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President's Message

By Lisa Alcantar

We held the newsletter for a few extra days this month so we could include a recap of our Law Day luncheon. I was thrilled to get a spare day to find inspiration for this month's column and to actually sit down long enough to focus on the task at hand! The delay turned out to be serendipitous.

As I prepared to attend BCWBF's annual Law Day lunch, I realized April 4, 2017,

was this year's Equal Pay Day. Our keynote speaker Justice Luz Elena Chapa delivered an engaging constitutional history lesson for the students and practitioners alike and hand-delivered my topic. Thank you, Justice Chapa!

While this year's law day theme was an exploration of the many ways the Fourteenth Amendment reshaped American law and society, it is hard not to note at



least one shortcoming of the Fourteenth Amendment. The Fourteenth Amendment, enacted in the context of post-civil war America, was aimed at curbing race discrimination. However, it applied only to men and failed to extend the promise of equality to women.

Central Market CLE



Our Cooking Demonstration & Ethics CLE Event is back! Join us at the Central Market Cooking School on Broadway at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 4 for a Farm-to-Table cooking demonstration, dinner and a presentation of "An Appetite for Ethics on Social Media: The Ethical Use of Social Media in the Course of Legal Representation" by Ellen Pitluk, Ethics Attorney with the State Bar of Texas. One hour of CLE ethics credit has been approved. There is limited seating, so don't wait to reserve your spot. Registration deadline: April 28.

Law Day Luncheon



By Hella Scheuerman

We had an amazing Law Day Luncheon at the Plaza Club on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Justice Luz Elena Chapa, our Law Day Luncheon speaker, gave an interactive presentation to the students and members attending the luncheon, based upon the Law Day Theme: *The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy*. The Young Women's Leadership Academy students impressed us all with their knowledge of the "equal protection of the laws," shown through their responses at the luncheon, as well as their editorial, photo and poster entries for the the Law Day Contest.

The entries for the first place winners of the editorial, photo and poster contests were submitted to the State Bar of Texas Law Day Contest.

Immediately following the luncheon, we received great news! We were informed that two of the three student entries submitted by the Bexar County Women's Bar Association, on behalf of the students from the Young Women's Leadership Academy, were recog-

nized by the State Bar of Texas Law Day Committee! We want to congratulate Emily Valadez, who won first place in the photo contest and Joelle MacDonald, who won first place in the poster contest, in the State Bar Law Day Competition!

Thank you to Justice Luz Elena Chapa for a fun and insightful presentation at the Law Day Luncheon. We also want to thank all of our members who voted for the Law Day Winners, who were presented first, second and third place awards at the Luncheon. I also want to thank Serina Rivela and Nicole Jackson, who chaired this event with me, for all of their effort in bringing this event forward.



Law Day Luncheon (cont.)



March Luncheon Recap

By Cassie Matheson



The BCWB March luncheon was a huge success as we welcomed Susana Canseco, an attorney practicing real estate and water law with Branscomb PC.

Susana enlightened our members on the fundamental tenets of groundwater law, including the status of groundwater as private property and the regulation by local groundwater conservation districts.

Please note that we will not be hosting our regular luncheons at Club Giraud in April or May. Thanks for joining us on April 4 for

our annual Law Day Luncheon and we hope to see you May 12 at the Pearl Studio for a special luncheon featuring Victoria Pynchon. For more details on the May 12 luncheon, please see page 7. We will resume our regular luncheons at Club Giraud in June so stay tuned for more details!

Do you know of an interesting topic or speaker to be featured at one of the BCWB monthly luncheons? If so, please contact Cassie Matheson at cmatheson@hfgtx.com.

Thank you to all members who have renewed!

Welcome New Members:

- Stephanie De Sola
- Vanessa Martinez
- Jessica Lerma

WLA Networking Reception

April 6, 2017 from 4:00–7:00 pm

WLA is teaming up with the Office of Career Services, as well as other diverse student-run organizations, such as the Hispanic Law Student Association, Black Law Student Association, and the like, to host an event titled, "Highlighting Your Unique Characteristics During the Job Search and Beyond."

