



August 2013

Bexar County Women's Bar Association

President's Column

At our July luncheon, Circuit Judge Edward Prado of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit gave an interesting and insightful CLE presentation about the life and trail-blazing efforts of Susan B. Anthony. After hearing his comments, I was prompted to further research the events that occurred in her life and share her story with you. As lawyers, it is always important to study the trail-blazing efforts of those individuals who changed the laws and made possible the current freedoms that we may sometimes take for granted.

Having grown up in a Quaker family that spent a great amount of time fighting for equal rights, Susan B. Anthony devoted her life attempting to change the laws in order to allow women the right to vote. In one interview, she mentioned that over a span of 45 years, she gave more than seventy speeches per year throughout the United States and Europe.

Anthony focused her speeches on the words of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states "All persons born or naturalized in the



Suzanne Dapra Oliva

United States, and (con'd on last page)

August 2013 BCWB Luncheon: Elizabeth A. Copeland's "The Modern Family: How to Advise Clients Now that the Supreme Court has Struck Down DOMA"

By Lindsay Riley

Please join us at noon on Tuesday, August 6, at Club Giraud as we welcome Elizabeth A. Copeland. Elizabeth will explain how to advise clients in light of the Supreme Court's recent landmark cases finding the Federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional and dismissing a challenge to California's law disallowing same sex marriage. She will discuss the difficult questions these decisions leave open regarding advising same-sex couples married in another state but residing in

Texas. She will also address issues such as how to file the couple's federal income tax returns, what estate planning the couple needs, collateral consequences to employer's benefit plans, and what to do about divorce. CLE credit is approved.

When: Tuesday, August 6, 2013

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

Cost: \$25 (\$15 for students), payable at the door or online by clicking here.

RSVP: Club Giraud needs a headcount 48 hours in advance so please RSVP by Friday, August 2, 2013 to Events@bexarcountrywomensbar.org. Include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We cannot guarantee a spot to individuals who do not RSVP by the date above. Walk-ins may be charged extra to cover the additional demands on Club Giraud's staff and no-shows may be billed. For more information, contact Lindsay Riley (Lindsay.Riley@txcourts.gov) or Lauren Horne (lhorne@br-lawfirm.com).

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Save the Date

for our

Passport to Paradise

Autumn Affair Kick-Off
Party

August 15, 2013

at 5:30

Autumn Affair Update



Hella Scheuerman



Leslie Hyman

By Hella Scheuerman and Leslie Hyman

We are pleased to announce the Belva Lockwood Award winners for this year's Autumn Affair. The individual selected to receive the 2013 Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award is Molly Neck. The individual selected to receive the 2013 Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award is Lisa Barkley.

Marissa Helm and Carmen Samaniego are the Chairs for the Sponsorship Committee this year. We encourage you to support this year's Beneficiary, Girls Inc. of San Antonio, by sponsoring a table. The three levels of Sponsorship are Platinum (\$2000), Gold (\$1500) and Silver (\$1200). Your support is greatly appreciated! Carmen can be reached at the following e-mail

address: attorneycar-men@me.com.

This year's Auction Committee Chairs, Jami Nance and Brittany Weil, are seeking donations for the auction. If you are interested in donating an auction item or gift card, please contact: Jami K. Nance, at the following e-mail address: jami.nance@gmail.com. The following is a list of items the auction committee is looking for:

- Spurs tickets
- Wine fridge
- Airline miles/tickets
- Shopping party/gift certificate to Saks/Nordstrom/Neimans
- Gift certificate for gym/yoga classes/Crossfit (fitness related)
- Gift certificate for athletic clothing/shoes

- Rounds of golf
- UTSA/UT/A&M football tickets
- Movie tickets
- Wine tasting party
- Symphony/opera tickets
- iPad
- Hunting trip (in Texas)
- Guided fishing trip
- Grill

Finally, we invite you to join us at our next planning meeting, on August 15, 2013, from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, at the law office of Pulman, Capucio, Pullen, Benson & Jones, LLP, located at 2161 N.W. Military Highway, Suite 400, San Antonio, Tx 78213. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Leslie, at the following e-mail address: lhyman@pulmanlaw.com.

Wellness Column

By Connie Arambula

Brenna Nava and Connie Arambula participated in the 34th Annual SARR Women's 5K Run! This chip-timed 5K run and walk for WOMEN ONLY took place along the streets of Alamo Heights on Saturday, July 20, 2013. Proceeds from SARR events support a variety of charitable organizations, to include John Delgado Scholarships and the San Antonio Zoo.

If you are attending the Annual CLE Retreat in Fredericksburg, there will be a 2-3 mile fun run in the morning on August 2 approximately two hours prior to start time.

Contact Connie Arambula at the retreat for further details.

