



EQUAL TIMES

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Memorial Day Weekend, the last day of school, a shorter commute and the rising temperatures can only mean one thing—summer is officially here! Despite how laid back San Antonio can be year round, you can always tell it is summer in San Antonio. People look a little more refreshed and less rushed than usual and most everyone looks forward to a vacation or simply enjoying a little downtime. And, this year, it is a particularly exciting time for our city as we cheer on the San Antonio Spurs in the playoffs. What an all-around great team: great players, both young and slightly less young—I refuse to call them old—and an incredible coach and staff. Their teamwork is outstanding and despite how good they are—they remain humble and act with the class and dignity that the San Antonio Spurs are known for. This organization is the real deal! I know what happens when people make predictions, so all I dare say is—Go Spurs Go!



Emma Cano

The beginning of summer also means the Bexar County Women's Bar is in full swing with activities for our members. We look forward to our retreat in Fredericksburg on June 7 and 8. With more than 50 people pre-registered, it will no doubt be a fun and energetic retreat. Also, planning is well underway for the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation's Autumn Affair scheduled on October 11, at the Witte Museum. If you haven't already signed up, our committee chairs would love your help planning this fabulous event. As anyone who has helped with planning our signature event before can tell you, it is a great way to get involved, meet new people, and have fun. May this summer be a relaxing, refreshing, and enjoyable one for all of you! See you soon!

Upcoming Events:

- June 5: BCWB Monthly Luncheon at Club Giraud
- June 7-8: BCWB Retreat in Fredericksburg
- June 21: Around Town Luncheon at Druther's Café (downtown)
- July 10: BCWB Monthly Luncheon at Club Giraud
- July 19: Central Market CLE: "Cooking with the Judges"

JUNE 2012

In this issue:

Belva Lockwood Award Nominations	2
BCWBF 2012 Autumn Affair	3
Judicial Spotlight: Judge Renée McElhaney	4
Patricia Diaz Dennis: WAL's Sarah T. Hughes Women Lawyers of Achievement Award Recipient	6
Women's Law Association Update	8



Priscilla Camacho



Carol Jendrzey



Lisa Alcantar

Belva Lockwood Award Nominations

By Carol Jendrzey and Priscilla Camacho

At Autumn Affair, BCWBF will present two distinguished female attorneys with the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer and Outstanding Young Lawyer awards. To that end, we are accepting nominations for these awards. Please submit your written nominations for either award by June 8, 2012 to Carol Jendrzey at Carol.Jendrzey@kci1.com. After the close of nominations, nominees will be contacted directly and asked to complete the application.

Please consider the following guidelines for the nominations:

- The recipients must be current members, in good standing, of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association.
- Attorneys licensed to practice 7 or more years as of October 10, 2012 will be considered for the Outstanding Lawyer Award.
- Attorneys licensed to practice less than 7 years will be considered for the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award.

In selecting the recipients, the Committee will consider:

- Contributions to the community including charitable and volunteer work, appointed or elected offices.
- Membership and board involvement in community organizations.
- Contributions to improve the status of women in society and in the legal profession.
- Contributions to the legal profession, as well as experience, reputation and standing in the legal community.
- Contributions to the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Foundation and its projects.

Because of our desire to honor all women at Autumn Affair who have achieved high honor by their ascent to the judiciary, sitting judges are not eligible for the Belva Lockwood Award. Also, members of the selection committee are ineligible.

July Luncheon Announcement

By Lisa Alcantar

Please join us at Club Giraud on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 as we welcome Lauren McLaughlin of Strasburger & Price. Lauren will give a presentation entitled "Estate Planning and Probate: A Toolbox of Basics for Attorneys." Take the opportunity to expand your understanding of estate planning concepts, as well as the probate process in Texas. Whether or not this is your primary area of the law, Lauren's presentation has far reaching applicability in your practice and personal life.

RSVP by Friday, July 6, 2012 via the BCWB website or by emailing events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Cost is \$25 (\$15 for students), payable online or at the door. CLE pending.

BCWBF 2012 Autumn Affair 30th Year Anniversary of BCWBF's Fundraiser

By Maurleen Cobb & Monica J. Lerma

Mark your calendars for the 30th Year Anniversary of the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation Annual Fundraiser, taking place on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at the Witte Museum.

