

THE EQUAL TIMES

Bexar County Women's Bar Association

BCWCB

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation

June 2017

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THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I feel like I've spent much of the last few months telling you about LEAD and, spoiler alert, I'm going to do it again. BCWB has spent years getting to this point with LEAD and the LEAD Steering Committee has been working tirelessly since 2016. All of which is to say, this is a big deal for BCWB and we want very much for our inaugural LEAD class to succeed.

One of the biggest components of the program is developing an enriching, engaging, and inspiring curriculum—all of which we have learned, often carry a high price tag. One of the leaps the LEAD Steering Committee made was to bring in Victoria Pynchon to lead the May Seminar. Putting her stellar negotiating skills to work, Tiffanie Clausewitz convinced Vicki to give two presentations, which allowed BCWB to extend her topic to you!

While the luncheon was packed with information, the content I have already repeated to others are her guidance to (1) define yourself and (2) know your value. Usually, things like "define yourself" stop me in my tracks. My brain runs off in a panic, "Define myself?! Who am I? Someone please

LEAD ACADEMY SPRING SEMINAR and LUNCHEON WITH VICTORIA PYNCHON



On May 11, 2017, the LEAD class attended the Spring Seminar. The featured speaker, Victoria Pynchon, presented and led a workshop entitled "Strategic Conversations." Ms. Pynchon, a mediator, attorney, and author, is the co-founder of She Negotiates, a Los Angeles-based company which provides consulting services and executive coaching for professional women, including attorneys. Ms. Pynchon provided class members with strategies, tactics, and skills necessary for negotiating on behalf of both themselves and their clients. Following the presentation, Ms. Pynchon praised the LEAD Academy program, stating, "It was a privilege to present to so many successful, optimistic, hard-working women."

On May 12, 2017, Ms. Pynchon spoke to a group of Bexar County Womens Bar members and friends at the Pearl Stable over lunch. The event, which was sold out, was a great success. The attendees enjoyed visiting with each other, participating in the purse auction and hearing the wisdom of Ms. Pynchon's advice. Special thanks to our sponsors for the event and for the LEAD Steering Committee for hosting this fabulous occasion.



Central Market Cooking Class Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended the Cooking Demonstration and Ethics CLE on May 4. Attendees explored the possibilities of Farm-to-Table produce and learned the ins and outs of the ethical use of social media in the course of legal representation. The chefs at Central Market's cooking school demonstrated how to prepare asparagus-stuffed chicken breast roulades, honey glazed carrots with chives, spinach and artichoke gratin, and buttermilk panna cotta with strawberry rhubarb compote. We were shocked to learn the proper way to use a produce peeler (I mean, who knew?!) and also to learn from Ellen Pitluck the various issues that arise with regard to advertisement and other interactions on social media platforms. We hope everyone left with a full stomach, a few new cooking tricks and a better understanding of how to ethically utilize social media in the course of legal representation.



Gals & Guns - Call For Sponsors

Are you or your company interested in sponsoring a fun, unique and empowering BCWB event? Last year, the BCWB hosted the first-ever Gals & Guns clay shooting social at the San Antonio Gun Club, which was a smashing success. We had a tremendous turn-out of ladies who received valuable safety and shooting instruction in a fun, non-judgmental setting, followed by mingling and happy hour.

We are calling for sponsors to help us make this year's event even bigger and better than last year. If you are interested in learning more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Brittany Weil at bmweil@csg-law.com.



June Around Town Luncheon Fratello's on Broadway

Please join Amanda Crouch on Friday, June 16 at 11:30 am for lunch at Fratello's, located downtown at 2503 Broadway St, San Antonio, TX 78215. Fratello's has some of the most authentic Italian fare in town, featuring pizza, pasta and paninis, plus a small Italian market.

Come join Amanda for a true Italian meal! No need to RSVP, but feel free to email Amanda at acrouch@jw.com, if you want her to save you a seat. Otherwise, simply pull up a chair - we look forward to seeing you there!

