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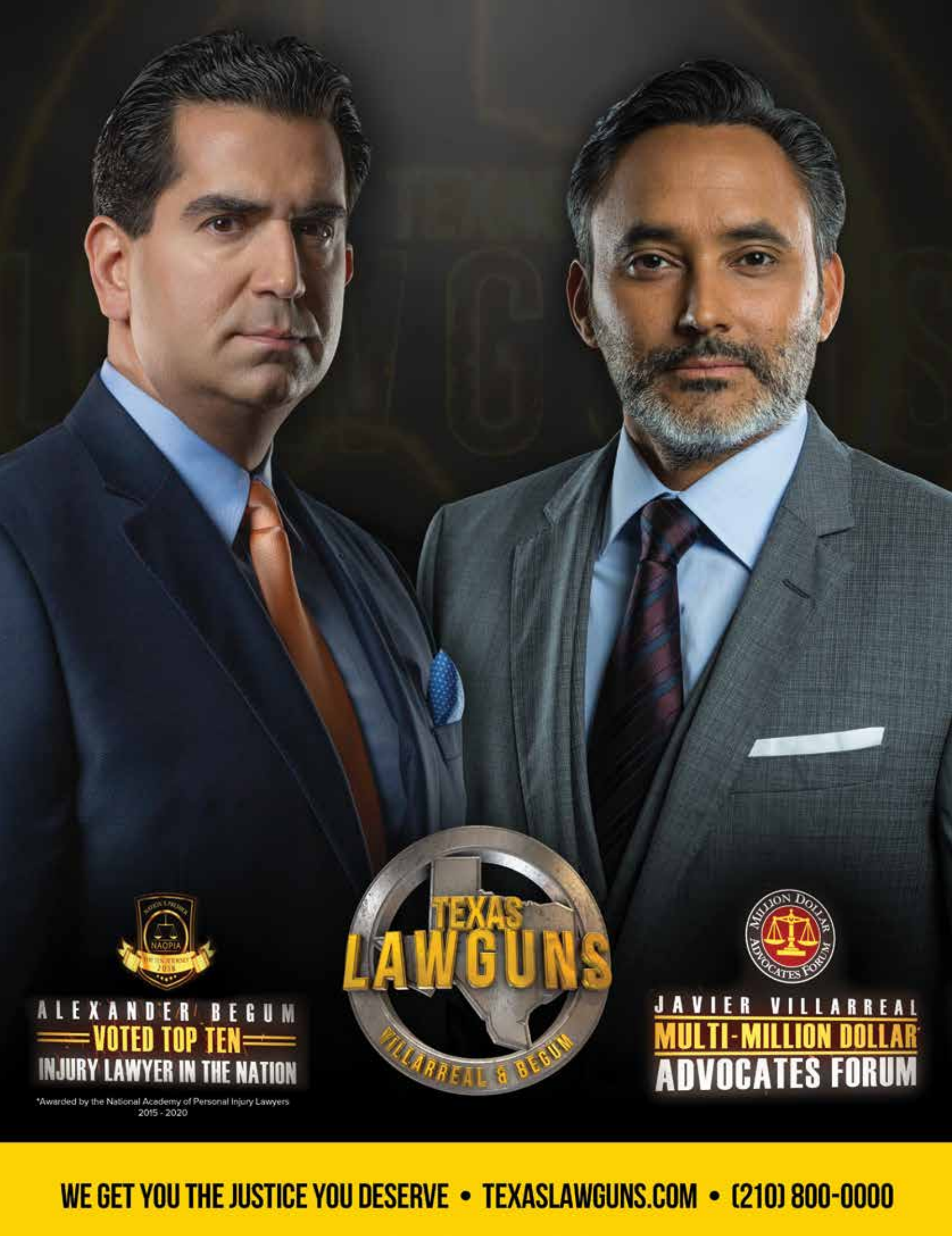


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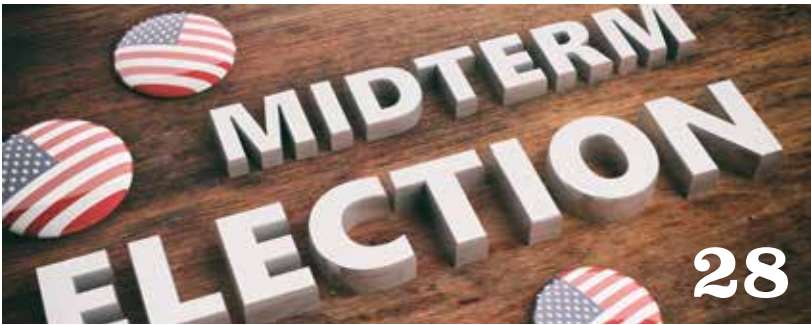
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Leslie Foley | *Social Editor*

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Celebrating over 80 years, the firm has represented corporate officials, doctors, lawyers, judges, legislators, journalists, athletes, entertainers, public officials and others. Dedicated to improving our Justice system and holding prosecutors accountable.

G&O represented exoneree Michael Morton, who wrongfully served 25 years for the murder of his wife, resulting in the reform of criminal discovery in Texas and the first ever criminal conviction of a prosecutor for the intentional suppression of favorable evidence. The firm represented exoneree, Hannah Overton, whose capital murder case was reversed and dismissed, freed Texas' youngest death row inmate, and continues to seek vindication for Cameron Todd Willingham, whose wrongful execution was based on junk science.

G&O has successfully represented prominent business, professional, and public figures facing criminal and regulatory difficulties, including a U.S. Congressman in the Abscam Scandal, wrestler "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, rappers 2 Live Crew, NFL and NBA players, former Panamanian President Manuel Noriega before the United States Supreme Court, a lawyer in Operation Brilab and Gonzo journalist Dr. Hunter S. Thompson.

WHAT'S INSIDE

Get ready to vote! The general election starts October 24th, and we are featuring the Bexar County official candidates' ballot in this issue.

Congratulations to the nominated 2022 Top Personal Injury and Criminal Defense lawyers.

We are introducing the first annual list of nominated Top Family Practitioners as voted by their peers.

In the spirit of the upcoming Halloween season, we are publishing a few spooky stories from people in our community who have experienced paranormal or supernatural activity.

Check out our fashion column by Jules Aldaz and her interview with Texas fashion icon, Jeanelly Concepcion, TFII President.

Read about Chef Joseph T. Martinez bringing a new Texas menu to the Tributary Restaurant in our Happy Critic column.

I hope everyone enjoys this issue, and feel free to email me your feedback and what you would like to see in upcoming issues.

Have a wonderful and blessed Holiday Season!

Kaylin

Kaylin Ledford
Managing Editor

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STAFF



John H. Ziller
Publisher
John is in his 48th year of publishing and marketing that began at the Express-News and vaulted him into the creation of *Ventana USA*, the Spanish language magazine for U.S. advertisers in Mexico, followed by

12 years at a direct marketing agency named Di-Marc Communications. From the brick streets in Mexico City to the smoother pavement of New York City, Los Angeles, CA, and Washington D.C., John was happy to settle down in his hometown with *Scene In S.A.* as the bookend to a wonderful and continuing career.



Karen Evans
Advertising Director
Karen Evans is an experienced sales professional in advertising, art and cuisine. Driven by happiness, she takes pride in providing the best experience possible. Karen's love for her community shines bright.



Kaylin Ledford
Managing Editor
Kaylin was born and raised in the outskirts of San Antonio. She is a graduate from Texas State University with a BA in Mass Communications. Kaylin has been the Managing Editor and Office Manager for *Scene In S.A.* for the past four years.



Leslie Foley
Social Editor
Leslie has called San Antonio home for 37 years. She graduated from Oklahoma State with a BS in Journalism and Public Relations. Leslie has been covering events for the magazine for more than 23 years.



VIVIAN CROOK
Photographer
Vivian Crook has more than 25 years photography experience and takes pleasure in pleasing her customers with photos. Nothing is too small or too large for her to capture that special moment. She is passionate about her work and is always prepared with camera in hand.



Chris Sykes
Graphic Designer
Passionate about typography and design, Chris has been a graphic designer for more than 35 years. She holds a BFA degree from UTSA. When not in front of her iMac, you can find her enjoying all the things that sunny San Antonio has to offer.

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Physicians Premier Team - Dawn Cramer, Allison Apple, Teri Cardenas, Kelly Danford, Martha Moreno and Tiffanie Shirley

Summer Sojourn Gala

Editor: Leslie Foley

Photographer: Vivian Crook

Visitation House Ministries hosted its annual Summer Sojourn Gala, the main fundraiser which raises a substantial portion of the ministry's annual budget. Funds raised help to sustain mothers and their children and helps provide housing and direct services for each family, including case management, parenting, counseling, educational assistance, budgeting and independent living skills training.

This year's in-person gala celebrated over 36 years of empowering mothers to create stable and loving homes for themselves and their children. Great food, awesome auction and raffle prizes, along with supportive sponsors ensured a much-anticipated return to face-to-face interactions and celebrating. ■



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We thank our colleagues who have trusted us and given us the opportunity to partner in these cases through these years.



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The Enchantment of Spring

Editor: *Leslie Foley*
Photographer: *Vivian Crook*

The Texas Biomedical Forum Gala is held annually on the first Saturday in May as they usher in the bright and vivacious season of spring. It is a time of rebirth, revival and rejuvenation following the dark days of winter, which seems particularly apropos given the past several months facing a global pandemic. This year's 51st gala, "The Enchantment of Spring", was held May 7th with cocktails on the beautiful grounds of the Argyle.

The proceeds will directly fund the work of the scientists at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute who have been on the front lines researching COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, as well as treatments for Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and various forms of cancer and other diseases.

Since its founding in 1970, the Forum has supported Texas Biomed through community relations and fundraising. Annually, through the Forum Grants program and Gala fundraising, proceeds provide seed capital for research pilot studies vital to securing the research projects for which Texas Biomed has become respected across the international, scientific community. The Forum has awarded more than \$3.7 million to fund pilot studies over the past 19 years. This has translated to more than \$75 million in subsequent competitive grants allowing Texas Biomed scientists to continue their research. ■



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BEXAR COUNTY ELECTIONS 2022: BELLWEATHER OR OUTLIER?

By Scott Keeler, *Growth Consulting*

San Antonio and Bexar county have enjoyed a history of relative peaceful relations between Democrats and Republicans in local elections, frequently willing to work together for the agreed “common good”. This year, key members of the community are crossing party lines and supporting those candidates they deem most fit for the job; 2022, however, is shaping up to be an unconventional election. Midterms typically favor the party out of power, but with ‘Roe’ abortion appearing to be motivating Democratic voters while Republicans are split along the ‘Trump Line’- some still re-litigating the 2020 election and others trying to move forward. In this overview we are looking at two significant races for Texas and Bexar County: The race for Governor as Greg Abbott seeks a third term against Beto O’Rourke, and the contest for County Judge of former judge Peter Sakai and marketing executive Trish DeBerry.

GOVERNOR’S RACE: ABBOTT VS. O’ROURKE

It’s been 28 years since Texas saw its last Democrat Governor in Ann Richards, who governed from January of 1991 to January of 1995. After her term, the state moved significantly more to the right but has more recently narrowed the difference. In 2018 Abbott beat Democrat Lupe Valdez by over 13 points (55.8% vs. 42.5%). In Bexar County, Valdez won 52.3% to 45.9%. However, Bexar is 58% Democrat, meaning Valdez underperformed her base in San Antonio by almost 6%. Based on recent polling, that is not likely to happen in 2022.

Beto O’Rourke enjoys much better name recognition statewide and in Bexar County due to almost defeating Ted Cruz in 2018; he is better funded, and may be benefitting due to the divisions within the Republican party. Recent polling has shown him within 3 to 4 percentage points of Greg Abbott, the narrowest lead in recent memory. To win statewide, O’Rourke must not only win Bexar, but win it (and other democrat leaning counties) decisively. He must outperform. In addition, O’Rourke must hold his South Texas and border base that Abbott is clearly targeting with his border narrative. On the GOP side, Abbott has the edge statewide, but must get his base and other Republicans & conservative independents to the polls. His reflexive reaction supporting law enforcement’s response to the Uvalde massacre may have hurt him with some of the voting public. The border, however, has proved a popular campaign theme for him appealing to not only the anti-immigrant segment of his party but to the many regular voters who see the border as out of control. To highlight the border challenges, he’s busing some of the amnesty seekers to New York City and Washington D.C. as a publicity stunt. While South Texas and the border areas have been strong Democratic strongholds, many of the voters there are somewhat more conservative than the those in say Austin, so Abbott and his focus on the border has begun to resonate with this traditional Democrat base.

