

**S.A. BEST PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS & DENTISTS 2023**

# Scene In S.A.

WINTER 2023

## My Dog and Me

A Dog's Best Friend  
is a Human!

2023 Rising Star Doctors

2023 Rising Star Lawyers

S.A. Best Lawyers  
Reprint 2022

**Plus:**

Friendly, Frenchy Quebec!

Fashion Trends Spring 2023

Why Hire A Professional Organizer

Healthy Habits for the New Year

Jeremy Sochan = Dennis Rodman 2.0



COVER STORY

MY DOG  
AND ME

Best of 2023

BEST S.A. DOCTORS  
**Physicians,  
Surgeons &  
Dentists**

38



A Dog's Best Friend  
is a Human!

55

# CONTENTS

14	Congrats to the First Latina President of the TTLA
24	S.A. Best Lawyers Reprint 2022 <i>As voted by their peers</i>
25	How Do You Defend Someone You Know is Guilty? <i>By Robbie L. Ward</i>
27	Top Lawyer Profiles
30	Healthy Habits for the New Year <i>by Dr. Prisiliano Salas Jr., M.D.</i>
31	Why Hire a Professional Organizer <i>By Esmi Gonzalez</i>
32	Friendly, Frenchy Quebec! <i>Travel by Barbara Barton Sloane</i>
34	Top Fashion Trends for Winter/Spring 2023 <i>Fashion by Jules Aldaz Guerra</i>
36	Jeremy Sochan = Dennis Rodman 2.0 <i>Spurs News by Sam Stern</i>
45	The Legacy of Conrad Tullis - Conrad Smiles.org
49	Top Doctor Profiles
51	2023 Rising Star Doctors <i>As voted by their peers</i>
54	<b>Special Feature:</b> Bass, No Ordinary Marine
68	2023 Rising Star Lawyers <i>As voted by their peers</i>
74	Professional Guide: Find a Doctor or Dentist
74	What's the Buzz? <i>Business news</i>
75	Professional Guide: Find a Lawyer

## SCENE EVENTS

Children's Bereavement Center 25th Anniversary .....	10
65 Roses Ball.....	12
Pinks Party.....	16
43rd Annual Grand Western Shindig.....	18
18th Annual Keller Williams Golf Tournament.....	19
Legacy of Hope Luncheon .....	20
Outside the Lunchbox Luncheon.....	21
The Gilded Gala.....	22
Military-Civilian Club Welcome Coffee.....	23
Autumn Affair .....	25
Splendor in the Garden.....	36
San Antonio Mastersingers .....	37
Pinks on the Patio .....	47
Mums & Mimosas Silver Tea.....	50
Festive Days & Bright Nights.....	53
ABOTA Celebrates the Season .....	70
Paralegal Day .....	72
Scene In S.A. Fall 2022 Magazine Release.....	73

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WINTER 2023

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Kaylin Ledford | *Managing Editor*

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Gabriella Martinez | *Advertising Sales*

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Porter Corrigan

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2022 by her peers in Scene In S.A. magazine

Voted Top Family Lawyer in San Antonio  
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2022 by his peers in Scene In S.A. magazine

# San Antonio Family Lawyers

**Richard Orsinger** is dual Board Certified in Family Law and Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He has been included in BL Rankings *The Best Lawyers in America* in Family Law since 1987 and in Civil Appellate Law since 2007.

Fellow attorneys **Amber Liddell Alwais** and **Porter Corrigan** are both Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

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*Richard Orsinger is Board Certified in both Family Law and Civil Appellate Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Amber Liddell Alwais and Porter Corrigan are both Board Certified in Family Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.*



EDITOR'S NOTE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We are kicking off the New Year by honoring the 2023 Best Physicians, Dentists, and Surgeons in San Antonio as chosen by their peers. In addition, this is our second annual “My Dog and Me” cover which features people from San Antonio showcasing their furry friends with photos and funny, entertaining stories about themselves and their dogs. You will read about dogs of all sizes and personalities, from Chihuahuas to Golden doodles, rescue dogs, and poodles. These animals are loved and adored by their owners which is why a *Dog’s Best Friend is a Human*. Introducing the feature is a fantastic story of a War Dog named Bass and his owner Alex. Bass is a specialized type of military working dog, responsible for supporting exclusively Special Operations mission sets, and has saved countless lives in the war. This is a heartfelt must-read, and we are proud to feature him on our cover.

We are also honoring the upcoming “Rising Star” Doctors and Lawyers in this issue. These are Doctors under the age of 40 and Lawyers under the age of 35 who are getting started in their careers and have shown their diligence and hard work in the community.

Enjoy “Ten healthy habits you can establish for the New Year and before turning 40” from two Board Certified Family Medicine and Lifestyle Medicine doctors who are the owners of Salveo Direct Care in San Antonio. Check out our “Friendly, Frenchy Quebec” travel story featuring 17th and 18th century architecture, cobblestone streets, inviting shops, patisseries, épiceries, and boulangeries.

Check out the San Antonio Spurs new first-round pick from Baylor, Jeremy Sochan, who has been compared to the one and only Dennis Rodman. Calling all fashionistas! The fashion column offers tips for staying stylish and on-trend during the upcoming Spring months with our crazy south Texas weather.

Cheers to a fabulous 2023!

Kaylin

Kaylin Ledford  
Managing Editor

Letters to the editor, comments, or concerns, please contact me:  
Email: editorsascene@gmail.com  
Phone: 210-828-4209

KUDOS



“I enjoy reading your magazine and found the General Election ballot in your Fall 2022 issue to be extremely helpful and informative.” – Lorain German

“Just sending you all at *Scene in SA* a “Thank You” in regards to your generous page spread of my 2022 White Party. Hugs to all!”  
– Karlos Anzoategui, *Owner of Le Mirage a Unique Hair Spa*

I just received my Fall issue - and it looks really great; my article - the layout, etc. Looks divine. Thank you very much!  
– Barbara Barton Sloane, *Freelance Journalist*

“Advertising works! I received two new commissions from my ad in your Fall issue. Thank you *Scene In S.A.*” – Betsy J. Cooper, *Freelance Artist*

STAFF



John H. Ziller  
*Publisher*  
John is in his 50th 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.



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.



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.



Karen Evans  
*Advertising Sales*  
Karen 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.



Gabriella Martinez  
*Advertising Sales*  
Gabriella has been in sales and marketing for over five years. When she's not helping her clients find the best way to market their business, she enjoys being a mom to 2 beautiful kids, Max and Zara, and wife to her husband, Luis.



VIVIAN CROOK  
*Photographer*  
Vivian takes pleasure in pleasing her customers with photos. She is passionate about her work and is always prepared with camera in hand.

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Commemorating the 25th anniversary, Lee Ann Jones designed and sold a limited edition necklace and donated \$100 back from each sale to the CBC

## 25th Anniversary Luncheon

Editor: Leslie Foley

Photographer: Vivian Crook

Children's Bereavement Center has been mending broken hearts in South Texas since 1997 - showing grieving children and families that there can be love, hope, and laughter in their life, even after unimaginable loss.

To celebrate this remarkable milestone, Olympic and World Championship Gold Medalist and two-time World Cup Champion, Bode Miller, the most successful American alpine ski racer of all time, shared his message of resilience and hope during a Q&A moderated luncheon with former professional basketball player and Spurs TV analyst Matt Bonner.

Miller's greatest accolade is being a father of eight children with his volleyball player wife, Morgan Beck. In 2018, Bode and Morgan experienced unimaginable loss after the tragic drowning of their 19-month-old daughter Emeline. ■



Former professional basketball player and Spurs TV analyst Matt Bonner with Olympic and World Championship Gold Medalist Bode Miller



Luncheon chair Jodi Wood, advisory board co-chair Michael Wood and executive director Dr. Marian Sokol



Wes Bright and luncheon co-chair Elizabeth Bright



Jenny Holshouser, Sheryl Stouffer and Emily Catalani



Table decor by Lee Ann Hendry and Emily Cage



Jill Hartman, Lynne Hennessey and Mallory Ahl



Lee Anne Hendry, Nel Belt and Barbara Wood



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Casey Martin and Carley Hill



Bryce and Whitney Warren

## 65 Roses Ball

Editor: Leslie Foley

Photographer: Vivian Crook

Valero sponsored this year's beautiful 65 Roses Ball chaired by co-chairs Amie Schill and Maggy Jones to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. H-E-B Grocery Company was honored for their commitment in the fight to cure cystic fibrosis for the past 15 years. Auctioneer T-Bone oversaw the live auction which raised a large amount of funds along with the silent auction to ensure a successful night.

Why Roses? The "65 Roses" story dates back to 1965 when Mary G. Weiss became a volunteer for the CFF after learning that her three little boys had cystic fibrosis. Her son Richard overheard her raising funds for what he thought was named 65 roses. Since 1965, the term "65 Roses" has been used by children of all ages to describe their disease. Sadly, Richard lost his battle with this life-threatening genetic disease that affects 40,000 children and adults in the United States. The rose, appropriately the ancient symbol of love, has become a symbol of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. ■



David Blegen and auctioneer Tommy T-Bone Bounds



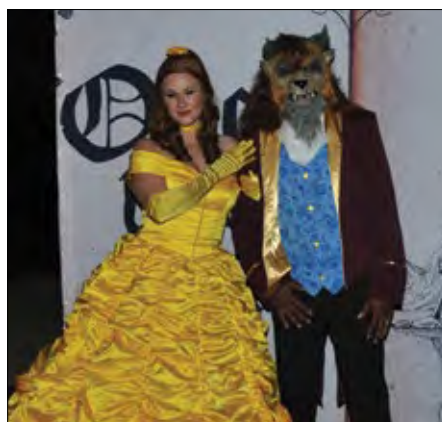
Elsa Trevino, honoree Bobby Sims, Jr., and Michaela Sims



Development director Christine Orwig co-chair Maggy Jones and Marla Jones



Racheal Martindale, Andrew Martindale and Tiffany Martindale



Amelia Weatherford and honoree Bobby Sims, Jr.



Penny Ayarzagotia and Christina Garcia



Michelle Rodriguez and Leah Johnson



James Hamric with Annie and Robbie Bridges



Matt Mauldin, Kay Keller and Cary Kipp



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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.



# Senior Partner of The Herrera Law Firm Continues To Be a Trailblazer

Attorney **Laura G. Tamez** is used to breaking barriers. Now, she has the distinction of being the first Latina president of the Texas Trial Lawyers Association (TTLA), which was founded 73 years ago in 1949.

Tamez, a senior partner at The Herrera Law Firm, was sworn in as president during the TTTLA’s recent annual meeting and CLE conference. Along with being the first Latina president of the TTTLA, Tamez was honored as the 2022 recipient of the Don Bowen Distinguished Service Award, awarded to a TTTLA member who has demonstrated meaningful and dedicated service to TTTLA that has advanced the organization, its mission, and the civil practice of law. This service has in turn assisted TTTLA members in their practice as they fight for justice for their clients.

“As president of the TTTLA, my priority is promoting justice for families in Texas and fighting to uphold the 7th Amendment,” Tamez said. “That’s not a responsibility I take lightly. Every Texan should have the right to a civil trial by jury, and through our members’ shared vision, we will work to ensure that everyone has access to the court system.”

Attorney Frank Herrera Jr., who founded The Herrera Law Firm in 1983, said Tamez’s accomplishment is a huge point of pride for himself and others at the firm.

