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President's Message

Each year, the Bexar County Women's Bar supports the St. Mary's University School of Law Single Parent Scholarship. The recipient of the scholarship is someone who has the additional responsibilities of a single parent who finds the time to participate in pro-bono work. The award is traditionally presented at the San Antonio Bar Association and Foundation Law Week celebration. The

purpose of the scholarship is to help defray the additional expenses incurred by a single parent enrolled in the School of Law at St. Mary's University. With this year's recipient receiving the award in May, the month of Mothers, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce our membership to this year's deserving recipient, Melina Rodriguez.



Melina was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She left high school early at age 17 to marry and have her first child. At age 26, armed with her GED and (con'd on p. 2)

May Luncheon: Recent Developments in Oil and Gas Law

Please join us on May 3 to welcome Peter E. Hosey. Peter is a partner in Jackson Walker LLP's Real Estate and Energy practice group. He has been involved in general business transactions, acquisitions, and other matters for over 35 years. Peter advises clients concerning all aspects of exploration, production, transportation, processing, sale, and marketing of oil and gas and other natural resources. He is very active representing clients in the Eagle Ford Shale. He works extensively in the Marcellus Shale in New York, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. He is

Board Certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law.

Peter will provide an update regarding recent developments in oil and gas matters in Texas. He will address recent court decisions and practical ways to incorporate these decisions into legal practice. Approved for .75 CLE hours.

When: Tuesday, May 3, 2016

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.

RSVP: Club Giraud needs a headcount well in advance of the luncheon, so please RSVP by April 28. You can 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).

Law Day Recap

By Hella Scheuerman,
Brittany Weil & Serina
Rivela

We had a great Law Day Celebration at our luncheon at the Plaza Club on April 5, 2016! Justice Rebeca Martinez gave an excellent interactive presentation to our members and the Young Women's Leadership Academy students, as they discussed this year's Law Day Theme: *Miranda*, more than words.

During the luncheon, we presented student awards to the first, second and third place winners of the Editorial, Photo and Poster Contests. The names of the first place winners of each

contest were later submitted to the State Bar Contest. We just learned that two of the students submitted by BCWBA placed in the State Bar Contest! Congratulations to Gabby Jacobo who placed second in the State Bar Photography Con-

test and Linda Yates who placed First in the State Bar Poster Contest! Thank you to all of our members for supporting Law Day and the partnership we have with these students at the Young Women's Leadership Academy.



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

four children, she and her husband moved to Texas. Shortly thereafter, they divorced, and Melina began her focus on higher education. She graduated from San Antonio College in 2012 and UTSA in 2014. Two days after graduation, she started work at a Judicial Services Record Company.

Melina attends the Law School's evening program while still balancing her work obligations. She welcomes the busy family life

of rearing her four children between the ages of 7 and 17. As if that is not enough, she recently took in another child who was experiencing problems at home. Her pro-bono service includes providing legal help to veterans, assisting with identity theft recovery, and participating at Ask-A-Lawyer events. She has a strong desire to help those who are the most helpless in society. Her heart is in public service and she currently leans toward a career in

indigent defense and poverty law.

Melina's journey to St. Mary's was not an easy path. She has accomplished great success along the way as a single parent. Melina will be sitting with BCWB members at the Law Week luncheon on Wednesday May 4, so please be sure to congratulate her! To all Moms, have a Wonderful and Happy Mother's Day!

BCWB Annual Retreat: June 9-10, 2016



By Laurie Weiss

Outstanding CLE Program ...
Excellent Speakers ... Friendship and Fun

We are very excited about this year's Annual CLE and Retreat. The Program is ready to share! Visit our Retreat Page for all the details or see the program included in this newsletter.

Our speakers are an impressive group of women, drawn from the judiciary and multiple practice areas, to bring you a variety of timely topics and interactive discussions, including the following topics:

Effective Communication and Advocacy Skills

Social Media

Intersection of Immigration and Family Law

Ethics

Handling High Profile Litigation

Table Topics Addressing Your "Boerne-ing" Questions

Invite your non-member friends and take advantage of free friends' membership for the remainder of the year by emailing Lisa Alcantar at lalcantar@prdg.com. Register today, as space at Ye Kendall Inn is limited. 7.0 hours CLE pending. Register now!

Book Reviews



By Lisa P. Alcantar

Bull Mountain: Published in 2015, *Bull Mountain* is Brian Panowich's debut novel. Set in the mountains of Georgia, the novel spans three generations of the Burroughs family's dominion over Bull Mountain. The Burroughs' fiefdom survives on illegal trade—first moonshine; later weed and meth. The story centers around the current generation of Burroughs—Clayton, the outcast of the family, is a local

Sheriff; and Halford is the current head of the crime syndicate. Although the Burroughs are "mountain folk," they have largely avoided federal investigation and they run a sophisticated operation. All of that is brought into jeopardy as a federal agent works to shut down the Burroughs' operation.

