

# THE EQUAL TIMES

---

Bexar County Women's Bar Association

# BCWB

Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation

November 2017

## INSIDE:

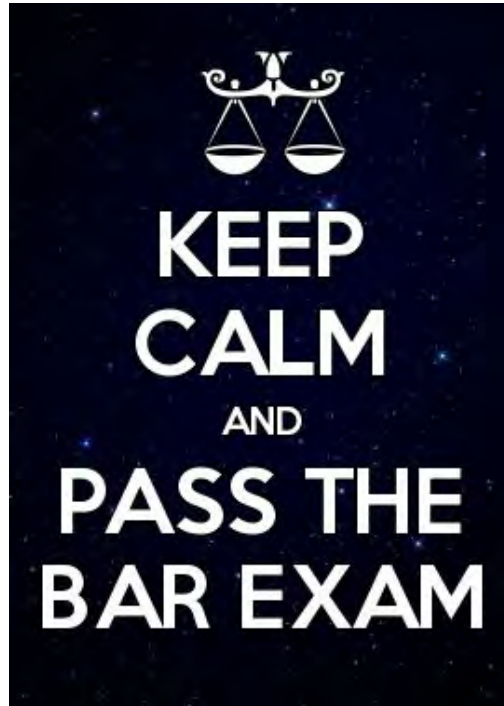
- President's Column
- Swearing In Ceremony
- November Luncheon
- Welcome New Members
- 2018 Ballot Summary
- Holiday Luncheon
- Cookies with Santa
- Spooktaclur Pictures
- Autumn Affair Recap
- Volunteer Corner
- BCWB Lites
- Around Town Lunch
- Movie Review
- Restaurant Review

## THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Recently, a member of our legal community reached out to me with the hope that she could share a warning through BCWB about a Houston-area mediator. As we chatted and she relayed part of the events, I was aghast at the mediator's lack of professionalism, but also at the discomfort, embarrassment, and lack of safety that the affected lawyer must have felt. Like the individual sharing the information with me, I was not sure the best way to share such an experience. I'll be honest: it had not occurred to me to worry about such things in mediation. While I do not want to simply parrot any of the amazing articles that have responded to the viral #metoo movement, I do think mediation presents a complicated dynamic that we, as lawyers, should be discussing.

I took the question to a closed group of Texas female attorneys on Facebook to ask their thoughts. I was caught off guard when my post suddenly had almost 100 comments and my inbox had numerous private messages. Many of the women in the comments and private messages had also experienced mediations in which they were subjected to unwelcome physical touching and comments on their appearance, among other things. The women who told me their own stories of touching and comments and discomfort all pointed to separate mediators.

# Calling All New Attorneys for 2017



You've endured the months of studying, you've survived taking the Bar, you're waiting those agonizing three months to find out if you've passed the Bar, and we all know you did, so take the time to plan ahead how you will commemorate your new status as a licensed attorney! The Bexar County Women's Bar and the San Antonio Young Lawyers' Association have the place to be for all fledgling attorneys waiting to become official.

Join us on November 9, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Central Jury Room of the Bexar County Courthouse and be sworn in, in the very room where justice can begin its journey, by the honorable Chief Justice Sandee Bryan Marion of the Fourth Court of Appeals. We will also hear from Senior U.S. District Judge David A. Ezra, as well

as the heads of various legal associations now open to you to join. Mix and mingle with some of the greatest legal minds in the community! This event is open to all who have passed the Texas Bar Exam and since no new attorney is an island, please bring your family, your friends, your support group, whoever cheered and helped every step of the way. Space is limited. If you have any questions about this event please email, Kathleen Church at [kathleen@churchlawsa.com](mailto:kathleen@churchlawsa.com) or Taylor Beaver at [tbeaver@dslawpc.com](mailto:tbeaver@dslawpc.com).

**When? November 9th, 4-5:30 p.m.**

**Where? Central Jury Room**

**Who? You and Your Celebratory Crew**

# November Luncheon

The Bexar County Women's Bar is thrilled to partner with the San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyers Association for the November luncheon.