“I have been a member of TTTLA for many years, and nothing makes me happier and prouder than to see one of our law firm’s very own hold this distinguished honor now,” Herrera said. “I have known Laura since she was a law clerk in our firm and now my partner, and she is so deserving of this distinction, and I know I speak for everyone at the law firm when I say we are very proud of everything she’s accomplished.”

A charter member of the TTTLA Diversity Committee and former chair, Tamez has helped sponsor TTTLA membership for ethnic minority and women lawyers to make the organization and its resources more accessible. Tamez has also served as the VP of Legislative Affairs, where she worked with the Texas legislature to promote balanced laws protecting everyday people’s rights.



“As president of the TTTLA, my priority is promoting civil justice for families in Texas and fighting to uphold the 7th Amendment.”

She also previously served as Chair of the Minority Caucus for the American Trial Lawyer Association.

Tamez was honored last year by the TTTLA with the Michael T. Gallagher Legislative Advocacy Award. She’s also been recognized multiple times for her contributions to the San Antonio community and for raising awareness about our society’s critical legal issues.

Tamez began her legal career as a law clerk with The Herrera Law Firm (known then as the Law Offices of Frank Herrera) before joining the firm full-time in 1995. Since then, Tamez has secured multi-million-dollar verdicts and settlements in wrongful death and personal injury cases. In addition, she has earned a reputation as a fierce trial lawyer in Texas, especially in cases involving construction accidents, oil field

work injuries, and trucking crashes.

In 2016, Tamez was honored as the first woman to receive the Pat Maloney Sr. Courage Award from the San Antonio Trial Lawyers Association. A St. Mary’s University School of Law graduate, Tamez and her husband, George, have two children: Elena and Carlos.

### ABOUT THE HERRERA LAW FIRM

Founded in 1983 by respected lawyer Frank Herrera Jr., The Herrera Law Firm is based in San Antonio and serves injury victims throughout Texas. For more information, visit <http://www.herrerawalaw.com> or call (210) 224-1054. ■

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# Ten healthy habits you can establish for the New Year and Before Turning 40

By Dr. Prisiliano Salas Jr., M.D.

Board Certified in Family Medicine & Lifestyle Medicine

Salveo Direct Care San Antonio

*As a busy professional, it's easy to surrender your wellness for the wellness of your family, your career, or other people. However, let's remember that self-care is not selfish, and to achieve our goals, we have to ensure we are still around, right? So here are ten healthy habits to establish before you turn 40 (disclaimer: age is just a number).*

## Establish a health baseline

When was the last time you had a health check-up? Were you still in high school or college? A lot has probably happened since then, so this is the first PRO active step you can take to stay on top of your health and your game. First, make sure to get a comprehensive yearly check-up that includes labs, a physical exam, a review of health/cancer screenings, recommended immunizations, and follow-up on any chronic conditions.

## Eat more healthy and antioxidant-rich foods

Your nutrition is just as important as any other habit, as it alone can worsen but also treat and even prevent certain health conditions. I encourage you to eat minimally processed foods and whole/organic veggies, fruits, grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds. These contain an abundance of nutrients, minerals, and other disease fighting properties like antioxidants (for example, Vitamin C) that can help fight inflammation in the body. Like rust on a metal pipe, if inflammation is left unchecked, it can lead to "leakage" of harmful toxins that can cause heart attacks, strokes, and organ damage.

## Exercise regularly and stay hydrated

Hitting the gym daily for an hour is only feasible for some of us. Still, studies have shown that even 10 minutes at a time throughout the day, whether walking, yoga, or stationary



exercise, can be beneficial to your body and improve your mood. Dehydration can make you feel tired, sluggish, and foggy. Drink 2-4 liters of water per day depending on your activity level, gender, age, environment, and other factors (infuse with fresh fruits to make it fun!). Adequate hydration will help your muscles, brain, and skin stay younger. Lastly, look at your urine, light yellow to clear, as a sign that you are getting enough fluids.

## Build a clear financial plan

This habit has nothing to do with physical health but everything to do with long-term personal health. Without our finances in order, we have a more

challenging time reaching our goals or planning for the future. Be proactive with your finances and work with a financial planner to plan for retirement or college funds and have an emergency fund for the unexpected. Try to live below your means and update your plan regularly through communication with your life partner.

## Have a positive attitude and build meaningful relationships

I love this one and have been practicing it religiously throughout my life and career. Why is positivity so important? If you mostly have a negative attitude and self-doubt and surround yourself with toxic relationships, your brain becomes trained to be in a defeatist state of mind.

However, you can get out of that cycle through positive thinking, building your confidence, and maintaining meaningful relationships. Your brain can regenerate and adapt through a process known as neuroplasticity-proof that we can modify our habits. By changing your mind-set over time, your brain will make structural and functional adaptations between the neurons in response to those adjustments, essentially rewiring your thinking to a more positive state of mind.

## Practice meditation daily

The art of meditation has been around for thousands of years, and the 21st century has popularized this ancient art more than ever. By practicing meditation every day, preferably in the morning and at the end of day, we are allowing our brain, body, and spirit to set a clear intention for the day but also to reset from the stimuli of the day. In a life busy with multitasking and numerous responsibilities, taking 5-10 minutes to meditate can provide the inner peace necessary to organize cluttered thoughts and feelings, leading to a better understanding of your present state of mind. In addition, meditation can open your eyes to new opportunities and be your guide to greater success.

## Keep it regular - sex is not taboo

This habit ties in with several previous practices we discussed, including meaningful relationships, positive thinking, social connectedness, regular exercise, and even meditation (ever heard of tantric sex?). As interconnected beings, we thrive when our relationship with our partner thrives. Have open and healthy communication with your partner about your wants, needs, and desires. You may discover that after years of being together, there are still things you didn't know your partner enjoyed or was curious about sex. Now keep in mind, the emphasis is on healthy habits, not irresponsible sex- there is a difference. Make date night a relaxed experience, be creative and burn some calories regularly.

## Identify unhealthy habits, make a change

We are instinctive creatures of habit, and this applies to vices too. Harmful toxins like tobacco, overconsumption of alcohol, environmental exposure, or even addictions to drugs, social media, TV, and others can cause significant stress to your mind and body. Many factors can lead to unhealthy habits, but know that you are not alone and that help is available from your family, community, and doctor.

## Prioritize restful sleep

About 70-80 million people in the US report poor sleep, a widespread issue. Sleep is a very complex process that helps our brains and bodies to rest, repair and restore various mechanisms affected by stimuli from our daily activities. Poor sleep can affect your physical and mental health, including brain cognition and daily functions. Some of the factors that can lead to poor sleep can also simply be modified for better sleep by cooling your surroundings down to 62-72F, keeping noise and distractions to a minimum (including keeping your pets out of your room), avoiding blue light from electronics at least 1 hour before bedtime and treating seasonal/ environmental allergies will help you breathe better while you sleep.

## Set SMART Goals

So how can you accomplish all these goals without feeling overwhelmed? Set SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-oriented). Research has shown that having goal-oriented tasks is more effective than random tasks. It gives you something to focus on and check off when accomplished, which boosts your confidence. Break down large tasks into smaller actionable items, decide how each task will be measured, and make sure each task/goal is reasonable to achieve in a predetermined time frame. Visualize your goals, share them with others, encourage others to do the same in their life, and support each other through challenges. Remember to reward yourself when you achieve each item or step; every little bit of encouragement helps! ■



## WHY HIRE A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER?

By Esmi Gonzalez

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZER

Today, more people live hectic lives juggling many balls in the air. Unfortunately, many times, that busy life affects our homes and mental health. A Professional Organizer helps bring order and simplicity to the lives of the people they work with by teaching new habits, coaching, consulting, and implementing systems of organization. These systems are based on the individual's daily habits and weekly routines.

- The average amount of items in most American homes is approximately 300,000.\*
- The Top five items people misplace in their homes are shoes, keys, TV remotes, phones, and glasses. This is mainly due to clutter and disorganization.\*
- 54% of Americans said they felt overwhelmed with clutter filling up their homes.
- In 2021, the organizing industry reached approximately \$11.4 billion dollars.\*
- A Professional Organizer helps declutter any room or space in your home or the entire house, including the garage.
- They set up organizing systems that make sense for the client so that they can locate items in seconds.
- A Professional Organizer will make suggestions and recommendations; the client has the final say on what to keep, discard or donate.
- Some of the services provided by Organizers are merging of two households, packing or unpacking and organizing a new home, Senior relocation, help with estate sales and garage sales, Do-It-Yourself consultations, home office, playrooms, closets, pantries, transporting of donation items, storage units, monthly/quarterly/annual maintenance, shopping and so much more.

If life passes you by, join forces with a Professional Organizer to implement systems to control the clutter, chaos, and lack of time of everyday life.

\*Source: Onedesk 2021

Happy New Year!

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# BIG CHILL, TOASTY TOWN

## *Friendly, Frenchy Quebec!*

**Y**ou're surrounded by 17th and 18th-century architecture, cobblestone streets, and encompassed by towering ramparts of a walled city. Strolling down a narrow alley, you find inviting shops - patisseries, épiceries and boulangeries. Are you in Dijon, Alsace or maybe even Paris? Mais non. You're in a city far more accessible but replete with all the charm of La Belle France. This, friends, is **Quebec!**

Quebec City is predominantly French-speaking which gives it a distinctive foreign feel. It seems at once old-world and yet very much today. One can understand why Conde Nast Traveler calls it one of the 5 best cities in Canada.

Wonderful to visit any time of the year, Quebec is at its most seductive when the city is covered with snow, its warm lights beckoning from shops, restaurants and holiday decorations. The Quebecois will tell you that perhaps the jolliest time to visit is when the city becomes one vast outdoor playground and hosts

its annual Winter Carnival. It's when the city comes alive with sub-zero merry-making, including zip lines, night parades, concerts, snow sculptures, sleigh or dogsled rides and skating.

The Quebec Winter Carnival began when the inhabitants of New France, now Quebec, had a rowdy tradition of getting together just before Lent to eat, drink and make merry. Today, this event is the biggest winter carnival in the world and is celebrated annually; the dates for 2023 are Friday, February 3-Sunday, February 12. This bash gets a million visitors each year from all over the world. Families are everywhere with wee kids pulled along on sleds. Many Carnival-goers wear a traditional sash and the kids will definitely want one of the long red plastic trumpets that sound out constantly through the snowy streets. So, rather than fighting the crowds at a sweltering Louisiana Mardi Gras, be cool! Embrace and celebrate this frosty event just like our neighbors up north. Most every Carnival event is outdoors so be sure to dress appropriately. Usually, to enter the festival site, you have to

purchase an effigy (\$15-25, depending on when you buy), which is a cute (but very mandatory) trinket that you wear as proof that you paid the admission fee.

### ACTIVITIES FOR CHASING THE CHILL AWAY

Besides Carnival, there's lots more to see and do in Quebec. Visit Vieux-Quebec (Old Town) high on the cliffs which overlook the St. Lawrence River and is designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Behind its stone walls there are world-class museums, historic sites and great shopping. Nearby, be sure to see the Notre Dame de Quebec cathedral with its bell tower dating back to 1647. You can ride a funicular down to lower town and Place Royale, the oldest part of Quebec City and the site where Champlain built the first permanent settlement in New France. For a special treat, take a horse-drawn buggy through quaint streets to the Plains of Abraham, a vast, flat, snow-covered area and watch cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

### DINING

Winter in Quebec is cold, to be sure, but its dining scene is downright sizzling. Established in 1978, Jacques Fortier and Jacques Fortier and Jean Luc Boulay of Restaurant Le Saint-Armour, have devoted themselves to gathering a passionate and thoughtful team in the kitchen as well as in the dining room to turn out memorable, sumptuous meals. Most inviting, the award-winning Panache restaurant resides in a restored 19th-century maritime warehouse, a sophisticated blend of old and new. From the start, Au Vieux Duluth's founders decided to offer unique dishes and generous portions of top quality food at affordable prices. The restaurant very quickly gained recognition not only for its dishes, but for its décor, ambiance and exceptional customer satisfaction.