We'd love to have your help planning our signature fundraising event, especially for our 30th year anniversary! Our monthly meetings will be held at noon on the following dates and location:

Meeting dates:

Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Thursday, July 12, 2012
Tuesday, August 14, 2012
Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Location:

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

~ Autumn Affair Committee Chairs ~

The chairs/co-chairs of the Autumn Affair committees are listed below. Join the fun by joining a committee today! Please contact Autumn Affair co-chairs, Maurleen Cobb (210-378-8945) or Monica J. Lerma (210-464-7408) if you're interested in joining a committee.

Arrangements and Decorations

Natalie Hall & Julia Mann

Graphics Committee

Danielle Hargrove

Recipient Committee

Katherine Noll

Finance Committee

Marissa Helm

Fashion Show Committee

Gaylia Brunson & Brittany Wild

President's Challenge Committee

Emma Cano

Belva Lockwood Awards Committee

Priscilla Camacho & Carol Jendrzy

Historian Committee

Elsa Marie Garza

Honorees/Dignitaries Committee

Judge Renee McElhaney & Laura Mason

Set-up and Take-Down Committee

Diana Cavazos & Lauren Horne

Sponsorships/Invites and RSVPs

Lori Blount & Hella Scheuerman

Program Committee

Maurleen Cobb & Monica Lerma

Invitation Committee

Suzanne Oliva

Silent Auction/Balloon Committee

Lisa Alcantar & Tiffanie Clausewitz

Publicity/Web Promotion Committee Kick Off Party

Connie Basel

Christine Reinhard

We're looking forward to hosting a great event! Thank you so much for helping to make this year's Autumn Affair a success!



Maurleen Cobb



Monica J. Lerma



Tiffanie Clausewitz

Judicial Spotlight: Judge Renée McElhaney

By Tiffanie Clausewitz

SPOTLIGHT ON



Q. *You, like many of our successful female attorneys and judges, actually had a “first” career and decided to go to law school while you had children at home. How did that impact your time as a law student and your experience as an “older” baby attorney?*

A. Being a public high school teacher for nine years prior to going to law school has added a vibrant texture to the tapestry of background I was able to bring to my legal career. I’ve had to budget my time very carefully and learn to juggle—like all moms. At St. Mary’s and then later at Fulbright and then Cox Smith, I knew that when I was “at work,” I needed to focus and be as efficient as possible to do the best job I could in my role as student and lawyer, and as my children’s mother. Most of all, I guess, was learning that there probably is no “balance” for me—I’m always going to be overloaded and overbooked. But I became comfortable with the rhythm and made sure to savor

all the best “moments”—from watching my kids pitch a little league game to arguing before the Texas Supreme Court. Great memories now!

Q. *Did you always know you wanted to be a judge? What inspired you to make this decision?*

A. At St. Mary’s convocation of the 1990 law school year, Barbara Aldave, then-dean of St. Mary’s Law School, charged my class to consider the legal profession a calling of service, grounded in a tenacious adherence to studying and applying the law. Dean Aldave’s words took root and I eventually became certain that I wanted to inextricably intertwine serving people and serving the law, which is the path of a judge.

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. BCWB has been pivotal to me. The women lawyers of BCWB have been mentors and dear friends, from Judge Nellerhoe under whom I first served as a BCWB Board member; to Patricia Diaz Dennis, who helped me learn how to juggle family and the practice; to Laurie Weiss, Diann Bartek, Pam Huff, and many, many more ladies who have been the closest of friends and integral confidants. All these ladies became “sisters” to me because of BCWB. I learned so much about marketing, organizing, and project management by participating in BCWB programs (especially Bench Brunch). I remember attending my first Bench Brunch in 1990, as a member of the Women’s Law Association. I’ll never forget one Bench Brunch planning meeting where Justice Rose Spector arrived in her white Mercedes—with a huge Rose decal draping over the hood. What a magnificent campaigner; I took lessons from Justice Rose, for sure!! And I will owe Angela Moore forever—she served as Bench Brunch chair the year I was BCWB President, setting a record of raising \$110,000 net and, all the while, “sistering” me through my firstborn daughter moving to NYC for college (just in time to experience 9/11). (con’d on page 5)



Lorie Blount

Community Service Column: BCWB Service at the CJP Family Law Clinic

By Lorie Blount

A group of BCWB members recently served as volunteer counsel at the Community Justice Program (“CJP”) family law clinic that was held May 8th at the Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid office. The CJP staff extended its sincere thanks to the BCWB for our support of the clinic and the community. Most importantly, the clients seeking legal assistance at the clinic were very appreciative!



