



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Texas State Bar Annual Meeting will be held in San Antonio this month from June 23rd to June 24th. The Bexar County Women's Bar Association is participating year by year by hosting a joint reception with other women's law groups on June 23rd. Please see the details on the reception included in this newsletter. The reception will be a great opportunity to meet some other fabulous female attorneys from around Texas!



Laura C. Mason

In addition to the reception, having the State Bar Annual Meeting in San Antonio provides other opportunities for local continuing legal education and networking. Over 80 topics will be presented, from legal apps for lawyers with smartphones to substantive areas such as family law.

In reviewing the programs for the conference, I'm reminded of the many services the State Bar offers. I've included a description of a few of these programs from the State Bar's website and encourage you to obtain more information that may benefit you or your practice.

Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program (TLAP). TLAP is the State Bar's nationally-acclaimed program that helps members get back on track with a wealth of services and information for Texas lawyers suffering from depression, alcoholism, or other conditions.

Grievance and Ethics Information. Attorneys may call the State Bar's helpline if there is uncertainty about an attorney's ethical obligations in a particular situation.

Diversity Resources. The State Bar provides a variety of resources designed to help lawyers and law firms achieve opportunities for women and minority attorneys in Texas.

Advertising Review. The State Bar reviews and approves advertising, and also provides guidance on acceptable attorney advertising.

Resource Guides. The State Bar provides several resource guides on different topics, such as ethics, a new lawyer beginning practice, or a lawyer affected by troubled times.

I look forward to the BCWBA participating in the State Bar Annual Meeting this year, and hope to see you at the reception on June 23rd.

JUNE 2011

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Law Day 2001



Congratulations Monica Lerma!
This year's recipient of the San Antonio Young Lawyers Outstanding Young Lawyer Award
(photo courtesy of Kim Palmer)

Sister Grace Walle accepts the BCWBA Single Parent Scholarship from BCWBA President Laura Mason
(photo courtesy of Kim Palmer)



BCWBA attendees
Top left to right: Regina Stone-Harris, Greta McFarling, Tiffanie Clausewitz & Lorie Blount.
Bottom left to right: Sharon Brown, Christine Tharp, Laura Mason, Barbara Slavin & Katherine Noll.

Congratulations ileta!

On 26 April 2011, at Boston College Law School's Annual Law Day Award Ceremony, ileta A. Sumner received the Hon. David S. Nelson Public Interest Award in recognition of a career dedicated to public interest work. Judge Nelson, a graduate of Boston College (1957) and Boston College Law School (1960), became the first African American to serve on the Federal judiciary in Massachusetts, after a distinguished career in the private practice and as Chief of the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts. ileta was escorted to Boston by her 12 year-old (dying to be a teenager) son, Joshua.



Luncheon Announcement

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 3rd. 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. Summer is almost here! Many of us have already planned some wonderful vacations and are looking forward to enjoying time with our families and friends. Our children are very excited about being out of school for a couple months.

For some families, the summer months with no school in session creates a serious economic challenge in terms of feeding the children. The San Antonio Food Bank provides a summer food service program for school age children. Some information about the program follows. Please share this information with anyone who might benefit from the program.

San Antonio Food Bank's Summer Food Service Program. When school is out, low-income children lose their access to regular daily school lunches and breakfasts. These meals typically provide at least one-third and one-fourth, respectively, of the nutrients that a child needs during the school year. Because families can't meet this need, food banks report increases in requests for emergency food during the summer. The Summer Food Service Program fills this vacuum. It provides nutritious meals and snacks to children during this time. Meals are provided to the children free of charge.

On average, thousands of children in San Antonio receive free or reduced meals through their school's free or reduced meal program, however during the summer months thousands of children are left undernourished and hungry. To address child hunger in southern Texas, the San Antonio Food Bank has expanded its Summer Feeding program to provide children in rural areas with free meals throughout the summer. The underlying goal of the program is to promote healthy eating habits and development, by providing children with the nourishment required for adequate mental and physical health.

Who is being served? Children. The Summer Feeding program targets school-aged children under the age of 18. The meals are distributed to housing developments, summer camps, daycares, and on-site feeding programs that are dedicated to providing for San Antonio's less fortunate children. To locate a Summer Food Service Feeding site for your children to dine at, or if you know of someone who is in need of this service please call The United Way 211 Helpline.

BCWB Service at the CJP Family Law Clinic. The Community Justice Program ("CJP") family law clinic was held May 10th at the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid office. Many clients seeking legal assistance. Thanks so much to all of our participants: Lisa Barkley, Lorie Blount, Maurleen Cobb (serving as mentor), Justine Daly, Monica Lerma, Christine Reinhard, Barbara Caroline Slavin, Meagan Talafuse, Elena Villasenor, and Christine Tharp (serving as mentor). The CJP staff and, of course, the clients sincerely appreciate all of your assistance! Thanks to everyone who supported the Community Justice Program Family Law Clinic last month!