### HOTELS

No visit to Quebec is complete without checking out – and hopefully checking into – the Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac, the grand castle-hotel in the heart of Old Quebec. There are 618 beautifully furnished rooms, a health club and an indoor pool. Also, the Frontenac just happens to be *the most photographed hotel in the world*. For a droll, once-in-a-lifetime experience, consider The Hotel de Glace located just outside Quebec City. This crystalline snow bastion with cathedral ceilings is made entirely of...what else? Tons and tons of snow and ice. Once ensconced under a fur blanket, you'll spend the night

in a magical atmosphere resembling Narnia Ice Queen's palace and praying you won't need a middle-of-the-night bathroom visit. You say you prefer something a bit cozier? There's the intimate Auberge Saint-Antoine that *Travel and Leisure* has ranked one of America's top small city hotels. The property links four 18th-century buildings with 300-year-old massive wooden beams and stone walls. But, not to worry. Along with the ancient comes all the modern and chic accoutrements needed to satisfy our high-tech lifestyles.

*Alors*, whether you choose most photographed digs or tiny, charming, authentic, know that, in this most special town, your greeting is going to be warm, welcoming – and well worth the visit! ■

If You Go:  
Quebec City Tourism  
[www.quebecregion.com](http://www.quebecregion.com)



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# Top Fashion Trends for Winter/Spring 2023



**A**s January quickly approaches, we begin to think about all the “newness” that occurs with a new year. New resolutions, new eating habits, new exercise regimen and if you are a fashionista, you are already looking into the new fashion trends of the year. You probably began that in December. Whether you are searching the Paris and New York runways or finding your inspiration from magazines or stores, this year will not disappoint with a variation of bold colors and prints to bubble hemlines and lots and lots of fringe! Your wardrobe will be anything but boring if you are a trendsetter or a trend follower. Remember just to have fun with it all!

**So what are some of the hot trends for 2023?**

**Here is a list if everything you should look for in 2023:**

- Purple Hue
- Tassel Details
- Lace and Laser Cutting
- Frothy and Feathery
- Yellow - think rays of sunshine
- Bubble Hems
- Ruffles
- Pantone's Color of the year - Viva Magenta

If you're not sure where to start, it is always best to start simple and build. You can set aside a spot in your closet for your “trendy” pieces and then work them into your daily wardrobe. For example, the color purple is hot for the upcoming seasons. If a deep purple is too much for you, you can try a lavender. For the color yellow, start with a beautiful scarf that has hues of yellow in it. You can tie it around your purse if you don't want to wear it. Not into scarves? A beautiful pair of earrings in the sunshine color will blend with almost anything in your wardrobe! If a lace or a laser cut blouse isn't your style, try one in white or black and wear under your suit to start with and then gradually begin wearing it with a great pair of jeans. You can also find accessories and handbags in a laser cut or in almost any trend listed. You never want to wear trends from head to toe. ■

For more style and outfit inspiration, follow me on Instagram @julesaldaz or go to <https://jules.style>

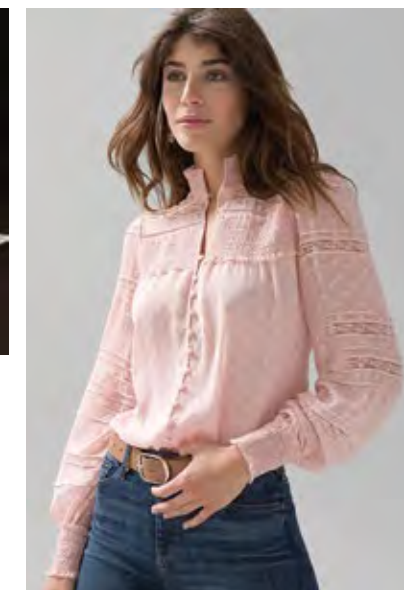
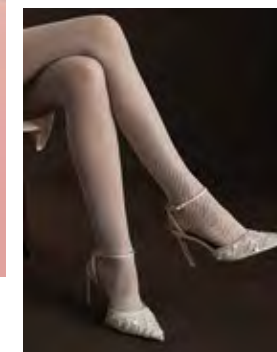
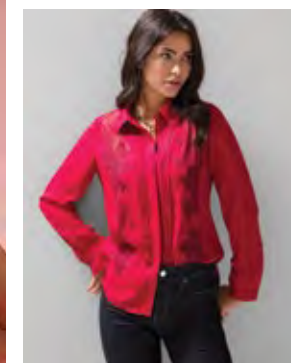
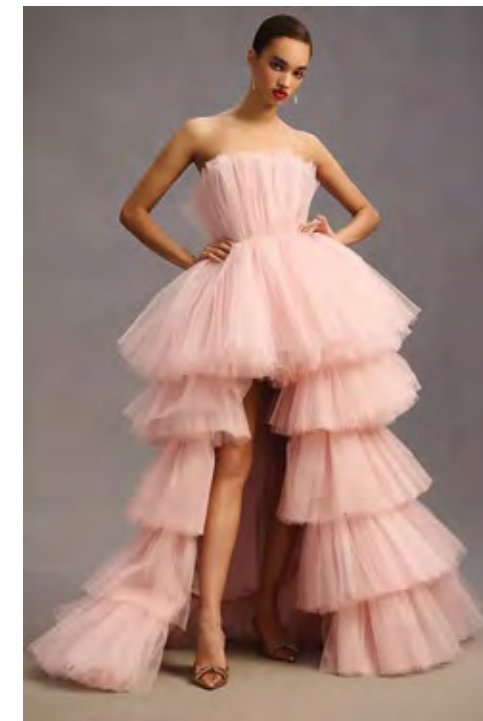






PHOTO CREDIT SAN ANTONIO SPURS/REGINALD THOMAS II

## Jeremy Sochan= Dennis Rodman 2.0

It isn't just the eye-popping hair colors that have NBA, and in particular, Spurs fans comparing the newest first-round pick in San Antonio to Dennis the Menace.

Former Baylor Bear, Jeremy Sochan, was selected with the 9th pick in the first round of the 2022 NBA draft. The athletic and dynamic forward came into the draft known for his defensive prowess, but offensively, his uncanny bounce and athleticism have Spurs fans excited about what he can do.

The former 2022 Big-12 Sixth Man of the Year, averaged 9.2 points, 6.4 rebounds and 1.3 steals just a season ago. His stellar play off the bench and a dynamic Baylor roster underneath championship coach Scott Drew would lead to a #1 seed in the 2022 NCAA Men's basketball tournament.

Sochan was born in Guymon, Oklahoma, but his mother Aneta is Polish and played for Polonia Warsaw as a player. With that in mind, Sochan has also cemented his position on the Polish Men's national team as well.

He becomes the first player of Polish descent to touch the NBA hardwood since former Phoenix Sun and Washington Wizard, Marcin Gortat. He and Gortat are two of only six Polish players to ever suit up in an NBA game all-time.

So far this season, with a very young team, he is averaging 8 points, 2 assists, 4 rebounds, and a steal as the new starting power forward.

He joins a core led by rising stars Keldon Johnson, Jakob Poeltl, Tre Jones, and Devin Vassell. With Dejounte Murray and Lonnie Walker IV leaving the team this past offseason, all eyes are on players like Sochan to grasp that opportunity to showcase their potential.

With the organization's future up in the air after a major rebuild over the offseason, Spurs fans will just have to be patient while the team continues to grow game-to-game. ■

## Splendor in the Garden

Editor: Leslie Foley

Photographer: Vivian Crook

The 15th annual gala chaired by Cally and Will Kothmann, kicked off with a signature cocktail, "The Candace", served in the San Antonio Botanical Garden's Betty Kelso Center with entertainment by Michael Alanis Band. Board president Omar Akhil welcomed guests and CEO Sabina Carr shared the garden mission moment. Exquisite dining "Surf and Turf with the Forest Floor" was served on the Greehey Lawn by Jason Dady Catering & Events and the After Party returned to the Betty Kelso Center with DJ Catwalk.

The gala is the Garden's largest fundraising event and provides vital support to its operating budget. Sponsorships will help the Garden further innovative education and wellness programs, conservation efforts for endangered plant species, and water saving initiatives. ■



Lyn and Omar Akhil, board president



Gala chairs Cally and Will Kothmann



Juan Gonzalez and Lisa Corbett



Wally and Cora McGowan



Emily Knapp and James Book



Mike and Linda Lackey



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Paula Shaver, Fry Galvan, Victoria Beavers and Danielle Dowden



Elizabeth Lorenz and Rick Ramos Dominguez

## San Antonio Mastersingers Honor Retiring Conductor Dr. John Silantien

Editor &amp; Photographer: Leslie Foley

The San Antonio Mastersingers honored its retiring maestro, Dr. John Silantien, as he completed his 38th season as the choir's music director. The event was held last May on the UTSA Campus, where Silantien served as a Professor of Choral Music for 35 years. The Mastersingers is an all-volunteer chorus numbering approximately 125 singers who perform a variety of concerts each year. Dr. Silantien made his Carnegie Hall debut in May 1994, conducting Mozart's Requiem, returning in 2008 for a performance of Mozart's Vespers. In 2016, he conducted the Mastersingers in the Carnegie Hall premiere of Robert Cohen's *Alzheimer's Stories*. Dr. Silantien led the Mastersingers on international tours to Italy, Spain, Portugal, France, and most recently, the UK, where the group performed in Scotland, Wales, and England, where they presented their final performance in June 2022 under Dr. Silantien's baton — an evensong at London's St. Paul's Cathedral.

Additionally, Dr. Silantien has taught and conducted choirs on the secondary and collegiate levels in Texas, in the Washington, D.C. area, and on the Eastman School of Music faculty in Rochester, New York. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Illinois. His awards include a Rockefeller grant for choral conducting at Aspen, Colorado, and a Fulbright award for research in London, England. His orchestral conducting credits include performances with the San Antonio Symphony, the San Antonio Pops, and New York's West Side Chamber Orchestra and CD recordings of three Mozart piano concertos with the Moscow State Radio Orchestra. ■



Guest of Honor Dr. John Silantien, center, accepts a City Council Proclamation issued in his honor from emcee Shaun McChesney, left, and Mastersingers board chair Chancey Blackburn, right



Mastersingers Cynthia Smith and Sharon Roberts sign a commemorative item at music director Dr. John Silantien's retirement celebration at UTSA



Irma Taute, Marguerite McCormick and Cindy Marini were among the guests at the retirement celebration honoring Dr. John Silantien



Mastersingers Melissa Horton and Joanna Harrison, accompanist Mary Lowder and retired chorus manager Bill Harrison share memories at Dr. John Silantien's retirement celebration





BEST S.A. DOCTORS

Physicians, Surgeons & Dentists



Doctors are a vital part of our community. They are lifesavers and need to be recognized for their long hours, dedication and commitment to their patients. They have shown their resilience day in and day out, especially these past couple of years dealing with the pandemic. We are very honored to recognize their achievements and publish the list of nominees for this year's **2023 Best S.A. Physicians, Surgeons & Dentists** as referred by their peers.