COUNTY JUDGE: SAKAI VS. DEBERRY

The Bexar County Judge office is arguably the most powerful political office in San Antonio. Unlike the City Council with 10 seats plus the Mayor, there are only 4 commissioners plus the County Judge. The Judge oversees a vast array of critical government functions, from the law enforcement, courts, corrections & community supervision to name just a few. Peter Sakai is a favorite of long time democrats and is widely known to have been the architect of improving and humanizing Children’s Court in Bexar County.

He who has been retired from the bench last year, and views this as an ideal way to continue to serve. Trish DeBerry, Republican and active marketing executive with a firm that bears her name, is a tireless campaigner who left her seat as Commissioner of district 3 to fight the uphill battle to become County Judge of Commissioners Court.

Peter Sakai has been active in the San Antonio Community since his arrival in San Antonio in 1979 after law school. Initially working as Appellate Assistant District Attorney followed by a solo practice, he moved up to the bench in 1995, first overseeing Family Court then as State District Judge of the 225th Court. While the fact that Bexar County leans Democrat means Peter Sakai appears to be the front runner, local races are ‘down ballot’ meaning all federal and state candidates are listed first before the voter gets down to county elections. Laura Barberena, campaign consultant to Peter Sakai described it this way “Our biggest challenge is to make sure our voters vote the whole ballot, not just the big national (heavily advertised) names and stop. We lose a lot of votes that way”. Consultants like Barberena know that a smaller group of more committed voters can sway a close election. “Voters can get lost in the 50+ races on the ballot, so its important they look for his name and vote the whole ballot”. Sakai has a focus on closing the digital divide by improving access to the internet in all areas of the community as well as accelerating the pace of court cases the court system where in can take years for a case to be heard and resolved. While incumbent Democrat Nelson Wolff won comfortably in 2018 with almost 58% of the vote, a closer race is expected against Republican Trish DeBerry.

Trish DeBerry, the Republican in the race, is also a well known figure in San Antonio. She was raised in San Antonio and started her career in television news. For the past 25 years she’s been a partner then head of her own marketing firm, The DeBerry Group. Her foray into County court came in 2020 as Kevin Wolff (Son of Nelson Wolff and the lone Republican on the Court) stepped down from District 3 opening up the seat. DeBerry threw herself into campaigning and raising money vanquishing a fellow Republican in the primary and besting her Democratic challenger in the 2020 general election. The surprise came only a year later when she decided to give up her hard won seat on the County Commission to run for County Judge. Given the county’s voting history and the current favorable numbers for Democrat candidates, she faces an uphill battle and the very real prospect of the leaving the County Court with no Republican representation at all if Democrat Susan Korbelt defeats Grant Moody for her vacated seat. She will need to persuade some Democrats to cross party lines and ensure that the Republican voters complete the full ballot. Her focus is the make county government more accountable and support law enforcement in fight against crime. A popular Republican issue at the moment.

SUMMARY

In looking at the numbers and polls, the logical prediction is that Abbott will lose Bexar County to O’Rourke but win Texas for a third term. As far as the big local race, Sakai is favored to be the next County Judge. But as the 2016 Presidential race showed us, pollsters can be very wrong. Public moods can change and a small surge by a key voting block can change the course of electoral history. Take nothing for granted. **VOTE. ■**



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THE HAPPY CRITIC PRESENTS

By Karen Evans!

Welcome to "The Happy Critic" column I created for folks who love extraordinary experiences. I use uplifting words to draw attention to remarkable people and their stories about preparing, serving, eating, and savoring food. I share only the best.



TRIBUTARY San Antonio at The Marriott Rivercenter— *A Revitalized Riverwalk Restaurant*

The Rivercenter Marriott Hotel has brought new life and vitality

to its crown jewel, Tributary Restaurant, boasting a new Texas menu. **Chef Joseph T. Martinez** invited me and three local gourmands, Corina Solis, Jerry Rodriguez, and Francine Sabia and me, to experience his fresh food, and boy, did we eat like Kings and Queens! His Texas cooking was incredible! As you can see in the pictures, we had an extravagant shared meal!

The Tributary's surroundings are very welcoming and charming. The decor is visually beautiful and sophisticated, with turquoise and chocolate brown crocodile and snake leather niches. We noticed the Fontessa cutlery and glassware right off the bat. We noted that this Texas Restaurant is doing everything right. It just goes to show that the details are meaningful and memorable. We felt elegant and special.

Chef shared that he sources the freshest ingredients and spices from their farming partners. "We order our beef from Dan & Peeler's Meatworks, a working cattle operation in the heart of South Texas. Our briskets and ribs are smoked in-house, and our 16 oz. ribeye is perfectly marbled and tender, seared with garlic and herb butter. The restaurant menu also serves some mighty good King Salmon

and Seared Wild Gulf Red Snapper. We purchase our fresh oysters and seafood from Groomers Seafood right here in San Antonio".

Drinks, snacks, and small plates were our first course. The specialty cocktails were fun and fancy, so we chose the Tributary Margarita and Brazos Berry Mojito to taste test. Delicious! Our precious and knowledgeable server, Stacy Herrera, chose spot-on wines from an impressive list. Our first dish was the "Dean & Peeler" Brisket Nachos with barbacoa and all the traditional toppings. A huge Texas-sized portion, it should have been a meal on its own! Next, Chef Joseph served delicious buffalo wings double fried with authentic buffalo sauce and chile butter. I always say, "If the wings are great, everything else will be!" And these were perfect. We shared other delicious bites, the sweet curry fried brussels with puffy rice and the queso fundido served in a saute pan with the house-prepared chorizo and chips. Hands down, our favorite was the agnolotti with sweet corn and cheese, a surprise amuse bouche prepared specially for us by Chef Joseph. Thank you, Chef!

Onward to the incredible Texas Red Chile that is traditional but has a spice blend that is so South Texas; this chile is unquestionably the best chile I have ever eaten in a restaurant. We asked for another serving; it was satisfying and good. Served with their homemade tortilla chips and a dollop of sour cream. We are huge oyster fans, so we ordered the Broiled Andouille Oysters with Creole Sauce. They were flavorful and bubbling in the decadent sauce. Next in



line were the Gulf Shrimp and Gristmill Grits that we could not get enough of. The cheesy grits with fresh peas and peaches were outstanding. So glad we chose these dishes.

This food is good stuff! The Chefs pack all the food with incredible flavors. We ordered a lot of meat dishes which makes me happy! Next is the piled high and juicy Tributary Smashburger dripping with American cheese and perfectly cooked seasoned patties. Just look at the picture, it tells a thousand words!

The "Dean & Peeler" oak smoked baby back ribs were another favorite, tender meat falling off the bone just like a Texas pitmaster

would prepare with a lovely garlic crunch. The side of fabulous fluffy papas roasted in duck fat was heaven. The peels were crunchy roasted, and the insides were soft. Not one thing we ordered disappointed us!

We can't leave without giving a shout-out to the pastry chef. The Chocolate & Hazelnut Cheesecake is divine. The oreo, hazelnut, and pretzel crust make it so unique and memorable. And the fact that it is chocolate! For Bread Pudding Lovers, Tributary's is white chocolate and delicious!

The Happy Critics have to say, we enjoyed every single bite! ■

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TOP LAWYERS PERSONAL INJURY PLAINTIFFS

Personal injury lawyers are here to protect the injured either physically or physiologically by another person or company. They deal with civil court proceedings and negotiate deals.

The score listed by the name represents the opinion of the lawyer's peers. The higher the score, the higher opinion others have on their abilities as a lawyer. You will see a vast difference in scores based on their experience, achievements and years in practice. Results based on "Top Personal Injury Lawyer" poll conducted by *Scene In S.A.* in the summer of 2022. Names shown here are listed alphabetically.

* Names listed in **Red** are Advertisers

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PERSONAL INJURY DEFENSE

Personal injury lawyers are here to protect the injured either physically or physiologically by another person or company. They deal with civil court proceedings and negotiate deals.

.....

The score listed by the name represents the opinion of the lawyer’s peers. The higher the score, the higher opinion others have on their abilities as a lawyer. You will see a vast difference in scores based on their experience, achievements and years in practice. Results based on “**Top Personal Injury Lawyer**” poll conducted by *Scene In S.A.* in the summer of 2022. Names shown here are listed alphabetically.

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ThriveWell Annual Luncheon

Editor: Leslie Foley
Photographer: Vivian Crook

ThriveWell Cancer Foundation was founded in 2007 offering three different but equally important programs to those battling cancer in San Antonio and surrounding areas. The Foundation is dedicated to finding a cure for cancer by funding research, providing patient support and offering programs to improve the quality of life for patients and their families. These programs include Patient Assistance Program, Diva&Dude Program and Research Program.

“Conquering Cancer in Every Color”, symbolic of the fight against all types of cancer, was this year’s theme for the annual luncheon chaired by Susan and Dr. Lon Smith, Medical Oncologist, President, and CEO, START Center for Cancer Care.Keynote speakers Dr. Barry Solomon, father of co-founder Dr. Amy Lang, provided an update on her battle with cancer; and Marvin Hurst, Kens 5 Anchor, cancer warrior and ThriveWell Dude, spoke of hope in conquering throat cancer, not once, but twice. ■



Diana Schmidt and Sherry Richter



Stacy Buck and Mary Jimenez



Kevin and Katherine McColskey with Wally Herrera

2022 Voter Guide

SELECTED CANDIDATES THAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT

Important 2022 Election Dates

Election day **Tuesday, November 8, 2022**

First day of early voting by personal appearance **Monday, October 24, 2022**

Last day to apply for ballot by mail..... **Friday, October 28, 2022**

Last day of early voting by personal appearance **Friday, November 4, 2022**

Last day to receive ballot by mail..... **Tuesday, November 8, 2022 (Election Day) at 7:00 p.m.** if carrier envelope is not postmarked, **OR Wednesday, November 9, 2022** (next business day after Election Day) at 5:00 p.m. If carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply).

Acceptable forms of photo ID will be required for voting in person.

For more information see: www.votetexas.gov/register-to-vote/need-id.html

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BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Incumbent Joe Gonzales (D)
Marc LaHood (R)

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Misty Spears (R)

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT PRECINCT 2

Incumbent Justin Rodriguez (D)

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT PRECINCT 3

Susan Korbel (D)
Grant Moody (R)

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT PRECINCT 4

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Larry Ricketts (R)

BEXAR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT JUDGE

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Trish DeBerry (R)
Edgar Coyle (Libertarian party)

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Bob Behrens (R)

Number 2 **Melissa Saenz (D)**
Jason Wolff (R)

Bexar County is holding general elections for county clerk, district attorney, district clerk, county commission, commissioners court judge, county court judges, county probate court judges, district courts judges, and justices of the peace. Statewide there are Twenty-two state executive offices up for election in Texas, including Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, State Board of Education (15 seats), Agriculture, Commissioner, Public Lands Commissioner and Railroad Commissioner.

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Texas 150th District Court **Monique Diaz (i) (D)**
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Texas 187th District Court **Stephanie R. Boyd (i) (D)**
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Texas 225th District Court **Christine Hortick (D)**
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Texas 226th District Court **Velia Meza (i) (D)**

Texas 227th District Court **Christine Del Prado (D)**
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Texas 285th District Court **Nadine Nieto (D)**
Mark Thompson (R)

Texas 288th District Court **Cynthia Marie Chapa (i) (D)**
Art Rossi (R)

Texas 289th District Court **Rose Sosa (D)**

Texas 290th District Court **Jennifer Peña (i) (D)**

Texas 436th District Court **William Shaw III (D)**

Texas 437th District Court **Joel Perez (D)**
Melisa Skinner (i) (R)

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Bexar County Probate Court No. 1 **Oscar Kazen (i) (D)**
Bexar County Probate Court No. 2 **Veronica Vasquez (i) (D)**

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Mark Tippetts (Libertarian party)
Raul Cortina (Independent)
Justin Cunneen (Independent)
Jal Dennis (Independent)
Deirdre Dickson-Gilbert (Independent)
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Reginald Jennings II (Independent)
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TOP CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

Criminal defense attorneys are here to protect the people, meaning you and me. They are very important to the legal system. They research the facts, read people, are street smart, look, investigate and negotiate deals. They are highly renowned lawyers, which is why we like to conduct a poll for all lawyers to nominate the top Criminal Defense lawyers in the city. Take a look at the results.