Please join us at Club Giraud on Tuesday, November 7, as we welcome guest speaker U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth "Betsy" Chestney. All SACDLA members will be able to attend the luncheon at the BCWB member rate. The deadline to RSVP is **TODAY!**



**RSVP NOW!**

## Welcome New Members!

- Maria Fernanda Alfaro
- Kay Cee Cole-Cortez
- Samantha Dyal
- Mercedes Flores
- Jessica Gonzalez
- Alicia Grant
- Brittany Hinojosa
- Carrie Holloway
- Amanda Merced
- Colleen Mulholland
- Laura Porter
- Rachael Rubenstein
- Claire Tracey

# Bexar County Women's Bar

## 2018 Election Ballot

It's time to vote for our Officers and Directors for the 2018 year. Like last year, voting will be conducted electronically, so please keep an eye out for an email on November 6th with a link to the electronic ballot. Voting will remain open until November 20th at 5 p.m.

All dues-paying attorney and paralegal members, as well as honorary lifetime members, are eligible to vote. This year, we have six open Director positions. The Officer Candidates and Director Candidates who have accepted a nomination are below.

## Officers

### President-Elect



### **Hella Scheuerman**

Hella is a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law and has been in private practice since 1997. She is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Scene in San Antonio Magazine has recognized her as a Best Lawyer in personal injury (2009, 2012), civil litigation (2011), and general litigation (2013-2017). She has been a Member of BCWB since 1997, Director 2011-2014, Treasurer-Elect 2015, Treasurer 2016 and Vice President 2017. Hella has been an Active BCWB

Member on various committees, including: Co-Chair Autumn Affair (2013), Chair BCWB Family Event (2013), Co-Chair Law Day (2012, 2015-2017), Chair Mentor-Mentee (2014), and Young Women's Leadership Academy Liaison (2015-2017). She is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Fellow in the Texas Bar Foundation, Board Member for Impact San Antonio and serves as a Faith Formation Catechist in her local Parish.

## Vice President



### **Shari Mao**

Shari is an associate in the Corporate & Securities section at Jackson Walker. During law school, Shari interned for Chief Judge Fred Biery of the United States District for the Western District of Texas. Shari was the 2015 Young Belva. She chaired the first annual Swearing In Ceremony, and took on an update to our by-laws.

## Treasurer-Elect



### **Brittany Weil**

Brittany was raised in Corpus Christi, where she also completed her undergraduate studies. At St. Mary's University School of Law she was a member of the John Harlan Society, which is reserved for the top ten percent of the graduating class. After completing law school, Brittany began her career practicing oil and gas law. She then joined Curl Stahl Geis in 2009, and began her commercial litigation practice. She currently handles a wide variety of commercial litigation matters, including contract, business tort, real estate, construction, and natural resources disputes.

## Secretary



### **Nicole E. Jackson**

Prior to opening her own boutique law firm in 2015, Nicole was a shareholder and managing partner of a local firm focused on insurance defense throughout South Texas and New Mexico. Nicole's practice is focused on providing legal advice to both business owners and individuals facing difficult legal challenges. Nicole serves the role as in-house counsel to many local businesses, advising them on issues ranging from employment matters to contract review and litigation. Additionally, Nicole works with individuals seeking estate planning or assistance with probate and/or guardianship matters. Nicole has been on the BCWB board since 2017; she chaired the annual retreat and co-chaired the Law Day committee.

# Directors



## **Gaylia Brunson**

Gaylia is a divorce attorney at Cordell & Cordell. Prior to joining Cordell & Cordell, Gaylia practiced in the areas of personal injury, contract disputes, landlord/tenant disputes, family law, probate and estate planning, and social security law. She has also taught negotiations and mediations at St. Mary's University School of Law since 2004.



## **Laura Cauley**

Laura graduated from St. Mary's School of Law in 2011 and served as a Briefing Attorney to the Honorable Sandee Bryan Marion on the Fourth Court of Appeals and as a term law clerk to U.S. Magistrate Judge Henry J. Bemporad prior to becoming a Career Law Clerk to Senior U.S. District Judge David A. Ezra in 2015. She graduated from Texas Lutheran University in 2002 with a B.S. in Biology and a minor in History. Laura also received a M.S. in Forestry from the University of Montana. Prior to law school, she worked for Texas Parks and Wildlife. She has served as a Board of Director on the Bexar County Women's Bar for the past two years, chairing the Family/MILSA Committee and the Judicial Liaison and Legislative Committee, as well as serving on various committees for Autumn Affair including the Beneficiary Committee and the Auction Committee. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband Shannon and four-year old daughter Iris Elizabeth.