ACTUAL INNOCENCE:

The Final Chapter in the Wrongful Capital Murder Conviction of Hannah Overton

**Karen Vowell Sales, Staff Attorney,
Fourth Court of Appeals**

“Justice? — You get justice in the next world. In this one you have the law.”
William Gaddis

And the law is what finally set Hannah Overton free. In 2007, a jury convicted Hannah Overton of capital murder based on the 2006 death of her foster son. At the time of his death, Hannah and her husband were in the process of adopting the child. His death was the result of high levels of sodium in his body. The State claimed Hannah force-fed her foster son a mixture of spicy seasoning and water, resulting in his death. Defense attorneys argued the child’s death was the result of a rare medical condition. A Nueces County jury convicted Hannah, believing she had delayed seeking medical care for the boy. She was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

Then, those who undertake what is often considered impossible, stepped in — the appellate lawyers, who included Gerry Goldstein and

Cynthia Orr. Hannah’s case garnered international attention because it was widely believe she was wrongfully convicted due to prosecutorial misconduct and ineffective assistance of her trial attorneys. After her direct appeals were denied, Hannah’s appellate lawyers sought review by writ of habeas corpus, and in 2014, after Hannah spent seven years in prison, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted her request for relief, overturning her conviction based on ineffective of assistance of trial counsel. However, in a concurrence, Judge Cathy Cochran addressed the issues relating to the alleged misconduct by Nueces County lead prosecutor. The allegations, if true, suggest a concerted effort to convict Hannah at all costs — fairness be damned.

After determining Hannah received ineffective assistance of counsel, the high court remanded the matter to the Nueces County trial court for a new trial. Initially, former Nueces County District Attorney Mark Skurka suggested his office might retry Hannah. Given the scientific



evidence that came to light during the habeas process, this seemed to be little more than posturing. Ultimately, Mr. Skurka dropped the charges against Hannah, but refused to declare her innocent, thereby preventing her from seeking compensation for her wrongful conviction. Finally, on May 10, 2017 — ten years after her conviction — current Nueces County District Attorney Mark Gonzalez declared Hannah actually innocent. Now she will be able to apply for reparations under the Tim Cole Act. Under the Act, because Hannah's conviction was overturned and a prosecutor declared her actually innocent, she is eligible for a lump sum payment

equal to \$80,000.00 for each year she spent behind bars and monthly annuity payments for the rest of her life.

Hannah, her husband Larry, and their five children now live in East Texas. They have created a program to house released inmates as they transition into society. This program is part of their prison ministry — Syndeo Ministries. Although Hannah is now free and fully exonerated, no person or entity can return to her or her family — especially her children — those lost seven years. So perhaps Mr. Gaddis is right — there is no justice in this world, but there is the law — and those who work so hard to safeguard its principles.

June Luncheon

The Details

**When: Tuesday,
June 6th @ 12:00
p.m.**

**Where: Club Giraud
\$25 - Members**

Click Here to
RSVP
Now!

We are thrilled to announce that Professor Angela Walch from St. Mary's University School of Law will be our featured guest speaker at our June BCWB lunch at Club Giraud. Professor Walch's research focuses on money and the law, blockchain technologies, governance of emerging technologies and financial stability. In 2016, she was nominated for "Blockchain Person of the Year" by Crypto Coins News for her work on the governance of blockchain technologies and her influential article in American Banker arguing that the coders and miners of public blockchains should be treated as fiduciaries. **CLE approved!**

When: Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Club Giraud

Cost: \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, \$20 for students

RSVP: Please RSVP by Friday, June 2nd by clicking [here](#). Please include any dietary restrictions in your RSVP. We understand that 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 our caterers and no-shows will be billed.***

For more information, contact Meagan McKeown (mmckeown@dykema.com), Danielle Rushing (dnrushing@csg-law.com), or Cassie Matheson (cmatheson@hfgtx.com).

We hope to see you there!



President's Column (cont.)

tell me the answer!” Pynchon’s advice, however, made this exercise less open ended. In essence, you can either define yourself or be defined and the former is an inherently better choice; but, *how* you define yourself sets the floor for your value. Pynchon offered up the example of her partner who defined herself as a “coach” rather than a “consultant.” In examining this choice, Pynchon noted the gender dynamics at play—the former exuding a women’s role as currently popular life coaches and the latter most often being a male-dominated role. The gender dynamics almost guaranteed that, in choosing “coach”, her partner was reducing her starting value. Personally, when asked the proverbial question “what kind of law do you practice?”, I often respond with a joke that I am a desk litigator. What a way to undervalue my work!

Pynchon’s advice for knowing your value

was equally practical. As much as it is about knowing what you bring to the table, it is more importantly knowing what the market pays and asking for your market value without apology. When we sell our houses, we do not base the value off of the amount we paid, but rather what comparable houses are selling for in our market. As buyers, we accept this standard of valuation. Approaching asking for a personal pay raise or starting salary by backing out the “but I deserve this” and filling it in with “the market is paying” makes the proposed salary one both the employer and the prospective employee can value.