Whether a patient just needs an annual check-up or a serious surgical procedure, whether a San Antonian needs specialized advice from allergists, internists or urologists (among many more), our city provides some of the best medical care in the country.

We asked thousands of Bexar County physicians and hundreds of dentists in our database, which of their peers they would refer for inclusion in **S.A. Physicians, Surgeons & Dentists: Best of 2023**. They were allowed to name as many of their peers as they wanted to for our list. Listings are grouped by practice specialties, and doctors are listed in alphabetical order within their specialties.

Disclaimer: The information presented is not medical advice, nor is our S.A. Physicians, Surgeons & Dentists: Best of 2023 list a physician referral service. We strive to maintain a high degree of accuracy in the information provided. We make no claim, promise or guarantee about the accuracy, completeness or adequacy of the information contained in this directory S.A. Physicians, Surgeons & Dentists: Best of 2023 is the name of our publication, not a title or moniker conferred upon individual physicians. No representation is made that the quality of services provided by the physicians listed will be greater than that of other licensed physicians, and past results do not guarantee future success. *Scene In S.A.* has developed our own selection methodology for this list; we are not affiliated with any federal, state or regulatory body. Self-designated practice specialties listed in S.A. Physicians, Surgeons & Dentists: Best of 2023 do not imply certification by a Member Medical Specialty Board of the American Board of Medical Specialties, nor that the physician is board-certified to practice a particular specialty.

Names in red are advertisers

INDEX AND KEY OF MEDICAL SPECIALTIES					
ALI Allergy & Immunology	GY Gynecology	OR Orthopaedics	PSM Pediatric Sports Medicine	SCT Stem Cell Therapy	
AN Anesthesiology	GYO Gynecological Oncology	OAR Orthopaedics, Adult Reconstructive	P Pediatrics	SD Surgery, Dermatologic	
ACC Anesthesiology, Critical Care Medicine	HM Hematology	OFA Orthopaedics Foot and Ankle	PDB Pediatrics, Developmental/Behavioral	SG Surgery, General	
APM Anesthesiology, Pain Medicine	HEP Hepatology	OMO Orthopaedics, Musculoskeletal Oncology	PER Periodontics	SN Surgery, Neurological	
BM Bariatric Medicine	HMO Hematology/Oncology	OP Orthopaedics, Pediatric	PHL Phlebology	SO Surgery, Orthopaedic	
CA Cardiology	HOS Hospitalist	OTN Otolaryngology	PMR Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	SOF Surgery, Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle	
CG Cosmetic Gynecology	ID Infectious Diseases	OL Otolaryngology	POD Podiatry	SOH Surgery, Orthopaedic Hand	
CCE Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology	IM Internal Medicine	OT Orthopaedic, Trauma	PRO Prosthodontics	SON Surgery, Oncology	
CI Cardiology, Interventional	IME Internal Medicine, Emergency	PE Pediatric Endocrinology	PSY Psychiatry	SOS Surgery, Orthopaedic Spine	
CD Cardiovascular Disease	IMG Internal Medicine, Geriatrics	PMP Pain Management	PCA Psychiatry, Child & Adolescent	SLP Sleep Medicine	
CHR Chiropractic	MFM Maternal and Fetal Medicine	PMP Pain Management, (Physical Medicine)	PSG Psychiatry, Geriatric	SSM Surgery, Orthopaedic Sports Medicine	
CMD Cosmetic Dentistry	MR Musculoskeletal Radiology	PMD Pain Medicine	PU Pediatric Urology	S PC Surgery, Pediatric Cardiothoracic	
DRM Dermatology	NC Neurology, Child	PLM Palliative Medicine	PLD Pulmonary Diseases	SPE Surgery, Pediatric Ear Reconstruction	
DMP Dermatopathology	NCN Neurology, Clinical	PHM Pathology/Clinical	PCC Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine	SPL Surgery, Plastic	
EDS Endocrine Surgery	NDN Neurology, Diagn. Rad.	PD Pediatric Dentistry	R Radiology	SH Surgery, Hand	
EM Emergency Medicine	NPH Nephrology	PHO Pediatric Hematology/Oncology	RA Radiology, Abdominal	SPD Surgery, Pediatric	
EDM Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism	NPI Nephrology, Interventional	PID Pediatric Infectious Diseases	RD Radiology, Diagnostic	SPN Surgery, Pediatric Neurological	
ENR Endocrinology, Reproductive	N Neurology	PA Pediatric, Anesthesiology	RO Radiation Oncology	SS Spine Surgery	
END Endodontics	NR Neuroradiology	PG Pediatric Gastroenterology	RP Radiology, Pediatric	STH Surgery, Thoracic	
FM Family Medicine	NM Nuclear Medicine	PAC Pathology, Anatomical/Clinical	RV Radiology, Vascular and Interventional	SV Surgery, Vascular	
FPG Family Practice, Geriatric Medicine	OBG Obstetrics and Gynecology	PAN Pathology, Anatomic	RPE Reproductive Endocrinology	UCM Urgent Care Medicine	
FSM Family Practice, Sports Medicine	ONC Oncology	PCL Pathology, Clinical	RH Rheumatology	UR Urology	
GE Gastroenterology	ONR Oncology, Radiation	PCY Pathology, Cytopathology	SA Surgery, Abdominal	UHM Undersea & Hyperbaric Medicine	
GD General Dentistry	ONS Oncology, Surgical	PDN Pediatric, Dentistry	SB Surgery, Bariatric		
GP General Practice	OPH Ophthalmology	PD Pediatric, Dermatology	SC Surgery, Cosmetic		
GER Geriatrics	OMS Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery	POT Pediatric Otolaryngology	SCC Surgery, Critical Care		
	ORT Orthodontics	PP Pediatric, Pulmonology	SCR Surgery, Colon & Rectal		

Continued on page 40

Congratualtions our providers who were nominated as Best S.A. Physicians  
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INDEX

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INDEX

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Michael Konopacki MD.....	FM	James Mozock DDS.....	OMS	Karla Munoz MD.....	DRM	Mary Stokes MD.....	OBG
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Cardiology Clinic of San Antonio -  
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Electrophysiology**

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**John DeKoch DDS**  
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*Continued on page 44*

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*Continued on page 00*

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THE RESULTS of our 18th Annual Survey of best San Antonio Doctors as referred by their peers.

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**Kristi Clark MD**  
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**Ramon Colen MD**  
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Lisa A. Davis, M.D.

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Health Choice Medical Group

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University Health- Dominion Crossing

**Kristen Glass MD**  
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MedCare Associates

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**Neurology, Clinical Neurophysiology**

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Continued on page 46

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# Conrads Legacy Lives On



Conrad Tullis with his mother, Liz Tullis

Conrad Tullis was only 17 months old when a near-drowning left him with Anoxic Brain Injury (ABI). For many, this tragedy would have been impossible to overcome; however, Conrad’s mother, Liz, was an extraordinary warrior for her son. She endlessly focused on helping Conrad overcome his injury to have the fullest life possible.

Sadly, last November 2022, Conrad, at the age of 20, died in his mother’s arms. A week earlier, he’d been admitted to the hospital for a respiratory infection. “It happened quickly, and he was at peace,” said his mother, Liz.

His life will be remembered in the hearts of many for years to come, and his story leaves a legacy through the research and projects of the organization, Conrad Smiles, established by his mother, Liz.

## About Conrad Smiles

Conrad Smiles is a not-for-profit supporting research to improve the understanding and treatment of anoxic brain injury.

*We want all children who survive a non-fatal drowning accident to achieve their maximum potential – no limits!*

The mission is to drive the medical community to provide comprehensive information focusing on treatments and interventions that promote a healthy and productive life.

## Anoxic Brain Injury Research

Conrad Smiles supported the first research project to assess Anoxic

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Brain Injury in children who survive a drowning accident. The study, led by **Dr. Peter Fox**, founder and head of the UT Health Science Center’s Research Imaging Institute, studied the brain patterns of Conrad and other children with his condition to understand what is “working.” The research will help thousands of children catch hope for a brighter future.

## New Study Underway

The Conrad Smiles Board is currently working with leading national and international researchers to launch a new and exciting study. This new study, like the previous one, involves children who survived a drowning accident. The doctors will direct a safe and painless stimulation therapy called tDCS to the damaged brain area and review its impact on the child’s ability to interact better with their environment. ■

For more, please visit: [conradsmiles.org](http://conradsmiles.org)

**Conrad Smiles**  
For Anoxic Brain Injury Research

# Lopez Family Practice

Dr. J Antonio Lopez

Keeping Southtown Healthy

Phone:  
210-534-8895

601 Labor St.  
San Antonio, TX  
78210





## THE RESULTS of our 18th Annual Survey of best San Antonio Doctors as referred by their peers.

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## Pinks on the Patio

*Editor & Photographer: Leslie Foley*

La Cantera Resort & Spa spotlighted Breast Cancer Awareness Month by supporting the Texas WINGS program. In October, **Pinks** on the Patio, themed Fridays featured music and drink specials, with two dollars each being donated to WINGS and matched by Cavender Cares. WINGS provides comprehensive breast health services to uninsured women in Central and South Texas. AnArte Gallery also donated a percentage of sales to WINGS. The WINGS program, the only one in the country, provides healthcare services to women with breast cancer. 95% of women treated through WINGS are still living as a result of the program. WINGS maintains an efficiency rating of 94%, above that of the average nonprofit organization. ■



Alina Dietz and Yvonne Sanchez



Cristal Galvan and Sonia Hitchcock



Michelle Robertson, Evie Reichel, WINGS CEO Ruth Medellin, Mari and Daniel Gomez and Sabrina Avila



Janelle Plummer and Chelsea Edwards



President at WINGS Sandra Jolla

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## Top Doctor Profiles

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**2023 Best S.A. Doctor**

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Phone: 210-657-0220  
Fax: 210-402-2868  
[npahardy oak@npa-sa.com](mailto:npahardy oak@npa-sa.com)  
[www.npa-sa.com](http://www.npa-sa.com)  
Primary Specialty: Pediatrics  
Dr. Brown has provided quality care to patients at Northeast

Pediatric Associates for the last eight years. She has a calm, reassuring presence and demonstrates compassion and kindness in all of her interactions. She works hard and values professionalism and integrity. She provides a safe, non-judgmental space for her patients and fosters a deep sense of trust. She is a valued member of our team and deserving of recognition for all that she does.

**Amanda Carpenter, DO**  
**2023 Best S.A. Doctor**

Practice Name: Northeast  
Pediatric Associates PA  
Phone: 210-657-0220  
Fax: 210-402-2868  
[acarpenter@npa-sa.com](mailto:acarpenter@npa-sa.com)  
[www.npa-sa.com](http://www.npa-sa.com)  
Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Dr. Carpenter is an amazing pediatrician practicing with Northeast Pediatric Associates for many years now. She has a vibrant and caring personality and is very knowledgeable in all areas of pediatric care. Having several children of her own, she also has the skills to be an excellent mother and pediatrician perfectly positioned to offer contemporary advice to both the professional and stay at home moms.

