



# THE EQUAL TIMES

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



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Happy New Year! I am so excited and grateful to help lead this organization in the year 2020. The beginning of a new year is a great time to reflect on who we really are and how we want to carry our purpose into the future. I grew up on Padre Island, and the beginning of this year kind of feels like looking out over an empty beach to the open ocean. It's one of my favorite places to be - the possibilities are endless, you can write anything you want on that sand, and you can see for miles over the vast water where freedom and adventure await. As we start the year 2020, several words come to mind: vision, foresight, clarity, focus. These words can also be used to describe the members and leaders of this organization. I think we all strive to have meaningful vision, proactive foresight, clarity in action and communication, and authentic focus in our lives and careers. These are also great aspirations for the BCWB this year, and I think the best place to start is to look at who we are at our core— an organization that empowers and supports women in the legal profession and our community.



This is reflected in the mission statements for the Association (our professional development branch) and the Foundation (our charitable and

## President's Column (cont.)

educational branch):

*The mission of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association is to improve the status of women in the legal profession by providing its members with diverse opportunities for leadership, mentoring, career development, and involvement in the greater legal community.*

*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.*

How will we accomplish these missions this year?

Providing leadership and mentorship opportunities to our members will remain a central objective. This is a completely volunteer operated organization, and we are always looking for members to fill leadership roles. Our website and newsletter team will continue to post career opportunities, as well as recognize our members' amazing accomplishments and contributions to the community. We will keep working with St. Mary's University School of Law and their Women's Law Association to facilitate mentor/mentee relationships, and we look forward to the always inspirational Swearing In Ceremony for new lawyers in November.

We will be adding more networking events that connect us with each other, other bar associations, and other industries. We will also continue to bring you events like the Halloween Spooktacular and Cookies with Santa that combine networking with family fun.

While we won't have a CLE luncheon every month, we will host several throughout the year, the first of which is coming up on January 22 at St. Mary's where Justice Beth Watkins will speak on the basics of civil appeals. Our members will have an opportunity to earn even more CLE at our fun and enlightening spring CLE Retreat, as well as the tasty Central Market Cooking Class CLE. And of course, our award-winning LEAD Academy will help its new class attain their highest levels of success in a way that is authentic, empowered, and connected.

In focusing on our charitable mission, we will identify and provide community service opportunities, the first of which is the CJP Wills Clinic taking place at St. Mary's on January 28. The Foundation will also host its annual Law Day contest for the students of the Young Women's Leadership Academy, and the winners will be announced at the uplifting Law Day Luncheon. Last but certainly not least, we can't wait to see what our Autumn Affair team has planned for 2020!

Endless thanks to the officers, directors, volunteers, sponsors, and our incredible members that make our programs and events possible. I hope we all embrace 2020's possibilities with renewed purpose, passion, and positivity!

**Brittany M. Weil**  
**BCWB President**

SAVE THE DATE

*for the*

The Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation

# January Luncheon

Featured Speaker

**Justice Beth Watkins**

FOURTH COURT OF APPEALS

Topic: Civil Appeals 101

1.0 hrs of CLE Credit

Wednesday, January 22

12:00 pm

St. Mary's University School of Law

One Camino Santa Maria

Sarita Kenedy East Law Library

Alumni Room

\$25 members, \$30 non-member guests,  
\$20 St. Mary's Law Non-WLA members, free to  
WLA members (must register with code provided)

*Click here to RSVP by no later than Friday, January 17*

# HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

## December 2019

On December 13, our members gathered at the Quarry Golf Club for a festive luncheon to celebrate the year, bid farewell to our outgoing officers and directors, welcome our incoming officers and directors, and applaud our LEAD Academy Class of 2020. Many of our guests donated books for San Antonio Youth Literacy, and in attendance were SAYL Board Chair Malinda A. Gaul and Executive Director Dr. Deborah Valdez. Not only did we wrap up the year and welcome our incoming 2020 leaders, but we also presented Restore Education with a check in the amount of \$44,000, representing the funds raised at our 2019 Autumn Affair. Thank you to all who attended, sponsored raffle items, and made this such a lovely way to end 2019!



# 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. If you would like to host a small group of WLA members at your home, a coffee shop, or a restaurant for an informal discussion about your career and to share your advice, please e-mail Robin Thorner at [rthorner@stmarytx.edu](mailto:rthorner@stmarytx.edu). Prefer to co-host with another attorney? The more, the merrier! You set the date, time, location and number of students you wish to invite, and we will take care of the coordination.



## National Conference of Women's Bar Associations December 2019 Newsletter and January Teleconference

Did you know that we are a member of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations?