The event will take place on April 6, 2017 from 4:00-7:00 pm. A networking reception will kick off the event from 4:00-5:00, followed by a panel discussion from 5:00-6:00. We will still have the room reserved for those that wish to continue the discussion and network further once the panel

discussion has ended. The event will be held on the St. Mary's School of Law Campus in the Law Alumni Room.

Autumn Affair Call for Volunteers

Save the Date for 2017 Autumn Affair!

Autumn Affair will be on October 19, 2017.

Additionally, The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation is already working hard to put together its task force to help with Autumn Affair this year, and we need YOU!

Every year we put together specific committees to handle various aspects of the Autumn Affair.

The committees include: Auction, Belva Lockwood, Decorations, Graphics, Historian, Honorees/Dignitaries, Kick Off Party, Publicity/Web Promotion, Set Up/Take Down, and Sponsorship.

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees or just want more information on getting involved please contact Rachel Skinner at rskinner@dykema.com.

Book Review: *Behold the Dreamers*



By Lisa Alcantar

Connie Arambula suggested I read Imbolo Mbue's debut novel (which kudos to her garnered a \$1 million advance). I promptly added it to my San Antonio Public Library wish list and then, I waited and waited. The wish list was a mile long and moving slowly. Other than Connie's recommendation, I went into this book blind. *Behold the Dreamers* is set in New York City in 2008. Jende Jonga has immigrat-

ed from a small city, Limbe, in Cameroon. Jende overstays his visa with the intent of pursuing legal status in the United States and eventually of bringing his wife Neni and their son into the country. Life is hard, but Jende and Neni, who has arrived on a student visa, are full of joy and wonder at having arrived in the United States--this land of promise. They are working multiple job, Neni is attending school at a furious pace with the long term goal of becoming a pharmacist, when as luck has it, a job lands in Jende's lap. In an instant, Jende goes from a taxi driver to a salaried chauffeur for a Lehman Brother's executive, Clark Edwards, and his family. Clark, his wife, The novel is set just before Obama's election. and I was a tad surprised that political history did not play more into this novel. However,

in retrospect, it is clear for Jende and Neni life was going to be difficult without regard to politics. Their sole goal is to survive, to plant roots so deep they cannot leave. With the perks and stability of Jende's new job, they are able to begin saving and letting their dreams flourish. Of course, everything is rocked by the 2008 collapse, which takes down their stability, their cushion. Their struggle is a direct contrast to the lives of Clark Edwards' family. Ultimately, Jende and Neni face excruciating choices of when it is too much to bear. This novel was hard to read. Jende and Neni are always one slip away from disaster, their fate so tied up in the Edwards who are themselves falling apart. Even more, this novel felt excruciatingly timely and was a harsh reminder of the many (invisible) families struggling around us. Have something you think I should read? Send me an email at lalcantar@prdg.com



LEAD Academy Event— Step Up To Your Greatness



By Lauren M. Horne

Please join us at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, May 12 at The Pearl Studio, for a special exclusive event. The BCWBF is inviting women in the business community to join them for this amazing presentation. We have secured Los Angeles-based and nationally known speaker Victoria Pynchon of SheNegotiates.com as its keynote speaker for the luncheon.

Are your clients paying you less than your male counterparts? This seminar will give attendees the knowledge, courage and skill to close their own personal wage gap while simultaneously raising the compensation bar for all women.

As a member of the *California State Pay Equity Task Force*, Ms. Pynchon is acutely aware of the necessary steps for achieving pay equity. The first step to getting paid what you're worth is understanding your market value. The second step is to ask

for fair compensation in a manner that makes your "ask" a win for both you and your clients. Ask yourself when was the last time you were not at the top of the bell curve. Then come ready to learn how to make your compensation match it.

When: Friday, May 12, 2017

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: The Pearl Studio

Cost: Individual tickets - \$50 for members, \$55 for non-members

RSVP Deadline: Friday, May 5, 2017. You can register online [here](#).

Please include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP.

For more information, contact Elena Villasenor Sullivan at elena.villasenor@att.net.

Thanks to NAWBO and WEN for sponsoring the event!

