2012 @
Noon

Where:
W.D. Deli, 3123 Broadway,
San Antonio, TX 78209

*Order at the counter and then
join us upstairs!*

Join BCWB in Volunteering for the CJP: Tuesday, May 8, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

By Lorie Blount

Looking for a rewarding experience? Have you been feeling like you want to do more for the community? Do you need CLE hours? Want to get lucky with an awesome gift card drawing? Now is the time!

The BCWBA Community Service Committee is seeking volunteers to participate in the San Antonio Bar Association and Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid's Community Justice Program ("CJP") on May 8, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA), 1111 North Main Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78212.

The CJP provides free legal services to individuals who may not otherwise have access to the legal system. As a volunteer at the upcoming CJP family law clinic, you will likely be assigned an uncontested divorce case, but you do not have to be a family law attorney to volunteer. Before the clinic, the CJP prescreens each case to determine it is uncontested. On the night of the clinic, the CJP provides you with sample documents that you may need for your case, a page by page orientation, and an army of people to assist you. 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 1 hour of ethics. Also, all BCWB volunteers at the CJP clinic will be eligible to win a SpaFinder Gift Card. The drawing for two gift cards will be done at the clinic!

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!

The CJP's history, mission, and the legal services it provides to our community:

The mission of the Community Justice Program is to support legal representation for indigent residents of San Antonio. A closely related purpose is to provide local attorneys with the opportunity to engage in pro bono work within a comprehensive and efficient clinic setting. With each case an attorney takes through the CJP, many more Bexar County residents have received the important legal help they needed but could not afford! The CJP welcomes individual attorneys to volunteer, and highly encourages firms or legal organizations to "adopt" a clinic night each year and send as many attorneys as they can.

The CJP accepts uncontested civil matters including: divorce, name changes, simple landlord/tenant disputes, probate matters and wills. Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA) prescreens each client before they come to the clinics to determine their eligibility for the program. Each client must be below certain federal poverty guidelines in order to be accepted by TRLA.

The family law clinics are held at TRLA and the Wesley Community Center. These clinics provide complete legal service for uncontested civil matters (mostly simple, uncontested divorces) including attorneys, district clerks, notaries, interpreters, support staff, and judges (all working as volunteers).

The clinics at St. Mary's Center for Legal & Social Justice are Wills Clinics, which provide wills and ancillary documents for low-income individuals. We are pleased to have recently added three new, different kinds of clinics. The Veterans Clinic at the Audie L. Murphy Veterans Hospital serves indigent veterans in an advice-only setting about a wide variety of legal issues. This clinic also prepares wills for the veterans. The clinic at Haven for Hope helps homeless individuals clear warrants that are preventing them from (con'd on p. 7)



Hella Scheuerman

Law Day Recap

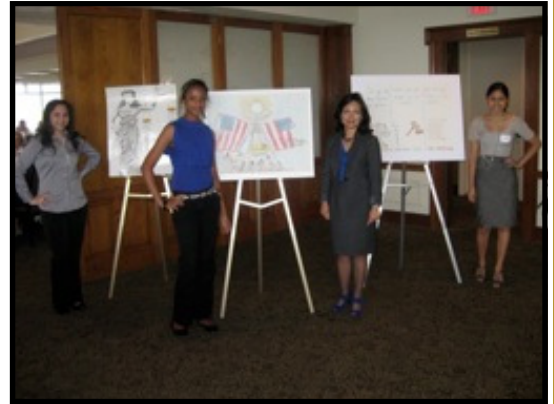
By Hella Scheuerman

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our local Law Day luncheon on April 3 at the Plaza Club. We had a great turnout of members and Fox Tech High School students and teachers.

One of the Law Day entries submitted on behalf of Bexar County Women’s Bar won second place in the statewide poster contest! Rosalinda Mitchell placed second in the statewide poster contest. She was the first-place winner in the BCWB local law day contest. As second place winner of the statewide Law Day contest, Rosalinda will attend the Law Day Celebration on Tuesday, May 1, at the Texas Law Center. She will be honored with a short ceremony, luncheon and tour of the Texas Capitol.

BCWB Law Day Winners for the poster contest with Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl.

From left to right: Adelind-Iris Settles Sifuentes, second-place winner; Rosalinda Mitchell, first-place winner; Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl; & Stephanie Cruz, third-place winner .



Join BCWB in Volunteering for the CJP (con’d from p. 6)

breaking the cycle of homelessness. The Special Education clinic is an advice-only clinic for parents of special needs children who are trying to understand their rights when navigating the school system.

The program is designed to allow attorneys from any area of practice the opportunity to participate. This is possible because of dedicated mentors who are assigned to each clinic, except for those at Haven for Hope and the Special Education clinics – those two usually have experienced criminal defense and special education issues attorneys, respectively. These mentors guide the attorneys through their cases from start to finish.

Judicial Spotlight: Chief Justice Stone (con’d from p. 5)

Chief Justice Catherine M. Stone was born and raised in Maine. She received her bachelor of arts degree, magna cum laude, in foreign affairs from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts. She attended St. Mary’s University School of Law, where she served on the law journal and the legal research board, and received her juris doctorate in 1982.

Justice Stone served as a briefing attorney at the Fourth Court of Appeals for Justice James Baskin and Justice Pete Tijirena before entering private practice. She was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to fill a vacancy on the Fourth Court on March 24, 1994, and has been elected three times to serve six-year terms on the court, most recently as Chief Justice in 2008.