By all accounts, this luncheon was a success for BCWB. As I looked around the room, I saw so many of you taking notes. Moving forward, we would like to continue to bring in additional keynote speakers. Thank you for your continued support of BCWB, without which none of this would be possible.

Welcome New Members!

Hayley Ellington-Buckles



Click
Here to
Register

REKINDLE YOUR LOVE

FOR THE **LAW**

BCWFB ANNUAL
RETREAT & CLE

JUNE 8TH-9TH

YE KENDALL INN, BOERNE TEXAS

HOSTED BY

BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR

2017





Depo Texas

Kim Tindall & Associates

Preferred Counsel Legal Placement & Jenny Marshall

Right Images & Tom Vaello

Silotech Group

Upstream Investment Partners & Tammy Swann

Wickley World Wide

Ye Kendall Inn





THURSDAY, JUNE 8:

3:00–4:30pm

Check-in and Relax

4:30–6:00pm

Welcome Reception & Networking

6:00–7:30pm

Dinner/Life Path from Childhood to Partner

Sonia M. Rodriguez, Branton, Hall, Rodriguez, Cruz, P.C.

7:45–9:15pm

Book Review

Rough Road to Justice: The Journey of Women Lawyers in Texas

Facilitated by Judge Renee Yanta and Tracey Tylman

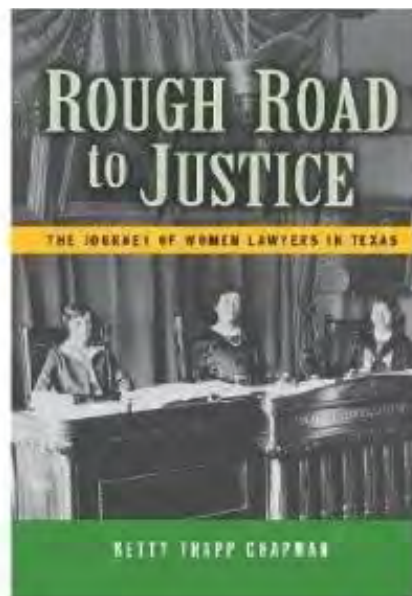
FRIDAY, JUNE 9:

- 7:30–8:30am **Breakfast / How to Love Networking Again**
Beth Watkins, Watkins Appeals, PLLC
Kristal C. Thomson, Langley & Banack, Inc.
- 8:45–9:30am **How to Love the Appeal Process Again**
Chief Justice Sandee Bryan Marion, Fourth Court of Appeals
- 9:30–10:15am **How to Love Computers Again**
Debra L. Innocenti, Innocenti Jones, PLLC
- 10:15–10:30am **Break**
- 10:30–11:30am **How to Love Ethics Again**
Marie A. Haspil, State Bar of Texas, Disciplinary Counsel
- 11:45am–1:00pm **Lunch / How to Love Financial Statements Again**
Kimberly C. Ford, The KFord Group, Certified Public Accountants
- 1:00–1:15pm **Break**
- 1:15–2:45pm **Love the Law: Round Table Discussions**
Choose any Three Table Topics for In-Depth and Interactive Discussions
1. **Why You Should Love Corporate Counsel,**
Mary Stich, Rackspace
 2. **Why You Should Love Discovery,**
Lara Brock, Espinoza Law Firm, PLLC
 3. **Why You Should Love Financial Independence,**
Dana A. Gorelik, Wells Fargo Private Bank
 4. **Why You Should Love Arbitration/Mediation,**
Phylis J. Speedlin, Dykema Cox Smith
 5. **Why You Should Love Criminal Law,**
Liza Rodriguez, Law Office of Liza Rodriguez

*CLE approval is pending

Thursday Night Book Review at Retreat

Pick up your copy of *Rough Road to Justice: The Journey of Women Lawyers* for an inspiring and educational book review scheduled for Thursday, June 8 from 7:45PM – 9:15PM. Judge Renée Yanta and Business Coach Tracy Tylman will lead us in an interactive book review presentation of the State Bar's publication: *Rough Road to Justice: The Journey of Women Lawyers*.



The presentation will focus upon the great achievements of the first women attorneys and judges in Texas. Judge Yanta and Ms. Tylman will discuss and educate us on:

1. Principles of ethical advocacy/Developing into a Noble Lawyer;
2. Effective communication skills with opposing counsel, courts, and clients;
3. Effective advocacy in the face of adversity;
4. Civility and professionalism in an unwelcoming environment; and
5. Establishing an effective practice/life balance.