Click [here](#) to read the **NCWBA December 2019 Newsletter** and learn about other women's bar associations across the country.

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### **Free Teleconference: Discussion Series: #OwntheChangeReaction The Importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Women's Bar Associations**

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 11:00 am PST

Presenters include **Sandra Yamate**, Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession; **Daphne Forbes**, Senior Counsel, Microsoft; and **Ellen Ostrow**, Principal, Lawyers Life Coach, LLC.

Join us for a discussion about why diversity, equity, and inclusion are keys to success for women's bar associations.

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

# Meet the Bexar County Women's Bar Association/Foundation 2020 Board of Directors

A big thank you to everyone that ran in the 2020 election and to all of our members who voted. Congratulations to the officers and directors of the 2020 BCWB Board. We thank you for your service and look forward to an exciting new year!

## Officers

Past-President  
**Hella Scheuerman**

President  
**Brittany Weil**

President-Elect  
**Nicole Jackson**

Vice President  
**Danielle Rushing**

Treasurer  
**Kathleen Church**

Treasurer-Elect  
**Lara Brock**

Secretary  
**Patti Oviatt**

## Directors

**Judge Antonia "Toni" Arteaga**

**Hayley Ellison**

**Jane Ann Fosson**

**Melanie Fry**

**Alicia Grant**

**Natalie Karge**

**Liz LaBarge**

**Christine Rudy**

**Kayla Tanner**

**Robin Thorner**

**Natalie Wilson**

**Former Judge Renée Yanta**

# CJP Wills Clinic



Please join us in giving back to the community as we assist the Community Justice Program with its Wills Clinic. We are seeking volunteers to help provide pro bono services, as well as notaries to assist!

January 28, 2020

Location: St. Mary's Center for Legal & Social Justice  
2507 NW 36th St., SA TX 78228

[Click here to volunteer!](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### City Attorney

The City of Dallas

The City of Dallas seeks qualified candidates for the City Attorney position. The City operates under a Council-Manager form of government with a Mayor and 14 Council Members. The City Council appoints the City Attorney who provides legal counsel to the City Council, City officials, departments and employees on all legal matters involving the city government. The City Attorney's Office has 164 staff and requires a strong leader, skilled manager, and experienced administrator. A bachelor's degree from an accredited college of law, plus a license to practice law in the State of Texas, is required. Candidates should have at least ten (10) years of senior legal administration experience in legal areas such as Appellate, Constitutional, Land Use/Zoning, Purchasing, Environmental, Open/Public Records, Contracts, and Labor/Employment Law, including litigation and transactional. A strong candidate will have prior experience as a City Attorney or Assistant City Attorney in a large, complex organization or other significant and applicable public sector experience; OR have extensive experience managing a large private sector organization with a focus on municipal and civil law. Salary is open, dependent upon qualifications.

Visit [www.srnsearch.com](http://www.srnsearch.com) to view a detailed description or apply. Position is open until filled. Questions regarding this recruitment may be directed to Ms. S. Renée Narloch, S. Renée Narloch & Associates, [info@srnsearch.com](mailto:info@srnsearch.com) or (850) 391-0000. The City of Dallas is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Pursuant to Texas Open Records law, applications and resumes are subject to disclosure.



## VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Are you looking for an opportunity to get involved with BCWB? We are looking for volunteers for 2020 to help with our luncheons, community service committee, family events, and honors and awards committee. Please email Brittany Weil at [brittanymweil@gmail.com](mailto:brittanymweil@gmail.com) if you are interested in any of these positions!

## Who is RAICES?

**RAICES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees.**

Founded in 1986 as the Refugee Aid Project by community activists in South Texas, RAICES has grown to be the largest immigration legal services providers in Texas. With offices in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.

RAICES is a frontline organization in the rolling debate about immigration. As an organization that combines expertise developed from the daily practice of immigration law with a deep commitment to advocacy. RAICES is unique among immigration organizations.

Our advocacy and commitment to change are driven by the clients and families we serve every day as our attorneys and legal assistants provide legal advocacy and representation in an immigration system that break apart families and leaves millions without pathways to legal status.

### How to get involved?

We are in need of attorneys to help fight for the vulnerable. We need attorneys ready to do their part to ensure justice.

Attorneys will be mentored throughout the process of representation.

