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President's Message

I know it doesn't feel like it outside, but it's almost Fall! That means school supplies, fresh sneakers and clothes, football, and more regular schedules. It's a great time to renew your focus and check your progress towards your goals for this year. If you're not where you want to be by now, there's still time to finish the year strong. I know I'm readjusting some behaviors to get to where I want to be professionally and personally. A positive mindset is sometimes all it takes to go

from falling short to a smashing success!

The BCWB has lots in store this month to help you achieve your goals. If you want to expand your professional knowledge, join us on August 4 at Club Giraud to hear from Justice Jason Pulliam regarding preservation of error. If your goals include breaking out of your comfort zone, join our Ethics Follies ensemble on August 6 at Lee Cusenbary's home to make *Scamlot* costumes. If you



want to increase your community and charitable contributions, get involved with Autumn Affair—it's coming up on October 22. Above all, get out there and support your colleagues; we are all better for it!

August Luncheon: Justice Jason Pulliam Presents Preservation of Error

Please join us on August 4 to welcome Justice Jason Pulliam of the Fourth Court of Appeals. Prior to his appointment to the court, he presided over County Court at Law No. 5. Justice Pulliam has also worked at Ball & Weed, PC and Ford & Massey, PC, and served as a JAG in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Preserving error can mean the difference between a summary affirmance, a new trial, or new sentencing. At the appellate level, there are numerous instances where the court can't reach the substantive merits of an issue be-

cause error was preserved in the trial court. To obtain appellate review, it's necessary to make a proper objection or motion in the trial court. Justice Pulliam will discuss how to best preserve error and avoid some of the most common problems. He will also discuss preserving error in the context of constitutional challenges, expert witnesses, and summary judgment. CLE is approved.

When: Tues., August 4, 2015

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, so RSVP by July 31, 2015 to Events@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Include dietary restrictions in your RSVP. 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 Lindsay Riley (lriley@dykema.com) or Rachel Skinner (rskinner@dykema.com).

Thank You Autumn Affair Sponsors



By Hella Scheuerman
Bexar County Women's Bar would like to thank our Sponsors for this year's Autumn Affair, benefitting the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas:

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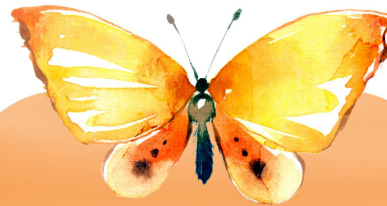
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The 2015 Autumn Affair will be held on Thursday, October 22, starting at 6:00 p.m., at The Veranda.

If you are interested in sponsoring a table, please contact Hella Scheuerman at hella@dilleylawfirm.com or Suzanne Patrick at spatrick@stmarytx.edu.



Please join us for the
Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation's

Autumn Affair Kick-Off Party

Wednesday, September 16
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Kendra Scott - Quarry Village
310 E. Basse Rd. Ste 101

Bring a bottle of wine valued at \$15 or more and enjoy bubbles and bites while you shop. Kendra Scott will donate 10% of all sales to The Children's Bereavement Center. Attendees will receive 10% off purchase price and access to the Kendra Scott Color Bar™.

For more information contact:
Connie Arambula (carambula@lyndworld.com)
Carmen Samaniego (attorneycarmen@me.com)

Book Review: *All the Light We Cannot See*



By Lisa P. Alcantar

I've been biding my time for a book review slot to open so I can rave about *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. Hands-down, this is one of the best books I've read. The Pulitzer Prize committee recently agreed, handing out this year's award to Doerr's novel.

Normally, historical fiction and long battle scenes are not my cup of tea. Why do I love it so, you ask? Because, while this novel is a war story, it is also a human story of survival, a resistance of spirit of hope and love. At the center of this story are two children, whose orbiting story lines will eventually cross. Marie-Laure lives in Paris with her father, a master locksmith and crafter of puzzles. As Marie-

Laure goes blind, her father crafts intricate models of her neighborhood to help her become familiar with her surroundings. All the competing emotions of parental love are expressed in his gentle insistence and tender care of his daughter. Marie-Laure's father is her literal compass, guiding her to and from their apartment to the museum where he works and she spends her days, reading Braille novels.

The other child at the heart of the novel is Werner. Werner and his sister Jutta live in an orphanage in Germany, under the care of a loving nun. Werner's likely fate is to spend his life working in the same coal mines that claimed the life of his father, except for the intervention of War World II. Jutta, like Marie-Laure's father, will serve as Werner's (figurative rather than literal) compass. Unlike Marie-Laure's father, Jutta's character never gets fully developed, which was a loss to this novel (though perhaps Doerr just couldn't spare the pages for Jutta).