The score listed by the name represents the opinion of the lawyer’s peers. The higher the score, the higher opinion others have on their abilities as a lawyer. You will see a vast difference in scores based on their experience, achievements and years in practice. Results based on “Top Criminal Defense” poll conducted by *Scene In S.A.* in the summer of 2022. Names shown here are listed alphabetically.

* Names listed in Red are Advertisers

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Patrick L. Hancock	27
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Michael McCrum	27
Tylden Shaeffer	27
Warren A. Wolf	27
Nico LaHood	25
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Trey Porter	22
Joseph A. Esparza	21
Bryan S. Orihel	21
Carlos A. Solis	21

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Ernest Acevedo III, Attorney at Law.....	9
Matthew T. Allen	
Matthew Allen Law Firm, PLLC	8
Roberto Ambrosino Jr.	
Law Office of Jorge Aristotelidis	9
Christopher Michael Arce	
The Arce Law Firm	20
Bobby Barrera	
The Law Office of Bobby Barrera.....	60
Roy R. Barrera Jr.	
The Barrera Firm	35
Roy Barrera, Sr.	
The Barrera Firm	28
Edward A. Bartolomei	
The Law Office of Edward A. Bartolomei, P.L.L.C.	9
Taryn O. Biasolli	
Biasiolli Law Firm.....	7
Shawn C. Brown	
Law Office of Shawn C. Brown, P.C.	22
Jean S. Brown	
Jean Brown Law Firm.....	13
Alan Brown	
Law Offices of Alan Brown	10
J. Charles Bunk	
Law Offices of J. Charles Bunk	4
Charles E. Champion	
Law Offices of Champion & Champion.....	9
Bernard L. Champion	
Law Offices of Champion & Champion.....	7
George E. Carroll	
Carroll & Hinojosa, PLLC	15
John F. Carroll	
John F. Carroll, Attorney at Law.....	12
Sylvia Ann Cavazos	
Sylvia Cavazos Law Office.....	7
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Kevin L. Collins, P.C.....	29
John A. Convery	
Hasdorff & Convery, P.C.....	18
Adam J. Crawshaw	
Crawshaw Law Firm, PLLC	2
Victoria Cruz	
Law Office of Victoria Cruz.....	7
Andrew Del Cueto	
Ramos & Del Cueto, PLLC	4
Leigh R. Cutter	
Cutter & Associates PLLC.....	10
Daniel De La Garza	
The Law Office of Daniel De La Garza, PLLC	1
Brent De La Paz	
Law Office of Brent De La Paz.....	2

Aaron M. Diaz	
Goldstein & Orr, PLLC.....	16
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Dante E. Dominguez	
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Travis Donald	
Law Office of A. Travis Donald	2
John Economidy	
Law Office of John M. Economidy.....	11
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Estorga Johnson Law Firm PLLC	12
Robert H. Featherston	
Carroll & Hinojosa, PLLC	13
Patrick John Filyk	
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Donald H. Flanary III	
Flanary Law Firm, PLLC	10
Adrian Flores	
Law Office of Shawn C. Brown, P.C.	7
Albert A. Flores	
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John J. Fox	
Law Office of John J. Fox	6
Andrew C. Froelich	
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Raymond E. Fuchs	
Attorney at Law	6
Edward J. Garcia	
Branch Law Firm.....	10
Arlene M. Gay	
Law Office Of Arlene M. Gay	5
John S. Gilmore, III	
Goldstein & Orr	24
Fernando D. Gireud	
Gireud Hobbs, PLLC	10
Paul J. Goeke	
Paul J. Goeke, P.C.....	49
Gerald H. Goldstein	
Goldstein & Orr, PLLC.....	87
John Anthony Gomez III	
Shawn C. Brown Law Office, PC.....	5
Stephen H. Gordon	
The Gordon Law Firm, PC.....	1
Jason Goss	
LaHood Norton Law Group, PLLC	5
Matthew Gossen	
Edward L. Piña & Associates, P.C.....	30
Kurt W. Gransee	
Rush & Gransee, LC.....	38
John Green	
Ramos & Del Cueto, PLLC	4

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Law Offices of Sam Lock.....	1
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The Locke Law Group, PLLC.....	3
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Luitjen Law Office.....	6
Abasi Daudi Major	
The Major Law Firm	5
Raymond Martinez	
Martinez & Herrera	9
Kurt May	
Goldstein & Orr, PLLC.....	6
Michael McCrum	
McCrum Law Office	27
Scott W. McCrum	
Law Office of Scott McCrum.....	3
Thomas J. McHugh	
The Law Offices of Thomas J. McHugh, PLLC.....	10
Angela Moore	
Angela Moore Attorney at Law	3
Rachel Moreau-Davila	
Kearney, McWilliams & Davis, PLLC.....	3

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The Law Offices of Cesar A. Montalvo, PLLC...5	
Patrick B. Montgomery	
Law Office of Patrick Montgomery.....	4
Ashley E. Morgan	
Soyars & Morgan Law, P.C.	10
Jeff Mulliner	
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The Law Office of Munoz & Paltz, PLLC.....	5
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.....	8
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LaHood Norton Law Group, PLLC	12
Bryan S. Orihel	
Shawn C. Brown Law Office, PC.....	21
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Amy E. Owen	
Zarka Law Firm	15
Adam J. Paltz	
Law Office of Munoz & Paltz PLLC.....	5
David Anthony Parent	
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RC Pate	
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Joel Perez	
Law Office of Joel Perez	15
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Pietrazek Law, PLLC.....	8
Trey Porter	
Trey Porter Law	22
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Law Office of Brian T. Powers.....	5
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Zoe E. Russell	
Hunter, Lane & Jampala, PLLC.....	4



Ian Boarnet, Travis Donaldson and Armondo Sanchez



Rise Recovery board member Nigel Williams, provided a special announcement, and Texas Representative Ina Minjarez



Rise Recovery's Joanna Pierce, Roy Reina, and Kristin Beno



Valero sponsored table included Stephen Rosen, Richard Garrett, Paul Mazeika, Benoit Rioux, Jessica Gaidusek, Carl Crawford, Angelle St. Germain, Roger Conant, Shawna Krepps and Debra Weems

Rise Recovery Annual Benefit Breakfast

Editor & Photographer: Leslie Foley

There's a lot going on with Rise Recovery! The 21st annual benefit breakfast, presented by Valero Energy, featured guest speaker Damon West, bestselling author of *The Coffee Bean: A Simple Lesson to Create Positive Change*. His first book and autobiography, *The Change Agent: How a Former College QB Sentenced to Life in Prison Transformed His World* was published three years after his release from a Texas maximum-security prison. Damon is passionate about his recovery and shared his hope and personal message with others during the breakfast fundraiser.

The following month in June, the grand opening of the new Rise Recovery Charlie Naylor Campus was celebrated with community and civic leaders who were instrumental in turning the long-awaited dream into a reality.

All funds from Rise Recovery's largest fundraiser of the year directly benefit the programs and services that impact thousands of San Antonio and South Texas youth, young adults and families by saving lives and changing the paradigm of drug and alcohol recovery.

Rise Recovery is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to help teens, young adults and families overcome the effects of drugs and alcohol and partner with the community in education and prevention.

A big thank you was echoed for making this year's event the most successful and most well-attended breakfast during the past 21 years. The San Antonio community has a heart as big as Texas! ■



Lindsey Liles and Dawnya Janousek sold raffle tickets



Rise Recovery CEO Evita Morin



John Fosdick visits with keynote speaker Damon West while having his book signed



Keynote speaker Damon West with Susan Naylor, donor for the new Charlie Naylor Rise Recovery Campus



The Jane Edwards Award was presented to GDC Marketing Ideation

TOP CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS

Gable M. Sadovsky Sadovsky & Ellis, PLLC.....	10
Kenneth S. Saks Oliva, Saks, Garcia & Curiel, L.L.P.....	6
Ishan 'Shawn' Sareen Sareen & Bozza, PLLC	1
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Andrea Sifuentes Cutter & Associates PLLC.....	9
Sean R. Simpson Zarka Law Firm	2
Scott Simpson Huffman & Simpson	8
Carlos A. Solis Hilley & Solis Law, P.L.L.C.....	21
Jodi Soyars Soyars & Morgan Law, P.C.	17
Mark Stevens Mark Stevens Law Offices.....	66
Joseph Strickland Trey Porter Law	20
J. Scott Sullivan Law Offices of J. Scott Sullivan.....	9
Paul R. Talamantez Jr. Talamantez & Volkman, Attorneys at Law.....	19
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James Tocci Law Office of James Tocci.....	5
Robert A. Valdez Law Offices of Robert A. Valdez.....	10
Chad Van Brunt The Law Office Of Chad Van Brunt.....	10
Santos Vargas Davis & Santos	2
Christian Vega Manuel Diaz Law Firm, PC.....	2
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- Top DWI Lawyer 2021
- Top Criminal Defense Lawyer 2021, 2022
- Best Lawyers 2022

George Carroll

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- Top Criminal Defense Lawyer 2021, 2022
- Top Personal Injury Plaintiff Lawyer 2021
- Best Lawyers 2022 Estate Planning Probate Criminal Law

Frank Hinojosa

- Top Criminal Defense Lawyer 2021, 2022
- Top Personal Injury Plaintiff Lawyer 2021
- Best Lawyers 2022

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- Top Criminal Defense Lawyer 2021
- Best Lawyers 2022

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Top Family Practitioners of 2022



The score listed by the name represents the opinion of the Family Practitioner's peers. The higher the score, the higher opinion others have on their abilities as a doctor. You will see a difference in scores based on their experience, achievements and years in practice. Results based on the "2022 Top Family Practitioners" poll conducted by Scene In S.A. in the Summer of 2022. Names shown here are listed alphabetically under the specialty they were nominated in.

Photo 103341022 © Jakub Jirsak | Dreamstime.com

TOP 20 SCORES

Mae Sepulveda, MD	108
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ThanhVi D. Nguyen, DO	93
Archana Varma, MD	87
James Walter, MD	86
Michael Dominguez, MD	78
Matthew P. Gibbs, MD	76
Christopher T. Caulfield	73
Marie Mae Martinez, MD	67
Luis Torres, MD	67
Mary Faith Casiwa, MD	65
Dan Powell, MD	65
Timothy J. Kosmatka, MD	64
Richel Avery, MD	61
Claudia Aguero, MD	58
Michael Konopacki, MD	58
Lenibet Montemayor, MD	58
Tamre McClelland, MD	57
Andrine Grant, MD	56
April Hain Trevino, MD	53
Ricardo Arevalo, MD	50
Iveth Soza, DO	50
Francisco Torres, MD	49
Gabriel Ortiz, MD	47
Manuel M. Quiñones., MD	47
Raul Santoscoy, DO	42

Congratulations to our TOP FAMILY MEDICINE DOCTORS

Claudia Aguero, MD
Ricardo Arevalo, MD
Mary Faith Casiwa, MD
Christopher T. Caulfield, MD
Michael Dominguez, MD
Matthew P. Gibbs, MD
Andrine Grant, MD
April Hain Treviño, MD

Priya Indira, MD
Michael Konopacki, MD
Timothy J. Kosmatka, MD
Mae Marie Martinez, MD
Tamre McClelland, MD
Lenibet Montemayor, MD
ThanhVi D. Nguyen, DO
Gabriel Ortiz, MD
Dan Powell, MD

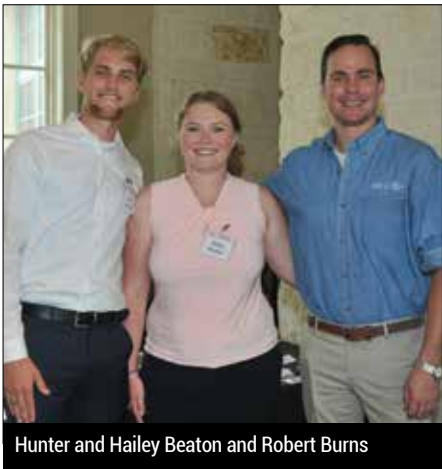
Manuel M. Quiñones Jr., MD
Orlando Rodriguez, MD
Raul Santoscoy, DO
Mae Sepulveda, MD
Iveth Soza, DO
Francisco Torres, MD
Luis Torres, MD
Archana Varma, MD
James Walter, MD



