

# THE EQUAL TIMES

## INSIDE:

- President's Column
- The Big Give 2020
- Acts of Alleyship Panel
- Making the Right Moves: Power Pivot Conference
- NCWBA Webinars
- BCWB Lites
- Now Hiring
- My Texas CSR
- Message from the Board: COVID-19

## September President's Column



Change is in the air and it feels a lot like fall! The weather is cooling down from inferno to a refreshing 88 degrees and I'm hopeful that we might even see sweater weather by December. School is back in session, although for most, virtual classrooms and distance learning have made it unlike any fall semester we've ever seen. My children are struggling with Zoom fatigue and lack of recess with friends, yet enjoying less rigorous morning routines and more time at home. But despite the challenges, it really is amazing how kids are adapting. Actually, it's amazing how everyone is adapting as the pandemic requires us all to continue to take precautions, be considerate of others, travel less, and rely on virtual meetings for work and social events. I am so very proud of our local

bar and the BCWB in the way that we have come together and adapted in order to support each other and our community. Speaking of adapting, another important and fast-approaching autumn activity that will face unique challenges this year is getting out there to VOTE!

With these unique challenges to voting in mind, the BCWB Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee once again put together a highly energized and informative webinar on September 2 entitled Leave No Voter Behind 2020: Giving Voice to the Voiceless. Our dynamic moderator, Tess House, presided over a helpful and timely discussion with Myrna Pérez of the Brennan Center for Justice and Nina Perales of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). Our nationally recognized panelists enlightened us on what we can do to be prepared and resilient in confronting the obstacles faced by voters and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to exercise this precious and fundamental right. If you were not able to attend, you can watch the recording which is accessible on the BCWB website!

The BCWB is also excited to team up with the San Antonio Bar Association's Medical Legal Liaison Committee to bring you the 2020 Judicial Candidate Forum. The virtual event will take place on October 15 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and feature judicial candidates for Bexar County Courts, Bexar County District Courts, and the Fourth Court of Appeals. Much thanks to Liz LaBarge, BCWB Director and event Chair, and June Moynihan, SABA Executive Director, for all of their efforts to bring us this fantastic opportunity to learn more about our candidates!

Also right around the corner is the BCWB's own elections for new 2021 Officers and Directors. We value and prioritize diversity and inclusion in our leadership and programs, and want to ensure that our Board reflects a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. Please consider nominating someone who is passionate about empowering women and has what it takes to lead, and stay tuned for more information from Nicole E. Jackson, BCWB President-Elect and Nominations Committee Chair. Happy Fall!



**Brittany M. Weil**  
BCWB President

# TOMORROW! I WILL GIVE



#BigGive2020

9 • 10 • 20

[TheBigGiveSA.org](http://TheBigGiveSA.org)

Let's keep the giving going for the  
BCWB 2020 Autumn Affair beneficiary

*Caring for  
children with  
special needs.*



big  
give  
presented by THE NONPROFIT COUNCIL

**DONATE HERE**

[www.bexarcountywomensbar.org](http://www.bexarcountywomensbar.org)

[www.respitecaresa.org](http://www.respitecaresa.org)

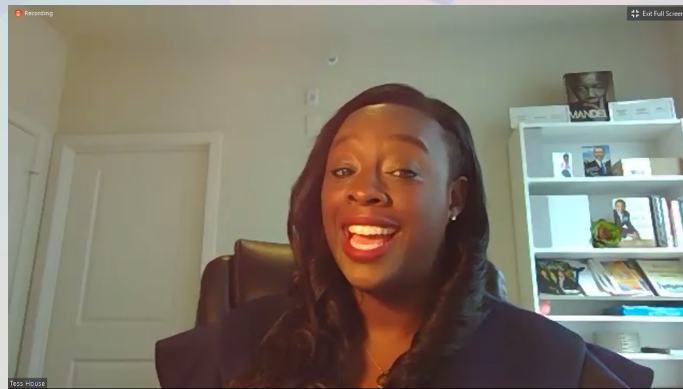


# ACTS OF ALLYSHIP PANEL

In July, the BCWBA held a special and important panel discussion on ***Using Our Actions to Combat Racism in the Legal Community.***

The panel was moderated by the talented Tess House and our amazing panelists included: Denise Peterson, Alicia Grant, and Mary Stich.