## Amanda Neugebauer Crouch

Amanda Neugebauer Crouch is a commercial litigator at Jackson Walker, LLP. She graduated with honors from Baylor Law School in 2013. During her time at Baylor, Amanda was President of the Student Bar Association, the Managing Senior Executive Editor of the Baylor Law Review and a Research Assistant for President Ken Starr.

At Jackson Walker, Amanda has represented clients in a wide range of litigation matters, including oil and gas disputes, creditor representation, financial institution disputes and defending personal injury claims. Amanda excels at providing legal solutions to complex problems, tailoring strategies to fit each client's specific need. She works tirelessly for her clients and sees her role as a partner with her clients in reaching their business goals.

In addition to her legal practice, Amanda is involved in the San Antonio community. In 2015, Amanda co-founded the Hemisfair Coalition, a young professionals organization to support fundraising and advocacy efforts for the redevelopment of Hemisfair. Amanda is active with the Junior League of San Antonio and currently sits on the Board of Directors. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the North East Educational Foundation where she has the opportunity to give back to the school district where she was raised.

Amanda has served on the Bexar County Women's Bar Association Board of Directors since 2016. She is currently serving on the Board as the Chair of the Newsletter Committee

and as a liaison for the National Association of Women Judges' Conference that will be hosted in San Antonio in 2018. Additionally, she recently received the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award. In 2016, she Co-Chaired Autumn Affair. She served as the Co-Chair for the inaugural Swearing-In Ceremony Committee in 2014 and Chair of the Swearing-In Ceremony Committee in 2015. She is also Past President of Defense Counsel of San Antonio and an alumna of the 2015-2016 Leadership SBOT class, which is a joint program of the State Bar of Texas and Texas Young Lawyer's Association. Amanda is a member of the San Antonio Bar Association and Inns of Court.

In her spare time, Amanda enjoys traveling and trying new restaurants with her husband, Scott. She is a die-hard Texas Longhorns fan and, like any good San Antonio girl, loves her Spurs.



## **Melanie L. Fry**

Melanie L. Fry heads Dykema Cox Smith's appellate practice in San Antonio. Melanie is immediate Past-President of the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and currently serves as Special Projects Chair of SABA's Federal Courts Committee. She is co-author of the "Federal Court Update," a recurring column in the San Antonio Lawyer Magazine, and author of the yearly "Personal Injury Update" for the Texas Bar Journal. Melanie is passionate about community outreach; she is a coordinator for the annual Fox Tech Girls' Mentoring Luncheon, FBA and FCC's Constitution Day for San Antonio High Schools, Dykema's annual Day of Service, and "Night Out" with the Guadalupe Home. For the past several years she has coordinated the Federal Court Practice Seminar, the required course for attorneys seeking admission to practice in the Western District of Texas. She is a Fellow in the Texas Bar Foundation and an elected Board member of the Sunset Ridge Church of Christ Foundation. She has been a BCWB member since 2010 and a frequent Autumn Affair volunteer. She looks forward to serving with "Moms-in-Law." Melanie and her husband Kyle are proud parents to preschoolers Ethan and Hannah.



## **Vanessa H. Kemmy**

A graduate of Saint Mary's School of Law on a Dean's Scholarship, Vanessa's practice primarily focuses on transactional matters for the firm. While in law school, Vanessa was active in student organizations as the Secretary for the Women's Law Association and a member of the Student Bar Association. She was chosen for the Retired Chief Justice Alma L. Lopez Woman in Law Leadership Award as an exemplary student who maintained honor, integrity, and personal authenticity in educational pursuits, personal life, and career goals, as well as provided advocacy on behalf of low income women or battered or abused women and children. Vanessa received a Community Service Certificate upon graduating for an exceptional number of hours devoted to bettering her community, which included her time volunteering at legal clinics for the law school. Additionally, Vanessa interned with private firms and with a sitting State Senator while in law school.

