

THE EQUAL TIMES

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Bexar County Women's Bar Association

BCWB

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation

April 2020

President's Column



Here we are. April. Life sure has changed since my March President's Column. The COVID-19 pandemic has required us all to be more cautious and patient, and to think about others in a different way by sacrificing some of our freedoms to protect our collective welfare. For many, it has sparked uncertainty and fear over our health, families, and jobs. For essential workers, such as law enforcement, food industry employees, and health care professionals, it has required bravery and perseverance.

But even in the darkness of these unsettled times, connection is more important than ever and there are many glimmers of hope to be found. One ray of light is the way our Bexar County legal community has come together to keep the wheels of justice turning and help those in need. It's been amazing to see the hard work and collaboration of our judges, attorneys and staff in learning new technology and adapting to unique working situations to keep justice moving forward, and I couldn't be more proud of our local bar.

The BCWB highlighted an incredible example of this dedication and cooperation in its first-ever Zoom webinar on April 3 in which a panel of our District Judge's explained their unprecedented effort to make court operations entirely remote. The Honorable Judge Toni Arteaga moderated the discussion, and the panel explained how the new remote system would work while answering our legal community's most-asked questions. We had a fantastic turnout, reaching our maximum of 300 participants, and for those that couldn't join Zoom live, the free webinar was live-streamed on YouTube, and the video posted to the BCWB website.



Even though many of our events have been cancelled for the foreseeable future, the BCWB is going to continue to work to facilitate connection with more free webinars and maybe even some smaller remote round table discussions. We will also continue to bring you current information on governmental and court orders, policies and procedures. The BCWB is also exploring ways to continue to mentor the students of St. Mary's University School of Law through remote sessions.

The LEAD program isn't letting social distancing stop their progress in empowering and assisting women attorneys to achieve their highest levels of success. LEAD will be utilizing technology to make their Vision Board Event and other events happen remotely, and will continue to bring the 2020 class exciting curriculum and opportunities for growth.

Another important aspect of our mission right now is highlighting ways in which we can all use our talents and resources to assist the more vulnerable populations and the non-profits that support them. One fantastic initiative is the Big Give's Emergency Relief fund, in which you can choose the organization you wish to support in this time when non-profits need more help than ever. Please stay tuned for more ways to give back!

Thank you all for your patience, understanding and continued support of our organization as we all learn to navigate this new reality. If you have any questions or ideas for ways that we can continue to support you, our members, or the community, please email us at info@bexarcountywomensbar.org. Stay safe. Stay well.

Brittany M. Weil
BCWB President

COVID-19

PANDEMIC



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD: COVID-19

Dear BCWB Members,

After careful consideration of the escalation of Coronavirus (COVID-19), and following the guidance of local, state and national authorities, the State Bar of Texas, and our local courts, the **BCWB will be postponing all in-person events, gatherings and meetings from March 15 - April 15.** We will continue to monitor the outbreak of Coronavirus and will provide updates and notices of any further postponements of events.

The health and safety of our members and our community is of primary importance, and it is clear that postponement of in-person events and other social distancing measures are necessary to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and protect our collective welfare **CLICK HERE** to view orders and notices from our local state and federal courts.

Please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions on how we can serve you better by sending an email to info@bexarcountywomensbar.org.

Thank you for your continued support of our organization. Let's all stay calm, safe and kind.

The BCWB Board of Directors

NAVIGATING PRESIDING DISTRICT COURT AMID COVID-19, "WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE MONDAY"



On Friday April 3rd Judge Arteaga hosted a webinar, along with a panel of Bexar County District Judges on the Bexar County District Courts COVID-19 Court Operations Plan, which went into effect on Monday, April 6th.

The panel answered the top 10 questions attorneys are asking about practicing under the new procedures.

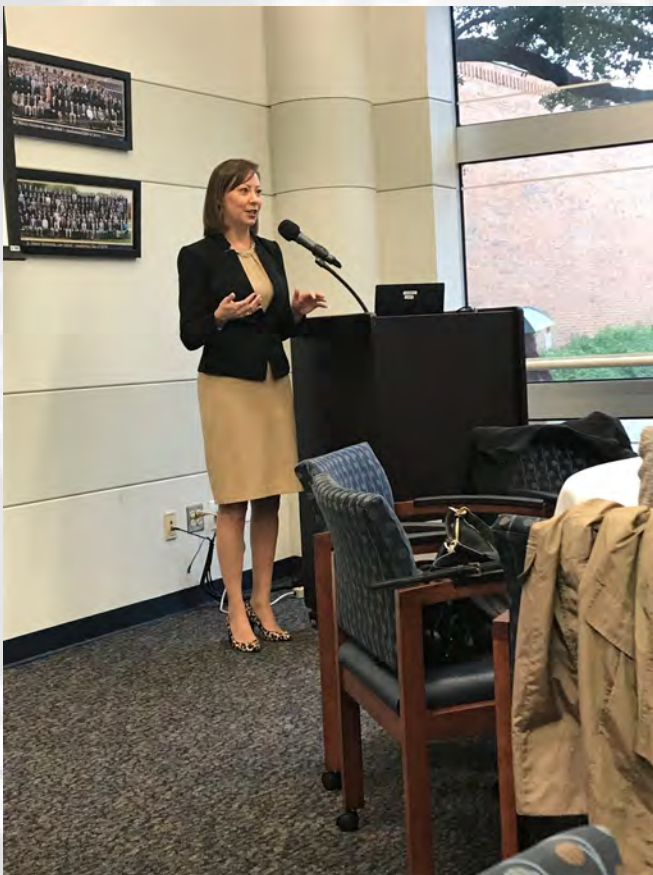
Thank you to everyone who made this webinar a huge success! And thank you to Judge Arteaga for hosting!