If you missed the conversation [CLICK HERE](#) to watch.





OUR 8TH ANNUAL  
MAKING THE RIGHT  
MOVES CONFERENCE  
ONLINE!

MAKING THE  
RIGHT MOVES

**POWER  
PIVOT**

**2020**



The Military Spouse JD Network (MSJDN) - the nation's largest nonprofit focused on serving military spouse attorneys - is hosting a month-long series of personal and professional development offerings centered on the theme, *Power Pivot*.

Join MSJDN for this action-packed, informative, and community-building series to learn, connect, and take charge of your career trajectory.

What you'll learn:

- How to pivot your career when change happens fast
- How to pivot your personal finances and prepare for the unpredictable
- How to build and leverage your community to advance your career
- What you need to know about salary negotiation now
- Plus, you'll hear from VIP guests all about their experience crafting careers with power and purpose as military spouses.

**CONFERENCE  
SCHEDULE**

**MAKING THE  
RIGHT MOVES**  
POWER PIVOT 2020

- Welcome Reception & Happy Hour**  
Thursday Oct 1 @ 7pm ET / 4pm PT
- Pivot Your Career:  
Making Progress Amid Career Uncertainty**  
Tuesday Oct 6 @ 1pm ET / 10 am PT
- Pivot Your Personal Finances:  
How to Prepare for the Unpredictable**  
Thursday October 8 @ 7pm ET / 4 pm PT
- Pivot with Your People:  
How to Leverage Your Network  
When Making a Change**  
Wednesday October 14 @ 1pm ET / 10 am PT
- Pivot Your Pay:  
How to Navigate Negotiation Now**  
Tuesday October 20 @ 1pm ET / 10 am PT
- Closing Ceremony & Community Power Hour!**  
Thursday October 22 @ 7pm ET / 4 pm PT

WWW.MSJDN.ORG/RIGHTMOVES

**To learn more and register  
CLICK HERE**



# NCWBA Presents Two FREE October Webinars!

[Register Here!](#)

[Click Here to  
Register for  
\*Leading Beyond  
the Discomfort\*](#)



NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
OF WOMEN'S  
BAR ASSOCIATIONS

## *Leading Beyond the Discomfort: How to Lead through the discomfort that comes from discussing race relations and racism*



**Robin DiAngelo**  
Author, *White Fragility*

Join us for a discussion on how to grow past being uncomfortable discussing racism and its effects and how to lead through this discomfort.

The program will take place on  
October 7, 2020, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern/  
4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific.



**Regina Petty**,  
Chief Diversity Officer  
Fisher Phillips, LLP



Moderated by **Sheila M. Willis** of Fisher Phillips, LLP  
&  
**Teresa Beck** of Buchanan Ingersoll and Rooney

## *STILL BROKEN: Sexual Harassment and Misconduct in the Legal Profession*

Tuesday, October 20, 2020  
2 p.m. Eastern / 11 a.m. Pacific

Featuring Speakers:



**Cory M. Amron**  
President, Women  
Lawyers on Guard, Inc.

**Corrine Propas Parver**  
Vice President, Women Lawyers on  
Guard Action Network, Inc.



**Joy A. Thompson**  
President, Women's Bar  
Association of the State of New York



Presented by NCWBA, with introduction by  
**Elizabeth A. Bryson**, Vice President for Membership

Compelling and disturbing findings from WLG's nationwide survey on sexual harassment in the legal profession. Should we approach this problem differently?