BCWB volunteers at the clinic were as follows: Lisa Barkley, Tracie Conner, Rhonda Boyles, Lauren Zettler-Horne, Lorie Blount, Elizabeth Haws Connally, Heidi Helstrom, Diana Cavazos, Heather Tessmer, Lindsay Rose, Justine Daly, and Maurleen Cobb (serving as a family law mentor). Justine Daly was the lucky volunteer who won the spa gift card drawing for BCWB volunteers. Thanks to everyone who supported the Community Justice Program Family Law Clinic last month!

Judicial Spotlight: Judge McElhaney (con'd from p. 4)

That is what my BCWB sisters have been to me—dearest, dearest of friends and amazing professional influences that have enabled me to reach my goal as judge of the 73rd District Court. I profoundly wish the same experiences and friendships for all BCWB members. So, go to a BCWB lunch; make time to join us at the retreat; jump into the Autumn Affair planning committee; mentor a law student. The blessings are more than amazing!

Judge Renée McElhaney presides over the 73rd District Court. After teaching school for nine years, she attended St. Mary's University School of Law, graduating summa cum laude in 1993. Judge McElhaney then went into private practice, handling a wide range of litigation, first at Fulbright & Jaworski, and then at Cox Smith, as head of the Appellate Practice Group. She was appointed by Governor Perry on December 28, 2009, and took the bench on January 12, 2010. Judge McElhaney has received many awards, including the BCWB's Belva Lockwood Award, the San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce's Voice and Vision Award, and the San Antonio Bar Association President's Award.

Patricia Diaz Dennis: WAL's Sarah T. Hughes Women Lawyers of Achievement Award Recipient

By Carol E. Jendrzey



Carol E. Jendrzey

The Women and the Law Section is honored to announce Patricia Diaz Dennis is this year's Sarah T. Hughes Women Lawyers of Achievement Award recipient. Patricia's outstanding legal career has been an inspiration to women in the legal profession. She has served in roles usually dominated by men, and succeeded every step of the way. Currently, she sits on the World Bank Sanctions Board, the Boards of Directors for Massachusetts Life Insurance Company and National Public Radio and, as a Trustee for the National Housing Partnership Foundation. Most recently, she served as Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of AT&T before retiring in 2008.



Patricia's legal career has included in-house, governmental and private practice positions. She has served in three federal government positions after being appointed by the President of the United States, including Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. She has received several gubernatorial appointments as well. In private practice, she worked in prestigious and national law firms, including Sullivan & Cromwell and Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue. In 1973, when Paul Hastings had 35 lawyers, it hired her as its first woman attorney.

Patricia has not only been a leader in the legal profession, but in the community. She served as the Chair of the Board of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Patricia has worked tirelessly with this group and others encouraging young women, especially Latinas, as she says "to find their voices and use them to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others."

Patricia has been recognized with many honors, including being named in April 2008 by *Texas Diversity Magazine* as one of eight "Most Powerful and Influential Women in Texas", receiving the magazine's Glass Ceiling Award. In 2000, the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation presented her the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award.

Join us in congratulating Patricia on receiving the Sarah T. Hughes Women Lawyers of Achievement Award at our Annual Section Meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2012 at 1:30 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.



Hella Scheuerman



Laura Mason

State Bar of Texas Law Day Luncheon

By Hella Scheuerman

The State Bar of Texas Law Day Luncheon took place on May 1, 2012, at the Texas Law Center in Austin. Rosalinda Mitchell, winner of the Bexar County Women's Bar Poster Contest, placed second place in the State Bar of Texas poster contest during Law Day. Bob Black, State Bar of Texas President, and Natalie Cobb Koehler, Texas Young Lawyers Association President, presented the awards to the Law Day Contest Winners. Congratulations Rosalinda!



Shown at right: Rosalinda, wearing her medal and holding her award, with State Bar of Texas President, Bob Black.