*Continued on page 50*

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David Holck, MD  
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Jason Kwee, MD  
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James Lehmann, MD  
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# Top Doctor Profiles



**Shane C. Eizember, MD**  
2023 Rising Star Doctor & 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: TSAOG Orthopaedics & Spine  
Phone: 210-593-1430  
Fax: 210-593-1434  
www.tsaog.com  
Primary Specialty:

Orthopaedic Spine Surgery

Dr. Shane C. Eizember is an Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon and is fellowship-trained in back and neck surgery. He treats patients 18 years of age and older. He graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Eizember specializes in Anterior and posterior cervical surgery, Failed Back Surgery Syndrome, Spondylolisthesis, Robot-assisted and navigation-assisted spine surgery, Use of ultrasonic scalpel in spine surgery and Minimally invasive spine surgery.



**Dionne Franco, MD**  
2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Northeast Pediatric Associates, PA  
Phone: 210 657-0220  
Fax: 210 590-7288  
www.npa-sa.com  
Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Dionne A. Franco, MD, FAAP earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio in 2007. She joined the team at Northeast Pediatric Associates in 2010 and is board certified through the American Board of Pediatrics.



**E. Brooks Hagee, MD**  
2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Northeast Pediatric Associates  
Phone: 210-657-0220  
Fax: 210-590-7288  
admin@npa-sa.com  
www.npa-sa.com  
Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Dr. Hagee works tirelessly to be her patients' best advocate, to prevent and solve problems and ensure all of her patients have access to the care they need. She gets great joy from watching children and families grow over time and adapting to their changing needs.

Continued on page 52

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Whitney Ormond, Nicole Johnson and Katie Reynolds



Keynote speaker Katie Russell Newland, Good Sam CEO Simon Salas, and co-chairs Kelly Anderson and Megan Johnson



Jill Vassar, Donna Harris, Shanon Noble and Kathryn Martinez



Doreen Magoon, Nancy Gallagher, Debi Flume and Faith Flume

## Mums & Mimosas Silver Tea

Editor: Leslie Foley

Photographer: Vivian Crook

The 13th Annual Mums and Mimosas brought the community together to once again celebrate the women and mothers in our lives, raising funds to benefit Good Samaritan Community Services (Good Sam). Austin, Texas-based writer Katie Russell Newland, keynote speaker, sports enthusiast and cancer survivor, shared her debut book, *A Season With Mom: Love, Loss, and the Ultimate Baseball Adventure*, detailing her journey to visit all 30 major league baseball parks in a single season to fulfill her late mother's dream.

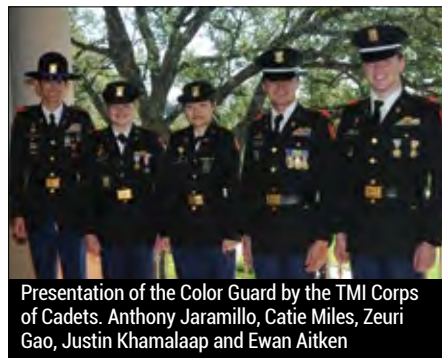
The Center was established in 1951 by the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, under the leadership of Bishop Everett Jones. It began as a downtown mission of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Since then, Good Sam has grown to become a private, nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization and United Way agency that provides comprehensive services to more than 4,700 individuals and 1,800 families around South Texas. Good Sam actively serves as a place of change, reaching out to support thousands of people working to improve their lives and to overcome the challenges of poverty. ■



Matthew Gish and Steve Veling



Brandy Blake purchased a copy of Katie Russell Newland's debut book



Presentation of the Color Guard by the TMI Corps of Cadets. Anthony Jaramillo, Catie Miles, Zeuri Gao, Justin Khamalaap and Ewan Aitken

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# Congratulations to all our 2023 Rising Star S.A. Doctors

San Antonio doctors (41 years old and above practicing medicine), recently nominated doctors 40 years old and younger in practice, for our 2023 Rising Star Doctors feature. We are pleased to list this year's Rising Stars representing hospitals, medical clinics and private practices in myriad specializations from across the area.

Every effort was made to confirm the information presented here.

Scene In S.A. is not responsible for any inaccuracies in the information provided to the magazine.

\* Names in red are advertisers



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UT Health San Antonio  
Hospitalist

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Family Medicine

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Gastroenterology



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CommuniCare Health Center  
Family Medicine

**Jesse Fike, MD**  
UT Health San Antonio  
Dermatology



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Sports Medicine Associates  
Sports Medicine

**Rachel Freeman, MD**  
UT Health San Antonio  
Anesthesiology, Critical Care

**Edward Gronet, MD**  
STARS Plastic Surgery  
Plastic Surgery

**Micheline Ippoliti, MD**  
University Health System SW clinic  
Internal Medicine

**Christine Johnson, MD**  
Peripheral Vascular Associates, PA  
Vascular Surgery



**Lauren E. Karbach, MD**  
TSAOG Orthopaedics & Spine  
Ortho Hand

**Ibiyinka Ladapo, MD**  
University Health System/ UMA  
Internal Medicine

**Shari Lawson, MD**  
STARS Plastic Surgery  
Plastic Surgery

**Ma Luo, MD**  
Advanced Spine & Pain Center  
Pain Management

**Alexandra Matthews, MD**  
Orthopaedic Performance Institute  
Sports Medicine



**Alison Messer, MD**  
UT Health San Antonio  
Dermatology



**Ryan Munns, MD**  
UT Health San Antonio  
Family Medicine

**Akshay Nathawat, MD**  
University Health System SW clinic  
Internal Medicine

**Anhtuan Nguyen, MD**  
Eye Associates  
Ophthalmology

**Kevin K. Nguyen, DO**  
University Health System/ UMA  
Family Medicine

**Lilian Nguyen, MD**  
UT Health San Antonio  
Ophthalmology



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Ortho Total Joint

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Family Medicine/Lifestyle Medicine



**Prisiliano Salas Jr., MD**  
Salveo Direct Care  
Family Medicine/Lifestyle Medicine



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Anesthesiology

**Gregg Wendorf, MD**  
Gastroenterology Consultants of San Antonio  
Gastroenterology

■

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# Top Doctor Profiles



## Kristin S. Held, MD, OPH

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Stone Oak Ophthalmology Center  
Phone: 210-490-6759 | Fax: 210-490-6759  
www.stoneoakeyes.com

Areas of Practice: Ophthalmology, Eye Surgery

Kristen Story Held, M.D. is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology, a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and a member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and International Society of

Refractive Surgeons. October 1, 2015, Dr. Held's practice became completely third party free, including opting out of Medicare. Instead of entering into contractual agreements with mega 3rd party corporations and government agencies, Dr. Held chooses to serve her patients first and directly, with personal, confidential, state of the art, affordable, accessible care. You may be surprised to find the cost of the office visit to be less than your copay and cost of services including surgery to be less than your deductible. Dr. Held specializes in cataract and refractive surgery, including state of the art, all laser Lasik. Dr. Held is currently President of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons and has served AAPS Board for the past four years. The APPS motto is "All For The Patient." Outside of medicine, Dr. Held's love is her family and the outdoors.



## Lauren E. Karbach, MD

### 2023 Rising Star Doctor

Practice Name: TSAOG Orthopaedics & Spine  
Phone: 210-489-7225  
Fax: 210-489-7224  
www.tsaog.com

Primary Specialty: Surgery, Orthopaedic Hand

Dr. Lauren E. Karbach is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon and is fellowship trained in Hand & Upper Extremity, certified by The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

(ABOS). She treats patients of all ages. She graduated from Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Karbach specializes in Arthroscopy, Congenital pediatric hand surgery and Joint Replacement. Some of the conditions she treats include Fracture and trauma care, Hand and wrist fractures, Distal radius fractures, Boxer fracture, Metacarpal fracture, Phalanx fracture, Shoulder and elbow fractures, Carpal tunnel syndrome, Arthritis, Ulnar tunnel syndrome, Tendonitis of the wrist (DeQuervain's), Tennis elbow (lateral epicondylitis), Ulnar nerve compression (cubital tunnel syndrome) and Biceps and triceps tears.



## Tracy Lama-Briseño, MD

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Northeast Pediatric Associates, PA  
Phone: 210-657-0220  
Fax: 210-651-0483  
npaschertzkwy@npa-sa.com

www.npa-sa.com

Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Dr. Lama is a board-certified pediatrician with over 10 years of experience. She currently practices with Northeast Pediatrics

Association at the Schertz location. Originally from San Antonio, Dr. Lama left Texas to attend medical school in Missouri. She has since returned to her roots here in Bexar County where she resides with her husband and 2 children. Dr. Lama excels at providing high quality and compassionate care for the youngest members of our community. When not working, she enjoys movies, sports, and travel.



## Emmanuel C. Nwelue, MD

### 2023 Rising Star Doctor & 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: TSAOG Orthopaedics & Spine  
Phone: 210-804-6890  
Fax: 210-804-6891  
www.tsaog.com

Primary Specialty: Joint Replacement Surgery

Dr. Emmanuel C. Nwelue, Jr. is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon and is fellowship-trained in Joint Replacement,

certified by The American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. (ABOS). He treats patients age 18 years of age and older. He graduated from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Nwelue's surgical specialties include Joint Replacement, Hip Replacement and Knee Replacement and he treats conditions including Avascular Necrosis, Fracture Care, Hip Arthritis, Hip Dysplasia and Knee Arthritis.



## Dr. J. Antonio Lopez, MD

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Lopez Family Practice  
Nuevo Leon Monterrey Immigrated OBGYN Practitioner  
Phone: 210-921-6088  
antonio.md@lopezfamilypactice.com

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).



## Amanda Marshall-Rodriguez, MD

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Tru Ortho  
Phone: 210-878-4116 | Fax: 210-878-4113  
Ldiaz@truortho.us

Primary Specialty: Orthopaedics

Dr. Amanda Marshall-Rodriguez is a fellowship trained joint reconstruction specialist and founder of TruOrtho in San Antonio. Her medical training began at The University of Texas Medical School in Houston where she graduated with a Ross C. Sterling Award granted to the top graduate

selected by the academic faculty. After extensive training in minimally invasive hip and knee replacement and complex revision joint reconstruction at Rush University's world renowned joint fellowship, Dr. Marshall-Rodriguez returned to her home state of Texas. After serving 8 years as faculty at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, she established TruOrtho's concierge minimally invasive joint practice.



## Isham Pauli, Jr., MD

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Northeast Pediatric Associates, PA  
Phone: 210-657-0220 | Fax: 210-402-2868  
ipauli@npa-sa.com | www.npa-sa.com

Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Dr. Pauli is a board-certified pediatrician with over 28 years of experience. He is one of the hardest working pediatricians I know and has nothing but the highest personal integrity, honesty, compassion, and sincerity. He is an amazing role model and leader. He strives every day to deliver top-notch

health care to his patients and they love him.



## Joseph Rangel, DO

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Northeast Pediatric Associates PA  
Phone: 210-619-2712  
jrangel@npa-sa.com | www.npa-sa.com

Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Joseph Rangel, DO, is a board-certified pediatrician with the caring team at Northeast Pediatric Associates PA. Dr. Rangel currently provides compassionate and attentive pediatric care at the practice's Medina Valley office in Castroville, Texas.



## Jesus Luis Rodriguez, MD

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Northeast Pediatric Associates PA  
Phone: 210-657-0220 | Fax: 210-651-0483  
www.npa-sa.com

Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Dr. Rodriguez has been practicing in the San Antonio area for almost 20 years. He provides compassionate and quality care to his patients in both English and Spanish. As a graduate of Churchill High School, he has strong ties to the community and has dedicated his life to the health and well-being of the youth of San Antonio. As a parent himself, he understands the importance of keeping our children healthy.