*The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation
invites you to an exclusive event*

STEP UP TO YOUR GREATNESS

Know Your Value & Get What You're Worth



Featuring Victoria Pynchon,
Attorney, Author, & Mediator,
Founder and Owner of SheNegotiates

Friday, May 12, 2017 | Pearl Studio | 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

RSVP by May 5, 2017

Email bcwbluncheons@gmail.com
or visit www.bexarcountywomensbar.org

For additional information, contact
Elena Villasenor Sullivan at elena.villasenor@att.net

Thank You to Our Title Sponsor

Jennifer Scroggins



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Gold Sponsors



As of April 5

President's Message (cont.)

Women waited another 70 years to obtain the right to vote. The Fourteenth Amendment was not applied to women until 1971—103 years later!—when the Supreme Court decided *Reed v. Reed* and held that the Fourteenth Amendment prohibited sex discrimination.

The National Committee on Pay Equality created the Equal Pay Day in 1996 as a public awareness event to illustrate the gender wage gap. Equal Pay Day has been held on a Tuesday over the last 21 years to represent how far into the next work-week women must work to earn what men earned the previous week.

“While the gender wage gap has narrowed, it has not changed statistically in the last year, according to data released by the U.S. Census Bureau on Sept. 13, 2016. Based on the median earnings of all full-time, year-round workers in 2015, **women now make 79.6 cents for every dollar men make**, a change from 78.6 cents the previous year. Women’s earnings in 2015 were \$40,742, while men’s

were \$51,212. Rounding off the figures shows women’s earnings now at 80 percent of men’s, compared to 79 percent last year.”

Studies have also found the gap *increases* as women’s education increases. What can we each do to close the gap? Social media encouraged me to use the #20PercentCounts coupons on purchases at women-owned businesses, an idea launched by LeanIn.Org. I was encouraged to wear red “to symbolize how far women and minorities are ‘in the red’ with their pay!” (By sheer luck rather than forethought, I did manage to wear red).

There are more concrete steps we can each take and I’m excited to tell you what we have planned. On May 12, BCWBF, with the invaluable planning of the LEAD Steering Committee, hosts Victoria Pynchon. Ms. Pynchon is co-founder of She Negotiates and she is on a mission to help women, individually and collectively, close the pay gap. Our May 12th event will take the place of our usual monthly luncheon and it will be open to our members and

the business community. We expect a full house! Having Ms. Pynchon in from California is an undertaking for BCWBF, but we feel strongly as an organization that we serve you and the community best when we create an opportunity for skill building, which increases all of our odds for equality. I’m eager to learn how I can help change our wage statistics. I hope to see you all on May 12th. I’ll be wearing red and it won’t be by happenstance.

BCWB Annual CLE and Retreat— June 8 and 9, 2017 in Boerne, Texas

*Rekindle at the Ye Kendall...Fall Back
in Love with the Law*

Save the Date for the 2017 BCWB Annual CLE & Retreat on June 8th and 9th at the historic Ye Kendall Inn in downtown Boerne, Texas. We are excited to announce a speaker line up that you will not want to miss! Join us in welcoming and learning from these dynamic women that help shape our community:

- Lara Brock
- Kimberly C. Ford
- Dana A. Gorelik
- Debra L. Innocenti
- Chief Justice Sandee Bryan Marion
- Sonia M. Rodriguez
- Phylis J. Speedlin
- Mary Stitch
- Kristal C. Thomson
- Beth Watkins

We have a wide variety of topics that are sure to engage and entertain! Topics range from How to Love the Appeal Process to Why You Should Love Corporate Counsel and Financial Independence.

There will be presentations and group discussions to promote an interactive experience in a friendly and supportive environment.

We have terrific sponsors that make this CLE & Retreat possible. A special thanks to all of our sponsors!!

- Depo Texas
- Jefferson Cano & Lisa Barkley
- Kim Tindall & Associates
- Preferred Counsel Legal Placement & Jenny Marshall
- Right Images & Tom Vaello
- Silotech Group & Tiffany Tremont
- Upstream Investments & Tammy Swann
- Wickley World Wide
- Ye Kendall Inn

Look for additional 2017 CLE & Retreat updates and registration information to come!!