Vanessa has been practicing in San Antonio for five years and enjoys having an active role in her local community. Prior to working with the firm, Vanessa worked in the financial sector doing regulatory compliance work. She was recently selected as a



member of the inaugural class of the Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation's LEAD Academy, and enjoyed her time as a member of Leadership San Antonio, Class 39. She serves on the Texas Wall Street Women San Antonio Committee and is able to give back to the Young Women's Leadership Academy through her involvement with this organization. In her free time, Vanessa enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, reading, and cooking.



## **Danielle N. Rushing**

Danielle N. Rushing is an associate attorney with Curl Stahl Geis, P.C., where she practices commercial litigation. Danielle is a native of south Louisiana, and completed her undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University. While pursuing her degree at St. Mary's University School of Law,

Danielle received numerous awards for her work as a staff writer and a senior associate editor for the *St. Mary's Law Journal*. She was also recognized for her dedication to pro bono work during law school as student co-coordinator of the San Antonio Wills Clinic operated by the Community Justice Program of the San Antonio Bar Association. Danielle continues to serve as an attorney volunteer at pro bono clinics hosted by the Community Justice Program.

During law school, Danielle held teaching assistantships at St. Mary's University School Law for Associate Dean Victoria M. Mather and for U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Craig A. Gargotta, worked as a judicial intern for Judge Gargotta and for Chief Justice (Ret.) Catherine M. Stone of the Fourth Court of Appeals of Texas, and completed internships at the San Antonio office of the U.S. Department of Justice's Trustee Program and with Sirius Computer Solutions, Inc.

Danielle is an active member of the Bexar County Women's Bar Association and Foundation, where she broadcasts e-mail communications on behalf of BCWB and the LEAD Academy, operates the social media accounts for BCWB and the LEAD Academy, serves as the Autumn Affair Decorations Committee co-chair and the Luncheons Committee co-chair, and updates the BCWB website. She is also an active member of and serves on the executive committee for The Honorable Larry E. Kelly American Inn of Court, and is a member of the San Antonio Young Lawyer's Association.

Danielle is passionate about community service, and gives back to the San Antonio community as a member of the Junior League of San Antonio, Inc., and the San Antonio Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, Inc. In her spare time, Danielle enjoys baking, reading, traveling, watching SEC football, and taking her Pomeranian, Bacchus, on walks and to the dog park.



## **Kayla Tanner**

Kayla Tanner moved to San Antonio just over two years ago when she started as a litigation associate with Jackson Walker and is enjoying putting down roots and getting involved in her new community here in San Antonio. Over this last year, Kayla has been surrounded by great role models and new friends as a class member in the inaugural BCWB Foundation's LEAD Academy. Her experience with LEAD has inspired her to become more involved in

BCWB and women's initiatives in San Antonio. Kayla also currently serves as the treasurer of the Defense Counsel of San Antonio, which encourages increased awareness and interactions between the local bar and the judiciary. In her spare time, Kayla enjoys kayaking with her husband, Brad, and cuddling with her two dogs.



## **Robin Thorner**

Robin Thorner is the Director of the Office of Career Services at St. Mary's University School of Law, where she also teaches as an adjunct professor. After graduating from law school, Robin clerked for the Hon. Deborah Hankinson on the Texas Supreme Court, and was an Equal Justice Works Fellow at South Brooklyn Legal Services, where she represented children with special needs with an emphasis on special education, disability discrimination and SSI advocacy. Robin brings to the Office of Career

Services 15 years of public interest experience, much of that in leadership positions. Prior to joining St. Mary's Law, Robin was a supervising attorney at Disability Rights Texas (formerly Advocacy Inc.), representing individuals with mental health needs and intellectual and developmental disabilities. Previously, she was first a staff attorney and, later, a managing attorney at University Legal Services, the protection and advocacy program for individuals with disabilities in Washington, D.C. While there, she supervised and coordinated the office's mental health advocacy, which included individual and systemic litigation. As an adjunct professor, Robin regularly teaches a Client Interviewing mini-course and Legal Research and Writing during the academic year. She has also taught Mental Health and the Law. Robin received her undergraduate degree at Yale University and her J.D. from New York University School of Law. Robin has been an active member of the BCWBA for the last three years, and serves as an auxiliary board member to the San Antonio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. Outside of the law, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Community Center and chairs the Inclusion and Special Needs Task Force there, while also serving on a number of committees at her synagogue. She and her husband have two children and a constant stream of foster dogs, in addition to their own beloved boxer rescue.