# Festive Days & Bright Nights

Editor and Photographer: Leslie Foley

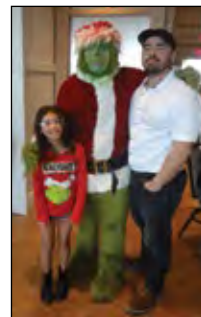
Looking back at the Holidays of 2022 ■

**The Immersive Nutcracker**, featured whimsical animated characters alongside footage of professional ballet dancers; the projection featured beloved scenes set to their classical scores like "The March of the Toys," and "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy".



*Pictured in the snowglobe are Madison and Hailey Ledford*

Over at La Cantera, families joined the Grinch for green eggs and ham with a side of roast beast at **The Grinch's Brunch** to benefit the **Children's Bereavement Center**. The Grinch and Grinchettes posed for pics and presented a private reading of *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.



# Top Doctor Profiles



## Dr. Melody Zamora, DDS

### 2023 Best S.A. Dentist

#### 2022 Outstanding Woman in Medicine

Practice Name: Zam Dental  
Phone: 210-494-2206

Fax: 210-547-9513

drzamora@zamdental.com

Areas of Practice: General Dentistry

Since her earliest memories, the profession of dentistry has meant service for Dr. Zamora. Becoming a dentist is all she has wanted to do, and she loves being a dentist. Making a positive difference in peoples' lives is unbelievably rewarding for Dr. Zamora, because she knows that smiles build confidence and change lives. She is committed to providing her patients quality, timely dental care in a caring, relaxed environment using the best that technology and health care is available. 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 D.M.D. 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.



## Jeffrey B. Shroff, MD

### 2023 Rising Star Doctor & 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: TSAOG Orthopaedics & Spine

Phone: 210-593-1430

Fax: 210-593-1434

www.tsaog.com

Primary Specialty: Orthopaedic Sports Medicine

Surgery; Surgery, Orthopaedic Spine

Dr. Jeffrey B. Shroff is an orthopedic surgeon and is

fellowship-trained in adult and pediatric sports medicine. He treats patients aged 3 years and up. He specializes in Arthroscopic Surgery, Hip Arthroscopy, Knee Arthroscopy, Shoulder Arthroscopy, Joint Replacement, Hip Replacement, Knee Replacement and Shoulder Replacement / Reverse Shoulder Replacement. Dr. Shroff treats many different conditions including Primary and revision ACL injury, Multiligamentous knee injuries, Meniscus tears, Cartilage defects and OCD lesions. Rotator cuff tears, Shoulder, hip, and knee arthritis and Trauma and fracture care.



## Sarah Stafford, MD

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Northeast Pediatric Associates

Phone: 210-657-0220

Fax: 210-651-0483

sstafford@npa-sa.com

www.npa-sa.com

Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Dr. Stafford has been practicing medicine for more than a decade. She is also a partner of the practice. I witness her dedication on a daily basis. She is both hardworking and passionate. Her patients feel like her family and it is a pleasure to be her colleague. She is most certainly a top doctor.



## Robert Trimble, MD

### 2023 Best S.A. Doctor

Practice Name: Northeast Pediatric Associates

Phone: 210-657-0220

Fax: 210-651-0483

trimble@npa-sa.com

www.npa-sa.com

Primary Specialty: Pediatrics

Dr. Trimble is dedicated to providing primary care to children, and his patients and their parents love him! Besides his clinical work, he serves on several committees and strives for quality improvement. He has been so helpful in helping new providers to develop professionally and is very kind. He leads by example no matter how difficult the task.



# A War Dog Named Bass— No Ordinary Marine!



Photos by Ares & Emzy photography

**I**t is extremely difficult to sum up the life of an animal like my dog, Bass. Bass is unlike 99% of other dogs. People that meet Bass today are greeted with a wagging tail, a big smile, and most likely a toy dropped at their feet for them to throw. Looking at his behaviors today, one most likely wouldn't guess that he is one of the most decorated Military Working Dogs in American history and has saved countless lives.

I met Bass in 2014 when he was under two years old, and I had just been assigned to the Marine Corps Special Operations Command. Bass was designated as a Multi-Purpose Canine, a specialized type of military working dog, responsible for supporting exclusively Special Operations mission sets. Bass was trained to locate explosives, track personnel, and apprehend combatants with a bite if necessary.

Bass and I have been side by side for eight years, three combat deployments in three different countries, and thousands of hours training. I have relied on him in life threatening situations more times than I care to remember, and I am sure he would say the same. Throughout our career together, Bass and I became more than a team. He became an extension of myself and I an extension of him. We leaned on each other constantly in order to make it through some pretty terrible situations.

We are fortunate to say that we made it out of all of our experiences. Not every dog team or service member has that fortunate outcome.

Today, Bass enjoys a fantastic retirement where his day consists of his favorite activities, treats, toys, and naps. Bass is now almost 11 years old but still has the personality he did when I met him as a two-year-old pup. Recently, Bass has been diagnosed with an aggressive type of blood cancer, which required emergency surgery and chemotherapy. In classic “Bass” fashion, this has barely slowed him down and besides a few patches of shaved fur, you would never know any different.

Bass’ quality of life and medical care he receives is directly provided by the non-profit organization U.S. War Dogs Association (USWDA). USWDA provides medical support for retired dogs like Bass and prescription costs for over 1200 retired military working dogs. You can read more about their mission at [www.uswardogs.org](http://www.uswardogs.org).

As I said before, it is extremely difficult to sum up an animal like Bass. Bass comes from a very special group of animals whose selfless, unknowing actions have saved countless lives and will have a ripple effect through time. ■

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# My Dog and Me

A dog's best friend is a human!

*Scene In S.A.* asked people in our community about their relationship of loyalty and friendship with them and their furry friends. Many of these participants are leaders of large or small organizations as professionals, business owners, and managers. Here are their responses.



**Cathy Stryker**

**Former District Judge, Mediator/Private Judge**

**Dog's Names: Chowder & Lucky**

**Breeds: Dachshund/Chihuahua mix and Yorkie/Chihuahua Mix**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

Our mixed breed dogs came to us as rescues 6 years (Lucky) and 2 years ago (Chowder). Lucky wandered into our yard one day having clearly lived on his own for quite some time. After a long period of attempting to locate his owner, we decided to keep him. At the time we had a house full with a great dane and a black lab, but even at 7 pounds, Lucky had us all wrapped around his paw. Chowder was a medical foster through Pets Alive during the pandemic due to him having distemper. When he was finally healthy and it was time for him to be adopted we found we could not part with him.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

Chowder talks a lot – he is a very vocal dog and will audibly moan when you pet him. Lucky is one of the sweetest, calmest dog we have ever owned and loves to fly on airplanes and travel in cars.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

The dogs are part of our family. We have always had at least two dogs at all times, but these two are the first small dogs we have ever owned. They are spoiled rotten.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

The dogs love to hike in Colorado, go on long walks. They also like to hang out with us when we watch football. They are very partial to the New Orleans Saints, so it has been a disappointing season for them. ■

*Continued on page 56*

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**Huey Rey Fischer**  
**Attorney at Jackson Walker , LLP**  
**Dog's Name: Sonia**  
**Breed: San Antonio Special (Mutt)**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
Sonia became my best friend during my last year of law school. She's lived with me in Austin, New Orleans, Tijuana, and now SA.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

Sonia has been to 15 states, plus Mexico. She loves road trips but is unreliable with maps.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

Sonia plans our vacations, files the taxes, and pays all utility bills. I make sure she has food in her bowls and that she gets her daily walk. Okay, maybe I do everything and she just vibes.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

Sonia and I love happy hour. We can be spotted on the patios of local bars and restaurants around town. As passionate Texas Longhorns fans, we also enjoy going to the San Antonio Texas Exes game watches at Little Woodrow's. ■



**Katie Harvey**  
**CEO with KGB Texas Communications**  
**Dog's Name: Pepper**  
**Breed: Miniature Blue Heeler**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
Pepper is a Mini Blue Heeler. She has been my sidekick since she was six weeks old. She's now almost four. She spends pretty much every

day with me at the office and is around for almost all of my meetings. She's a regular attendee of San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Board of Director meetings and has friends wherever she goes in San Antonio.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

As a heeler, she has a lot of energy. She's never met a ball she doesn't want to fetch. She loves to "heel" our IT person at the office. She's also a patient waiter of any food that might drop in the kitchen during our gatherings. She's an incredibly loyal dog and enjoys anyone and everyone who comes bearing treats!

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

We have a strong bond, but we are both independent in our own

right. Because we spend so much time together, we've become quite accustomed to sharing our time and space. To see more of her personality, you should follow her on Instagram @damn.it.pepper

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

We play fetch, she sleeps on the couch cushions above my head when we are watching TV at night. She attends most meetings, all horse shows, and practices with me. She's a frequent flyer and favorite passenger on American Airlines. ■



**Carl J. Kolb**  
**Attorney with Kolb, PC**  
**Dog's Name: Blue Belle**  
**Breed: Vizsla**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

Blue Belle is a Vizsla. She has been my best friend since June, 2019.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

Blue Belle howls and barks every time she sees me about to open a bottle of bubbly. And she is very well-behaved.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

Blue Belle and I walk 1.5 miles each way to and from work each day. She works with me every day. Sleeps under my desk. Introduces herself to mediators and judges and clients on Zoom. Has friends all up and down the halls of the office and they all have a jar of treats to share with her. Every restaurant near our office knows her by name and enjoys her presence. She is a positive calming influence on people having a tough day when they are in my office discussing their problems. She is a hunting dog and she and I enjoy bird hunting in South Texas.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

Waking together. Coffee with Blue Belle. Walking to work. Working together. Walking home from work. Hanging out together at home. Dinner together. Just being together. Hunting together. Watching strangers come up to her and want to meet her, take a photo with her, etc. Watching smiles on the faces of homeless people when they see her and want to meet her. ■



**S. Mark Murray**  
**Lawyer with Ford/Murray, PLLC**  
**Dog's Name: Moose**  
**Breed: Chihuahua/Terrier mix**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

My dog is a rescue and we believe he is a Chihuahua/Terrier mix. We've had him about 8 years. We had just lost

a dog that we loved very much and we found Moose through SNIPSA. He had been on "death row" (waiting to be euthanized)

in the pound in Guadalupe County, Texas when SNIPSA rescued him. He was only a few months old when we got him.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

He looks like he's made up of "spare parts" left over from the assembly of other animals. He has a terrible under bite, his "fur" looks like a man with a really bad toupee. His tail looks like it came from a pig. His ears are WAY too big for the rest of his head. Somehow, he manages to make it all work and he's very cute.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

He's my best friend. His love is boundless and unconditional which makes it very easy to love him. I wish I had a small fraction of his enthusiasm for life. When I come home from work there's a huge celebration. You would think I was the King of England! Of course, my daughter is still his favorite person in the world and when she is home from college, I am relegated to being his Sherpa. He even gets excited every single day about going on a walk. He is my constant companion. He travels with me and probably has more frequent flyer miles than most people.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

"Throw the Baby!" is his favorite, he has stuff toys that we refer to as his "babies". He has some favorites and never tires of me throwing them for him to fetch. He has not yet perfected the notion of bringing them back to me but he generally brings them close enough for me to grab and throw. Also, mornings (and especially weekend mornings) are reserved for roughhousing. There is just a certain amount of this kind of play that he has to have. He growls and barks at me and "soft mouths" my arm and I'll pick him up and throw him across the bed. All in all, a good time is had by both of us. ■