Top Family Practitioners

Claudia Aguero, MD HealthTexas Medical Group..... 58	Mary Faith Casiwa, MD HealthTexas Medical Group..... 65	Emily E. Frye, MD WellMed at Floresville.....1
Muhammad Akram, MD UT Health San Antonio.....9	Ricardo Castillo, DO WellMed at Pecan Valley.....1	Dora Garcia, MD UT Health at Shavano.....8
Fozia A. Ali UT Health San Antonio..... 30	Christopher T. Caulfield, MD HealthTexas Medical Group..... 73	Matthew P. Gibbs, MD HealthTexas Medical Group..... 76
Nehman Andry II, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 27	Freda Cobbinah, DO, MPH WellMed at Windcrest.....6	Marijan Gillard, MD UT Health San Antonio.....8
Aaron Anguiano, MD WellMed at Crockett Park.....2	Tatiana Cordova, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 25	Sudhir Reddy Gogu, DO Stone Oak Urgent Care & Family Practice 15
Ricardo Arevalo, MD HealthTexas Medical Group..... 50	Angelica Davila, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 10	Andrine Grant, MD HealthTexas Medical Group..... 56
Richel Avery, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 61	Michael Dominguez, MD HealthTexas Medical Group..... 78	Alaina Hallmark, MD Jefferson Family Practice.....4
Timothy Barker, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 10	Dean Earp, MD North Hills Family Medicine 16	Mary Beth Harr, MD Mary Beth Harr, MD PA..... 10
Beth Bebout, MD University Health at Inwood.....9	Kimberly Kone Ellis, MD UT Health San Antonio.....4	Kimberly Heller, MD Jefferson Family Practice.....3
Eric Bernstein, MD San Antonio Family Physicians.....9	Nida J. Emko, MD UT Health San Antonio.....36	Byron Hepburn, MD UT Health San Antonio.....2
Brandon Bolfig, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 27	Cristian Fernandez-Falcon, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 32	Curtis Scott Horn, MD Private Practice2
Christine Camacho, MD UT Health San Antonio.....8	Mitchell Finnie, MD Shavano Family Practice2	Priya Indira, MD HealthTexas Medical Group.....104
Ramon Cancino, MD, MSc UT Health San Antonio..... 25	Ryan Fortune, MD UT Health at Shavano.....6	

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Claritycon

Editor: Leslie Foley
Photographer: Vivian Crook

Clarity Child Guidance Center sponsored Claritycon, its annual children’s mental health summit this past summer at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort & Spa. (Clarity CGC is the only nonprofit in South Texas providing a continuum of mental health care for children ages 3-17 and their families, to manage mental health conditions ranging from ADHD and anxiety to suicidal ideation, bipolar disorder and/or schizophrenia. Clarity offers a stand-alone mental health hospital and specialized inpatient/outpatient treatment for children, with the region’s largest concentration of child and adolescent psychiatrists.)

American music singer-songwriter Chase Bryant from Orange Grove served as the keynote lunch speaker sharing insights from his failed suicide attempt and arduous road to recovery. Chase shared his story and played a few selections from his new album *Upbringing*. ■



Top Family Practitioners

Linda Ivy, MD San Antonio Medical Associates9	Gabriel Ortiz, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 47
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Carlos R. Jaen, MD UT Health San Antonio 40	Solomon I. J. Paley, MD SOLO DOC MD PA 13
Carlos Robert Jean, MD UT Health San Antonio5	Marianne J. Pinkston, MD Pinkston Medical and Wellness Clinic 11
Avril Jules, MD University Health North Star5	Sheila Pinkston, MD Your Family Medical Home 1
Aaron A. King, MD MedFirst Quarry5	Ramin Poursani, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 30
Michael Konopacki, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 58	Dan Powell, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 65
Timothy J. Kosmatka, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 64	Richard Prezas, MD WellMed at Northwest 410.....9
William Kottman, MD University Medicine Associates - Uiversity Family Health - Southeast.....4	Manuel M. Quinones, Jr., MD HealthTexas Medical Group 47
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J. Antonio Lopez, MD Lopez Family Practice 10	Tharani Ravi, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 33
David N. Lopez, MD Family Care Clinic9	Orlando Rodriguez, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 28
Preeti Malik, MD WellMed at Embassy Oaks7	Carlos Mario Roldan, MD MacGregor Medical Center San Antonio.....5
Michael Mann, MD Private Practice6	Shamsa Saleem, MD WellMed at Northern Hills3
Margaret Mann-Zeballos, MD Alamo Heights Direct Primary Care 10	Teofilo R. Sanchez III, MD Alamo Ranch Integrative Medicine 1
James Martin, MD UT Health at Shavano.....1	Hormazd B. Sanjana, MD Castle Hills Family Practice1
Marie Mae Martinez, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 67	Raul Santoscoy, DO HealthTexas Medical Group 42
Tamre McClelland, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 57	Mae Sepulveda, MD HealthTexas Medical Group108
Maria Montanez-Villacampa, MD UT Health San Antonio 24	Karen Shimotsu, MD University Health at Inwood6
Lenibet Montemayor, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 58	Saima Siddiqui, MD UT Health San Antonio..... 24
Cordelia Moscrip, MD UT Health San Antonio 26	Huelen E. Smith Jr., MD WellMed at Seguin..... 10
Mark T. Nadeau, MD, MBA UT Health San Antonio 28	Iveth Soza, DO HealthTexas Medical Group 50
Manuel Naron, MD North Hills Family Medicine4	Juanita Huertas Sprute, MD Jefferson Family Practice 1
ThanhVi D. Nguyen, DO HealthTexas Medical Group 93	Danielle Stramandi, MD Medfirst Alamo Heights 10
Wendy Nguyen, MD Stone Oak Family Doctors3	Amy L. Thomas, MD Alamo Family Practice.....4
Robert Noland, MD WellMed Medical Management2	Scott M. Thomas, MD Scott Thomas Family Medicine1

Luis Torres, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 67
Francisco Torres, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 49
Alyssa Tran, DO WellMed at Northern Hills.....4
April Hain Trevino, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 53
Obinna Uzuwulu, MD Comprehensive Primary Care Family Medicine Clinic2
Archana Varma, MD HealthTexas Medical Group 87
Sandra M. Vasquez, MD UT Health Verde Hills 26
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Interview with Texas Fashion Icon Jeanelly Concepcion

TFII President



Photos by: Snap Chic Photo by Annakyi Photography Gilbert

Jeanelly Concepcion is a fashion leader not only in San Antonio but throughout the state of Texas. In 2021, she became the President of TFII, Texas Fashion Industry Initiative, a Texas official non-profit offering support for fashion entrepreneurs and career development for fashion careers. It is recognized nationally and supported by the CFDA, The Council of Fashion Designers of America, Inc. Jeanelly's cutting edge sense of style is smart, inventive, groundbreaking and good for our planet. Everything she puts her footprint on just makes sense. When sitting down to chat with Jeanelly, we spoke about fashion, sustainability in the context of style, TFII/Texas fashion week, and, of course, some fashion tips.

Who is your current style muse - which influences your everyday style:

Kerry Washington for red carpet and events. She gets it right every time. I would also say that I love Zendaya's style. She is so innovative with her style and constantly changes it up, mixing it between masculine and feminine, classy yet on trend, and even when it comes to her hair, she changes it from curly to straight. When I was younger, my mom was my muse. She loved to color block; she was a color-blocking queen! She loved shoulder pads and velvet and had a very progressive mood with a disco style. Currently, she is more minimalistic with her style, so I can draw from her past and present styles.

What are your favorite accessories:

My curly hair is my most significant accessory, so I like to find different ways to fix it up and make it different when it comes to jewelry, such as necklaces. I like to keep those more dainty and simple. I love more oversized statement earrings so I can pull my hair back on one side to see them.

Favorite place to shop:

My closet and a variety of vintage shops throughout San Antonio as well as online vintage shopping. You can find great designer pieces and fun colors that can fit into your current wardrobe. When I shop in my closet, I like to recreate pieces by taking them apart and restyling them to fit my current needs. This leads me to chat about sustainable fashion!

Tell the readers your views and advice on sustainability when it pertains to fashion:

Being a conscious content creator with my personal Brand, Blooming Lotus has given me a platform to share my sustainable lifestyle practices. When I talk about sustainability, my goal is to share simple practices that can reduce our impact or carbon footprint on the planet. This doesn't mean you have to give up everything but to make adjustments, small or large, in your lifestyle that can contribute to improving our quality of life, while conserving the planet so that we may continue to enjoy it without sacrificing environmental health for our current and future generations. I would love to know that we did something to allow our great-grandchildren and successors to live healthy, sustainable life. When it comes to fashion, the rapid rise of fast fashion has been sadly detrimental, not just to the environment but also to humanity. When I share about sustainable fashion on my platforms, I want people to know that there are alternatives to companies that use harmful practices to the environment, like overproduction, unregulated manufacturing, harmful chemicals, unethical use of animal products, and inhumane treatment of garment workers. I love to promote shopping for your own closet. We live in a society that is oversaturated with consumerism, and the big companies flood us with "BUY MORE" ads daily. We don't need more stuff. We need high-quality, durable, and timeless things. I also speak about circular fashion, where you can see the transparency from its conception and take it full circle by purchasing second-hand or biodegradable materials that would help the planet in some way or another. My biggest advice with people curious about starting a journey into sustainable lifestyle practices is to seek what you have at home that can be reused, mended, or sold into second-hand circularity. The next thing would be to look into the companies that you support. Are the materials recycled or sustainably sourced, do they pay their workers a fair wage and provide humane working conditions, and do they have a give-back program? What are these companies doing to reduce their impact on the planet's resources and humanity? We can't have environmental sustainability without those ethical practices. They must go hand in hand.

Tell us about Texas Fashion Week

We are so happy to be bringing back Texas Fashion Week for the second year in a row. As one of the Producers, a lot of work goes behind putting together a week-long event like this, but I am truly



fortunate to be working with such a dedicated team. TFII's VP, Saige Thomas, is our Executive Producer, and I've never met such a hard-working person. Her attention to detail, extensive leg work, and professionalism are admirable. She is the heart of this production, and we work so well together! Everyone involved in the planning, from our PR team, our Social Media Marketing team, the Fundraising team, and everyone working behind the scenes, is amazing. We can't put something of this caliber together without their efforts, and I am so fortunate to be part of it. Texas Fashion week is one of a kind, and San Antonio is its home base. You can expect to see designers and industry leaders from all corners of Texas to show at TXFW and our shows, from Rodeo Style to high high-end fashion. In addition to all the events, TXFW is thrilled to announce that Good Will SA will sponsor the annual sustainability competition! TXFW closes the week by honoring and recognizing the dedicated people that work so hard for their industry at the Texas Fashion Industry Awards. ■

Fashion week begins October 1 and runs thru October 7th.

You can purchase tickets at texasfashionweek.org.

Make sure to follow Jeanelly on Instagram @ [bloominglotus_j](https://www.instagram.com/bloominglotus_j)

and for more styling tips, follow me on IG @ [julesaldaz](https://www.instagram.com/julesaldaz).



PARANORMAL & SUPERNATURAL EXPERIENCES



Mae Escobar

CEO/Owner
aMAEzing Marketing Group, LLC

I consulted some Christians and Catholics and even some priests. And they agreed that ghosts are also known as Lost Souls.

So here it goes. In the mid-1990s, I lived in an apartment on the far north side. I lived in five different apartment units throughout my ten years in that complex. The last apartment I lived in was closest to the call box. We still had landlines, yes, landlines! And the only way to gain access to the property was either you needed a code, or you had to call, and someone would let you in.

On the second day, I was alone in my new place decorating and feeling great about a new lifestyle. Then, I received a phone call, and a male voice screamed, “let me in!” I didn’t say a word, and then quietly, I answered, “who are you?” “I peeked out my window because I lived closest to the call box, and no one was there.

Now I wasn’t frightened at all because I thought maybe it was neighborhood kids who had called and ran away!

However, I knew I wasn’t alone over the next three weeks. For the first two weeks, strange things were occurring in my kitchen, of all places, for the person who doesn’t cook! Drawers would be open, my cabinets were open, and it was a different occurrence every night. Sometimes my toaster was on the counter when I knew it was specifically tucked away, my knife set was out, and forks and spoons were left on the kitchen counter. This was also a time when I was going out a lot and the first couple of times I thought, well, maybe I was looking for something when I had a little too much fun!

But the last week was intense. I felt someone at the foot of my bed ruffling my sheets, and I thought I heard a faint laughing sound. This went on for one terrifying straight week. I then decided that I needed to talk to an old friend who was a curandera. I told her about all the frightful nights of the occurrences in the kitchen and now in my bedroom.