If you missed the webinar ***CLICK HERE*** to watch the recorded YouTube live stream video.

JANUARY LUNCHEON

In January, we kicked off 2020 with an informative luncheon by distinguished presenter Justice Beth Watkins of the Fourth Court of Appeals. The jam-packed luncheon was held at St. Mary's University School of Law and co-hosted by the St. Mary's Women's Law Association. Elected to the Fourth Court of Appeals in 2018, Justice Beth Watkins introduced herself and briefly described her pre-judicial career as an appellate advocate, longtime St. Mary's University School

of Law adjunct professor, and former law clerk. Advising the audience to graciously accept every opportunity to be of service to our profession and our community, Justice Watkins encouraged law students to get engaged in the bar. Justice Watkins also presented "Civil Appeals 101," in which she broke down the basics of preparing for, filing, and pursuing a civil appeal and gave the audience helpful hints and tips for appellate success.



St. Mary's University School of Law is proud to announce our Project and Remote Opportunities Program (PROP).

PROP provides attorneys with temporary assistance to meet their short-term needs, now, this summer, and beyond, while allowing St. Mary's law students to get remote, project-based experience. Students can help with research, writing, discovery, trial preparation, website updates, social media, or transaction closings, among other tasks.

For more information about the many creative staffing solutions PROP can provide, or to get a short-term project posted, please e-mail Kim Underdown at kunderdown@stmarytx.edu.

NCWBA March 2020 Newsletter and April Teleconference

Free Teleconference: Discussion Series: #OwningtheChangeReaction

It's Not You, It's the Workplace

Thursday, April 23, 2020, 1:00 - 2:00 CDT

Lawyer and gender bias expert Andrea Kramer, will discuss themes from her book by the same name.

Registration is free, but requested. For registration information, [click here](#).

Click [here](#) to read the **NCWBA March 2020 Newsletter** and learn about other women's bar associations across the country.

MARCH LUNCHEON



In March our very own BCWB Board Member and Luncheon Co-Chair, Alicia Grant, gave us a presentation on the recent changes to the property tax code.

Alicia previously worked for the Bexar Appraisal District and is a wealth of knowledge on the topic of protesting and appealing ad valorem valuations. While we all think that we live in McMansions, Alicia was quick to point out the various reasons why the appraisal district may not hold the same sentiments. Alicia shared her insider tips and best practices for handling ad valorem protests and appeals and navigating transactions that implicate ad valorem related issues. She also informed us of the online services that the Bexar Appraisal District offers. It was a fun presentation by Alicia and she even found a clever way to include her children in her presentation! #MOMGOALS

Thank you, Alicia, for making the property tax code interesting and sharing your practical insights with us!

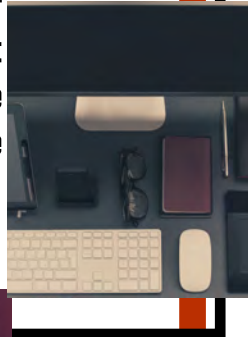




MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

By: Robin Thorner

As part of our commitment to support future women lawyers, BCWB and the St. Mary's Women's Law Association are teaming up to host a series of mentorship circles this spring. Due to COVID-19 these will be done via Zoom. The first series will start on Friday April 17th. If you would like to host a Zoom video conference for an informal discussion about your career and to share your advice, please e-mail Robin Thorner at rthorner@stmarytx.edu. Prefer to co-host with another attorney? The more, the merrier! You set the the time and provide the Zoom link and we will take care of the coordination.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

LAW OFFICES OF GRETCHEN MCCORD

PART-TIME ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY, TRADEMARK

Seeking trademark attorney with a minimum of 4 years of experience prosecuting trademarks to join our virtual firm. This is a part-time position, working irregular number of hours on an as needed basis. I anticipate an average of 40-60 hours monthly to start, with gradually increasing workload. Texas license preferred. Physical location does not matter (but must be in the U.S.).

Information and Applications

For more information, see www.gretchenmccordlaw.com.

Please email cover letter, resume with Bar number, and contact information for 3 references to gretchen@gretchenmccordlaw.com and admin@gretchenmccordlaw.com.

BCWB LITES



CONGRATULATIONS to Chief Justice Sandee Bryan Marion of the Fourth Court of Appeals on being awarded the *Samuel Pessara Outstanding Jurist Award* by the Texas Bar Foundation! This Award recognizes an active federal or state judge who exhibits an exceptional reputation for competency, efficiency, and integrity.



CONGRATULATIONS to Sara E. Dysart on being awarded the *Terry Lee Grantham Memorial Award* by the Texas Bar Foundation! This award is bestowed to a Texas attorney "who is an accomplished, talented, and dedicated [lawyer; a servant] of the profession and a dedicated advocate."

BCWB LITES CONTINUED



CONGRATULATIONS to Carrie Holloway on being named Partner at Lindow Stevens Treat LLP!

Carrie Holloway serves as lead and co-counsel in defense of civil lawsuits in state and federal courts throughout Texas. Her primary practice areas include insurance coverage litigation and defense of cases involving allegations of property damage and personal injury.

Ms. Holloway also routinely manages complex commercial litigation involving breach of contract, breach of warranty, deceptive trade practices, and breach of fiduciary duty.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation is twofold: to provide educational opportunities to its members; and to protect and strengthen local families by supporting legal and charitable programs.



**Please Direct All
Questions, Comments and
Submissions to:**

Newsletter@BexarCountyWomensBar.Org

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Edited by

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