SAVE

The

DATE

» **TO REKINDLE YOUR LOVE** «

FOR
THE

LAW

JUNE 8TH-9TH

YE KENDALL INN, BOERNE TEXAS

HOSTED BY

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR



Volunteers Are Needed for the San Antonio Book Festival



By Lindsay Riley

SABF, the signature program of the San Antonio Public Library Foundation (SAPLF), was first presented in April 2013 with the Texas Book Festival, the Central Library, and the Southwest School of Art as founding partners. A free, open, and all-day event, the Book Festival currently features over 90 national, regional, local and emerging authors and welcomes more than 18,000 visitors.

Volunteers are needed this Saturday, April 8th from 9:30 AM- 12:00 PM or 2:30 PM- 5:30 PM

To learn more about this event, including what volunteers will be helping with, register online here: <http://www.saplf.org/festival/festival-info/volunteer/>

NEW Pitch, Hit, and Run Event - Volunteers Needed!
Saturday, April 15, 2017 9am-1pm
Kennedy Softball Complex
Looking to pitch in and help out youth from our community? This may be a perfect event for you! San Antonio Parks and Recreation is looking for volunteers ages 15 and up to assist with this fun annual event. Tasks will include event set up, assisting with registration, helping to facilitate the skills tests, etc. Interested? Call 210-207-8603 or email Meredith.Tilley@sanantonio.gov.

Walk this Way 5K - Special Event Volunteers Needed!
Saturday April 22, 2017 6am-Noon
Southside Lions Park
San Antonio Parks and Recreation is in need of volunteers ages 14+ are needed to help celebrate the conclusion of the Walk this Way Program during this fun 5K. Tasks include running water stations, parking and other tasks. Should be a fun, high-energy event! Interested? Call 210-207-8603 or email Meredith.Tilley@sanantonio.gov today!

You are cordially invited to

The State Bar of Texas Appellate Section's
Coffee with the Judges



Along with

The Justices of the Fourth Court of Appeals

Thursday, April 20, 2017
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Cadena-Reeves Justice Center
300 Dolorosa, Suite 3200
San Antonio, Texas 78205
Appellate Courtroom

State Bar of Texas Scholarship

IP Section to Award the 2017 Women and Minority Scholarships at the Annual Meeting

Each year, the Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of Texas awards two \$5,000 scholarships to a woman and/or minority law student attending a Texas law school. The purpose of this scholarship is to facilitate and encourage women and minorities to enter the practice of intellectual property law in Texas, and to become active members of the State Bar IP Section, by assisting these students with their financial needs.

Selection criteria of the scholarships include: merit, scholastic performance, and financial need. Consideration is also given to extracurricular activities both inside

and outside law school. Applications for the Scholarship will be available for download from the IP Section's website (<http://texasbariplaw.org/Awards.aspx>). All completed applications must be postmarked or time stamped by no later than **May 1, 2017** to qualify. The scholarships will be awarded at the IP Section's luncheon during the 2017 State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting in Dallas.

If you know of a deserving Texas law school student who may benefit from the Scholarship, please encourage that student to apply.

Please contact Shruti Krishnan at shru2213@gmail.com with any questions.

2017 Women and Minority Scholarship

The Intellectual Property Law Section of the State Bar of Texas will award two \$5,000 scholarships, each to a woman and/or minority law student at this year's State Bar IP Section Luncheon in June 2017.

Any woman or member of a recognized minority group, including but not limited to African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Native Americans who intends to practice IP law in the State of Texas, is eligible to apply. Applicants must be enrolled in an ABA-accredited law school in Texas at the time the application is submitted. Thus, persons who have been accepted to law school but have not yet started classes at the time the application is submitted are ineligible. However, persons who have graduated at the time the scholarship is awarded are eligible.

The purpose of this scholarship is to facilitate and encourage women and minorities to enter the practice of intellectual property law in Texas, and to become active members of the State Bar IP Section, by assisting these students with their financial needs. Selection criteria of the scholarships include: merit, scholastic performance, and financial need. Consideration is also given to extracurricular activities both inside and outside law school.

Interested students can obtain an application form online at <http://texasbariplaw.org/Awards.aspx> or from the Law School's Financial Aid or the Dean's Office. Applications must be postmarked by no later than May 1, 2017.