She calmly looked at me, smiled, and said, “do you happen to have a front closet?” I said, “yes, I do. Why?” She said, “I want you to open that door put a hairbrush inside, and next time he comes to you to, ask him to reveal himself.” I never said it was a male or a female, right? But somehow, she knew it was a male soul.

So sure enough, the next time I felt the sheets waving from the foot of my bed, I screamed, “reveal yourself!!” I didn’t know what to expect, but sure enough, a glowing green figure sat next to me. I felt calm and at peace. I sat up in my bed, and I remember it as clear as day and I asked the glowing green figure what is it that you wanted. And he calmly said, “I need to go to the other side.” He looked like a pirate. Not sure why I remember that figure. My heart was beating so fast because I didn’t know if I was dreaming, or I was awake, or I didn’t know what I was feeling. And I said, “I have left the closet door open for you. I want you to go to the other side and be at peace. It’s time to go,” I was feeling the same way. Calm and at peace. I remember falling into a very, very deep sleep that night. I don’t think I remember ever sleeping that hard. When I woke up in the morning, the hairbrush was outside the door, and the closet door was closed. I never heard from that ghostly figure again.

Now I must admit that occasionally, I do feel a presence. But then again, I’ve had many family members who have crossed over to the other side in the last ten years, and I genuinely believe they are watching over me and are at peace. But I will never forget that lesson, and I will never forget that encounter.

I live downtown now, coming up on my “13th year.” I just moved into another unit within my building - my 5th move within the building. My spare bedroom is dedicated to my office. On week 13, I noticed my lights came on in the office, and I was in another room. I had already called it a day and turned off the lights and ceiling fan. This past weekend, I had just finished a major event, and I was chilling in my living room. I looked up, and the lights in my office flickered on and off for three minutes. When I walked over to the office, the ceiling fan was running full force. Again, I was in the living room and nowhere near the office.

TO BE CONTINUED...Happy Halloween. ■



Woodward Coleman, M.D.

Owner San Antonio Plastic
Surgery Associates

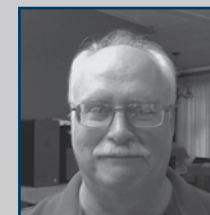
I have had one or two paranormal experiences at the Nix Hospital (now closed forever). I used to have an office there and heard from 2 security guards and an OR Nurse who were adamant about their up-close experiences with spirits on several occasions. The Nix has a long-term legend of ghosts residing on the 22 floor and the 10th floor.

One security guard and one OR nurse told me identical stories of being at the front desk of the Surgery Suite (on the 23rd floor) when they saw a shadowy figure of a female patient in a hospital gown who walked right past them in the hallway in front of the desk. They both went out (on separate occasions) to address the “patient” that the area was restricted, but the person disappeared within seconds. They searched the whole department and couldn’t find the patient. They even searched the stairwell and didn’t find or hear anything to suggest a person descending the stairs.

There have been several stories of ghosts stopping an elevator to get on and take a ride to the 22nd floor. I personally experienced this on two occasions, both around 8:30 p.m., about six months apart. My office was on the 18th floor, and when I pushed the button to go to the ground floor to go home, the elevator stopped on the 10th floor, the door opened, then shut, and the elevator reversed directions to go to the 22nd floor. It opened again, then shut. The 10th floor housed two medical offices, but I saw no one. I had to push the ground floor button again, and it promptly took me there. Several other employees have told me they had the same experience between the 10th and 22nd floors.

I also had a security guard swear to me that he saw a ghost when the elevator had stopped on the 22nd floor (which was no longer being used as a nursing floor and was empty). When the elevator door opened, he stepped out to look around, and he also saw a woman in a hospital gown who beckoned him to follow her to one of the rooms, but she also disappeared. There was no way she could have escaped as there was no stairwell or exit between him and the patient.

I believe in a spiritual world but have yet to reconcile this with my own religious beliefs. ■



Meredith Pool

Semi-Retired Software
Development Contractor

Called In For Questioning

Circa 2040: “Thank you both for coming in. We will need to talk to you in separate rooms, but we prefer that this be done at the same time. To be clear, neither of you is under any suspicion, and we are not asking you to volunteer any information. Under the circumstances, however, you may wish to direct further communications through counsel.”

My ex-husband is looking at me quizzically. I am paired with a female agent and taken to a run-of-the-mill office. Offered coffee and a seat, I am seated on the opposite side of a somewhat cluttered desk in an otherwise neat office.

“A young woman in a Southeast Asian country has requested a green card. She has a toddler, which she said was fathered by an American tourist two years ago. We ran the DNA, and the closest we could come to a match seems to be a child between you and your now ex-husband. Since we’re not aware of any of you traveling outside of the US, and this woman never left her country, somehow the sperm from your son was extracted and transported 9000 miles. Since the only child we’re aware of is 15 years old, this would have had to happen when he was 13.”

About all I can do is stare at the furniture, then out the window. What the hell? For some reason, I get this association with a ghastly car wreck that occurs out of nowhere. I stare at trivial details - stains on the carpet, nicks in the paper tray, peeled laminate on a desk that has been roughly moved repeatedly over the years.

The agent expands on this further: “We have encountered this dozens of times in the last few years, which isn’t limited to any one country. This has happened in several countries in that part of the world, and the trafficked material has originated from multiple countries. We share information with Canada and the UK. We suspect it is also happening elsewhere in Europe, but these countries don’t share much information. Basically, women in that part of the world want white or light-skinned babies. Western tourists used to be the ‘donors,’ so to speak; however, with the arrival of ‘male pills,’ this source has shrunk to insignificance. Some of these babies have undoubtedly been ‘sold’ to childless couples.”

I think David couldn’t possibly know that this was happening - he doesn’t show any sign of being used or manipulated. “Why would someone go after a 13-year-old?”

“First, many older men are now ‘fixed’, so to speak, so they aren’t potent. The donor boys are often in financially well-off families and are showing great promise on their own. Your son would have been very carefully targeted, not only on ancestry but on physical fitness and perhaps earning potential later in life”. ■

San Antonio Heart Ball

Editor & Photographer: Leslie Foley

The 38th Annual San Antonio Heart Ball hosted, “Keep the Beat”, honoring Rebecca and Jorge Alvarez, M.D., and Margie and Sam O’Krent and the Arthur O’Krent Golf Classic Committee.

Jim & Renee Kizziar matched all Open Your Heart donations made before the event up to \$30,000. The Kizziaris are long-time supporters of the American Heart Association and Heart Ball, and their incredible generosity has allowed the American Heart Association to continue their mission of achieving amazing things for the health of our community.

Guests had the opportunity to bid on fabulous auction items ahead of the ball including a Golf Foursome with Super Bowl Champion, Louis Vasquez, THREE different Omni resort 3-night stays, and a Culinary Experience with Chef Hinnerk von Bargaen including \$500 HEB gift card and 6 bottles of wine. ■



Amanda Kuyrkendall and Melissa Pressentin



Honorees Dr. Jorge and Rebecca Alvarez



Jason and Lauren O’Krent



Christina and Donny Robinson



Robert and Felicia De La Garza



Kathy and Charlie Drago



Matthew and Natalie Jackson



Megan and Scott Rausch



Joyce and Dr. Nandish Thukral



Honorees Sam and Margie O’Krent



Mary and Sean Page

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SPORTS

BY SAM STERN

Becky Hammon Blazing Trails



Hammon was recently awarded the WNBA Coach of the Year in her first full season with the team after moving from her post as an assistant under the legendary Gregg Popovich. With this incredible accolade, she became the seventh coach in the history of the WNBA to win this honor in their first season.

Her top-seeded Aces finished with an impressive 26-10 regular season record, which was the second highest winning percentage in the regular season by a rookie head coach. After following in the footsteps of former head coach, Bill Laimbeer, it is safe to say that the team has not skipped a beat since gaining the coaching talents of Hammon.

Coach Hammon began her basketball career at Colorado State where her prolific scoring made her an All-American three times before entering the pros. She has faced adversity throughout her career, and going undrafted in the 1999 WNBA Draft was no different.

Not only did she bounce around the league for a few years, but she also took her talents overseas playing for six different teams across the globe. She was most notably remembered for her time with the San Antonio Stars where she played seven illustrious seasons full of All-Star nominations, All-WNBA Teams, and her number 25 being retired by the Stars franchise.

The South Dakota native has blazed a trail for women in sports, and she has inspired a generation of young athletes all over the world.

The question still remains as to whether she will ever be a head coach in the NBA; with her powerful work ethic and obvious passion, there is no question that her resume will knock any general manager/owner off their feet.

Stay ready, because Becky Hammon still has more barriers to break and the basketball world is ready to watch this trailblazer shine. ■

Photo by Ethan Miller/Getty Images

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EASY PRE-HOLIDAY PLANNING IDEAS

By Esmi Gonzalez
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER

Just reading this article's title may bring about a little stress, but no worries, this will help ease the stress and help make the holidays truly enjoyable. This is a quick checklist to ease into the planning.

Gift List: Make your list and set your budget. Do your best to stick to this budget. Your list should include the person's name and a couple of gift ideas, and the stores or websites where you can find these gifts.
TIP: Add this list to the "Memo Pad" on your Smartphone; that way, you always have your "list" with you should you find yourself at the mall. Next, buy some extra gifts for unexpected family and friends who may drop by during the holidays. Baked goods are always a big hit.

Holiday Cards: Purchase cards or have some specially made with photos from a family vacation or outing earlier in the year. There are many online companies to order from, usually shipping within ten days.
TIP: If your card list is a bit large, address ten cards every few days so that it does not become a chore or tedious. Another idea may be to have each family members address cards and split up the list. It is more personal to hand address the cards.

Holiday Gatherings/Parties: Plan and set your date for your holiday gathering. Prepare your guest list, menu, and decorating ideas. Write up the grocery list and set a date to go shopping a few days before your event. Book any help SEVERAL weeks out, such as wait staff, musician, or bartender.
TIP: Since the holidays and parties are popular this time of year, send invitations out three weeks in advance to have a successful turnout. Email invitations are a time saver, and there are many to choose from online. You can even create the invitation at your leisure and schedule it in advance to go out on a specific date.

Planning several weeks takes a lot of the stress out of the holidays. Doing one or two weekly tasks helps you achieve your goals with a clear vision. Don't hesitate to ask your family for help with errands or chores; the holidays are family time, why not start early?

Happy Holidays!

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Visions of Veneto



St. Mark's Basilica, image courtesy of
Sloane Travel Photography

Stepping into an ankle-deep puddle, I almost lost my footing and quickly had to grab the hand of an elderly gentleman who then ceremoniously led me onto a large wooden plank sitting atop several inches of water, courtesy of the Grand Canal. Walking the plank before I reached the hotel door, a fierce gust of wind blew off my hat and turned my umbrella into a bowl-shaped, useless thing. After this inauspicious start, if one were to look at me they'd see someone with eyes sparkling and a mouth turned upward in a silly grin. So why is this gal smiling? It's simple – I'm in Venice, and I dare anyone, in any weather and under any circumstance, not to greet the site of this Wonder on the Water without smiling. Impossible. Can't be done. My venture into the Veneto region of Italy did, indeed, start off soggily but soon the fabled sun that graces this region was out and my umbrella was in – back in my luggage, not to make another appearance for the rest of the trip.

Once ensconced in my room at the Luna Hotel Baglioni, I was quickly transported into a Venetian dream with a window that looked out on a canal, water softly plashing against the hotel's walls. That evening, my travel companions and I had a special treat awaiting us. We walked a short distance to Piazza San Marco and stood transfixed by a luminous silver sky, mauve clouds scudding quickly across the Campanile, and of course, ubiquitous grey pigeons swooping overhead in gay greeting. We dined at the renowned Caffè Ristorante Quadri which dates to 1725. Over the years everyone from Stendhal, Proust, Wagner and Byron has dined here and in this pinch-myself moment, now me!



The Grand Canal, image courtesy of Sloane Travel Photography

Cruising

The best ride one will ever have and one of life's great pleasures – plying the waters of the Grand Canal. I had the feeling I was in a living Canaletto painting, the sky an impossible blue and surrounded by ancient palazzos, their colors soft terra cotta, cream, gray and beige. This great road of water was filled with vaporetti, motorboats and gondolas, the boat moorings like peppermint sticks jutting up from the water - a scene that will thrill even the most jaded world traveler. While on the Canal, we made a stop to visit the Peggy Guggenheim Collection at Sestiere Dorsoduro 701. This is among the most important museums in Italy for European and American art of the first half of the 20th century. It's located in Peggy Guggenheim's former home, Palazzo Venier dei Leoni. The museum was inaugurated in 1980 and presents Peggy Guggenheim's personal collection of 20th century art, masterpieces from the Gianni Mattioli Collection, the Nasher Sculpture Garden, as well as temporary exhibitions.