## Judge Renée Yanta

Judge Renée Yanta (formerly McElhaney) has served as a District Court Judge for over five years. Prior to taking the bench, she was an attorney for over 20 years. As a partner of her law firm, she built a nation-wide appellate and business litigation practice and served as the first woman chair of USLAW, a national legal organization. Before starting her legal career, Judge Yanta was a public school teacher for 9 years.

Presiding over the 150th District Court, Judge Yanta handles civil litigation, include complex business and construction disputes. She also has deployed her judicial resources to impact at-risk youth.

With the assistance of the Children's Court, Judge Yanta has innovated PEARLS Court. This therapeutic court partners with several other essential social service organizations, including the Department of Family and Protective Services, to help teen girls in Foster Care, providing "Judge Renée's" strong oversight, mentorship and additional educational support. With a "village" of other women volunteers, PEARLS Girls explore expanded career opportunities, receive trauma informed care, and build strong relationships with positive role models.

Judge Yanta's foundational principle is derived from Micah 6:8: What is asked of us but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.



*Join Bexar County Women's Bar  
for our annual Holiday Luncheon*

Luncheon Beneficiary: SA Reads  
Help us spread holiday cheer by donating new or gently-used children's books

*Friday, December 8, at 12 p.m.*

*Silo Alamo Heights*

*\$40 per guest*

*RSVP by December 1st*



GreetingsIsland.com



**RSVP NOW**

JOIN US FOR

*Cookies  
with Santa*

1 - 4 P.M.

THE DOSEUM

DEC **2** 2017

\$25 per BCWB Member family

\$35 per non-member family

Skip the lines and join us instead! The event price includes admission to the DoSeum, an electronic image with Santa provided by The Life in Art Photography, delicious cookies and great company.

*Click [HERE](#) to RSVP now!*



## President's Column Continued

It isn't my place to relay other people's experiences; consider instead the following fact pattern: You are in mediation. Your mediator is a male. Your opposing counsel is male. The mediator makes unambiguously inappropriate comments about your "ass"ets during the opening session. Or, your mediator repeatedly comes into the room, calls you darling, and massages your shoulders in an effort to get you to settle your case. Or, your mediator insists you hug him before you leave.

What are you supposed to do? If you leave, your client's mediation fee is lost; your fee is "wasted". Will your opposing counsel complain about your failure to mediate in good faith? Will the judge believe your reason for leaving the mediation? Will your judge think you are being a cry baby? Do you stay and tell the mediator his behavior has been inappropriate? How will complaining affect your client's case – will the mediator's bias increase? Is the right thing to do simply to stay quiet? How does this affect your client's perception of your ability to represent them?

There was no consensus among the women responding to my Facebook post. There were many calls to report this type of behavior to the disciplinary committee, but there was also concern about sharing allegations openly. Other commenters suggested we only use women mediators. Some of my favorite mediators are women; I am certainly supportive of increasing the current percentage of women mediators. One thing that is clear is we cannot let these things slide: we should report egregious behavior; we should use mediators, of any gender, with whom we feel comfortable; we should be as honest as we can in our referrals to such mediators. I hope we can begin to talk openly about these issues.

As I talked to male attorney recently about this issue, he said he would not know what to do if he witnessed a mediator behaving inappropriately and expressed his own concerns of the impact on his client if he spoke up. I told him, personally, I would pull my opposing counsel aside for a private chat and make sure my opposing counsel felt comfortable proceeding with the mediation. There is no one "right" way to approach this and so much depends on the situation, but we owe it to each other as humans and to do a gut-check. The question remains of how we change the culture going forward. I realized that many mediators, like attorneys, have practiced in workplaces that do not have standardized sexual harassment training. Sexual harassment training is not part of becoming a certified mediator in Texas. It seems to me that it should be and that simply reinforcing the idea that the use of touch and comments about appearance are not appropriate in mediation would go a long way to alleviate these issues. That's not to say that education alone eliminates all the bad apples, but don't we have an obligation to try?

