



Equal Times®

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2010

From the President

By Christine Reinhard

Much has been written this year about our legal profession. Topics have ranged from attorney compensation and the downfall of the billable hour to the lack of legal jobs. Another frequent topic has been women in the legal profession and why there remains a “glass ceiling” of sorts. A host of surveys have been conducted in an effort to evaluate, understand, and perhaps locate the source of why women, despite being over half of law school classes, are few in number at the partner and judicial level.

I certainly cannot claim to know the answer to the issues facing our gender or profession. However,

one of the best pieces of advice I heard was at a Women’s Leadership Conference hosted by my former firm for its women attorneys. There, a brilliant speaker from a large Chicago law firm talked about the ways in which men and women communicate and how we need to recognize, not necessarily solve, our communication differences.



As an aside and case in point, how many of you ever have gotten frustrated at your spouse or male colleague who wanted to solve immediately whatever problem you were telling them about? (con’d on p. 3)

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Autumn Affair 2010

By Laura Mason and Tiffanie Clausewitz

Planning is in full swing for Autumn Affair! Our signature fundraising event will take place on October 14, 2010 on the beautiful grounds of the Witte Museum and will benefit Dress for Success San Antonio. Please see below for important announcements, including our upcoming kick-off party!

August Autumn Affair Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 12, 2010

Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Lower Level Conference Room,

Oppenheimer, Blend, Harrison & Tate (Travis Park Plaza Building)

Lunch Served

RSVP to Laura Mason at lmason@obht.com

Autumn Affair Kick-Off Party! Save the Date!

Tuesday, August 31, 2010

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Hotel Contessa - Cork Bar

Watch your email inbox for more information!

Sponsorships

Please sponsor Autumn Affair and attend our fabulous event!

Contact Emma Cano at emma.cano@haynesboone.com or

Hella Scheuerman at hschc@allstate.com for more information.

Sponsorships are available for \$2,000 or \$1,200.

Auction/Raffle

Please donate an auction or raffle item to help raise money for Dress for Success!

Contact Jamie Rose at Jamie.Rose@usaa.com,

Kim Tindall at ktindall@ktanda.com, or

Katherine Patton at kpatton@coxsmith.com for more information.



Tiffanie Clausewitz
Autumn Affair 2010
Co-Chair



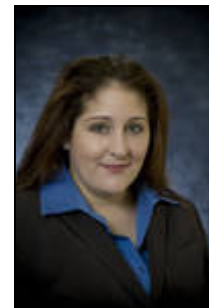
Laura Mason
Autumn Affair 2010
Co-Chair

September Luncheon

By Monica Lerma

At our September 7th luncheon, we are pleased to present Pamela Taylor, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Dress For Success--this Year's beneficiary of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association's Autumn Affair. Ms. Taylor will tell us about the wonderful work Dress for Success does and the impact it has in our community.

In addition to learning about Dress for Success, we hope you'll donating items to create gift baskets for the Autumn Affair silent auction. At the September luncheon, the Auction and Raffle Committee will collect Halloween-themed items. The idea is to create a basket with everything the purchaser would need to decorate for a Halloween Party. Please bring a Halloween item for the Basket to the September luncheon. Each donated item should have a retail value of at least \$10.00. Some ideas for the Halloween basket include: Jack-O-Lanterns, Candles, Yard Signs, Spiders, Skeletons, Masks, Spooky Treats, Fun Cups, Plates or Serving Platters, Halloween Music CD, and Costumes. Help us make it Spootakular! RSVP to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org or mjlerma@sr-llp.com.



Monica Lerma,
Luncheon Chair



From the President (con'd)

I know I have. I cannot count how many times I have told my husband, "I know what needs to be done. Can't you just listen to me?" Turns out that is a communication difference between our genders – men want to solve the problem, while women just want them to listen. For myself, recognizing this difference has led to a lot less bickering.

Getting back on track, the speaker at this Conference pointed out that women need to do what they do best – talk about each other. Many studies have shown that women tend not to promote themselves or put themselves out there, be it for a raise, promotion, or in our context, to handle maybe a complex case. Women apparently tend to believe our hard work will be recognized without us ever having to "toot" our own horn. However, those same studies show that part of the reason a male might get the better job, raise, or case is because men generally are not afraid to promote themselves or say what they want. What the speaker, a women herself, challenged us at the Conference to do was not necessarily to change, but rather to take advantage of our strength – our willingness to talk about others (yes, that means gossip) – and promote each other. I personally think this is a valuable piece of advice, and it is something I have strived to do ever since attend-

ing the Conference a few years ago.

Now, as President of the Bexar County Women's Bar, I hope I can encourage and challenge each of you, our members, to do the same. The next time you come across a wonderful woman, don't be afraid to be speak up on her behalf. By doing so, we just might be able to crack that glass ceiling some day.