Wherefore Art Thou

The city of Verona is 71 miles west of Venice, and is, of course, the setting for Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet. A long-forgotten editor of one of the Bard's plays wrote: "Verona, so rich in real history has an even greater charm for those who would live in the poetry of the past." Hummm - live in the poetry of the past - that's my kind of neighborhood, and the past is ever present in this, one of the great cities of Italy.

Our sightseeing took us, naturally, to Casa di Giulietta, a house the city acquired in 1905. Many locals believe that in the 19th century the house was a bordello, but I prefer to close my eyes and picture the dear girl leaning over her balcony, swooning over that Montague boy.

Passage to Padua

This is a major art center of the Veneto. Standing below the imposing façade of Padua University, Italy's second oldest, we learned that Dante and Galileo were once professors here. In the square, we heard a loud commotion, singing, shouting and laughing. Turns out



Basilica Palladiana, image courtesy of Sloane Travel Photography

it was a large group of the university's students serenading a recent graduate in a traditional and bawdy fashion. The embarrassed girl was being marched through the square wearing a crazy costume, her head adorned with a shower cap, flippers on her feet, and carrying a sign that proclaimed her graduate status. The crowd sang something our guide loosely translated as "You're a doctor now, big deal, go.....yourself!" All in good fun, but I suspect the graduate would be very happy when her "fun" was over.

The modest Chapel of the Scrovegni is one of the best reasons to visit Padua. Sometime around 1305, the artist Giotto did several frescos on the Chapel's walls, and we stood enthralled before one of his most awe-inspiring, "The Last Judgment."

An Architectural Delight

In the 16th century, Vicenza was transformed into a virtual laboratory for the architectural experiments of Andrea di Pietro known as Palladio, one of the great architects of the High Renaissance. Here we came upon the alabaster-white Basilica Palladiana shimmering in the sunlight. On our city tour, we were rendered speechless by one of Palladio's greatest masterpieces, the Olympic Theater which was completed five years after the architect's death in 1585. The trompe l'oeil renderings on stage are, themselves, worth a visit.

Medieval Marvel

In Treviso we strolled through this well-preserved ancient city gaping at the fantastically frescoed houses. We sat on a bench by a slow-flowing canal and enjoyed a spectacular lunch at the Park Hotel Bolognese, a villa of the late 1800s. Viewing Dante's Bridge, we were told it was so named because Dante actually referred to this town in his "Paradiso."

Arrivederci

The time to depart Italy arrived but no final farewell for me. I preferred to say Arrivederci - so long for now, see you again. And by the way, that silly grin that adorned my face when I arrived – well, I'm still smiling, and when you visit the Veneto, you'll smile too! ■



Board member Dolly Lopez and keynote speaker Joe Pantoliano



Doorways of Hope Luncheon chair and board member Beth Plummer with keynote speaker Joe Pantoliano



KSAT 12 anchor Steve Sprietster welcomed guests and Stuart Seal designed the beautiful scarf in support of Alpha Home



Melissa Kelly, Kari Thompson, Sarah Classen and Katie Phelps

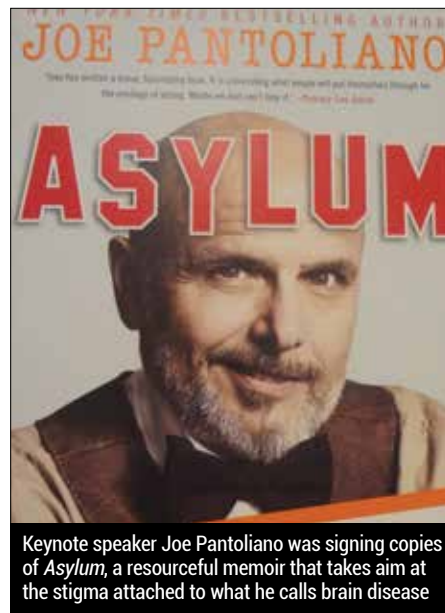
Doorways of Hope Annual Luncheon

Editor & Photographer: Leslie Foley

Alpha Home hosted its 16th annual luncheon to provide funds to support its mission to offer the community recovery, hope, and healing through spiritually based drug and alcohol treatment and support.

Alpha Home's keynote speaker Joe Pantoliano, an actor/author starring in television shows including *The Simpsons*, *The Sopranos*, *M*A*S*H*, *The Nick Cannon Show*, as well as 100s of movies: *Risky Business*, *Matrix*, *Hide and Seek*, and *Just Getting Started*, shared his struggles with what he later found out was clinical depression—or brain dis-ease, as he calls it. Pantoliano, also known as “Joey Pants” is also a published author and is active in the field of mental health, having documented his mother's issues and his own. He founded the nonprofit, No Kidding, Me Too! Dedicated to removing the stigma from mental illness.

Alpha Home offers spiritually-based drug and alcohol treatment services and support to individuals. Treatment provides an opportunity to get life back on track with family and friends, employment, education, and more to help become more productive in day-to-day living. Recovery is based on the 12-step model of recovery, incorporating values of spirituality, integrity, discipline, dedication, and productivity. Their staff will walk with you and support you throughout your recovery. Treatment is available regardless of your ability to pay. ■



Keynote speaker Joe Pantoliano was signing copies of *Asylum*, a resourceful memoir that takes aim at the stigma attached to what he calls brain disease



Debbie Stringfellow, Cathy Barbatto and Carol Vogel



Kristin and Rick Beno with board member Cheryl and Craig Wright



Luncheon sponsors Gene and Mary Duane Dawson with keynote speaker Joe Pantoliano



Nancy Sheppard Pantoliano, board chair Rebecca Bonugli, PhD, keynote speaker Joe Pantoliano and CEO Liza Jensen

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Top Lawyer Profiles



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Alexander Begum is a founding shareholder of the Villarreal & Begum Law Firm, with offices in San Antonio, Laredo and McAllen. Mr. Begum earned a double major in Marketing and Finance at Trinity University. He then attended Harvard University where he studied finance and legal writing. Alex acquired a Doctorate of Jurisprudence and a Masters of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Texas Tech. Alexander Begum has devoted his career to helping those injured by negligent drivers, 18-wheelers and bad corporate actors. *Scene In S.A.* magazine has named Alex Begum Best Injury Lawyer for years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.



Alfonso Cabañas

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At Cabanas Law Firm we provide tough representation in Criminal Law, White Collar Crimes and Business Law. Alfonso Cabanas, the founder of Cabanas Law Firm practices criminal defense in the United States and business law in both the U.S. and Mexico. His practice combines the attention to detail and insight of a business lawyer with the aggressive courtroom presence of an experienced criminal defense attorney. Mr. Cabanas also advises and represents corporate and individual clients who are facing government investigations into their business practices. If government cases turn into federal criminal complaints, he can represent the clients in federal court. Cabanas Law firm has a team of bilingual and bi-cultural employees working with clients daily.



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A San Antonio native, Porter Corrigan provides family law clients with essential insights gained from his work with two federal judges at the district and appellate court levels. His work in a variety of cases has earned Porter the respect of both clients and colleagues, in addition to helping him earn honors six times on the Texas Rising Stars listing published by Thomson Reuters (2010-2012, 2014-2017) and selection to San Antonio's Top Attorneys and San Antonio Rising Stars lists published *Scene In S.A.* magazine. He is also AV-rated by Martindale-Hubbell



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2022 #2 top Criminal Defense Lawyer

2022 Top Criminal Defense Lawyer

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Gerry Goldstein is a past President of the National Association of Lawyers and the Texas Lawyers Association. Goldstein is listed in The Best Lawyers in America, was named a Texas Lawyer Legal Legend by the State Bar and was named to the Texas Lawyers Hall of Fame. He was named to the Top 100 list in Super Lawyers and recognized as the outstanding attorney by the State Bar of Texas. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers, a Fellow in the American Board of Lawyers and a prestigious Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award recipient.

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Frank Guerra is a founding partner of Watts Guerra LLP, located in San Antonio and has decades of experience litigating complex cases involving serious accidents, defective products, large mass torts, and corporate litigation. He is board certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.



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As a third generation attorney, I believe it is safe to say that practicing law is in my blood. The legal field is part of my genetic makeup-and that includes not only the talent and skill it takes to be a successful, efficient attorney but the passion to pursue the law in a manner that truly reflects the ideas of liberty, justice and truth. I graduated with my Juris Doctor from the University of Texas-School of Law. I received my Bachelors of Science from Duke University. I believe that my undergraduate degree is one of the many tools that shaped the philosophy of my practice and the area of law that I work in today. I enjoy helping others at a price they can afford.



Frank Herrera

2022 Top PI Plaintiff Lawyer

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Frank Herrera is known for his commitment to bringing justice to the underdog. He graduated from St. Mary's University Law School in only two and a half years. Frank is the sole owner of The Herrera Law Firm. He dedicates countless hours to the MALDEF, St. Mary's University Alumni Association and Central Catholic High School. He is also the Managing Partner and Chairman of the Board of Valiente International Ventures, the first and only Hispanic supplier to form a joint venture with Toyota Tsusho America, Inc.



Javier L. Herrera

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Javier graduated from Boston College with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He went on to the University of Chicago-School of Social Services Administration, and graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law in 2010. He is currently a member of the American Association for Justice. Javier ensures that justice comes to everyone, and that empowerment comes through the courtroom.

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Top Lawyer Profiles



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Ben Kemmy grew up in San Antonio, went to college at Notre Dame and law school at the University of

Houston. His practice mostly involves litigation and trial work on behalf of injured people. He also handles cases for policyholders when their insurance companies do not pay benefits owed. In addition to his trial work, Ben has argued before the Texas Fourth Court of Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.



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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury: Plaintiff

Shortly after graduating from law school, Nicholas spent three years at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office serving as a prosecutor for the State of Texas and Bexar County. After trying countless cases to verdict, Nicholas entered private practice where he now specializes in commercial litigation and representing individuals in personal injury cases. Nicholas received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas in Austin and his Juris Doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law.



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Tom Kemmy is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Personal Injury Trial Law (since 1997). Tom built his reputation representing ordinary people and small business owners injured by large corporations and hospitals. He has won large verdicts and settlements in difficult cases involving catastrophic and fatal injuries, medical negligence, oil and gas royalty disputes, and other business torts. Rated AV-Preminent by Martindale Hubbel, Tom has also been repeatedly recognized by SuperLawyers.



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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury: Plaintiff

Vanessa is a third-generation attorney and is proud to continue two of her family's legacies: practicing law and business ownership. Vanessa is a diligent and passionate attorney who cares deeply about helping her clients solve their problems. For the last seven years, Vanessa has represented her clients' interests with professionalism and a steadfast commitment to a resolution.



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Danny became interested in becoming a lawyer while studying Government at the University of Texas in Austin. He started practicing law in 2015 after graduating early from South Texas College of Law.

As a trial lawyer, Danny specializes in personal injury, medical malpractice, and business litigation. In 2017, Tom and Danny (2nd Chair) secured a record setting verdict for an elderly professor who had sustained a permanent spinal cord injury in a medical setting.



Jacob Kemmy

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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury: Plaintiff

Jac received his law degree from Loyola University, New Orleans College of Law. After law school, Jac spent the first four years of his career as a prosecutor

at the Bexar County District Attorney's office where he tried over 30 jury trials to verdict. Since leaving public service, Jac is now in private practice where he specializes in representing individuals in personal injury cases.

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Top Lawyer Profiles



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Jorge graduated from Columbia University and received the Charles M. Rolker Prize for leadership. Jorge is the general counsel for the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and was recently elected to serve on the board of the Mexican American Legal Defense And Education Fund. He is a proud member of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. Herrera believes in fighting for justice, one client at a time.



Nico LaHood

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Areas of Practice: Criminal Defense

Nicholas "Nico" La Hood, former Bexar County District Attorney, is a San Antonio native with over two decades of experience as a premier DWI/criminal defense lawyer in the state. His passion for giving back to the community has offered him the opportunity to appear as a guest speaker at universities, community colleges, grade schools, middle schools, and high schools seeking to educate young adults and our youth about the justice system and its laws. Standing up for the accused and the defenseless, Nico and his team are ready to fearlessly defend your rights.