#### Houston

Michelle Aldrich, the Pro Bono Attorney Coordinator  
email: [michelle.aldrich@raicestexas.org](mailto:michelle.aldrich@raicestexas.org)

#### San Antonio

Aida Farahani, the Pro Bono Attorney Coordinator  
Email: [aida.farahani@raicestexas.org](mailto:aida.farahani@raicestexas.org)

#### Dallas

Priscilla Villarreal, the Dallas Pro Bono Attorney Coordinator

Email: [priscilla.villarreal@raicestexas.org](mailto:priscilla.villarreal@raicestexas.org)





# Be the Difference in Their Life.

## HOW BCWB CAN GET INVOLVED WITH CASA.

## OUR *Mission*

The mission of Child Advocates San Antonio (CASA) is to recruit, train, and supervise court-appointed volunteer Advocates who provide constancy for abused and neglected children and youth while advocating for services and placement in safe and permanent homes.



## VOLUNTEER

Our main volunteer program involves training and a monthly commitment to become a **Court Appointed Advocate** for a child(ren) in need.

If you are not available to become an Advocate, you can also participate in our "Friends of CASA" program, where you can volunteer at events and donation drives. Email [Development@casa-satx.org](mailto:Development@casa-satx.org) to learn more.



## SHARE

Our message is a powerful one... help us make sure it's heard by inviting CASA to speak at any organization or group you're involved with.

You can also share our message on social media! Follow our page on your preferred platform and share any post to help spread our message.

[#CASASATX](#) General CASA Post [#35YEARSOFHOPE](#)

[#AFORTRESSOFHOPE](#) Capital Campaign / Donation Post



### CASA

CHILD ADVOCATES  
SAN ANTONIO



[casa-satx.org](mailto:casa-satx.org)



P: 210.225.7070

## SUPPORT



Help CASA provide more Advocates for children who have been abused and neglected in our community. Visit the "Donate" section on our website to see all the gift opportunities we have available for individuals or businesses wanting to support CASA.

### GALLERY OF HOPE SPONSORSHIP

*Annual Gala recognizing our Adopted CASA kids.*

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SPONSORSHIP

*Help us advocate for more children in a bigger facility.*

### GENERAL DONATION

*Gift any amount to help us serve more children in San Antonio.*



Micky & the Motorcars

Bri Bagwell

Floore's Country Store  
14492 Old Bandera Rd  
Helotes, TX

Thursday, January 16th

Doors at 7pm

Tickets On Sale Now  
on [Eventbrite](#)



# SONGS FOR SURVIVORS

Benefitting The Rape Crisis Center

Proceeds benefit  
The Rape Crisis Center



# Help St. Mary's University law students dress for success

The Office of Career Services is accepting donations of business attire to help law students build their professional wardrobes.

Donations can be dropped off at the Office of Career Services in the Sarita Kenedy East Law Library, Room 216, or at the next monthly luncheon.

Please contact Kim Underdown at 210-436-3511 or [kunderdown@stmarytx.edu](mailto:kunderdown@stmarytx.edu) to arrange a donation pick-up.



OFFICE OF  
CAREER SERVICES

[law.stmarytx.edu](http://law.stmarytx.edu)

The St. Mary's Law "Suit Up Station" is now open for law students who are in need of professional attire for an interview or even their first day on the job. If you have business professional and business casual clothes and accessories you no longer wear, we will happily take them!

# BCWB LITES



Congratulations to BCWB Secretary Patti Oviatt on becoming a Principal at Cokinos Young!

Patti's practice includes representing both businesses and individuals in matters involving general civil litigation, commercial and residential construction litigation, real estate litigation, as well as insurance defense. Patti's broad range of litigation expertise, compassion, and trial experience makes her an effective advocate for her clients. During law school, Patti was a staff writer for the St. Mary's Law Journal, President of the Women's Law Association, recipient of the Dean's Leadership Award for 2002 and 2003 and was named the school's Outstanding Woman Law Graduate by the National Association of Women Lawyers for 2003.



Congratulations to BCWB President-Elect Nicole E. Jackson on joining the Rosenblatt Law Firm as Of Counsel!

Nicole specializes in representing business owners on matters ranging from entity formation, drafting and revising employment agreements, vendor contracts, company handbooks and corporate policies, keeping in mind the legal ramifications as well as the effect on the corporate culture. Representation of business clients requires precise and effective communication skills when defending allegations in litigation and administrative matters, including those before the Texas Workforce Commission and the EEOC. Recognitions include those by *Texas Monthly* magazine as a Super Lawyer Rising Star in 2014 & 2015 and a Rising Star by the *San Antonio Scene* magazine in 2012, 2013 & 2016.

# 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.*

Bexar County Women's Bar Association

# BCWB

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation

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

**[Newsletter@BexarCountyWomensBar.Org](mailto:Newsletter@BexarCountyWomensBar.Org)**

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*Edited by*

**Brittany M. Weil**