Monthly "Around Town" Lunch on June 21

By Laura Mason

The BCWB is facilitating an opportunity for mentorship and networking at a casual lunch setting each month. The goal is to provide an alternative opportunity to meet for current and prospective members that may not be able to attend the regular monthly luncheon at Club Girard.

The next "Around Town" lunch will be held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 11:45 a.m. at Murphy's Deli. We will meet at the 116 East Houston Street location. No RSVP is necessary – simply order at the counter and then look for us seated inside. Please e-mail Laura Mason (laura.mason@strasburger.com) with any questions. See you there!

BCWBA Lites

Anne E. Ohlrich recently opened her own law firm: The Law Office of Anne Ohlrich. After practicing immigration law for over 14 years with the federal government overseas in the United Kingdom, Brazil and Mexico, Ann returned to San Antonio in 2005 and began teaching at St. Mary's University. Ann's new office is located at 620 Broadway. She specializes in business visas, work petitions and I-9 audits. Contact information for Ann's new office: 210-222-2288; www.texohlrich.com.

Renee Foshee, JD, CPA, was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Award for 2011-12 by the San Antonio CPA Society at the May Chapter Meeting & Volunteer Awards Luncheon held on May 15, 2012. Renee is a tax accountant with Padgett, Stratemann & Co., LLP.

Kim Tindall & Associates has moved its Austin office to 1701 Directors Blvd., Suite 730, Austin, TX 78744 (corner of 35 and Ben White). Kim's new Austin conference room can seat up to 30 people, just right if you need a large venue in the Austin area. Also, the Omni Hotel Southpark is across the street from the new office. Kim has arranged preferred rates for her clients. If you ever need to stay overnight in Austin, call Kim for the details: office 210-697-3400 or cell 210-392-7576.

Women's Law Association Update

By Alison R. Williams, President, Women's Law Association

As the spring semester came to an end, WLA members geared up for finals time along with the rest of St. Mary's University School of Law students. During this time, WLA held officer elections at the end of April. We are excited to announce the new 2012-2013 executive board:

President

Alison R. Williams

Vice President

Sarah Anne Lishman

Secretary

Anietie Akpan

Treasurer

Kim Ford

Appointed Alumni Relations Chair

Elizabeth O. Gutierrez

Appointed Social Chair

Jennifer Zarka

Due to electoral issues and a tie in the special election, a run-off for President Elect will be held in November. The new board is very excited about the upcoming year and will be meeting twice this summer to kick off the official planning for our 2012-2013 calendar!

Following the elections, we held our traditional officer turnover dinner at Paloma Blanca restaurant where officers from both the old and new board enjoyed a delicious meal. This dinner is always an opportunity to exchange necessary documents and information, as well as to reminisce on the wonderful year WLA had and begin preliminary brainstorming for the upcoming year. The outgoing board gave immediate past president Victoria Bongat a gift as a token of appreciation for all of her hard work and the excellent job she did in leading our organization. Thank you to Victoria and the executive board of 2011-2012 for diligently serving and working to ensure that WLA had the successful and enjoyable year that it did!



Finally, WLA would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck to all of the St. Mary's University School of Law graduates who have now joined the distinguished ranks of our alumni. We are looking forward to what this next year will bring for both our graduates and WLA!



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)



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Local Attorney Receives Elder Law Certification

(San Antonio, Texas) May 25, 2012 – The Law Offices of Carol Bertsch is proud to announce that Carol Bertsch, Attorney at Law, has received elder law certification by The National Elder Law Foundation (NELF). This organization has been approved by the American Bar Association to offer certification in this relatively new, but fast growing field in the legal profession. This certification provides a measure of assurance to the San Antonio community that Ms. Bertsch possesses an in-depth working knowledge of the many legal issues that impact the elderly.

Elder law attorneys advise and counsel seniors and their families on how they can best plan for current or future needs in the areas of financial planning, long term care, public benefits, guardianship and other matters of the aging. "As a client advocate, I listen carefully to what my client needs. Then, working together, we can create a solution that is right for them," says Ms. Bertsch who has been serving the legal needs of seniors in San Antonio and surrounding communities for 15 years.

Ms. Bertsch is a member of the San Antonio Bar Association, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Bexar County Women's Bar Association and the National Association of Women Business Owners.

To learn more about the services provided by The Law Offices of Carol Bertsch, visit our website, www.assistingseniors.com or call (210) 735-9911.