To start off this challenge, I want to take the opportunity to promote a law student I met over lunch this past month, Emily Ray. Emily approached me after I was a guest speaker at a St. Mary's Law School class and asked to have lunch. Following two cancellations (you can guess on whose part), we finally did. What a pleasure it was, and most of all, I left impressed. Emily was organized, had what she wanted to discuss planned out in advance, and was not afraid to ask my opinion or advice. Emily also is this year's Solicitations Editor for *The Scholar*. She is actively looking for articles to publish. If you have something in hand or in the works that might work for *The Scholar*, please see Emily's Call for Articles in this month's newsletter. Until next month, I hope everyone enjoys the last "dog days" of summer!

Communications Committee Update: Coming soon – online payments!



By Connie Basel and Toti Walia



We are just a few weeks away from offering on-line payment capability through the BCWBA/BCWBF website located at Bexar-CountyWomensBar.org. Convenient on-line payments will be accepted for lunch registration, Autumn Affair sponsorship, Autumn Affair tickets, membership applications, and renewals through the applicable forms. Look for more information on this exciting new feature in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in volunteering on the communications committee, we are looking for individuals with website experience to assist in updating/maintenance of our BCWBA website. It is an extremely user-friendly site, and anyone with a little time to learn the instructions could assist in this project. Our goal is to update news, events, pictures, and publicize all the wonderful projects our membership and organization is up to on a consistent basis. If you would be interested in being a member of the communications committee and assisting with this endeavor, please contact Connie Basel for more information.

SAVE THE DATE

THE BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR FOUNDATION
PRESENTS

An Autumn Affair
benefiting Dress for Success

OCTOBER 14, 2010, 6 P.M.
THE WITTE MUSEUM
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

A stylized tree graphic with a brown trunk and branches. The foliage is composed of various colorful leaves and flowers in shades of purple, yellow, green, and pink.

Community Service Committee Corner

By Michelle Weekley

Back to school is almost here, and many students will not be able to afford to purchase new school supplies! You can help "Stuff the Bus" by bringing brand new school supplies to all participating HEBs in San Antonio on August 6th from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Or stop by and buy them while you are shopping. Start the new year out right for many kids that otherwise would not experience that excitement of the new school year.



Membership Dues Poll!

By Natalie Hall

Did you know that the BCWBA has not raised dues in many years?!?! Our membership dues are a vital component to our budget. Membership dues allow us to provide amazing benefits that we cannot afford to reduce due to budget constraints.



Current membership dues are \$40 for attorneys licensed 1-3 years and \$50 for attorneys licensed 3 years or more. We need your thoughts about whether a \$15 increase for all membership dues would be acceptable. Please email nlhall@coxsmith.com with your vote: "yes-progress" or "no-go." We value your membership and want to hear from you!



Save the Date:
 November 11, 2010, 6:30 p.m.
 BCWBA Central Market Cooking Class and CLE.
 More details to follow.

2010 Bar Leaders Conference

By Suzanne Oliva



Recently, Laura Mason, President-Elect of the BCWBA/F, and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the 2010 Bar Leaders Conference, sponsored by the State Bar of Texas. Representatives from legal organizations across Texas were invited to Houston to learn about new programs initiated by the State Bar as well as participate in panel discussions and workshops in order to share ideas about successful fundraising and community service projects.

One initiative by the State Bar of Texas is the Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans program. This initiative responds to the high number of military veterans suffering from alcoholism, substance abuse, mental health issues and homelessness. This program matches qualified veterans with pro bono legal clinics and attorneys willing to volunteer legal services for equal access to justice. Additional information about the summer 2010 launch of this program can be found on the State Bar of Texas website at www.texasbar.com/ under the State Bar President heading. Additional "Access to Justice" information can be found at <http://www.texasatj.org/>.



Congratulations to the following BCWB members:

Jan King and Eileen Sommer on their North Chamber Small Business Leaders Award for Community Service.

Justice Rebecca Simmons and Sara Dysart on their election to SABA Officer and Director positions, respectively.

Toti Walia on her acceptance in the University of Washington's LLM program.

Monica J. Lerma on her election to Chair Elect of the Rape Crisis Center.

There's no doubt there are many more BCWB members who deserve congratulations for various achievements and life milestones. If you want to congratulate or recognize a BCWB member in this newsletter, send your submission to Christine Reinhard at creinhard@sr-llp.com or Regina Stone-Harris at reginas-toneharris@yahoo.com.



Call for Articles

By Emily Ray

The Scholar: St. Mary's Law Review on Minority Issues is currently accepting article submissions for Volume 13. The publication is committed to raising awareness of issues faced by minorities and other individuals who have traditionally lacked a voice in the law. *The Scholar* furthers legal discourse on issues concerning race, class, gender, sexual identity, class, and religion, among others. Please email submissions to lawscholar@stmarytx.edu, or send inquiries to Emily Ray, Solicitations Editor, at rayemi@gmail.com.

"The Seriously Fun Ethics Conference!"

