

THE EQUAL TIMES

Bexar County Women's Bar Association

BCWB

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation

May 2019

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



The Bexar County Women's Bar Association joined the San Antonio Bar Association again this year during Law Week to visit with the Junior students of the Young Women's Leadership Academy and discuss career paths in the field of law. We had many Judges and lawyers attending, including Justice Liza Rodriguez, Judge Rosie Alvarado, Judge Monique Diaz, Judge Cynthia Marie Chapa, Judge Mary Lou Alvarez, Lara Brock, Casey Lee, Courtney Kerr-Moore, Durime Fahim, Robin Thorner and myself. Thank you to Justice Rebeca Martinez for coordinating this program. It was important to discuss the different college and career options available to these students as high school juniors and future leaders. This group of mentors also spoke with the students about taking chances in their career paths, supporting one another, bringing one another up, and working towards their goals with plan and vision.



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President's Column (cont.)

Thank you to all who submitted nominations of non-profit agencies for Autumn Affair. We have received applications from the various agencies for consideration. Those who have volunteered to a part of the beneficiary selection committee will be meeting in May to review those applications.

I hope you are planning to attend our upcoming events. To highlight a few, we have the Central Market CLE on May 9, 2019, with speaker Susan Pamerleau, United States Marshal for the Western District of Texas. The following day, on May 10, 2019, is the BCWBF/LEAD Empowered Women Leaders Luncheon, featuring Debbie Epstein Henry, Consultant, Attorney, Best-Selling Author, & Workplace Equality Expert, at the Pearl Stable. Also, don't miss out on the opportunity to attend the BCWB Annual Retreat! We are now accepting reservations for the retreat, set to take place at the beautiful Hillside Boutique Hotel in Castroville, June 13-14. I encourage you to sign up for any or all of these events, spend some quality time with other members, and enjoy the spectacular line up of speakers.

Hella Scheuerman
BCWB President



National Conference of Women's Bar Associations

April 2019 Newsletter

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

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

**BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR FOUNDATION
2019 Empowered Women Leaders Luncheon**



**EXECUTIVE
PRESENCE**

**Register
HERE!**

Friday, May 10, 2019
Pearl Stable
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FEATURING DEBBIE EPSTEIN HENRY

*Consultant, Attorney, Best-Selling Author,
& Workplace Equality Expert*

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

FIERCE VIP Sponsor:
\$2,000
Limited Number Available!

- Exclusive pre-event reception with Ms. Henry
- Premium table placement for 8 guests
- 16 Raffle Tickets
- Color logo featured in event materials and promotions

STRONG Sponsor:
\$1,250

- Premium table placement for 8 guests
- 8 Raffle Tickets
- Color logo featured in event materials and promotions

SMART Sponsor:
\$750

- Table for 8 guests
- Black & white logo featured in event materials and promotions

Contact Dannick Hernandez (dhernandez@pg-law.com) for Sponsorship Information

For more information about the event
and individual tickets, visit
www.bexarcountywomensbar.org



Benefitting
BEXAR COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR FOUNDATION
LEAD ACADEMY
LEAD. EMPOWER. ADVANCE. DEVELOP.



2019 LAW DAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

By: Serina Rivela

Law Day Contest
Committee Chair

We had a fantastic turnout for our Law Day Celebration Luncheon at the Quarry Golf Club on April 9, 2019. Justice Liza Rodriguez gave an excellent interactive presentation to our members and the students from the Young Women's Leadership Academy. Some lucky students selected by Judge Rodriguez walked away with coveted Fiesta medals for answering questions related to this year's Law Day Theme: Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society. Attendees also enjoyed hearing from three students from the Young Women's Leadership Academy, who shared their learning experiences and desire to become community leaders focused on the health and wellbeing of our community.

Afterwards, this year's Law Day Contest winners were announced in the following categories:

Editorial Contest: Sierra Vargas - 1st Place
Melanie Harrell - 2nd Place
Armani Carreon - 3rd Place

Photography Contest: Julie Tift - 1st Place
Nina Hernandez - 2nd Place
Sophia Thompson-Arispe - 3rd Place

Poster Contest: Yareli Aleman - 1st Place
Nayeli Garcia - 2nd Place
Emily La Rosa - 3rd Place

It was also announced during the luncheon that Julie Tift won second place in the statewide photography contest.

Many thanks to everyone who helped judge the entries, organized the luncheon and joined us to support the students. A special thanks to all of you who donated to the Young Women's Leadership Academy for SAT Prep books. Because of your generous donations, BCWB was able to donate \$940, which amounted to approximately 27 SAT Prep books.

2019 LAW DAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON PHOTOS



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. 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.