I felt so strongly familiar with the place of Bull Mountain that I had to check Panowich's writing history to make sure I had not read some prequel to this novel, or the novel itself. I hadn't, but I remain convinced I must have seen a movie about this place. My vague googling of "movies made in Georgia" have yet to produce results.

This book is violent. I had been forewarned of the brutality and I found it no worse than *No Country for Old Men*. I sped

through this book in about a day. I found the characters, and particularly the way they were shaped by their history, to be compelling. With the caveat that if violent books are your thing, I would highly recommend this novel.

Sisterland: I'd never heard of author Curtis Sittenfeld, until I read a review of her recently released *Eligible*, a modern retelling of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. I settled for *Sisterland* because *Eligible* was not available. *Sisterland* is the story of identical twin sisters, Kate and Vi, who have innate psychic abilities. Vi has embraced those and makes her living as a medium. Kate, a suburban mom of two, has abandoned her abilities.

Sidenote: As I read Sittenfeld's book, I was (con'd on p. 7)

Member Spotlight: Durime Fahim



What's your current job?

I am an associate attorney at The Law Offices of Lisa A. Vance, P.C., where our primary focus is family law.

How long have you been a member of the BCWB?

I joined as a 1L in law school. This marks my 4th year as a member.

What's your best experience thus far?

A group of attorneys from Pakistan came and spoke about their experiences as the first group of female prosecutors in their province. It was extraordinary to hear about their law practice as well as the stereotypes and barriers they overcame.

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

I am very much a morning person and have an insane amount of energy (much to my husband's chagrin). While I get ready for work, I let my dogs (4 and counting) out while I run through emails, sip coffee and let Good Morning America run in the background - I love Robin Roberts. I try to read a positive quote or twelve to get my mind right for the day ahead.

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

I had a client who was in a custody battle with her former boyfriend, who had filed a SAPCR asking for sole managing conservatorship of their daughter. Throughout the ordeal her Dad had been her rock, but after The Rule was invoked, he was prevented from being present during the proceedings. I became her confidant as well as her counselor. The stakes are high in family law and each is an emotional journey. After hours of preparation, restless nights, and several days of trial, she was named primary joint managing conservator. She thanked me for our firm's help, and when it was her Dad's turn, he caught me off guard when he expressed his gratitude that I was able to take care of his daughter with her legal dilemma and

help her navigate a tumultuous emotional time. He told me how scary it was being on the outside of the courtroom, but the fact that he knew I was taking care of his girl made it bearable.

What was your childhood dream job?

A mix between a paleontologist, an astronaut, and a rock star.

Guilty Pleasure: What can you not live without?

Unique shades (eyeglasses and sunglasses) and my pups.

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

Be nice to everyone. Even when someone is sour, you don't know what they've been through that day. Be nice to everyone because this person could one day be your colleague or your boss. Be nice to everyone because the legal profession is small and your career is long as are people's memories.

The other piece of advice I repeat to myself daily (and especially on those days when things are not going the way I wanted them to): Remember that everything will be fine in the end, if it's not fine then it's not the end.

Color of Justice Program



By Justice Rebeca C. Martinez

On April 27, the Color of Justice Program, hosted by the National Association of Women Judges, presented a program at the

campus of Texas A&M University - San Antonio (TAMU-SA). We had over 80 individuals participate, including 43 middle school students from Joel C. Harris Academy (SAISD) and university students from TAMU-SA.

We were delighted to have as among our distinguished jurists, U.S. District Court Judge Alia Moses, one of only two women serving in the Western District, who came all the way from Del Rio to participate. Also participating were Bexar County District Court Judges Laura Parker, Lorina Rummel, and Lori Valenzuela, as well as Municipal Court Judge Clarissa Chavarria and the Honorable Cathy Torres-

Stahl. Attorneys included Angelica Jimenez (judicial candidate), Dominic Negron (civil rights attorney), Lauren Horne (BCWBA Board Member), Cathy Casiano (St. Mary's Law Director of Recruitment & MABA Board Member), Erica Giese (Chief of the SA Division of U.S. Attorney's Office -WDTX), and Michael Gibbs (V.P. and General Counsel for Whataburger).

Thank you to the BCWBA for promoting this event and to Lauren's participation as a panelist. It's always inspiring to hear about our colleagues' personal and professional experiences in their pursuit of becoming a lawyer.