Recommended upcoming race: SARR Labor Day Whine Run 5 Miler on Monday, September 2, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. This race takes place near the Dry Comal Creek Winery in New Braunfels. The after-race party

includes food and wine! Registration is \$30 until July 31; then it increases to \$35. To register online visit the SARR website at <http://www.saroadrunners.com/>. Registration forms are also available in all San Antonio running stores.



Connie Arambula

Far right, Brenna Nava & Connie Arambula at the 34th Annual SARR Women's 5K Run



WLA Update

By Julia Null
WLA President

It's been a very busy summer for our WLA Board! In June, we had our Orientation Training. It was a fun filled day getting to know everyone and learning about how we work together. On a personal note, I am so proud of this team and am very excited about this upcoming year!

A few of our WLA board ventured out of the country. Vice President Kevin Bennett and Secretary Kerriann Britt adventured off to China with St. Mary's School of Law Abroad Program. Kevin took an internship in Beijing working at King & Wood Mallesons (PRC) working on corporate matters such as international insurance companies and labor disputes within China. He even had the opportunity to draft an article on the Chinese Bankruptcy and Restructuring process. And lastly, Kevin conducted firm-wide training on English work-skills to improve the Chinese Associates' ability to work in legal English.

On a personal note, I also am currently attending a St. Mary's School of Law Abroad Program in Innsbruck, Austria. I have had the pleasure of studying under Supreme Court Justice, Clarence Thomas. The course dealt with

Landmark Supreme Court Cases in a Comparative Perspective. Justice Thomas also brought Professor Stephen McAllister to assist. Both gave incredible lectures and were very thought provoking. Understanding the judicial process from his point of view was enriching to say the least. Justice Thomas taught the students as if he were a St. Mary's professor that cares deeply for his students. He said many times that a key question to ask oneself is "who has the authority to decide." A basic concept yes, but as students we often get hung up on the issue and forget the process. I look forward to sharing more about the experience upon my return.

Several of our WLA board members stayed in the great U.S.A. and took on local internships and clerkships. WLA President Elect, Bianca Frisura took summer classes and is currently an intern at the Bexar County Staff Attorney's Office. WLA Alumni Relations Chair, Kim Meyer also took summer classes and is clerking at the Law Offices of Jamie Balagia.

Classes begin on August 26th and we are so excited to start planning events with BCWBA. We look forward to seeing everyone again and to wel-

August Around the Town Luncheon

On Thursday, August 8, 2013, at noon, join Suzanne Oliva for lunch at Pico de Gallo located at 111 South Leona Street. The restaurant is decorated in traditional reds and greens and you will feel as though you have traveled to Mexico for a one hour break from the work place. No RSVP is needed –just show up and join your fellow members for a respite from the daily hustle and bustle of your busy life!



St. Mary Students including WLA Vice President Kevin Bennett, WLA Secretary Kerriann Britt, & Dean Cantu



WLA Member Rebecca Pitts, United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas & WLA President Julia Null



WLA Alumni Relations Chair Kim Meyer & WLA President Elect Bianca Frisura

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

subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." She argued that the privileges of citizenship, which did not distinguish gender, gave women the constitutional right to vote in federal elections.

Anthony decided to test this theory in 1872 after she obtained a registration to vote in Rochester, New York and then "illegally" voted in the presidential election. Approximately two weeks later, she was arrested for voting and

tried and convicted seven months later.

The Court relied on the holding in *Minor v. Happersett*, 88 U.S. 162 (1875) in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Fourteenth Amendment "did not give women the right to vote and that the clear intent of the Fourteenth Amendment was to give the rights of citizenship to the former slaves, and not to force other changes in state laws." The Supreme Court upheld the Missouri voting legislation, stating that voting was not an inherent right of citizenship.

This trial before U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ward Hunt was considered by many to be a sham. Justice Hunt refused to allow Anthony to testify on her own behalf and allowed statements given by

her at the time of her arrest to be used as "testimony." Justice Hunt did not poll the jury before pronouncing her guilty and read an opinion that he had written prior to the start of the trial.

Because she was not sentenced to jail time, and instead fined \$100, she could not take her case to the Supreme Court on a writ of habeas corpus. She swore that she would never pay the fine. In 1874, her petition to the U.S. Congress to remove the fine was denied.

It wasn't until fourteen years after Anthony's death when the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving all adult women the right to vote, was passed. The words of the Amendment were noticeably similar to the words used in Anthony's speech

many years earlier.

In recognition of her dedication and hard work, the U.S. Treasury Department honored Anthony by placing her portrait on dollar coins in 1979, making her the first woman to be so honored.

After studying the biography of Susan B. Anthony, I was truly impressed with her unrelenting passion for change. Her last public words, "Failure is impossible," sum up her dedication to fight the uphill battle so that all adult women could have the right to vote. It makes you wonder what cause you believe in so strongly that you would be willing to dedicate your life to achieve.

See Biography.com, History.com, anb.org. We shall be heard: women speakers in America, Kennedy.



Circuit Judge Edward C. Prado, presenter for the July luncheon



Attendees of the July luncheon