The Association of Corporate Counsel, South Central Texas Chapter's
13th Annual Ethics Conference on Sept. 29th and 30th

Remote Control

2 HOURS ETHICS CLE
Reserve seats, be a sponsor, LOL, watch videos at:
ETHICSFOLLIES.COM

ABWA – La Villita Chapter
 Air Force Women Officers' Association
 Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation
 Alpha Home, Inc.
 American Association of University Women – San Antonio Chapter
 American Society of Women Accountants
 Annie's List
 Association for Women in Communications, Inc.
 Association for Women Journalists
 Bexar County Democratic Women
 Bexar County Women's Bar Association
 Center for Women in Church and Society
 Children's Bereavement Center
 Daughters of Charity Services of San Antonio
 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
 Dress for Success San Antonio
 Esperanza Peace and Justice Center
 Executive Women's Golf Association
 Family Violence Prevention Services
 Federally Employed Women
 Financial Women International
 Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas
 Girls Inc. of San Antonio
 Government Affairs Council of Planned Parenthood
 Hispanic Women's Network of Texas-San Antonio Chapter
 Leadership Texas Alumnae Association
 League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area
 Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women
 Mujeres Unidas Contra El SIDA
 National Association of Professional Mortgage Women
 National Association of Women Business Owners
 National Coalition of 100 Black Women, S. A. Chapter
 National Council of Negro Women
 National Ovarian Cancer Coalition
 National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.
 Network Power/Texas
 P.E.A.C.E. Initiative
 Pan American Round Tables of Texas
 Planned Parenthood of San Antonio & South Central Texas
 Rape Crisis Center
 SLEW Wellness Center
 San Antonio College Women's Center
 San Antonio Silver Stars
 San Antonio Society of Women CPAs
 San Antonio Women's Chamber of Commerce
 San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame
 Sistas in Business, Inc.
 South Texas Women's Business Center
 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
 TBW, Region 1 – A La Nueva BW; TBW Inc. of San Antonio; Mexican American BW
 Texas Nurses Association, District 8
 Texas Women's Coalition
 University of Texas at San Antonio Archives
 WINGS
 Woman at the Well House
 Women of AT&T
 Women's Faculty Association
 Women's Global Connection
 Women's Pavilion at HemisFair Park, Inc.
 Women's Political Caucus of Bexar County
 Women's Sports Foundation
 Women's Studies Institute - UTSA
 Young Women's Christian Association
 Zonta Club of San Antonio



*about the Status of Women in
Bexar County!*

Host: Mayor's Commission on Status of Women

*Celebrate Women's Equality Day
Thursday, August 26, 2010*

*The Bright Shawl
819 Augusta Street
San Antonio, Texas 78215*

Come hear Juanita Firestone, Ph.D., UTSA share results of study about women in San Antonio. Dr. Firestone will reveal some surprising statistics about women in our community.

*Mistress of Ceremonies: Sofía Rodriguez
Chair, Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women*

\$35 – postmarked by August 20, 2010

\$45 – after deadline and at the door

Attached registration form required

Send checks payable to "Can We Talk"
c/o Pat Jasso
326 Anton Drive
San Antonio, TX 78223
Contact info: can_we_talk_sa@yahoo.com

Event Schedule:

Shop 'til you Drop Displays - 5:00 to ???
Networking – 5:30 p.m.
Dinner – 6:15 p.m.
Program – 7:00 p.m.

Can We Talk is a coalition of over sixty-five women's organizations in San Antonio, Texas. Can We Talk events are scheduled each year in March, to commemorate Women's History Month, and on or near August 28, to commemorate Women's Equality Day and Texas Women's Independence Day. Can We Talk events are coordinated by a steering committee made up of representatives from member organizations.



Can We Talk?

August 26, 2010

- Attendees should complete contact and registration information, and enter Total enclosed
- Vendors/ad purchasers should fill in contact information, meal if desired, and enter Total

Registration and meal: **\$35 postmarked by 8/20/10; \$45 after 8/20th and at door**

| Contact Information | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|--|---------------|------|------|--|
| Name on Check | | | | Organization | | | |
| Address | | | | City/Zip | | | |
| Phone/Cell | | | | Email | | | |
| Registration and Meal Reservation | | | | | | | |
| Attendee Name | \$35 | \$45 | | Attendee Name | \$35 | \$45 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |

Sub Total \$ _____

| Program Ads Available | \$25 | \$35 | \$60 | \$100 |
|--|------|------|------|-------|
| Business Card=\$25 Quarter Page= \$35 Half Page=\$60 Full Page=\$100 | | | | |
| Provide camera ready ad to pj4169@att.com by August 16, 2010 | | | | |

Sub Total \$ _____

| Vendor Tables Available | \$55 |
|---|------|
| Check if electricity is needed ___ Check box to select 8' skirted table. ___ | |
| Complete contact information above and enter type of booth/merchandise: _____ | |
| If meal is desired, check ___ \$35, \$45 based on date mailed, & fill in meal registration above. | |
| Table reserved ONLY when Registration Form and Payment received. | |
| Vendors questions ONLY, Contact Bonnie Ayer at (210)222-3295. | |

Sub Total \$ _____

Make check payable to Can We Talk and mail form to Pat Jasso, 326 Anton Drive, San Antonio 78223
Registrations postmarked after August 20th also require an RSVP to (210)422-2245

Total Enclosed \$ _____