Judicial Spotlight

Judge Veronica Vasquez



By: Brittany M. Weil
BCWB Vice President

Judge Veronica Vasquez was elected to the bench of Bexar County Probate Court No. 2 in 2018. Her career experience ranges from working as a legislative aide, as a lawyer specializing in elder law and probate, and as a department director and managing staff attorney at Catholic Charities in San Antonio. Despite her busy schedule, Judge Vasquez took the time to discuss her career and mentors, the importance of sisterhood, and her calling to help and protect those in our society who are the most vulnerable.

Where did you go to law school, and did you know you wanted to be a judge when you were in school?

I graduated from the University of Texas School of Law and the University of Texas for undergrad. I bleed burnt orange. I did not know I wanted to be a judge. My sole reason for attending law school was to help people. I interned my last semester of undergrad at the Texas Civil Rights Project. It was there that I began to understand the impact lawyers have on people's lives. It was at this time that I decided I wanted to go to law school to help people.

Who were/are your mentors, and how did they impact you?

I am blessed to have many mentors over the years. One of my mentors is Senator John Whitmire. After undergrad, I worked for the Senator in both his Houston and Austin office. I learned a lot from him about diplomacy and the art of hearing all sides of an issue. When running for this office, he supported me and gave me valuable advice. I consider him a lifelong mentor. I also have a mentor named Sarah Buel. She was my professor at UT Law and taught domestic violence and the law. She was a domestic violence survivor and one very resilient and smart person. She taught me that we must use our voice to advocate for those that cannot speak for themselves. We still keep in touch. Finally, my other mentor is Pat Jasso. Pat Jasso is a fierce advocate for women's equality and she's not afraid to speak up. I admire people like that. She encouraged me to run and has pushed me to be bold.

Judicial Spotlight cont.

What is one of the biggest challenges you have faced in your career, and what skills did you utilize to overcome it?

I believe one of my biggest challenges I have faced in my career is dealing with sexism - Yes, it exists! When first starting my career, I had not experienced (overt) sexism. I have been mistaken for the legal assistant, received brash comments, and had my opinions and thoughts dismissed because I am a woman. At one of my previous law firms the men of the firm would fly to Vegas and bond - women were never, if rarely ever, invited. I believe this gave an unfair advantage to my male colleagues when we were competing for partner. I did bring it to my bosses' attention, but nevertheless, the Vegas trips continued. For other reasons, I ultimately left the firm. These challenges in some ways are a blessing. It has made me more aware of who I am as a female attorney, and brought me closer to my female colleagues. I have mentored young women in the legal field and will continue to do so. We need that sisterhood!

What was your career path before being elected, and how did your experience prepare you to be a judge?

I worked for a State Senator John Whitmire before law school, during law school, and after law school. In this position I worked with the public to address their needs. I also observed great campaigning, which helped when it was my turn to campaign. My first legal job was as an ad valorem tax attorney (property tax attorney). This position actually helped me in the field I am in today because probate has a lot of property issues as well. I was also appointed by Harris County Commissioners to be a Game Room Hearing Examiner. I heard appeals for revocations and suspensions of licenses for game rooms in the City of Houston and Harris County. Being a hearing examiner prepared me for the role I am currently in. I knew what kind of Judge I would make if elected and I knew it was the right calling for me after this position. I also had my own private practice in probate law and then worked for Catholic Charities as the Director of the Guardianship and Probate Department. I enjoyed the position at Catholic Charities; it helped me understand the great need there is for low-cost legal services. I continue to value the need for low cost/ pro bono legal services, and am currently the Co-Chair for the CJP.

Judicial Spotlight cont.

What has been your greatest learning experience on the bench so far?

Probate court is a very busy court; every day I learn something new.

What is the most rewarding part of being a judge?

Protecting people. Probate court hears a lot of Adult Protective Services cases and guardianship cases. In guardianship cases, loved ones try to obtain guardianship over incapacitated family members. Unfortunately, I also see a lot of cases of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. These individuals are the most vulnerable in our society. By granting guardianships, the court is helping to protect these individuals.

Thank you, Judge Vasquez, for your public service, dedication to help others, and support of the BCWB. We are so inspired by you. Because of women like you, the future of women in the law is certainly bright!