Restaurant Review: Grayze



By Lauren Horne

Full disclosure: when a dear friend invited me to lunch at a hot, new gastropub he had recently acquired a minority ownership interest in, I was excited, but nervous how I would tell him if I didn't like it. Thankfully, I loved it. In fact, I've already been back for dinner and happy hour.

Grayze, located at 521 E. Grayson St., east of Broadway between Alamo and Austin streets, offers a modern take on classic dishes at affordable prices. The atmosphere is casual, the staff is friendly, and the food and cocktails are simply amazing. I loved, in no particular order, the meat-loaf sliders (complete with mashed potatoes right on the slider), poblano poppers, curry soup, shrimp n' grits, and grilled cheese on buttered sourdough served



with tomato marmalade and grain mustard. I'm looking forward to returning for their new Sunday brunch.

For more information about Grayze on Grayson, be sure to check out its website: www.grayzeongrayson.com.



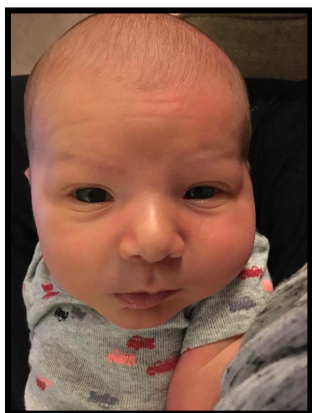
Book Reviews (con'd from p. 3)

struck by how well the author (who I assumed was a man) captured motherhood of small people; only to google and discover Curtis Sittenfeld is a Ms. This book is long and at times meandering-as a reader you spend a lot of time in Vi and Kate's

childhood and young adulthood. As a reader, I was far more interested in the present story. I found the novel compelling and gripping, when it wasn't off wandering in the past. I would rank this as a good vacation read. Not terribly deep or com-

plex, but entertaining. Based on a lot of reviews, I have already added *Eligible* to my San Antonio Library wish list, though I may have to revisit *Pride and Prejudice* for a fair review.

BWBA Lites



Mary Lisa Mireles welcomed the birth of a son, Tobias David Mireles, on March 31.



Lindsay Scaief Riley welcomed the birth of a son, Luke Steven Riley, on April 8.



Jillie Gordon Foerster welcomed the birth of a daughter, June Elizabeth Foerster, on April 21.



Gaylia Brunson completed the 2016 Spartan Sprint as a Super Finisher.

A Huge Thanks to
our Generous
Donors

We couldn't do it
without you!



Depo Texas

Lisa Barkley and Jefferson Cano

Kim Tindall

7.0 hours CLE pending

2016



Bexar County Women's Bar
Annual CLE & Retreat
Your "Boerne-ing" Questions

June 9-10
Ye Kendall Inn, Boerne, TX

Thursday, June 9

3:00 – 5:00 pm: Check-in ... relax ... reconnect

5:00 – 6:00 pm: Welcome Reception

6:00 – 7:30 pm: Dinner
Effective Communication and Advocacy Skills – Part I
Facilitated by Susan Kilgore

7:45 – 9:15 pm:
Effective Communication and Advocacy Skills – Part II
Total of 1.75 hours CLE (Parts I and II)

9:15 pm - ?
The Evening is Yours - Catch up and Comaraderie!

Friday, June 10

7:30 – 8:30 am: Breakfast
Update: New Sensitive Data Filing Rules
Hon. Rebecca Simmons, Assoc. General Counsel, Acelity
.5 hours CLE

8:45 – 9:30 am: Social Media – Minding your Manners
Debra Innocenti, Strasberger & Price LLP
.75 hours CLE, .5 Ethics

Friday, June 10

9:30 – 10:15 am: Intersection of Immigration & Family Law
Nancy Shivers, Shivers & Shivers
Heather Tessmer, The Tessmer Law Firm
.75 hours CLE, .25 Ethics

10:15 – 10:30 am: Break

10:30 – 11:30 am: Ethics Update
Nicole Jackson, Law Office of Nicole E. Jackson, P.C.
1.0 hours CLE, 1.0 Ethics

11:45 am – 1:00 pm: Lunch
Handling High Profile Litigation
Hon. Susan Criss, Criss & Rousseau, L.L.P.
.75 hours CLE, .25 Ethics

"Boerne-ing" Questions Addressed

1:15 – 2:45 pm
1.5 Hours CLE, .5 Ethics

Choose any Three Table Topics for Interactive and
Entertaining Discussions:

The High Stakes Plaintiffs' Lawyer, Lara Brock

Starting & Managing a Solo Practice, Sara Dysart

Notes from the Federal Trenches, Erica Giese

From Bar to Bench, Hon. Rebeca Martinez

The Many Hats of In-House Counsel, Mary Stich