CJP family law clinic volunteers pose with Justice Sandee Bryan Marion & Judge Larry Noll



Suzanne Oliva



Gaylia Brunson



Tiffanie Clausewitz



Leslie Hyman

BCWBF 2011 Autumn Affair

By Suzanne Oliva & Gaylia Brunson

We are so pleased to let you know that the BCWBF Autumn Affair is Thursday, October 13, 2011, beginning at 6:00 pm at the Witte Museum.

This signature fundraising event will bring together the legal community for an evening of fun while we honor women judges and present the Belva Lockwood award to two outstanding members. Once again, proceeds of the event will be distributed to a deserving, non-profit group that is dedicated to improving the lives of women or children. Currently, we are in the process of receiving nominations for the recipient of the proceeds. If you would like to submit a nomination, please do so by June 4th to the attention of Marissa Helm at mhelm@coxsmith.com.

In addition, we invite you to sign up for an Autumn Affair committee. Whether you are new to the Bar or have been a member for over twenty years, assisting with this fundraising event is an excellent way to meet and work with other local lawyers and help deserving members of our community. We sincerely hope that you will take an active role this year. So, take a look at the following committees and let us know your preference at your earliest convenience: Decorations, Recipient, Fashion Show, Awards, Honorees, Invitations, Graphics, Publicity, Sponsorships, Historian, Dignitaries, Set-up, Take-down, Program, Silent Auction, and Raffle.

Also, if you have a silent auction or raffle item to donate, or would like to be a sponsor of the event, please e-mail Suzanne Oliva at oliva@satx.rr.com or Gaylia Brunson at gayliabrunson@gmail.com. With your help, this will be another successful Autumn Affair!

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 Noll 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!"

Leslie Hyman announces her new position at Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen & Benson, LLP. Leslie will continue her commercial arbitration/litigation and appeals and antitrust and trade regulation practices. Leslie plans to expand her bankruptcy practice. Leslie's new contact information is: Pulman, Cappuccio, Pullen & Benson, LLP, 2161 NW Military Highway, Suite 400, San Antonio, Texas 78213, office (210) 892-1601, mobile: (210) 289-9577, lhyman@pulmanlaw.com.



It WAS Man's World

By Ileta A. Sumner

As a homebound cardiac patient, I have more than my share of reading material in every media imaginable: books, blogs, pamphlets, newspapers, magazines, you name it. I've been reading Time® magazine since I was four (my sadistic dad's idea of fun!), love keeping current with *Entertainment Weekly* and *The National Enquirer*. Being the only girl in the house, I even anxiously look forward to the arrival of the monthly *Sports Illustrated*, so that I can understand just what the heck the rules are for an "in the park double" (which I still don't get, but at least I can fake it believably). However I never, ever, in my wildest dreams thought I would fall madly in love with a magazine called *Men's Health* which I had previously suspected was a mix of *Popular Mechanic* with *Playboy*® bunnies posing next to Ahh-nold wannabes glistening in baby oil as they grip dumbbells (the weights, not the girls). Yet much to my surprise, it is more a mishmash of *Cosmopolitan*, *marie claire*, *Self* and *Ladies Home Journal* – yes, I wrote LHJ – and goodness greatness, I LOVE IT!

The first part with which I fell in love was the recipe and dietary section. Who'da thunk a men's magazine would teach one to cook more than macho nachos, potato skins and buffalo wings? I found amazing recipes for curry chicken with cauliflower and green beans; spinach, goat cheese and fresh tomato pizza with a crust from scratch; and, a handy chart informing the reader which fresh foods besides bananas are chock-full of potassium (a must for cardiac patients) – did YOU know that potatoes with the skin has FOUR TIMES the amount of potassium than bananas? Me neither!

In addition to great food ideas, I have found great suggestions for dealing with the everyday world, ideas befitting both women as men. I learned that I should ask my pharmacist to provide my prescriptions in the manufacturers original packaging as the amber bottles with which we are accustomed allow in light and germs that will reduce the potency of the medication. Furthermore, I found out just how easy it is to be cyber-stalked while twelve pages later I discovered incredible ways to remove some of the nastiest stains on white clothes. Moreover, I read an article that validated my supposed fixation with washing my hands a gazillion times whenever I cook chicken for it is unimaginably easy to spread sickening salmonella germs onto your spices, refrigerator door and contents, microwave, cabinet doors, your whole house. And it wasn't just one month's worth of articles that just happened to be good – the very next issue told me when to throw out old vitamins, when a toothbrush is through, when to replace my mattress and creative hints for online passwords that you can actually remember. After devouring those articles, I was hooked!