# spooktacular

We had such a fun time at this year's Annual Halloween Spooktacular at Kiddie Park! Extra special thanks to our Moms-in-Law Committe and SAYLA for organizing this year's event.



# A Night of Hollywood Glamour

By Rachel Skinner Fernandez

On October 19, Bexar County Women's Bar Foundation hosted its annual signature event, the Autumn Affair. This year's theme, A Night of Hollywood Glamour, was evident through all aspects—from the red carpet that welcomed guests, to the pomegranate martinis handed out when guests entered the event, to the directors' clapboards that directed guests to their table. The event highlighted the women jurists of our community and two outstanding trailblazers, the Honorable Shirley Butts and the Honorable Alma Lopez. Additionally, the event raised money for the year's beneficiary, THRU Project.

The night opened with a cocktail hour, featuring the signature martini, and various passed hors d'oeuvres. Guests were able to view the silent auction items while also participating in a brand new bidding format—Clickbid! Guests could view items and make bids online, receiving regular notifications when they were outbid. During the cocktail hour, a slideshow of the current sitting female judiciary played in the ballroom. The program itself included a video honoring the Honorable Shirley Butts and the Honorable Alma Lopez. Additionally, the evening honored the Belva Lockwood Young Lawyer Award winner, Amanda Crouch, and Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award winner, Suzanne Oliva. It also featured Elaine Hartle, THRU

Project's co-founder and Executive Director, who shared her powerful story of how she got involved with foster care and her passion for providing resources for foster children who are aging out of the foster care system.

The Autumn Affair provides the opportunity for old friends to share a drink, make new friends, and raise money for a worthy cause. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the sponsors who contributed to making this year's event a resounding success. The BCWB is humbled by your support and dedication to the mission of our organization. I sincerely appreciate the donors, contributors, and supporters within our community. Because of you, Bexar County Women's Bar has the opportunity to recognize the women who have laid the foundation for the rest of us in the legal community, honor attorneys who dedicate their work to the betterment of our practice, and raise money for honorable causes. Most importantly, I want to thank all of the BCWB members who served on various committees for the event this year. Without the countless hours you all spent wrangling donations and putting together the countless aspects required to make an event like this successful, Autumn Affair would not happen. BCWB will present the proceeds from this year's Autumn Affair to THRU Project at the BCWBF's Annual Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 8th at Silo in Alamo Heights. We look forward to seeing you there!!





Auction Chairs Greta McFarling and Jenn Rosenblatt would like to extend their immense gratitude for the hard work and tireless efforts of the Auction Committee:

- Natalie Karge
- Rebecca Smith
- Jule Chung
- Vanessa Kemmy
- Jennifer Bruning
- Christine Rudy
- Elisabeth Assunto
- Rachel Moreau-Davila
- Sara Ellison
- Meredith Cooper
- Stephanie de Sola
- Bianca Frisaura
- Erika Anderson



# THE HOLIDAY SEASON

By: Kathleen Church

Are you ready for the holidays?? An iceberg of a question that seems so simple on the surface but has so many underlying attachments, it can induce dread in even the most organized and prepared individual. That nebulous time known as “the holidays” at the end of every year can and does cause untold stress from food preparation to logistics of travel to how long can one last at certain family gatherings. Most of us do enjoy the socializing and the eating, but the work that goes into getting there makes many look for the closest stress reliever. Cue all the many charities in our city working tirelessly during the holiday season to help so many in need. Sometimes taking a step back from our own hectic lives and giving back to those less fortunate can refocus and revitalize us to keep on keeping on until we cross the New Year’s finish line. In this month’s article, instead of focusing on one organization, I am going to mention several who are all looking for volunteers.

First up, SAMMinistries (<https://www.samm.org/>), an interfaith program started in the heart of downtown in the early 1980’s by First Presbyterian Church, and then later joined by several downtown churches, to combat the homelessness problem in downtown San Antonio. Their goal is to try to prevent eviction or homelessness before it happens but also help people already on the streets start the path to self sufficiency. Through shelter, transitional housing, and services such as trainings and counseling, SAMMinistries provides a compassionate environment for those who need more than a simple helping hand. One of the great things about this program is because of the number of services offered to their residents, the volunteer opportunities are wide and varied.