URGENT - PRO BONO HELP NEEDED

We have been asked to aid in finding pro bono counsel for a San Antonio woman who needs help filing for divorce, as well as custody and guidance in the child support process. This client is leaving an abusive marriage and has previously been the victim of human trafficking. If you, or someone you know can help her, please reach out to Shari Y. Mao at smao@jw.com. Time is of the essence.

SAVE THE DATE

Autumn Affair - October 19, 2017

"A Night of Hollywood Glamour"



Call for Nominations for Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer and Outstanding Young Lawyer Awards - Deadline Extended to June 16

By Lauren Horne

On October 19, 2017, the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation will recognize two distinguished attorneys with the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award and the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. Women attorneys in our community who have been licensed to practice law for eleven or more years will be considered for the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award. Women attorneys in our community who have been licensed to practice law for three to ten years will be considered for the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. The recipients must be current members in good standing of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association.

The selection committee will consider:

- Contributions to the community in the form of appointed or elected offices, and membership and board involvement in community organizations;
- Contributions to improve the status of women in society and in the legal profession;

- Contributions to the legal profession;
- Experience, reputation, and standing in the legal community;
- Contributions to the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Foundation and its projects; and
- Other relevant contributions to the community.

Please take some time to consider what outstanding women attorneys you know who are deserving of this very special award.

Please note that because of our desire to honor all women who have achieved high honor by their ascent to the judiciary at Autumn Affair, sitting judges are not eligible for the Belva Lockwood Award.

Please send the name and email address for your nominees no later than June 16th to Lauren Horne at lhorne@hdr-law.com

or 6243 IH 10 West, Suite 601, San Antonio, TX 78201. All nominees will be sent an application after the close of nominations.



8TH ANNUAL CJP GOLF TOURNAMENT



June 9, 2017 @ 12 Noon

The Community Justice Program is pleased to announce its 8th Annual CJP Golf Tournament!
The tournament will be held at the beautiful **Quarry Golf Course**.

The tournament will be a 4-person scramble format with registration starting at 12 noon and a 1 p.m. shotgun start. Throughout the game be sure to watch for roving golf carts with refreshments!

There will be prizes for the winners of the Longest Drive (male/female) and Closest to the Pin (male/female) contests, top teams, Hole-In-One, as well as goodie bags and door prizes.

**Show your firm, company,
organization, or team's support by becoming a sponsor!**

REGISTER

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of players (max 4) _____ @ \$150 per player

IMPORTANT: Please note each player's handicap!

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Number of Mulligans (\$10 each): _____

Each mulligan gives you one extra door prize ticket.

**I enclose \$ _____ for the tournament,
mulligans and/or sponsorship.**

To register or become a sponsor, please visit
<http://bit.ly/cjpgolf2017> or fill out this form and return to:

ATTN: CJP Golf Tournament
The Community Justice Program
Bexar County Courthouse
100 Dolorosa, Suite 500
San Antonio, Texas 78205

I would like to be a:

- Ace Sponsor
- Birdie Sponsor
- Double Eagle Sponsor
- Par Sponsor
- Eagle Sponsor

Name as you would like it to appear on your sponsor
signage: _____

Name on credit card: _____

Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx

CVV2/CVC2: _____

Credit Card number: _____

For additional information, contact Camille Ayala at events@sabar.org

Family Event at Big'z Burger Joint

Bring the family and come out to Big'z Burger Joint on Sunday, June, 25, 2017, for mid-summer fun with members of the Bexar County Women's Bar and Moms-in-Law San Antonio. No need to RSVP - we'll see you under one of the patios. For questions, please contact Laura Cauley at laura_cauley@txwd.uscourts.gov or (817) 980-5145.

Sunday, June 25, 2017

5pm-7pm

Bigz Burger Joint

2303 N. Loop 1604 W.

San Antonio, Texas

78258

(Between Bitters & Huebner)