You have to admit that you would expect to see such items in *Redbook*, but in a men's magazine? Fugged about it. But I kid you not. There are a ton of tidbits as well as lengthy articles that are truly enjoyable for the fairer sex. Now I am not denying that there was the scantily clad size 2 pictured here and there as well as the expected stories on how to get buff and toned. Nevertheless, even those articles included tips that any woman wishing to flatten her tummy a little or get rid of the "getting jiggy with it" flaps on her upper arms could adapt for her use.

So I issue this warning to Ms. Helen Gurley Brown, editor emeritus of the aforementioned *Cosmo*: You might want to check out the competition on the other side of the magazine aisle, for my money, I have more in common with what the writers in *Men's Health* shared with me than anything those twenty-somethings have to impart in *Glamour* or *Cosmopolitan* which had been my literary bible of choice when I was in college.

Yep, my lady friends, *Men's Health* is supposed to be a man's world, but this X-chromosome is fighting with her hubby to grab it out of our mailbox even though his name is on the label. Now, I am not coercing you to go out and buy it; nonetheless, if you should see an issue laying around your doctor's office, don't be hesitant to browse through it. As for me, I guess I'll do for my husband on Father's Day what he has done for me on many a gift-giving occasion: I'll get a subscription extension supposedly for him, just like the HDTV he put on our bedroom wall for Christmas was for me.

Well ladies, turnabout is fair play, don't ya think? Happy Father's Day to all the important men in our lives!



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monica J. Lerma Named Outstanding Young Lawyer of San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, TX – May 5, 2011 – Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is pleased to announce that Monica J. Lerma has been named the Outstanding Young Lawyer of San Antonio by the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association (SAYLA).

“We are very proud that Monica has been named the Outstanding Young Lawyer of San Antonio,” said Schmoyer Reinhard partner, Christine E. Reinhard. “Monica has not only served our clients but she is well on her way to making a lasting impact on the San Antonio community.”

SAYLA selects one attorney each year based on their professional proficiency, service to the profession, and service to the community. The recipient of this award will also be eligible for consideration for the Outstanding Young Lawyer of Texas Award sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyer Association, which will be announced during the State Bar of Texas convention being held June 23-24, 2011, in San Antonio.

Ms. Lerma received her award on May 5, 2011, at the Law Day 2011 luncheon which was organized by the San Antonio Bar Association and the San Antonio Bar Foundation.

Ms. Lerma’s practice focuses on the representation of employers in all aspects of employment litigation in state and federal court. Ms. Lerma also counsels and advises employers regarding compliance with labor and employment laws, as well as on workplace policy issues.

Prior to joining Schmoyer Reinhard LLP, Ms. Lerma was counsel in the San Antonio litigation section of the international law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. Ms. Lerma has 11 years of civil litigation experience. Her experience includes litigating claims involving commercial disputes, class actions, and claims brought under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act. Ms. Lerma has experience in all aspects of litigation in state and federal courts, arbitration and appeals.

Ms. Lerma received her B.B.A. in economics in 1997 from the University of Texas at El Paso and her J.D. in 2000 from the Boston University School of Law. While in law school, she was a note editor for the Public Interest Law Journal, a finalist in the Homer Albers Prize Moot Court Competition, and a semifinalist in the National Moot Court Competition. Ms. Lerma also coached



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Boston University's Hispanic National Bar Association Moot Court Team. During law school, Ms. Lerma served as an intern for the Honorable Tim Taft, Texas First Court of Appeals.

Ms. Lerma is a member of the State Bar of Texas and is admitted to practice in Texas and before the U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Western Districts of Texas and the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the 5th and 11th Circuits.