Jay S. Norton

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Areas of Practice: Criminal Defense

Jay S. Norton is a criminal defense attorney. Jay has successfully tried hundreds of cases as both a prosecutor and defense attorney, in both state and federal courts.

He is the former Chief of the Criminal Trial Division of the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office where he supervised, trained and mentored all Assistant Criminal District Attorneys assigned to the felony trial courts of Bexar County. Jay has extensive trial experience encompassing all classes and degrees of criminal cases, including the most serious felony offenses under Texas Law.



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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury

Mack Injury Attorneys is a law firm that can handle any size case involving personal injury or wrongful death. Mack prides himself on meeting with each client at the start of the case and developing both a professional and personal relationship throughout the process. His practice focuses on holding companies accountable for unsafe business practices that have resulted in harm to the community. He is a trial attorney that is fully committed to each client.

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Areas of Practice: PI Plaintiffs: General

Desi Martinez is a known courtroom "snob." He believes that unless an attorney is willing to put in the work to present a strong and competent case, the opposition will never respect the attorney. Mr. Martinez is proud to lead a firm that has made their name in the courtroom. It allows his firm to achieve the best available results for the clients who chose to bless Martinez & Associates, PLLC, with their trust and business.



Gavin McInnis

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Gavin, who has been nicknamed "the Law Library" by some of his peers, concentrates his practice in the representation of plaintiffs in serious personal injury, trucking accident, wrongful death, carbon monoxide exposure, and oil field injury cases. Born and raised in Latin America until the age of thirteen, Gavin speaks English and Spanish. Honors and recognitions include: Super Lawyers, *Scene In S.A.* Best Lawyers, Top 50 Verdicts (Texas); Texas Bar Foundation Fellow; Order of the Barristers.



Aida Rojas Moore

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Aida Rojas Moore has over 16 years of qualified experience in dealing with family law cases such as divorce, custody, domestic violence, CPS, child support and adoptions. Throughout the course of representing clients, Ms. Rojas has gained the reputation of a lawyer who will always fight for justice and will protect the legal rights of Texas families and children.



Angela Moore

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Areas of Practice: Criminal Defense

Angela Moore is a board certified specialist in Criminal Law and Criminal Appellate Law. Prior to being a solo attorney, Angela was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas and Chief of the Bexar County Public Defender's Office. In addition to having 30 years of experience, Moore is also an adjunct professor at St. Mary's School of Law. I am licensed in all State courts and the 5th Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. I believe in my clients and protecting their rights from overreaching of the Government.

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Co-chair Tracee Feik, honoree Rebecca Taylor and Rebecca's Wish president, Christyn Taylor



Friends of Rebecca's Wish



Enjoying a night of fundraising



Supporters in attendance

Wild for Wishes

Editor & Photographer: Leslie Foley

Rebecca's Wish teamed up with the San Antonio Zoo to present Wild for Wishes, an unforgettable evening of imagination and inspiration in support of Rebecca's Wish a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to giving children with pancreatitis help and hope through supportive patient care, charitable services, and medical research. Since its inception, Rebecca's Wish has raised millions of dollars to support countless children around the nation.

Rebecca's Wish is a three-year old nonprofit founded by Rebecca Taylor, the 19-year old daughter of Christyn Taylor. Rebecca's body started shutting down more than a decade ago because of an unknown auto-immune disease which eventually attacked her pancreas. She suffered for years in agonizing pain until receiving a lifesaving surgery which removed her pancreas. Every day, she continues to fight for her life.

As opposed to wallowing in self-pity, Rebecca decided to battle for the children with pediatric pancreatitis, a disease for which there is no known cure. When the Make-A-Wish Foundation heard about Rebecca and approached her to make her dreams come true, Rebecca sidestepped the ordinary and shot for the extraordinary. She asked for a medical philanthropist to help her start a nonprofit, so that she could help children just like herself, who suffer from this tortuous disease.

This will be the second time Rebecca's Wish has taken over the Zoo for its signature family party, Wild for Wishes. The last time the nonprofit held this event was in 2019 when it raised more than \$325,000. This year, a chief focus of the fundraiser was the sponsorship of pediatric pancreatitis patients to attend Camp Hope, which is a summer program created this year by Rebecca's Wish in partnership with the National Pancreas Foundation, so that children with chronic pancreatitis can experience the joy of attending a camp with other children who share a similar life journey. ■



Rebecca's physician, Dr. Sandeep Patel



Taking a break during festivities



Street Angel



Fun, Friends and Fundraising

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Top Lawyer Profiles



Ashley Morgan

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Ashley Morgan is a highly educated and highly experienced trial attorney. She has hundreds of trials under her belt and her ability to communicate clearly and effectively with jurors is second to none. Ashley has the unique ability to empathize with clients – a skill often overlooked by other attorneys. She is a fierce advocate and will vigorously defend you. As a former prosecutor she is able to anticipate strategies and tactics you will face and this insight into preparation will serve you well. It also means she has the experience needed to negotiate with the State.



Cynthia Orr

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Cynthia Eva Hujar Orr is the past Chair of the ABA Criminal Justice Section and in its House of Delegates, on the Texas Board of Law Examiners, is past President of the NACDL and TCDLA. She founded the San Antonio Lawyers Association and the Texas Innocence Network. She is listed in the Best Lawyers in America, is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and is a Texas' Top 100 Trial Lawyer. She is in the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame, she was TCDLA 2015 Pro Bono Lawyer of the year, clerked for federal Judge Emilio Garza and is Board Certified in Criminal Law and Appeals. She is listed in the Best Lawyers in America and is AV Rated by Martindale Hubble.



Richard Orsinger

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Areas of Practice: Family Law

Richard Orsinger is well regarded as one of Texas' top family law and appellate lawyers. He offers clients unparalleled experience gained over the course of an esteemed 46-year career. In that time, his peers have repeatedly recognized him for his legal acumen, dedication to hard work and to the integrity of his profession. The list of awards bestowed upon him from a variety of legal organizations and publications is impressive. Richard has been named to The Best Lawyers in America in Family Law listing each year since 1987 and in Appellate Law since 2007.



Derek S. Ritchie

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Areas of Practice: Criminal Defense and Family Law

Derek is the founder and managing attorney of the Law Office of Derek S. Ritchie. He earned his law degree in London then made his way to the United States and earned his LLM from the University of Texas School of Law. He handles DWI's, intoxication manslaughter, murders and sex crimes as well as all areas of Family Law. He is available to his clients everyday, including weekends.

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George Salinas

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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury Law

George Salinas Injury Lawyers, is based in San Antonio, Texas and handles injury cases throughout the state. Cases include 18 wheeler collisions, automobile collisions, premises liability, pedestrian-auto accidents, work injuries, defective products, motorcycle collisions, and insurance disputes. With over seventeen years of combined experience on both the plaintiff and defense side, our attorneys put our knowledge and passion to work for our clients by aggressively pursuing their cases.



Hella V. Scheuerman

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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury, Probate, Trust and Estate Litigation

Hella is originally from Managua, Nicaragua. She immigrated to the United States with her family at a young age as a result of the political and economic climate in war-torn Nicaragua. Spanish is her first language and she continues to speak Spanish fluently. She has obtained significant trial experience as lead attorney in more than 50 jury trials to verdict. Hella is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and frequently counsels and represents clients in both State and Federal Courts. She is licensed in all Texas State Courts, as well as the Western, Northern and Southern Districts of Texas of the United States District Courts. Hella has extensive experience in handling all types of civil litigation, including serious personal injury and death cases, will and trust contests, and probate litigation. She also handles all matters related to estate planning.



Jodi Soyars

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Areas of Practice: Criminal Defense and Family Law

Jodi Soyars has gained a reputation for being a strong trial attorney who is not afraid to vigorously defend her clients' rights. Over the past 15+ years, she has represented defendant's accused of misdemeanors and felonies throughout Central Texas. She graduated with honors from law school and was a member of the prestigious Houston Law Review. She has been admitted to practice in the U.S. Western District Courts (federal court). Her practice emphasizes personal attention to each client's case and prompt communication with her clients. Jodi attributes her success to her pretrial case preparation and her "think outside the box" trial approach.



Laura G. Tamez

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Laura Tamez is a shareholder with the Herrera Law Firm, where she has a civil litigation practice. Ms. Tamez is the Past President of the San Antonio Trial Lawyers Association. She graduated from Texas A&M and then received her J.D. at St. Mary's University School of Law. Laura is the first recipient of the prestigious San Antonio Trial Lawyers Association Pat Maloney, Sr. Courage Award.

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Hon. Nelson Wolff with 2022 honoree Tracy Wolff



Teri Grubb, Hope Anaya and Madelon Leone



Dr. Deborah Valdez and Dr. Alice Viroslav



John Montford and Claudia Smithwick



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Trish DeBerry and Trefoil honoree 2010 Harriet Helmle



Blakey Fernandez and Debbie Montford



Trefoil honoree 2019 Mary Rose Brown with Angie Salinas, Major General, USMC (Ret) CEO, Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas



Girl Scout Ella Loeber and Kelly Espinoza



Trefoil honoree 2013 Carri Baker Coleman, Cliff Douglass and Lilia Gibson

Trefoil 2022 Honoree

Editor: Leslie Foley

Photographer: Vivian Crook

For more than 30 years, Tracy Wolff has tirelessly served our community, making a tremendous difference in the lives of local children and families. Perhaps the capstone of her decades-long history of leadership and service in our community, Tracy founded and serves as president of the Hidalgo Foundation. In this capacity, she led the capital campaign and spearheaded the efforts to create Bexar County Children's Court, which is the first of its kind in Texas and only the second in the nation. The Children's Court is a place where children can feel comfortable and safe while going through the court system. Tracy and her husband, Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, are the ultimate dynamic duo, so it's not surprising she also helped create and raise significant funding for BiblioTech, the first-ever, all-digital library in the U.S., which is free to all Bexar County residents. Through BiblioTech, the community has access to more than 40,000 current titles and classics, opening the door for learning and success to area children. ■



Trefoil honoree 2016 Janet Holliday, CEO Angie Salinas and Trefoil honoree 2014 Suzanne Wade



Trefoil honoree 2012 Hope Andrade, Father David Garcia and Norma Rodriguez

Top Lawyer Profiles



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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury

Heather wanted to create a law firm that made every single client feel like family. By adopting an inclusive, diverse, female-led, compassionate, and strong environment, Heather changed the lives of her employees, peers, and clients. Heather offers legal services statewide and is board certified in Family Law. Tessmer Law Firm has continuously grown and is now headquartered at the Northwest Center building in San Antonio. Tessmer Law Firm will be your forever firm, assisting you through all facets of family law, estate planning, personal injury, and so much more! She is always doing the right thing.



Javier Villarreal

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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury

Javier Villarreal received his bachelor's degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, LA in 1995. He then continued his education at Tulane School of Law where he obtained his Juris Doctors in 1998. Upon graduation, he served as a Briefing Attorney for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. In 2001 Javier opened his private practice in Brownsville, Texas and developed his plaintiff personal injury practice. He is licensed to practice law in both the State of Texas and the State of Arizona.



Robbie L. Ward

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Robbie Ward is recognized as one of the best Criminal Defense Lawyers in Texas, working thousands of cases over a 20 year career in criminal law. Her portfolio of work includes high profile murder cases, she has secured numerous "Not Guilty" verdicts and dismissals, litigated jury trials, and has represented a wide range of individuals and professionals both in State and Federal Court.

Her early career after St. Mary's University School of Law began at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, where her expertise as a trial lawyer earned her a spot as a Felony Prosecutor. She was then recruited as a Federal Prosecutor with the United States Attorney's Office. Her next high level promotion was as a First Assistant in the Ector County Attorney's Office where she resided and ran the office for several years. With her transition back to San Antonio, Robbie entered Criminal Defense Law as a partner in a local defense firm for four years, where she thrived and gave every client her unique experience as both a prior prosecutor and a defense lawyer.

She is now in private practice where she will continue to serve her clients at the highest level, in a community she has personal and professional ties to. Robbie credits her family for the values of loyalty, hard work, and dedication she exemplifies in her life and her law career. She has been featured in San Antonio Woman for her business acumen, serves as a current Board of Directors of the San Antonio Criminal Defense Lawyer Association, is a current Member of TCDLA and NACDL, and has been recognized in 2019 as a Lawyer of Distinction, and as a Top 10 Defense Attorney by Attorney and Practice Magazine.