**Nadine Rodriguez**  
**Attorney with Rodriguez Trial Law**  
**Dog's Names: Dierks & Nova**  
**Breeds: Cocker Spaniel & German Shepard**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

Dierks, my cocker spaniel, and I have been together since November of 2016, so six years. Actually, I got him right around the time that I first learned that I passed the Texas Bar Exam and became licensed to practice law. Nova came into my life in February of 2020, right before the pandemic really hit the United States. My boyfriend

loved the bond between Dierks and me, so he made Nova part of the family too.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

Dierks is a big cuddle bug and such a momma's boy, it's actually really funny. We will go to the dog park and he will run around for a bit but then come and sit by my side. He seems to panic a bit if he I'm not in his line of vision. Nova likes to do her own thing and will join the family, when she pleases. She really likes a lot of alone time but will play fetch ALL day, if she could. She's so gentle and absolutely loves kid. It's the sweetest thing.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

Dierks and Nova absolutely love each other, and I love their bond for each other, but it did take Dierks some time to adjust to having a new family member. I love both of them, but Dierks and I will always have a bond like no other, as he is the first dog that I have raised since a puppy. He can sense when I've had a long or rough day and will absolutely snuggle up on me.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

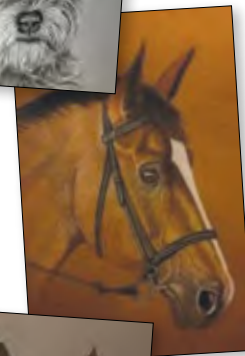
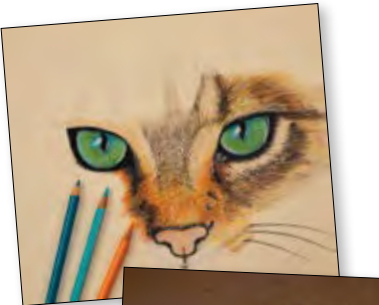
Our favorite activity to do together is go hiking. They both love Lost Maples State Park. ■

*Continued on page 58*

# Pet Portraits

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**Jenna C. Castleman**  
**Attorney with**  
**Castkeman &**  
**Associates, PC**  
**Dog's Name:**  
**Maxwell Edison**  
**Breed: Labrador**  
**Retriever**  
**What kind of dog or dogs**  
**do you have and how long**

**have you had your furry friend?**  
Maxwell is a Yellow Labrador Retriever and he has been my buddy for 9 and a half years.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Maxwell has a unique way of knowing when someone is feeling very sad. When I unexpectedly lost my father, and then my Granny, Maxwell grieved with me. He will not let a member of his family be sad alone.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Maxwell does not belong to me or my family. We belong to him. He has made it his mission to look after each of us. The love he has for his family is only surpassed by the love we have for him.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Nothing makes Max happier than walks. Although he has struggled with arthritis, he still jumps like a puppy when he's asked the rhetorical question of whether he wants to go for a walk. He has improved the cardio of every member of our family. ■



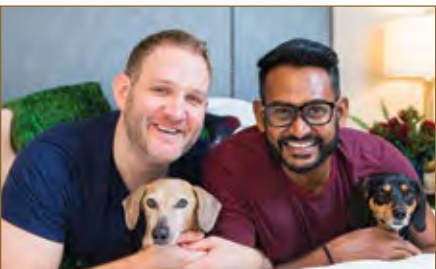
**Jason DeSouza**  
**Managing Attorney at**  
**DeSouza Law, PC**  
**Dog's Name: Rocco**  
**Breed: Rescue (Catahoula)**  
**What kind of dog or dogs do you have**  
**and how long have you had your furry**  
**friend?** Rocco is a rescue from the Humane Society that I got in June of 2022, and is the 4th dog in the house (after Moo, Friday and Sparkles). They told me he is a Catahoula but we are waiting on his official DNA results from Wisdom Panel to find out for sure.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Rocco is the calmest and most relaxed dog I have ever met. He loves everyone, is never agitated and spends most of his day lying around the law firm.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Rocco is a truly special dog who has been by my side as a loyal

friend since the day I picked him up. He is a true companion and is always happy to be near me.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Rocco spends all day every day hanging out at the law firm. He visits the other staff for pets and snacks throughout the day, but spends most of his time lounging on his bed in my office. He is our official mood lifter and door greeter. ■



**Michael Ritter**  
**Senior Counsel,**  
**Schmoyer**  
**Reinhard, LLP**  
**& Dilshan**  
**Edussuriya,**  
**Owner, Dilshan**  
**Weddings**  
**& Events**  
**Dog's Names:**

**Lolo & Ponch Breed: Dachshunds (mix)**  
**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
Lolo and Poncherello (who we call Ponch) are Dachshund mixes. Lolo was rescued in 2010 when he was a little puppy. He was found abandoned in the Monte Vista/Alta Vista area and was in pretty bad shape. He was brought back to health and has been a happy dog ever since. We adopted Ponch through the Diamond Dachshund Rescue (DDRT) of Texas in early 2019. Ponch was in the pound, and he was rescued by his foster mom, Andrea, who volunteers with DDRT.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
As Dachshunds, Lolo and Ponch have very big personalities. As a breed bred to burrow, they also love to climb underneath pillows and blankets. Lolo is able to take a blanket under his nose and throw it over his head. Because of his long body, he also frequently walks around with a blanket on his back like a cape or a Snuggie. When we first got Ponch, he showed signs of having been abused. His paperwork from DDR said he was “emotionally sensitive,” and that pretty much describes Ponch, although he is generally very happy.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
We're all very close, and we consider Lolo and Ponch to be kind of like children. I've started to see how much we have in common with our dogs. We all love food, sleep, relaxation, and blankets. They make us laugh with their occasional silliness. In short, we love Lolo and Ponch very much.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Lolo and Ponch love to run around the backyard and chase birds and squirrels. Our backyard opens up into McAllister Park, so there's frequently deer and other wildlife roaming around near our back fence. Lolo and Ponch like to sit on the couch, look out the window for activity in the backyard, and then rush out of the house to chase anything suspicious. We also have “family time” in the evenings when we'll all lay on the couch and watch TV. Lolo and Ponch are on a good routine, so they understand what “family time,” “walk time,” and “bed time” mean. ■



**Vicki Pitluk and**  
**Len Hoppe**  
**Pugtastic Rescues**  
**Dog's Names: Miss Priss**  
**and Bijou**  
**Breed's: Miss Priss is**  
**a pug and Bijou is 37%**  
**pug. Both came from**  
**PugHearts Rescue of**  
**Houston**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
Pug and pug mix. We have had Miss Priss for almost six years and Bijou for three years. We've also had two previous rescue pugs, who are no longer with us.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Pugs are a unique breed. Physically they're either gorgeous, funny (depending on their expression) or just plain silly (whether or not they've been dressed up in ridiculous outfits) and they shed horribly. But they all have unique personalities and are the most loving breed I've ever met. I worked in pug rescue and transport when I lived in Rockport. There are hundreds of abandoned pugs in the Valley and almost half of them make it through the PugHearts rescue. I've seen them in almost every condition – mange, starving, heartworm, dislocated eyes – and almost every one was accepting of my touch and gave me licks. They are definitely food motivated and have an unbelievable internal clock.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
We experience unconditional love and they know when a little extra is needed on a tough day.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Don't walk them as much as we should. But, we do have afternoon family time on the porch (weather permitting), indoor playtime, social activities with other dogs and people, rides and sleeping together. While we think crate training is great, it seems that we fail when a newer animal sees our “regular” getting special treatment. Also enjoy watching the Westminster Dog show. ■



**Meredith Poor**  
**Dog's House**  
The good life - faithful companions, summers spent kayaking white water rapids, weeks spent breathing the thin air of Kathmandu, nights spent sipping wine in Paris. Some time, some day, in your twilight

years, your faithful companion in dog years has longer to go than you do, and your faithful friend needs a home in the style to which it, and you, have become accustomed. Centuries of stately homes now dot the world, each reflecting the whims and needs of the global actors that originally inhabited them. That was then. Now they sit, waiting for a new global actor, or perhaps just some TLC. Someone to keep the house up, tend to your

lonely companion, take long walks in the country, chat with the neighbors, and sit with you as you reminisce on your long and eventful life.

We are the keepers of the hardwood floors, original stone mantle fireplaces, circular driveways, carriage house lofts, and commanding hilltop views. Alternatively, there is the home you grew up in, the one you fled when you could legally get out of the house and hold a job. Only later did you come to appreciate just what your parents went through to keep you fed and a roof over your head. Now it, along with the rest of the town you grew up in, is mostly overgrown with vines. Perhaps, as modest as it is, it should be restored and preserved, so you can show your great-grandchildren how lucky they are, or perhaps where they'll end up if they take too much for granted.

Your lifelong love can curl up on the rug by the fire, the overstuffed chair, or the bed in the sun room. He or she can chase squirrels in the countryside walks, sniff the wild flowers and nose around the other mysteries hidden in decaying logs or jumbled rock piles. There is always the summer drive with the ears pinned back by the wind. In any case, your companion may be he last ray of warmth you experience as you dissolve into the mists of infinity. ■



**Michael W. Jackson**  
**Attorney/Mediator**  
**Dog's Names: Daisy &**  
**Boomer**  
**Breeds: Schnauzer,**  
**Schnauzer/Scottie**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
Boomer has been my constant companion for the last 10 years, after my wife, daughter and I rescued him off of Highway 281, in

Mineral Wells, Texas. Daisy has been our little Punkin' since December of 2021. I was heading home from Santa Fe when my cell phone rang and Jeanne asked where I was. I told her, “just South of Santa Fe” and she said, “come back through Abilene.” I said “what?” She then instructed me that I would be picking up Daisy from a family who needed to find Daisy a new home, so I was off to Abilene.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Boomer is smart, inquisitive, loyal and adventurous. Daisy is the sweetest dog on the planet. When you look in the dictionary under “affectionate” there is a picture of Daisy. She is also very smart and playful. They are both first class lap dogs!

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
My bond with Boomer has evolved over the last decade into a friendship beyond compare. He and I go adventuring and he is a people magnet. We frequently travel to Santa Fe together and can often be found on the patio of The Inn of the Anasaz, just off the plaza. The Anasazi is a wonderful place to enjoy the

*Continued on page 60*



ambiance of Santa Fe and meet interesting people from all over the world. Daisy is our little Love Bug. We enjoy taking them both on day trips, and sitting on patios enjoying some outdoor dining. We are always asked by folks if they can take pictures of our dogs. Daisy and Boomer are much more than our dogs, they are our best friends and each others best friend.