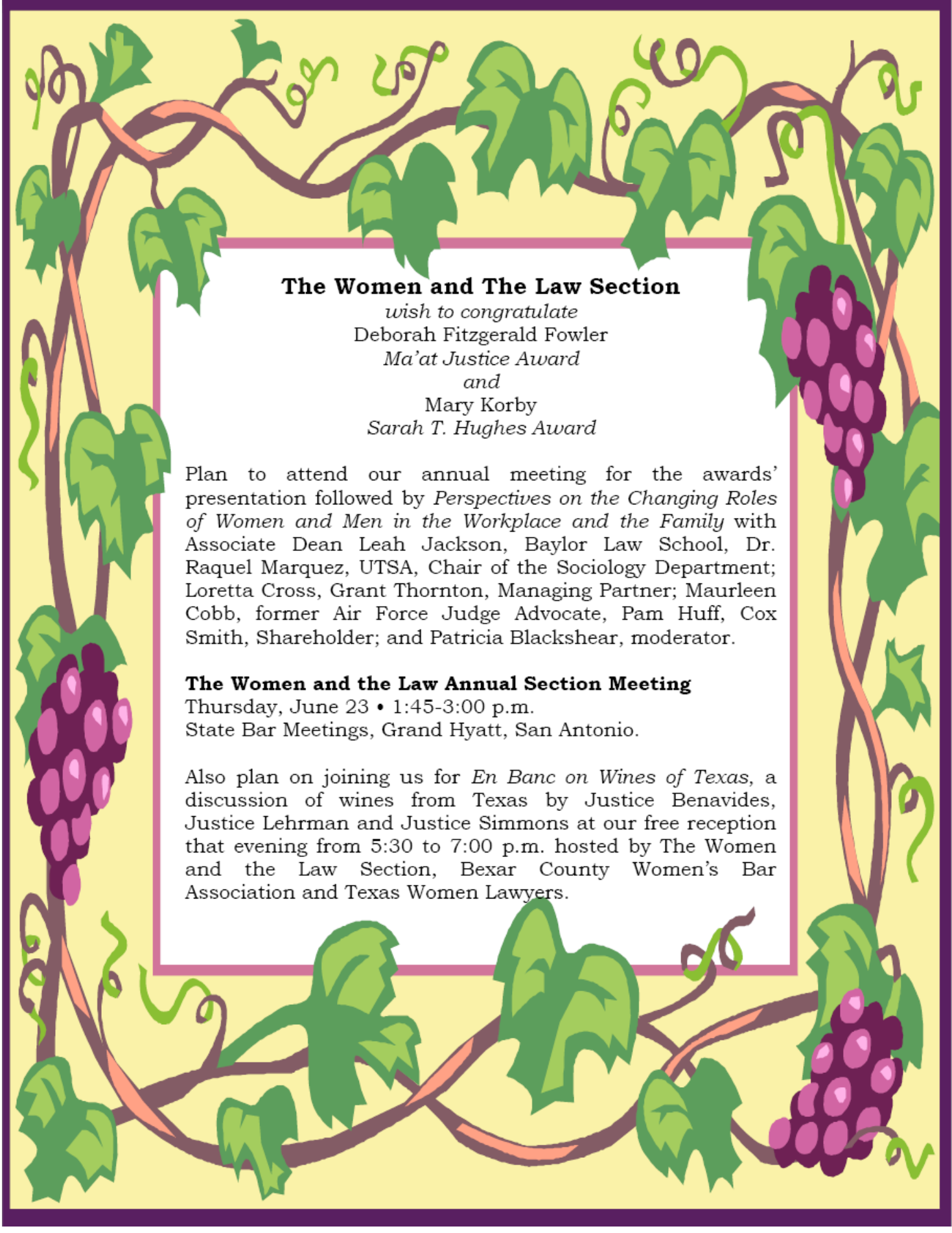
Ms. Lerma is actively involved in several community and professional organizations in the San Antonio area, including the San Antonio Bar Association and the Bexar County Women's Bar Association. She currently is Chair-Elect of the Board of Directors for the Rape Crisis Center and she serves as a Director of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association. Ms. Lerma was also a member of the Class XXXIII of Leadership San Antonio sponsored by the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

About Schmoyer Reinhard LLP

Schmoyer Reinhard LLP is a San Antonio-based law firm that focuses on advising and representing companies throughout the Southwest United States in labor and employment law and business litigation. Both founding partners, Shannon Schmoyer and Christine Reinhard, are Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, and all attorneys at the firm have experience counseling their clients on best practices to avoid litigation. When litigation does arise, Schmoyer Reinhard's qualified trial attorneys help to achieve the best possible result for the client.

For more information, please contact Christy Meador, director of marketing and account services, at Schmoyer Reinhard LLP, at 210.447.8033 or cmeador@sr-llp.com.

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The Women and The Law Section

wish to congratulate
Deborah Fitzgerald Fowler
Ma'at Justice Award
and
Mary Korby
Sarah T. Hughes Award

Plan to attend our annual meeting for the awards' presentation followed by *Perspectives on the Changing Roles of Women and Men in the Workplace and the Family* with Associate Dean Leah Jackson, Baylor Law School, Dr. Raquel Marquez, UTSA, Chair of the Sociology Department; Loretta Cross, Grant Thornton, Managing Partner; Maurleen Cobb, former Air Force Judge Advocate, Pam Huff, Cox Smith, Shareholder; and Patricia Blackshear, moderator.

The Women and the Law Annual Section Meeting

Thursday, June 23 • 1:45-3:00 p.m.
State Bar Meetings, Grand Hyatt, San Antonio.

Also plan on joining us for *En Banc on Wines of Texas*, a discussion of wines from Texas by Justice Benavides, Justice Lehrman and Justice Simmons at our free reception that evening from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. hosted by The Women and the Law Section, Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Texas Women Lawyers.