Opportunities are categorized from individual to families to groups, there’s something for everyone. Individual opportunities range from being a homework helper for the children residents to helping their transitional housing center catalog and organize their library to providing childcare, or even simply coming in and helping them send out thank you’s to all the people who donated to the cause. Family opportunities come in the form of helping paint as well maintain the gardens around the living centers, as well helping with whatever special event might be happening that month, usually Saturdays from 10 am to noon. Group opportunities include many of the activities listed above but also have a meal team where you help create the special dinners on Tuesdays where all residents sit down together to eat and a family art class where the group helps the instructor pass out supplies as well as help keep children on task. Of course, this is only a few of the activities where volunteers are needed. For a full list please visit SAMMinistries’ volunteer page (<https://www.samm.org/get-involved/volunteer-opportunities/>) and they are more than happy to plan any special service project ideas you might have as well as sit with you to figure out the best place for your skills. All inquiries can be answered either via email, [volunteer@samm.org](mailto:volunteer@samm.org) or via phone, 210-321-5639.

Next up, we have the annual Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner, one of the biggest charitable events in San Antonio during the holiday season. Started back in the 1970s in Fort Worth, but moved to San Antonio in 1979, restaurateur Raul Jimenez wanted to feed a tasty meal to senior citizens in need. With his own money, he fed 5,000 people the first year here. As the event grew, more and more people stepped up to help and sponsor, so at present, this event feeds almost 30,000 people and is in need of at least 3,000 volunteers. I understand Thanksgiving is a BUSY day, and many of us are traveling and cannot volunteer on the day of the dinner, but plenty of volunteers are needed leading up to Thanksgiving Day! Volunteer opportunities start November 18th and continue through Thanksgiving Day. I have personally volunteered at this dinner a couple of times, and it truly is a wonderful experience. If you can spare the time this month of November, please consider volunteering by signing up online, [http://www.volunteersanantonio.org/agency/detail/?agency\\_id=16032](http://www.volunteersanantonio.org/agency/detail/?agency_id=16032).

It seems much of anyone's holiday celebrations revolve around food, and in following that pattern, there are many opportunities to get good food in the hands of people who need it. Meals on Wheels (<http://www.mowsatx.org/>) works all year to supply hot and nutritious meals to homebound seniors in our county. Of course, it's not only the meals that make this program great but also the providing of daily interaction for someone who might not always have access to either. After an orientation, volunteers can help deliver meals to and socialize with the elderly in the program. And who could forget our faithful furry friends?? AniMeals is a program through Meals on Wheels that provides food to the pets of the elderly enrolled in the program. For AniMeals, donations of pet food are always accepted. This Thanksgiving, Meals on Wheels has a special program of delivering a hot Thanksgiving meal to the elderly on Thanksgiving Day. Deliveries begin at 5 am and last until noon. If you are going to a mid afternoon or late Thanksgiving Dinner, please consider spending your morning with Meals on Wheels. More information can be found by calling 210-735-5115 or emailing [veronicad@mowsatx.org](mailto:veronicad@mowsatx.org). Registration for the Thanksgiving Day deliveries end November 16th but volunteers for normal delivery are always welcome.

Last but not least, is The Elf Louise Project. I know perhaps a zing of terror ran down your spine at the thought of Christmas already because hey lady, Thanksgiving hasn't even happened yet, please one holiday at a time! But, in order for Elf Louise to get their presents out on time, much planning and work goes into it ahead of time. The Elf Louise Project (<http://elflouise.org/wp/>) began in 1969 and was founded by Louise Locker, a Trinity student at the time, who wanted to do something special for so many of the children who would not have a present to open that Christmas. In her first year, she

provided presents for 13 families, and today her organization provides over 60,000 gifts to thousands of families. The entirety of the Elf Louise Project is staffed by volunteers, and funded by donations. There are volunteer opportunities for everything from data entry to toy stocker to gift wrapper to Santa delivery coordinator. Whatever you want to do, they probably have a job for you! If you're like me, and you love wrapping gifts, then this is definitely the place to be. This is also a perfect activity to get the whole family involved. For all volunteer opportunities, please visit their volunteer page, <http://elflouise.org/wp/volunteer-opportunities/>.