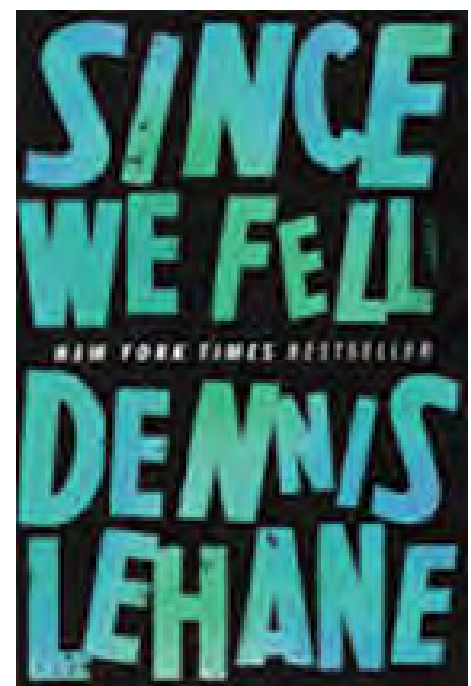
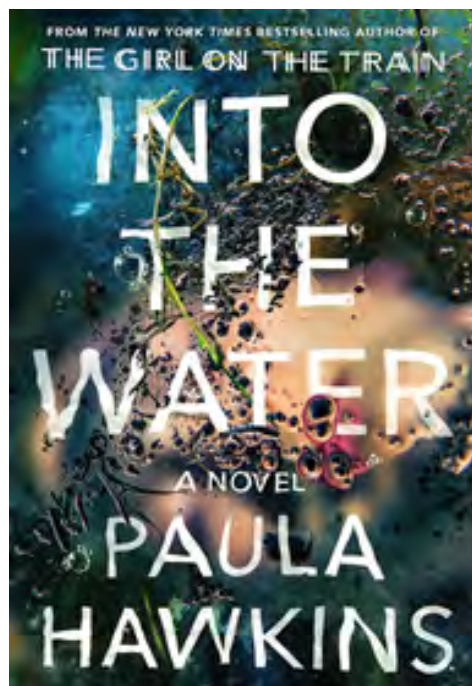


INTO THE WATER AND SINCE WE FELL

By Lisa Alcantar

This month I added a flurry of books to my library wishlist and, as always happens, got two books back-to-back. First up, I read *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins. You might have read her first novel *Girl on the Train*. Her follow up novel is of a similar genre. It took me a while to get into this one simply because there is a cast of characters and Hawkins spends the first several chapters hopping from one to the next, giving the reader a little glimpse into the character, but not enough detail that I could firmly remember the character a few chapters later. I enjoyed this thoroughly when reading it, but struggled to recall the storyline a few days later ... a perfect beach read!

Next up I read Dennis Lehane's *Since We Fell*. Like most of Lehane's novels, *Since We Fell* is set in Boston, but this novel marks the first time Lehane has had a female protagonist, Rachel Childs. The premise is that Rachel, this scrappy, talented journalist who battles agoraphobia, and discovers that her husband is not who she thought he was. I love a good mystery; this was enough of a catch for me. Honestly, as enjoyable as this book was, it felt like watching a movie play out—all the heightened and improbable moments of drama coming to a nice clean resolution. I'd rank this as a long beach read as long as you are willing to not think too hard about how likely any of the scenarios are.



Job Posting for University Health System

University Health System
Associate General Counsel

- Department: Vp Legal Services
- University Hospital, San Antonio, TX - Full Time
- Day Shift

POSITION SUMMARY/RESPONSIBILITIES

Provides counsel and advice on legal matters involving University Health System. Interprets governmental regulations and statutes and provides legal oversight to the development, implementation and enforcement of Health System policies and procedures. Participates and provides legal advice to senior management regarding strategic direction of the Health System, including contractual relationships with third parties and entities. Primary responsibilities involve complex health care contracting issues, public sector law and health care law.

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

A Law Degree (JD or LLB) from an accredited Law School required. Must be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Texas and currently licensed to practice law in this state. Three to five years as a licensed attorney and three years progressively responsible experience in public sector law preferred. Experience in transactional issues is required. General knowledge of governmental procurement and contract law, public sector law and health care law is highly preferred.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

License to practice law in the State of Texas required.

Contact: Arlena Jonas

Email: Arlena.Jonas@uhs-sa.com

Link to the position:

<https://www.healthcaresource.com/universityhealthsystem/>

[index.cfm?fuseaction=search.jobDetails&template=dsp_job_details.cfm&cjobId=111832](https://www.healthcaresource.com/universityhealthsystem/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.jobDetails&template=dsp_job_details.cfm&cjobId=111832)

BCWB Lites

- **Hornberger Fuller & Garza Inc.** is looking to hire a real estate associate. Please direct all inquires to Cassie Matheson at cmatheson@hfgtx.com
- **Casillas Law Firm, PLLC** has recently moved offices! The new office is located at: 206 E. Locust Street, San Antonio, Texas, 78212. Phone number is (210) 212-6700. Casillas Law Firm, PLLC specializes in estate planning, probate, guardianship and ad litem work in personal injury, heirship and guardianship cases.
- **Vanessa Kemmy** is a new Associate with **Rosenblatt Law Firm, P.C.** working in the transactional section of the firm.

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

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

Newsletter@BexarCountyWomensBar.Org

THE EQUAL TIMES

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