Justice Stone is an active member of various state and local bar associations, civic and church groups, and community associations. She has received numerous honors and recognitions, one of the most recent being the St. Mary’s University School Law Distinguished Alumni Award. Justice Stone and her husband, Dr. Tom Stone, live in Helotes and are the parents of three sons.

AVANCE Mother of the Year Luncheon: Honoring Judge Polly Jackson Spencer

AVANCE's annual Mother of the Year Luncheon will be held at Valero Energy Corporation on Thursday, May 10, 2012. The proceeds from this annual luncheon support the AVANCE programs that have become a mainstay in the lives of many in our San Antonio community. For the past 39 years, AVANCE-San Antonio has provided parents and young children the support and education to achieve their personal and educational goals. Families in San Antonio have been strengthened and their lives have turned into real success stories. AVANCE parents learn skills needed to prepare their children for success in school and in life. AVANCE's parents want their children to have a better life and to succeed but they need support and guidance to become more loving, nurturing and supportive of their children.

This year AVANCE is proud to announce that the **Honorable Polly Jackson Spencer, Probate Court 1**, a woman of extraordinary volunteer service to the San Antonio Community, will be the recipient of the 2012 Mother of the Year Chairman's Award. This award is given to an individual who exemplifies the essence of the AVANCE program, the ideals of strong family values and civic responsibility. Judge Spencer exemplifies these values that AVANCE instills in parents and children and we look forward to honoring her at our luncheon.



We sincerely hope that you can attend and help honor Judge Spencer. Sponsorship opportunities are still available, and individual tickets are \$100.00. To RSVP for the event, or to get additional information, please contact Rebecca Cervantez at (210) 220-1788, Ext. #223.

The good old days at home sweet home

By Marge Piercy

On Monday my mother washed.
It was the way of the world,
all those lines of sheets flapping
in the narrow yards of the neighborhood,
the pulleys stretching out second
and third floor windows.

Down in the dank steamy basement,
wash tubs vast and grey, the wringer
sliding between the washer
and each tub. At least every
year she or I caught
a hand in it.

Tuesday my mother ironed.
One iron was the mangle.
She sat at it feeding in towels,
sheets, pillow cases.
The hand ironing began
with my father's underwear.

She ironed his shorts.
She ironed his socks.
She ironed his undershirts.
Then came the shirts,
a half hour to each, the starch
boiling on the stove.

I forgot bluing. I forgot
the props that held up the line
clattering down. I forgot
chasing the pigeons that sat
on her billowing housedresses.
I forgot clothespins in the teeth.

Tuesday my mother ironed my
father's underwear. Wednesday
she mended, darned socks on
a wooden egg. Shined shoes.
Thursday she scrubbed floors.
Put down newspapers to keep them clean.

Friday she vacuumed, dusted, polished,
scraped, waxed, pummeled.
How did you become a feminist
interviewers always ask,
as if to say, when did this
rare virus attack your brain?
It could have been Sunday
when she washed the windows,
Thursday when she burned
the trash, bought groceries
hauling the heavy bags home.

It could have been any day
she did again and again what
time and dust obliterated
at once until stroke broke
her open. I think it was Tuesday
when she ironed my father's shorts.



You're invited to 

Bexar & Webb County Women's Bars' Retreat in Fredericksburg:

The Art of Practicing Law . . . in Heels!

Build your legal skills. Build your practice.
Build friendships.

June 7th-- Thursday evening reception/dinner/CLE
June 8th--Friday CLE
Fredericksburg Inn and Suites
CLE/Room/Meals: \$240 for single room; \$180 double room

You won't want to miss the
*2012 Bexar County Women's Bar and Webb
County Women's Bar Retreat*

in Fredericksburg
at the Fredericksburg Inn and Suites
(right off Main St.).

Our theme is:

"The Art of Practicing Law . . . in Heels"
with up to 5.5 hours of CLE credit

The Retreat begins on Thursday, June 7th
at 6:00 p.m. with a reception, dinner, and
round-table discussion

We will continue the next morning, Friday
June 8th, with fabulous legal education
from 8:00a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

(one night away, and plenty of time to shop
Friday after we're done!)

*Cost: All inclusive (one-night stay;
Thursday evening reception & dinner;
Friday breakfast, break & lunch; up to 5.5
hours of CLE):*

Single Room with one King bed: \$250

Double Room with two Queen beds: \$200

Register by contacting Renée McElhaney
at 210-289-9753 or rfmcelhaney@gmail.com
or by registering online at the BCWB
website: <http://bcwba.memberclicks.net>

Retreat Schedule

Thursday:

6:00-7:00—Reception
7:00-9:00--Dinner and Book Club
(discussion led by Justice Simmons)
9:00-??--Lounging Lady Lawyers
(Wine and conversation)

Friday:

7:30-8:00--Breakfast
8-8:30--The Art of Practicing Law . . . in Heels (Chief Justice Stone)
8:30-9:00--The Art of Marketing . . . in Heels (Heather Tessmer)
9-9:30--The Art of Prof'l Relationships . . . in Heels (Sara Dysart)
9:30-10:30--The Art of Litigating . . . in Heels (Judge Panel)
10:45-11:15--The Art of Management . . . in Heels (Victoria Garcia)
11:15-11:45--The Art of Negotiating . . . in Heels (Laura Tamez)
11:45-12:15--The Art of High Ethics . . . in Heels (Maurleen Cobb)
12:15-1:30--Look Who's Coming to Lunch: The Martians!
(What Every Male Attorney Wishes He Could Tell His Female
Colleague/Opposing Counsel--About The Practice Of Law--But
Simply Can't!!) (Judge Victor Negrón/Richard Loza/Jim Monnig)