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Mikal Carter Watts is the founding Partner of Watts Guerra LLP. He attended The University of Texas in Austin where he completed his undergraduate degree in two years and his Juris Doctorate in two years. Following college, Mikal worked for The Honorable Thomas R. Phillips, Chief Justice as a briefing attorney from 1989-1990. In 1997 Mikal opened his own law firm and in 2006 he relocated to San Antonio. He is a Foundation member of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association.



Wayne Wright

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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury

Mr. Wright received his law degree from the University of Northern Illinois College of Law, with the honors of Magna Cum Laude, First in Class. Mr. Wright is licensed to practice law in 9 states, including Texas; a life member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum; ranked as a Top 100 Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers; and has been listed as a Best Attorney in San Antonio by *Scene In S.A.* magazine since 2009.



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Areas of Practice: Plaintiff Personal Injury

Wyatt Wright handles complex trucking accident cases resulting in serious injury or death, as well as dangerous product and drug cases. Mr. Wright is licensed to practice law in 15 states, including Texas; is a life member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum; is ranked as a Top 100 Lawyer by the National Trial Lawyers; and has been listed as a Best Attorney in San Antonio by *Scene In S.A.* magazine since 2009.



Paula Wyatt

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Areas of Practice: Personal Injury

Paula knows the profound human impact of personal injuries or death. As such, she takes the time to not just get to know her clients, but to understand them. Paula represents individuals and families who have suffered losses from trucking accidents, carbon monoxide exposure, and oilfield and industrial accidents, just to name a few. Rated AV-Preeminent by Martindale - Hubbell, Paula has been recognized by multiple organizations, including Super Lawyers and the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum.



Elizabeth Knox, Eric Arias, Mary P. Rabinowitz and Dan Solcher



Kelly Garcia, Lucy Muñoz, Debbie DeLeon and Lucero Martinez



Michelle Perrin and Jennifer Perrin



Staff members Sarah Carpenter and Meganne Muir

Noche del Sol

Editor: Leslie Foley
Photographer: Vivian Crook

Sunshine Cottage returned once again to host Noche del Sol at the San Antonio Country Club. In 2019, they welcomed over 300 guests and raised over \$130,000 for operations. Fast forward two years, Fiesta-attired guests celebrated at the sold out 2022 Noche del Sol for an evening of fun including live and silent auctions, a raffle, and plenty of margaritas.

Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children celebrated its 75th anniversary, 1947-2022. The organization hosted the event to raise the funds necessary to expand their programs and help their children who are deaf or hard of hearing who want to learn to listen and speak. Funds will be utilized to provide state-of-the-art hearing equipment. ■



Event chair Muffin Moorman, executive director Mark E. Eads, and chairs Lauren Parker and Kelly Hunter



Tammy Albrecht and Jeff Albrecht



Vernon Williams, Deanna Williams and Father Martin Leopold



Paige Craig, Bibba Wilde and Ethel Runion



Michael Perkins and Megan Perkins



Michael Steed and Eloise Guggolz



Sam Kruger and Mary Kruger



Staff members Annabel Goodrum and Elizabeth Smith



Asher and Zoe Reilly with Kourtney and Taylor Little



Board chair Bobby Rios, Kristin Rios, and Curtis Ruder



Jennifer Cooney, Susie DeKoch, DDS, and Jane Jordan



Nancy Darrow with George and Barbara Williams



Jacqui Peace with Ryan, and Campbell Sullivan



Mitesh and Shweta Patel with Amita Kumar, and Gabriel Bietz

Hearts in Harmony Gala

Editor: Leslie Foley
Photographer: Vivian Crook

The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas hosted its 21st Annual Hearts in Harmony Gala to raise funds to continue its mission to foster healing for grieving children and youth, their families and the community.

Lori and James Donnell served as honorary chairs. Jennifer Segura and daughters Julia, Amelia and Clara Fuelein were the evening's featured speakers. Auctioneer Rick Shaw ensured high bids for auction items including a staycation with Spurs tickets, Lake McQueeney getaway, one-of-a-kind painting by artist Brooke Rosser, Sonoma County retreat, Torrey Pines golf getaway and a luxury Tuscan villa with Italian cooking class. ■



CBC marketing and communications manager Chloe Palacios and Marian Sokol, Ph.D., MPH, executive director



Ashley and Andrew Friedman donated a fabulous home for the live auction



James Capps and Brittany Muir



Stephen and McKenzie Gray



Don and Nicole Flanary with Annie



Lauren Jefferies, LPC Associate and Emily Price LPC

Top Doctor Profiles



J. Antonio Lopez, MD
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Primary Specialty:
Family Medicine
Dr. Lopez has been practicing medicine

for over twenty years. After graduating from the Nuevoleon Medical University in 1990, he practiced in Monterey, Mexico for a year. Dr. Lopez then immigrated to the US, and received a second degree from the University of Illinois in 1996. Though he enjoyed a successful career as a cardiologist and obgyn as well as a family practitioner in Illinois, Dr. Lopez moved his family to San Antonio in 2001 and is proud to be a part of the Texas community. Since opening the doors to Lopez Family Practice, Antonio has won several awards, including Outstanding Leadership of the Community in Doctoral Achievement (Chamber of Commerce 2008), America's Top Family Doctors (Consumer's Research Council of America, 2009), and Best Physicians as Chosen by Their Peers (*Scene In S.A.*, 2020, 2021 & 2022).
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Dr. Melody Zamora, DDS
Zam Dental
2022 Outstanding Woman in Medicine
Phone: 210-494-2206
Fax: 210-547-9513
Primary Specialty:
General Dentistry

Making a positive difference in peoples' lives is rewarding for Dr. Zamora, because she knows that smiles build confidence and change lives. She strives to provide personalized, quality, and compassionate care to each and every patient while creating beautiful, healthy smiles for life. She is committed to providing her patients quality, timely dental care in a caring, relaxed environment using the best technology and health care that is available. Dr. Zamora is a continual student, committed to lifelong learning. She received her undergraduate degree in Biomedical Science from Texas State University, San Marcos, graduating magna cum laude. She completed her dental education in 2003 at Oregon Health & Science University, in Portland, OR, and graduated with a DMD. degree. She also has additional training in both pediatric dentistry and pathology (including early detection of oral cancer). Dr. Zamora is dedicated to staying up-to-date on the scientific research and developments in all areas of her field to provide her patients with the best possible care.
drzamora@zamdental.com



Adrian Olvera, Carrie von Loudon, and Sarika Tollett



Adriana Botero and Arlette Belver



Cesar Peralta with his art work



Dawn and Alan Crook

White Party

Editor: Leslie Foley
Photographer: Vivian Crook

More than 300 guests, dressed to impress in shades of white, attended the well-known White Party benefiting the San Antonio Aids Foundation. Artist Cesar Peralta from Mexico donated his painting which was purchased by Andy Villa who kindly donated his purchase to the Foundation. Guests sipped champagne and dined from the Greek buffet as they enjoyed a fashion show choreographed by Lorena Monroe. Host Karlos Anzoategui graciously opens his villa for large events drawing guests from all walks of life who enjoy not only supporting a great cause but celebrating, mingling and dressing up! ■



Lorena Monroe, Glorianna Washington, host Karlos Anzoategui and Christopher Collins



Hector Aguillar, Andy Villa and Marcos Villa



Theresa Haywood, Domingo Limon, and Viola Castillo



Nancy Garza and Aysar Zayyad



Marissa Sanchez and Bo Baker



Irma Durán De Rodriguez and Michael Quintanilla



Guy Pritchard, Marilyn Mitchell and Tye Wichert

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Limatus Bespoke has moved to the Pearl, and their new digs are in the palatial Oxbow Building. Call for an appointment to meet with a personal designer. They will take over 20 body measurements with specialized tools. Limatus Bespoke means Refined Clothes From Scratch. “Never



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had custom clothing? You select the fabric, tell us how you want it to fit, and we make it. Just for you.” Please get started by booking an appointment with one of our Limatus Team Designers, Tessa Moss, James Castro, and Terrihn Long. Contact Haley Rico, our Creative Director, for any creative ideas or special events. ■



Michael Chapline, Distiller

Chapline Distillery
30790 Blanco Rd. #301
Bulverde, Texas 78163
www.chaplinedistillery.com

My dad started distilling whiskey as a hobby when my brother gifted him a build-it-yourself copper still. That was in 2014. When he retired from his career as an IT executive he got bored quickly and decided to jump into the deep end and make his hobby into a business. I was still living in Germany with no plans of coming home, but Covid and life had different plans for me. When I got back to Texas the distiller job was open and I felt a strong desire to help make a product that would honor our family name. In the almost two years we’ve been open we have accomplished a lot with not very much.

Our distillery stands out because of our small size which means everything is hands-on and more love goes into every drop distilled. We are obsessed with making great bourbon, and our process is designed to make the most flavorful product possible. As a young distillery our whiskey is young, but because the clear whiskey we put in the barrel is so good, even our young bourbon is turning heads.

I want Chapline Distillery to outlive my father and me both. We don’t want to be a huge company. Quality over quantity will always be our goal. Along the way I want to continually improve myself, serve our community, and bring honor to my family. ■



Scene In S.A. SUMMER Magazine Release Party

Our Summer party was held at the **Southtown Pizzeria**.
 Don't miss our **Fall release party at Paesano's Lincoln Heights, 555 E. Basse Rd. • Wed., Oct. 19 • 4:30-7pm • Bring friends!**
 RSVP Karen Evans! 210-429-6376 • ke@scenepublications.com





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SIDEBAR

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If you would like to share your information, please send to:
ke@scenepublications.com



Military City to Host 1,000 Troops in Throwback Variety Show

A thank you and a shout out to San Antonio Attorney **Desi Martinez** with Martinez & Associates for being part of the investment group led by **Marcos Resendez** that is sponsoring **Doc Watkins and Friends "Salute To Troops"** on Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. at the best entertainment venue in the world, Tech Port Center & Arena in San Antonio. Complimentary tickets are being made available to 1,000 troops and 2000 tickets are being sold to the public. This inaugural event is a benefit for the USO San Antonio. Guest performances will include a mix of comedic and musical talent, from Marquee to up-and-coming. Joining as the host and headliner will be San Antonio's favorite live jazz spot, Jazz TX. Watkins will be performing with a full orchestra that includes active and retired service members. Go to www.salutetotroops.com for details and tickets. ■



RAGBRAI: Riding a bike across Iowa, Spontaneity or Insanity

By Les Sachanowitz

Cyclists might be both. Many cyclists, from across Iowa and the country choose the last week in July, to decide that traveling from the Missouri River to the mighty Mississippi River, from western, to the eastern side of Iowa, on a bicycle is a good way to spend the week.

RAGBRAI, is the "oldest, largest and longest recreational bicycle touring event in the world." It has grown from a group of a few friends in 1973 to more than 18,000 registered riders this year. It's a RIDE not a RACE! I completed the entire (7 day) week-long, 450-mile plus (miles spent lost, lol) ride in 2022 as a sole participant not affiliated to any biking team, everyone is a winner.

It's all very mentally, physically and spiritually exhausting. But many riders use the week to reconnect with family and friends. When you think you are having a distressing day, think about this dad on roller blades pushing his challenged so his son for 7 days, so his son could experience Ragbrai. What devotion by the dad and a way to reconnect.

People are nice. Welcoming. Extremely proud of the community they've built, and truly having the absolute best time doing it. If this is what insanity looks like, maybe we all should be spontaneous and go a little crazy now and then. ■



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14th Annual Camp Gala

Editor: Leslie Foley

Photographer: Vivian Crook

CAMP's mission is to strengthen and inspire individuals with special needs, and those who care for them, through Recreation, Respite and Education. CAMP believes that all individuals, regardless of health, disability, race, or socioeconomic status, deserve the opportunity to participate in a community where they are celebrated for who they are, not how they are labeled - where they belong and where they can have fun and grow in their independence and self-confidence. CAMP serves individuals with mild to severe medical conditions or disabilities with diagnoses such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disability, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and more. CAMP also serves their siblings without medical conditions or disabilities during Summer CAMP and through the Parent's Night Out Program.

This year's annual gala celebrates campers, families, and volunteers who make CAMP the amazing place it is. ■



Abby Fisher, Jennifer Fisher and David Glenn



Tony and Karen Ridout



CEO Susan Osborne, Wayne Tauer and Jeanne Albrecht



Denise and Kevin Moore



Chris Plauche, Brandon Briery, Ph.D., and Theresa Rosenheim



Trae and Kenda Willoughby with Raquel and Fred McCurdy



Dawn Thurmond, George Cue and Megan Janzen



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