A RETREAT WITH A VIEW: EXPANDING OUR PRACTICE HORIZONS



BCWB ANNUAL RETREAT & CLE: JUNE 13-14, 2019
HILLSIDE BOUTIQUE HOTEL, CASTROVILLE



8.25 hours CLE credit pending (including 2.0 hours ethics)



- Leisurely check-in on Thursday afternoon between 3-5 p.m. with welcome reception, CLE, and dinner following.
- Arrive early on Thursday to relax, rejuvenate, and pamper yourself in the Hotel's full spa or gorgeous pool!
- Expand your practice horizons with skill-focused CLE sessions.
- Enjoy friends, fellowship, and sweeping views in the stunning and beautifully renovated Hillside Boutique Hotel in Castroville.
- Fun-filled Friday includes breakfast and mimosa bar starting at 7:30 a.m., lunch and CLE presentations ending around 2:30 p.m.

SPACE IS LIMITED – [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER BY MAY 6](#) AND RECEIVE
EARLY BIRD PRICING!
OR GO TO BEXARCOUNTYWOMENSBAR.ORG

Early Bird Special

EXTENDED

April 1 – May 6

\$325 Single

\$225 Double (each)

Regular Registration

May 7 – June 6

\$375 Single

\$275 Double (each)

Early Bird and Regular Registrations
include CLE, meals, and room.

Friday Only Registration

\$200 (includes CLE and meals)

For sponsorship opportunities, contact Danielle Rushing at
drushing@dykema.com or (210) 554-5528.

Find out why Hillside Boutique Hotel is often called the
“best kept secret in Texas.” <https://www.hillside texas.com>

Stay an extra day to enjoy Castroville and Hotel amenities.
Hillside is offering BCWB a special Friday night rate of \$150!

[Register Here](#)

April Around Town Lunch Recap

On April 25, 2019, we held our monthly Around Town Lunch at The Cove. Danielle Rushing, Connie Arambula, Lauren Valkenaar, Christine Rudy, Lauren Horne and Brittany Weil noshed on delicious food in the glorious spring weather while catching up on work, family, dogs, yoga, and everything in between. Look forward to seeing you in May!



2019 AUTUMN AFFAIR UPDATE

By: Kathleen H. Church and
Durime Fahim
Autumn Affair Co-Chairs



Happy May y'all! Hopefully you saw our save the date in the last newsletter, and if not, don't fear, there is a save the date in this one as well. This year, the Autumn Affair will be held on October 25, 2019 at the Witte Museum. Doors will be open at 5:30 p.m., so don't be late!

Our décor committee has met and let me tell you, you do not want to miss out on what is being planned. If you've ever wanted to play flamingo croquet, this might be your lucky night! As always, we are looking for volunteers in any capacity but we would love more volunteers for our Auction Committee. It takes a village to put on our auction every year and the more helping hands, the merrier (and less stressful!) Even if you cannot volunteer, if you have auction ideas or contacts, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Now go back to picturing yourself yelling "More tea! More tea!" as you pick your favorite colored flamingo to decimate your friends at croquet.





SAVE THE DATE!!!
2019 BCWBF Autumn Affair
Witte Museum
Friday, October 25, 2019
6 o'clock



*Don't be late
for a very important date!*

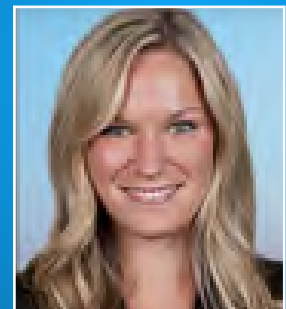
Co-chairs
Kathleen Church (kathleen@churchlawsa.com)
Durime Elmazi Fahim (durime@me.com)
Please email Kathleen or Durime
for volunteer opportunities.



May Around Town Lunch



Join Lindsay Riley for the May Around Town Lunch on Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 11:45 am at Dough Pizzeria Napoletana in Hemisfair Park, 518 South Alamo Street. No need to RSVP. Just look for Lindsay. We look forward to seeing you at Dough!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP—Prescreening

- **Saturday, May 11, 2019**
- **8:00 AM-4:00 PM**
- **Victory Center, San Antonio College, N. Main and W. Dewey**
(Use Parking Lot 13 or Lot 14)

Activities:

- Attorneys will be given a stop sheet with vital questions to ask the applicant;
- Attorneys will be checking throughout to see if the applicant qualifies for citizenship;
- Attorneys will also review citizenship applications

Flexible shifts!

- Entire event from 9 AM to 3 PM,
- Pre-screening only from 9:00 am -12:00 pm, or
- Check-out/quality control (where applications are reviewed) from 11:00 -4:00 PM (may finish early).

Attorneys will be given a *brief orientation* on the day of the event regarding the exact procedures.