[Click Here to  
Register for  
\*Still Broken\*](#)

NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
OF WOMEN'S  
BAR ASSOCIATIONS

WLG

WOMEN LAWYERS ON GUARD

# BCWB LITES



**Congratulations to Lara Brock & family on the arrival of their little boy, John! He made his debut on September 1st!**

**Congratulations to the Brock Family!**





# BCWB LITES CONTINUED

## **CONGRATULATIONS to Judge Rosie Alvarado on being appointed to serve on the Texas Children's Commission!**

The Honorable Rosemarie 'Rosie' Alvarado has been appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to serve as a Commissioner on the Texas Children's Commission. This will be Judge Alvarado's first, three-year term on the Commission. Previous members of the Commission from Bexar County have included the Hon. John Specia and the Hon. Peter Sakai.

Judge Rosie Alvarado is the Presiding Judge of the 438th District Court in Bexar County, Texas and hears civil matters. In addition to her duties as a district court Judge, Judge Alvarado manages a therapeutic restorative court, called PEARLS Court. Judge Alvarado serves as the Child Support Court Liaison for the district courts and serves on various committees within the Bexar County District Courts Administration.

Upon being appointed, Judge Alvarado said "I have found the guidance and resources provided by the Children's Commission to be invaluable. As a judge who hears family law and child welfare cases, I keep the Commission's Child Protection Law Bench Book within reach and appreciate the work the Commission does towards child welfare systemic improvements and to strengthen the courts for children. I wish to thank the Texas Supreme Court for this opportunity, and I am looking forward to working alongside the other Commissioners to further improve the outcomes for Texas families, and especially our children."



Judge Alvarado's appointment was ordered by the Supreme Court of Texas on August 21, 2020. Her three-year term will expire on November 30, 2023.

Established in 2007 by the Supreme Court of Texas, the Texas Children's Commission is a statewide, collaborative body that includes stakeholders from each branch of government as well as the private sector. The stated goal of the Commission is "improving the child welfare system by increasing public awareness of challenges facing children and families involved in the child welfare system and bringing attention to this important issue through judicial leadership, reforming judicial practice, and informing policy and practice affecting child welfare in Texas. At the foundation of the Children's Commission is a longstanding collaboration with the state child welfare agency, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)."

# BCWB LITES CONTINUED



## **CONGRATULATIONS to Sara Dysart for being selected as a Candidate for the 2021-2022 State Bar of Texas President-Elect!**

The State Bar of Texas Board of Directors' Nominations and Elections Subcommittee voted to recommend the nomination of Sara E. Dysart of San Antonio as a candidate for 2021-2022 State Bar president-elect, after E. Leon Carter of Dallas withdrew his name from consideration.

Dysart joins Laura Gibson of Houston as the subcommittee's recommended president-elect nominees. The State Bar board will consider the recommendations during its virtual meeting on September 25, which will be broadcast at [youtube.com/statebaroftexas](https://youtube.com/statebaroftexas). If the board approves their nominations, Dysart and Gibson would appear on the ballot in April 2021 along with any certified petition candidates.

This year, the subcommittee considered candidates from metropolitan counties, in compliance with State Bar rules.

[CLICK HERE](#) to read Sara's interest letter to the Nominations and Elections Subcommittee.



# NOW HIRING

**DIRECTOR, PUBLIC DEFENDER DIVISION ~ ABNER BURNETT**  
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Inc.  
316 South Closner Blvd., Edinburg, TX 78539  
Telephone (956) 393-6206 Fax (956) 383-4688 ABurnett@trla.org

Friday, August 21, 2020

RE: Job Opportunity, Felony Qualified Attorney for Public Defender Position

Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, the nation's largest civil legal services program, operates an innovative public defender program now in ten rural South Texas counties. The TRLA Rural Defender Service offers wrap-around, holistic legal services to its clients charged with criminal offenses. This may include representation from the civil program in such collateral matters as immigration, mental health, public benefits, housing, and employment, as the defenders provide vigorous representation in the underlying criminal case. The comprehensive service may extend beyond the resolution of the criminal case if needed by the client. On both sides of the docket, TRLA pursues its client's objectives with zeal, creativity, and a passion for excellence.