As WWII begins, Marie-Laure and Werner each get swept into the current of the war. Marie-Laure

and her father are forced to flee Paris for a coastal town to live with her great-uncle. Werner, on account of his advanced mechanical skills, escapes the coal mine only to end up into the furnace.

I hesitate to write anything else of the plot for fear of giving anything away. The lyrical prose of *All the Light* captured my attention almost immediately. As a reader, much like Marie-Laure, we can only imagine the settings in any novel. While most novels spend much time painting a picture of the physical settings, *All the Light* skips much of this. Marie-Laure cannot see her physical surrounds; why should the reader? Reading this novel, you experience Paris and war as does Marie-Laure.

The novel is long, but the chapters are short. I made the initial mistake of listening to this on audiobook. Perhaps it was just my own wandering mind, but I felt I lost much of the details of this novel by listening rather than reading. After a few chapters, I switched over to print. I highly recommend you start with the print (whether electronic or real).

Save the Date!

We are pleased to announce that our Autumn Affair Beneficiary, the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas, will present at our September 1 luncheon. Outreach Coordinator Leslie Wood and special guest Katie Ruder will discuss the Children's Bereavement Center's mission, the types of services the Center provides, and the impact those services have in the community.

Member Spotlight: Bonnie Kirkland



What's your current job?

Associate Attorney at Dykema Cox Smith

How long have you been a member of the BCWB? What's your best experience thus far?

One year—great. The luncheon speakers are wonderful.

Tell us about your morning ritual or daily routine.

I start off my day being dragged around by my dog. However, I cannot truly get going without my morning caffeine (diet Dr. Pepper—no coffee for me). I then head to work and eat breakfast at my desk while reading the Daily Skimm.

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

First chairing a federal jury trial. I did not win, but it was such great ex-

perience—incredibly challenging but fun as well.

What was your childhood dream job?

To be Jem. Who would not want to have a rockstar alter ego with an awesome earring?

Guilty Pleasure: What can you not live without?

Diet Dr. Pepper and my Kindle.

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

I'm an associate, so my advice to other associates is always that it is okay (and necessary) to ask questions. No one expects you to know everything, but they will assume you understand what they are talking about if you do not ask a question.

From the July luncheon: Mark Unger, speaker Dan Lear from Avvo & Suzanne Oliva and her husband



Restaurant Review: Smoke The Restaurant

By Dana Gorelik

In June, we relocated to San Antonio from the Baltimore-D.C. area, and had our first night out at Smoke The Restaurant, off 1604 at 700 E. Sonterra Boulevard, in Stone Oak. After being warned by an East Coast transplant whom we met at the neighborhood pool that the local restaurant scene is lacking, our experience at Smoke proved him wrong.

We arrived to live music at the outdoor seating area, which was lively, fun and the perfect volume (read “not too loud”). Inside, there is an urban, gastro pub feel. Because we were meeting two other couples, we were offered a small private room, but opted for the main dining area. It was mostly adults, but at 8:00 p.m. there were still some families with younger children. Smoke is versatile enough for a date night or family outing.

Each table gets an iPad drink menu, which was fun. The wine selection as decent, and the beer selection much more extensive.

Our party started with the tater tot poutine, which was amazing and decadent! Tater tots with chipotle aioli and fried egg—yes, please! Tasty, rich and something to be shared.

Smoke also offers an array of pickled items, served by the jar. We tried the shrimp and classic dills; however, I was intrigued by the candied pickled beets and spicy tomato garden vegetables. I will be ordering those next time. I love all things pickled, and the jars are small enough you can order several to share and still have room for dinner.

I ordered the burger with fried Brussel sprouts, which did not disappoint. My husband ordered the brisket, which to this East Coast novice was amazing. The

native Texans we were with also raved about it. Smoke’s menu also offers a Thanksgiving Sandwich, which is smoked turkey, charred sweet potato, colonel mustard, cranberries and cornbread dressing. The lone non-red meat eater in our party was really looking forward to that. We learned if you want the Thanksgiving Sandwich, a popular item, come early. By 8:00 p.m., Smoke was out of smoked turkey. They were very accommodating and prepared the sandwich with grilled chicken. It was still tasty (honestly, the sandwich isn’t really about the turkey).

We indulged in dessert: individual cookie pies. We shared a few of them. They were good, but not great. I recommend saving the calories for the starters and entrees, which were amazing. We had a really nice night out at Smoke. I highly recommend it.



Please join us for our August Around Town Lunch
at Bird Bakery

Where: Bird Bakery (www.birdbakery.com)

5912 Broadway Street

When: Wednesday, August 19 at Noon

Who: Your fellow BCWB members!

No need to RSVP. Just look for Lauren Horne.

Exclusive Invitation

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TO BE A SELECT MEMBER OF**



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