Anyone interested in volunteering should please contact Maria Guerra (maria.guerra@sanantonio.gov)





Catholic Charities
Archdiocese of San Antonio, Inc.

invites you to join us as we recognize

JUSTICE ALMA LOPEZ

with the

ST. IVES AWARD RECEPTION

Benefitting Caritas Legal Services

June 5th, 2019
5:30 - 7:30pm

Poblanos On Main
115 W. Main Plaza
San Antonio, TX 78205



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$1,500 (limited to ten sponsorships)

- Reserved seating for eight at your sponsored table
- Logo placement in Today's Catholic event advertisement
- Logo placement on signage at the reception
- Acknowledgement at the reception.

\$500

- Four tickets to reception.
- Acknowledgement on signage at the reception.

\$1,000

- Six tickets to reception.
- Acknowledgement in Today's Catholic event advertisement
- Logo placement on signage at the reception.

\$75

- Individual ticket

Hors d'oeuvres and drinks to be served.

THE ST. IVES AWARD

St. Ives is the patron saint of lawyers. This award honors Catholic individuals in the legal profession who have made a lasting impact in San Antonio through their advocacy and service.

For more information, please contact
Christina Higgs at (210) 222-1294 or email chiggs@ccaosa.org



Caritas Legal Services presents:

ASK A LAWYER

Immigration | Guardianship | Kinship

**Would you like to volunteer?
We welcome your help**

- ▶ Guardianship/Wills
- ▶ Immigration Assistance
- ▶ Child Support
- ▶ Grandparent Rights
- ▶ Custody Rights
- ▶ Power of Attorney
- ▶ Crime Victim's Rights

Catholic Charities is coming to you!

- Jan 19th 9a-12p Sacred Heart, Floresville
- Jan 26th 9a-12p Sts. Peter and Paul, New Braunfels
- Feb 9th 9a-12p St. Timothy
- Feb 16th 9a-12p Holy Redeemer
- Mar 2nd 9a-12p St. Cecilia
- Mar 23rd 9a-12p Our Lady of Guadalupe, Helotes
- Mar 30th 9a-12p St. Andrew, Pleasanton
- Apr 6th 9a-12p St. Peter the Apostle, Boerne
- Apr 13th 9a-12p St. Andrew, Lytle
- May 11th 9a-12p St. Joseph, Del Rio
- May 25th 9a-12p St. Mary Magdalene
- Jun 1st 9a-12p St. Pius X
- Jun 22nd 9a-12p Shrine of Padre Pio
- Aug 17th 9a-12p St. Timothy

Lawyers interested in providing pro bono services to Caritas Legal Services must contact Tom Harper with Volunteer Services at (210) 222-1294 or tharper@ccaosa.org to process a volunteer application.

Caritas Legal Services
110 Bandera
San Antonio, TX 78228
www.ccaosa.org



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant General Counsel, Business Law

The University of Texas System

The University of Texas System Office of General Counsel seeks an experienced attorney to provide advice, counsel, and representation on business and intellectual property matters.

The selected candidate will join the Business Law practice group, which is composed of lawyers who practice in tax, construction, contracting, procurement, technology and intellectual property, and will report to the Senior Associate General Counsel & Managing Attorney for Business Law.

Functionally, the position will be responsible for matters that include: (i) copyright, patent, and trademark licensing; (ii) intellectual property litigation; (iii) research and development agreements involving a number of different industries and specializations, and (iv) technology commercialization. The ideal candidate will pair experience in intellectual property with the attitude of a generalist and will assist clients with the full range of business issues in a variety of commercial contexts.

Required Qualifications

- Graduation from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association.
- Admission to the Texas Bar or, for out-of-state applicants licensed in another jurisdiction, Admission without Examination within six months of hire date.
- At least 7 years' experience as a licensed attorney, with a strong background in and principal focus on intellectual property.
- Effective written/oral communication skills and ability to manage a broad range of complex issues in a collaborative environment

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in drafting, negotiating, and advising clients on intellectual property matters involving some of the following industries: computer software, medical, pharmaceutical, publishing, higher education, energy, and oil and gas, or branding/advertising/marketing.

To view the posting and apply, please [click here](#). With any questions, please contact David Lein at 512-499-4474 or dlein@utsystem.edu.

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 to arrange a donation pick-up.



OFFICE OF
CAREER SERVICES

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



Erica Benites Giese has joined Jackson Walker's San Antonio office as senior counsel. As former Chief of the Financial Litigation Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas, she brings a wealth of experience to the Investigation & White Collar Defense and Litigation practices. She also served as the Chief of the San Antonio and Del Rio offices. Erica represents clients in white collar investigation and litigation matters, advising on matters such as bank regulatory compliance, defense and trial preparation, and internal investigations. For more information, click [here](#).

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Nicole Drake

Itzel Martinez

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

THE EQUAL TIMES

Edited by

Brittany M. Weil