TRLA currently seeks felony-qualified lawyers to serve in the Coastal Bend area of South Texas, approximately 90 miles southeast of San Antonio. Currently, we have an office in Beeville, Texas that serves Bee, Live Oak, McMullen, Goliad, and Refugio counties. We may be opening another office in the area this year.

The TRLA Rural Defender Service is jointly funded by the counties it serves and the Texas Indigent Defense Commission. Accordingly, it adheres to caseload limitations set by the Texas Indigent Defense Commission.

TRLA represents persons charged with crimes from initial arrest to final appeal, except for cases where conflicts exist or the death penalty is being sought. TRLA's public defender program organizes its case assignments vertically – the lawyer initially assigned to a case stays with the client for the duration unless extenuating circumstances arise. The public defender division handles 100% of the criminal court appointments docket in its service area, apart from conflicts that arise.

#### **Compensation, benefits, and training:**

Salary is commensurate with experience and includes an excellent fringe benefits package. That benefits package includes law school loan repayment at 60% of law school debt in the first 12 months of employment, 80% in the second year, and 100% after 24 months.

In addition to a strong internal mentoring program, TRLA Defenders utilize trial lawyer training programs at the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, National Association for Public Defense, and Gideon's Promise. TRLA provides trainings customized for specific needs of our team. Lawyers with the TRLA Rural Defenders Service receive opportunities to train and learn from highly experienced trial lawyers throughout the country on various areas of expertise at no-to-low cost.

#### **Qualifications and preferences:**

The candidate must have a Texas license and significant experience (five years minimum) in criminal trial practice in Texas.

Preferred applicants will have demonstrated an interest in providing justice to those who need it most, have strong academic credentials, are functionally fluent in Spanish, and want to live and work where the greatest need is in the TRLA service area.

Additionally, TRLA is looking for a few attorneys that aspire to become managing attorneys in our public defender program. We encourage attorneys that would like to develop as leaders in the public defender community. We cover registration fees and expenses for participation in advanced leadership programs

TRLA is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to an equitable workplace.

#### **Application process:**

Step One -- Apply online: <https://trla.wufoo.com/forms/r18n7vw20gxf1kp/>

Step Two -- Selected applicants will be contacted for a telephone interview.

Step Three -- Typically, selected applicants will be invited to visit TRLA offices and meet with staff and tour the service area. TRLA will provide travel, accommodations and food throughout the visit.

**Click Here to Apply**



## What is MyTexasCSR.com?

A first of its kind free website powered by the Texas Court Reporters Association dedicated to connecting legal professionals with licensed court reporters across the state.

In most instances, attorneys, paralegals, court administrators, and other legal professionals have reliable court reporters or firms to contact when scheduling depositions, hearings, and other proceedings.

What if your favorite court reporter or firm is already booked? What if you forget to schedule one and need one on short notice? Were you told that there are no court reporters available? Look to [MyTexasCSR.com](http://MyTexasCSR.com).

## Need a court reporter?

Post a job on MyTexasCSR.com. Court reporters will receive an immediate alert for jobs posted in their area and will respond directly to you. You may review the profiles of the court reporters who express an interest in covering your job. Once the job is filled, you simply remove it from the job bank.

Texas has high standards for court reporters in legal proceedings.

TCRA strives to make sure that when you want a  
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER in Texas, you get one!

**Register for MyTexasCSR.com to get connected**



# COVID-19

# PANDEMIC



## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD: COVID-19

Dear BCWB Members,

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

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

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

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

The BCWB Board of Directors

# 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*

**Natalie E. Karge**