

THE WOMEN'S ADVOCATE

A CATALYST FOR 2012 – 2013



Women and the Law Section Newsletter
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

by Alison Colvin



As this year's Chair, I would first like to thank the Council for offering me the opportunity to lead a magnificent group of women, in the Council and in Membership. I would also like to thank our immediate Past Chair, Patricia Blackshear, for all of her insight, support, and wisdom in her term; and for preparing me for mine. The Council members of this section have already been a great support to me and have a breadth of knowledge concerning not only this section and State Bar activities in general, but real issues that affect all women: lawyer or not. We recently reviewed our mission statement at our first meeting, which is published on our website. Our Mission states:

“The mission of the Women and the Law Section is to encourage and facilitate the active and effective participation of women in the legal profession and in the community, and to address women's current needs and the issues affecting them.”

When the Council considered whether our mission should be revised, changed, or updated, we voted no. The reason why is because we still believe as a Council that this mission statement is one we believe in and still wish to pursue. It embodies our desire to affect women in the legal profession and in the community on issues that are constantly changing. Reviewing our mission was an exercise in “renewing” our commitment and “refreshing” our goals. *Renewing and Refreshing* is a theme as the Chair I would like to encourage this year: whether it is renewal in your home life, work life, and/or outlook; or refreshment in your surroundings, activities and/or friendships. It might also be doing something you have never done before; such as reaching out to someone who may need a hand, challenging yourself in a new area, or committing yourself to a former one. This year we intend to start our year of renewal and refreshment by taking part in the Law School Section Mentoring Program. The goal of the program is to provide law students the opportunity to learn about a variety of career options in an intimate atmosphere with practicing attorneys. Each law school will host a panel of 1-4 different section representatives to speak about their prospective areas of practice. We believe this is a great way to refresh the practice of law for young people who want to follow in our path. We also hope to provide a CLE presentation in various cities to promote our section and provide free CLE to our members on current topics affecting women. As always, we will be present at the State Bar Meeting June 20-21 at the Dallas Hilton Anatole and will hold our annual meeting and reception with the “Renewal and Refreshment” theme as the cornerstone. Our Council this year will strive to provide Members with what they need and want. Here's to a refreshing and renewing year!

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THE POWER OF WOMEN VOTERS

by Tonya D. Carter-Clary, Newsletter Editor



The year 1920 marked a new era for women. Women in the United States were allowed to vote for the first time with the passage of the nineteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which provided: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

The introduction of the nineteenth amendment allowed women to have a voice in areas where their voice were once ignored and silenced. We have definitely come a long way! Fast forward to Election 2012 where the women electorate has become of crucial importance to today’s political climate. How important is the women vote of today? Well, I came across an article that discussed the very issue of why the female vote matters in today’s election. I invite you to read the following article, written by Meghan Casserly for Forbes.com titled: *Where Women Matter Most in Election 2012*. Click on the link below to access the article and get an enlightened view on why women matter in today’s election. And then on November 6th, go exercise your right to vote!

Article link:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/meghancasserly/2012/06/07/election-2012-mitt-romney-obama-women-battleground-states/>

DO YOU KNOW A TRAILBLAZER?

(trail·blaz·er – An innovative leader in a field; a pioneer.)

The Women and the Law Section is looking for women lawyers from Texas who would be considered a TRAILBLAZER in the legal profession. Do you know any? We would love to shine a spotlight on our Texas Trailblazers in an upcoming Newsletter and/or on our Website. Please send submissions (no more than one to three short paragraphs, and photo, if any) to the email address below:

Tonya Carter-Clary, Newsletter Editor
attorneytdcc@gmail.com
RE: TX Trailblazer

WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION ANNUAL MEETING 2012

by Tonya D. Carter-Clary, Newsletter Editor

In case you missed it, the Women and the Law Section (WAL) held its annual meeting in Houston on Thursday, June 14th at the George R. Brown Convention Center, during the State Bar of Texas' Annual Meeting. WAL members and non-members alike gathered at this year's section meeting to honor the Ma'at Justice and Sarah T. Hughes Award winners; as well as listen to guest speakers as they spoke on important topics relating to issues that impact women lawyers, and lawyers as a whole. The CLE program titled, *Practicing Law in a Tough Economy*, explored the ethical approach of finding power in the workplace. CLE program guest speaker, Linda Chanow, Executive Director for the Center of Women in Law at the University of Texas in Austin, focused on the relationship of women to their colleagues, clients, and others in the profession and the implications for the integrity and competence of the Bar. Guest CLE speaker Amanda Ellis, Vice President of Search, for Special Counsel located in Dallas, spoke on using social media to market, network, and positively influence your career.

Everyone gathered immediately following the section meeting for a fun filled evening at the co-sponsored Reception. Texas Women Lawyers joined the Women and the Law Section in sponsoring the reception. The theme was "Sip & Shop," where attendees sipped on wine and other beverages, while enjoying appetizers and viewing/shopping for jewelry.

CO-SPONSORED RECEPTION



WAL SECTION MEMBERSHIP MEETING



**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUTGOING
CHAIR, PATRICIA BLACKSHEAR,
FOR HER YEAR OF SERVICE**



**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – MA'AT JUSTICE AWARD
AWARD RECIPIENT, ANNE CHANDLER
PRESENTED BY WAL BOARD MEMBER, ANDREA JOHNSON, WHO ALSO
ACCEPTED THE AWARD IN MS. CHANDLER'S ABSENCE**



**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS – SARAH T. HUGHES AWARD
AWARD RECIPIENT, PATRICIA DIAZ DENNIS
PRESENTED BY WAL BOARD MEMBER, CAROL JENDRZEY**



CLE PRESENTATION/GUEST SPEAKER, LINDA CHANOW



CLE PRESENTATION/GUEST SPEAKER, AMANDA ELLIS



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Nora Bryant	

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Kimberlee S. Cagle	Chelsie K. Garza
Deborah Race	Suzette Kinder Patton

IN THE KNOW...

- Congratulations to Michele Wong Krause, our current Section Representative to the State Bar Board of Directors, recipient of the Louise B. Raggio Award given by the Dallas Women Lawyers Association. The ceremony took place on October 11, 2012 at the DWLA Judicial Reception at the Stoneleigh Hotel located in Dallas, Texas.
- Has your membership expired? Would you like to recommend membership to a colleague? Full Membership is \$20 for one year (if you have been licensed less than one year, your first year is free) and a Student Membership is \$5. Membership year is June 1st to May 31st. You can download an application from our website.
- Want to know more about the Women and the Law Section? Check out our website at www.txwomenlawsection.org

Are you a WAL Section member and have something you would like to share with the rest of Membership (i.e. Awards; Honors; Employment move or office relocation; Upcoming CLE speaking engagements; Employment search: hiring or seeking, etc.)? Our newsletter reaches over 800 WAL members from across Texas. Please send your announcement(s) to:

**Tonya D. Carter-Clary, Newsletter Editor
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Re: IN THE KNOW**