Whatever it may be, small or large, finding a way to help someone in need, might be the exact stress reliever you're looking for this holiday season.

## BCWB Lites

Kim Tindall & Associates was just named #1 Deposition Service Provider in SA and Austin and #3 in Dallas and Houston. Congrats Kim!

## Around Town Lunch

Come join your 2018 President Greta McFarling and soon to be Past President Lisa Alcantar for an informal lunch! No RSVP required. Just grab a friend and get to know some new ones.



When: November 16th @ 12 p.m.

Where: 5 Points Local, 1017 N. Flores

# Blade Runner 2049

## Movie Review

By Rachel Skinner Fernandez



When I first saw the preview for *Blade Runner 2049*, I immediately put the original *Blade Runner*(1982) on my to-watch list. When I read some reviews on the original, I was surprised to see reviews stating things like it “redefined a genre” and describing it as the “greatest science fiction ever made.”As a self-diagnosed science fiction addict, I knew I had to see it.So I immediately rented it and forced my husband to sit down and watch it with me.Once it concluded, I’ll admit, I immediately decided I hated it.For me, it seriously lacked character development, and I found myself hoping it would end sooner than it did.I recognize now that it has some serious artistic value, but it was not for me.However, I pressed through to see the recent sequel—*Blade Runner 2049*.

The sequel blew me away. It picks up in 2049 (the original was set in 2019) where bio-engineered humans known as “replicants” have been integrated into society as servants and slaves.The film focuses on K, played by Ryan Gosling, a blade runner who hunts down and “retires” rogue replicants.The acting is first class—and let’s be honest, no one can complain about staring at Gosling’s gorgeous face for an entire movie.Gosling, the younger actor well-known for his emotionally trying roles perfectly complements Harrison Ford with his classic stoicism.Roger Deakins, cinematographer, creates visually stunning scenery as he takes his viewers on a beautiful journey through this future world.The score is relatively simple, but manages to emotionally charge the beautiful scenery and acting in a powerful and cohesive way. The film also continues, without reiterating, the conversation raised in the first one—challenging what it means to be human and how we define ourselves and our souls.It leaves you with these philosophical questions long after the film has concluded.When I walked out of the theater, I was so glad I had taken the time to continue on my *Blade Runner* journey.

# Range

## Restaurant Review

By Amanda Crouch



In case you haven't heard, Chef Jason Dady has a new restaurant in town. And just like any Dady restaurant, the drinks are tasty and the food is fabulous! Located in the Embassy Suites Hotel at the corner of Houston Street and Soledad, Range has transformed the space where Luke used to be into an American chophouse.

"Tablesides" is the name of the game at Dady's new digs. The menu features a tableside martini, made on a cart in front of you with all the fixings, and a tableside Caesar salad for two. Both items are as tasty as they are fun to watch being prepared.

If cocktails aren't your thing, the wine list is extensive and includes a reserve selection from the new and old world, many of which cannot be found at any other restaurant in town.

The featured menu items are, of course, the steak and game options. The beef is perfectly aged and each selection comes with a variety of sauce options, including a cognac-green peppercorn au poivre and a basil oil chimichurri. If you prefer something from the field, the quail and pork loin chop have both received rave reviews.

The sides are served family style and the portions are large. There are some interesting options, such as orzo cacio e pepe and smoked gouda cauliflower gratin. The pan-seared potato gnocchi is amazing as are the crispy fried brussel sprouts.

If you aren't completely full at the end of your meal, the dessert selections are worth the calories or there is always room for another glass of wine.

Overall, the atmosphere is great. There are high-top or booth options or you can choose to sit at the bar and people watch while you dine.

As with any Dady restaurant, Range is definitely worth a try. There is a great lunch menu as well or you can always take some friends after work to happy hour. I'll let the food photographs do the convincing, but it definitely comes with a two thumbs up recommendation from me!



# 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)**

# THE EQUAL TIMES

*Edited by*

**Amanda Crouch**

**Lisa Alcantar**

**Julie Grant**