**Renee Kizziar**  
**Dog’s Names: Kizziar’s Elizabeth Louise (Lizzie) & Kizziar’s Sophie Surprise**  
**Breeds- Field Bred English Cocker and Field Bred English Spring Spaniel, respectively**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

My husband, Jim, and I have had dogs since soon after we married in 1979. My family had German Shepherds. He had an Irish Setter. We compromised on English Springer Spaniels. Sometimes, though, God sends us other dogs. At the moment we have Lizzie who is approximately 12 years old and Sophie who is 2. Lizzie was pulled from the Harris County Pound by an English Cocker rescue organization. She was between 1 and 2 years old. I noticed her on a FB posting from an English Cocker breeder who was maligning other breeders for letting their dogs end up in a shelter. Lizzie looked so much like another dog we had at that time. I sent the photo to our dog trainer, Jasmine Skala, who said, “You must go get her!” But I was out of the state. Turns out I picked her up from her foster mom at a Houston shopping center parking lot one night on my way back to San Antonio. Lizzie is such a joy; the song that best suits her is “Girls Just Want to Have Fun.” Sophie is our first “bred” dog since 2001. She is a handful but is really the sweetest animal. I sing “My Brown Eyed Girl” to her.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** All of our dogs – except that 9-year-old we were given when her adult went to an Alzheimer’s Care facility – have done dog sports. Dog sports include canine agility, rally, scent work, tracking and obedience. They travel with me whenever I can take them.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

Our dogs are our family. In our training group the most important focus is the relationship with the dog. Our trainer attempts to help us understand how to best train the dog from the dog’s point of view. We do not use compulsion in training.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

I do companion sports with my dogs. They also go to restaurants and shops with us wherever that is allowed. My husband has both sail and cruising power boat. The dogs, in their life jackets, may go with us. Other dogs have kayaked with me; Sophie is just getting to the point where I might try that with her soon. ■



**Angie Hernandez-Cook**  
**Founder/Managing Attorney Hernandez-Cook Law PLLC**  
**Dog’s Name: Panzon Cook**  
**Breed: English Bulldog**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

Panzon Cook is a five month old English Bulldog puppy. He came to live with my family four and months ago.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

Panzon has an unbelievable vertical leap. With one jump from the ground he can land in the middle of my Christmas Village or make himself the centerpiece of my Thanksgiving table, both of which he has done recently. He is also a bit of a stalker. He rejects any attempt at privacy, does not appreciate “me time” and won’t hesitate to jump into the shower with the current object of his attention.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

My husband brought Panzon home, 1 month and 1 week after my mother died. Prior to him, my only experience with pets was limited to a goldfish I had when I was six and my daughter’s gerbils. I’m also allergic to his dander. Needless to say, I was pretty awkward around him and I didn’t understand what all the fuss was about. Rose, our incredible dog trainer from Harmony Canines, came to our home and kind of re-introduced us. By the end of that first day, he put his head in my lap and I knew that I didn’t own a dog, he had acquired a devoted personal assistant and I loved him with my whole heart. He hasn’t left my side since.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

Panzon is very fond of my daughter’s Lol Surprise Dolls. Once he gets a hold of them, she’s not getting them back anytime soon. I spend a decent amount of time running around the house, trying to pry them out of his mouth. He’s a baby and he’s teething so I think that’s pretty standard. He’s lucky he has such a sweet face! ■



**David Farmer**  
**Partner at Farmer, House, Osuna, Jackson & Olvera**  
**Dog’s Name: Princess**  
**Breed: Mixed**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

Three dogs: Princes (mixed breed) and 2 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. Princess is a rescue from Hurricane Harvey. Finn, the older cavalier is 13 and Charm is the youngest. We got

her during the pandemic.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** Princess was afraid of everything and everyone when

we rescued her. But she has bonded with my wife and I and our other pups. Her superpower is her ability to stick to me like glue.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

In a word...inseparable.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

Princess is very active and by far her favorite activity is chasing squirrels in the backyard, after which she just wants to cuddle up next to me and put her head in my lap.



**Daphne Previti**  
**Trial Attorney**  
**Dog’s Names: Bella Blue Austin & Steve**  
**Breeds: Yellow Labrador Retriever / Weimaraner**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

Bella is ten and Steve is two. We’ve had both of

them since they were old enough to leave their mamas.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** Steve is very smart. He is able to let himself in and out of the house if we neglect to dead bolt the doors.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

They are both very affectionate and like to be in the same room as their human. They will follow us around the house and rest at our feet.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

Bella will fetch endlessly. We have to stop when we see she needs to rest. Steve prefers to be chased. He pulls logs from our fire pit and drags them around the yard. Both enjoy chasing and popping bubbles! ■



**David Barlow**  
**Dog’s Name: Olive**  
**Breed: Cockalier**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

Olive is a Cockalier, which is a cross between Cocker Spaniel and Cavalier King Charles. Our daughter encouraged us to get Olive as a puppy in 2020 when we were at home during the Pandemic to give our older dog, Pepper, a companion. The two dogs were wonderful

friends while Pepper was alive and now that Pepper has passed, we are so thankful for Olive!

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** Olive has a keen sense of smell. She detects scents of people, dogs and other animals and food from great distances. Her coat is as soft as a mink, and her bark sometimes turns into a howl.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

Olive is very affectionate and loves to greet people. She waits for me at the door when I return home from work every evening. When I open the door, we go through our “greeting ritual” which usually consists of exaggerated petting and hugging like we’ve not seen each other in years before she lets me enter the house.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

Our favorite activity is walking through the neighborhood. We almost always encounter other dogs, numerous cats and many squirrels. We occasionally see more unusual animals such as a fox, skunk, possum. She generally smells them before I even know they’re there, and I’m always thankful she’s on a leash lest she dash after them. ■



**Mike Cubeta**  
**Attorney - SVP, SSFCU**  
**Dog’s Name: Tiger**  
**Breed: San Antonio Street Dog aka San Antonio Special**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

The Cubeta family has 1 dog named Tiger. Tiger is brindle, so she looks like a tiger. We’ve had Tiger for five years.

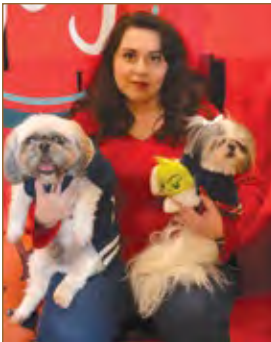
**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** Tiger is freakishly smart.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**

Tiger and I can communicate by looking at each other.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

Tiger loves belly rubs, being with our two daughters when they are in their rooms, and watching TV with us. ■



**Diana Olack**  
**Sr. Paralegal to C. Michael Ireland, Jr. at Higdon, Hardy & Zuflacht, LLP**  
**Dog’s Names: Daisy Mae & Mason Drew**  
**Breed: Shih Tzu**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**

Both of my dogs are Shih Tzu. Mason Drew is 9 ½ yrs old, and Daisy Mae is 2 ½ yrs old. I got each

of them when they were five weeks old.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** Mason is partially blind, but he doesn’t let that stop him. He knows his way around my house and my mom’s house. Daisy maybe tiny but she is his protector. Daisy also helps guide him outside and when they go to daycare. Daisy also has a feisty side and is not afraid to stand up for herself with other dogs. They both love wearing clothes.



**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Mason is close to my daughter, but he will be forever a mama’s boy. He loves it when I call him handsome and loves cuddling up with me. Daisy loves laying next to me, whether it is while I work or sleeping. Daisy and Mason like to come along we me for drives especially when we go get food. They are at the window when ordering food and greet cashiers when getting food. They love being acknowledged by them.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Daisy loves to pay fetch and run around. Mason is more laid-back now that he is older. Mason loves to watch birds. He loves to chase the ducks and make them go into the water, where he thinks they belong. Mason and Daisy love to watch movies including with ones with dogs, but Marvel movies are their favorite. ■



**David L. Willis**  
David L. Willis, PC  
Attorney at Law & Mediator  
Dog’s Names: Hula Girl  
Breeds: Rat Terrier

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
We have had Hula Girl since May 7, 2012. She is a rescue

and was on the euthanasia list for later that evening. Lucky break for all!

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Her personality. She is extremely bonded to my wife and me and basically hates everyone else (except “ Aunt Laurie & Uncle Don” (close family friends).

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Well, I feed her most evenings. That pretty much captures it!

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
We have started a daily neighborhood walk several days a week. We eat breakfast & lunch together most days and she is still camping with us in our Airstream travel trailer. That is her “Silver Kennel.”



**Mrs. Happy Buttles**  
Dog Owner  
Dog’s Names: CoCo Chanel & El Rey II Buttles  
Breed: Standard Poodles

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
We have Standard Poodles. We have had CoCo Chanel for six years. We have had El Rey II Buttles for two years but he was a Rescue and is eight years old now.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** They are both dog models and also do fundraisers for non-profit dog organizations like Breast Cancer Awareness, Alzheimer’s, Salvation Army, and

non-profit Dog organizations. They have been in a few magazines and on TV stations as well. They are San Antonio local celebrities as well.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
My bond with our babies is very strong. They were both there for me after the passing of my son, his girlfriend and her three-year-old daughter after a horrible vehicle accident when they where hit by a semi and they all passed. My dogs were right there by my side. They would follow me anywhere I would go. They gave me love when I needed it.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Our dogs love to be around people. We like to hang out at many dog friendly places like Chicken-n-Pickle, The Pearl, the RIM and other places like that. We like to go on walks and hike and go to the lakes. We just love being with them. ■



**Lauren Lefton**  
Attorney  
Dog’s Name: Paul Winston  
Breed: Mixed terrier

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend??**  
I officially became a foster fail in June 2021. I was fostering dogs at the schnauzer rescue of Texas when Paul came into my life in the late spring as a foster. When it was time for him to be adopted out to find his forever home, there was no way I could say goodbye.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** Paul has never met a stranger. He loves to say hi to everyone he comes across. His tail never stops wagging. Paul also makes it very clear where he wants to go, want he wants to do and when he wants to do it.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Paul is a great companion for me. I’m convinced he understands everything I tell him. We have the same level of excitement and chill vibes.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
I take Paul everywhere with me. The minute he hears the car unlock, he jumps right in. He goes to work with me and has even attended horse shows all across the country. Paul’s favorite activity is riding in the car with his head out the window or going on a long walk. ■



**Lauren Valkenaar**  
Partner at Chasnoff Mungia Valkenaar Pepping Stribling, LLP  
Dog’s Name: Scout  
Breed: Bernedoodle

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
I have had Scout for the last seven years. He is a mix between a Bernese Mountain Dog and a

Poodle – a Bernedoodle.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Scout, despite being over 100 pounds, is very shy. He truly believes that he is a lap dog and tries to fit in my lap whenever he can. He has learned that if I am working, (which is often) if he pushes his head under my arm it screws up my typing and I then have a hand free to pet him – smart dog!

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Scout is my first dog, so it has been an amazing experience getting to connect with him. He is so sweet and protective, and really makes every day better, particularly when we were stuck at home through the pandemic.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
When not at home, Scout loves going on hikes or the Pearl. ■



**Christopher Cavazos**  
Owner of BRCK Criminal Defense Attorneys  
Dog’s Name: Watson  
Breed: Bichon and Shih Tzu mix

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have, and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
We have a Bichon, and Shih Tzu mix called a “Teddy Bear” my daughter Olivia and son Lucas picked him out. We have had him since he was born three years ago.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
I am convinced that he watches TV. He will position himself towards the television and then leave after the show ends.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Watson has turned out to be the perfect family dog. He was a puppy when our kids were very young, and he now identifies as one of them. It’s been great seeing the 3 of them sort of grow up together.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
He gets a few daily walks, and I will bring him to my office on weekends and let him roam the halls while I work. ■



**Stefanie D. Seitz & Maverick**  
Associate Clinical Professor  
UT Health  
San Antonio School of Dentistry  
Dog’s Names: Dug & Chase

**Breeds: Golden Retriever/Cocker Spaniel; Bassett Hound/Cocker Spaniel**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?** We currently have two dogs, Dug and Chase. We adopted Dug in 2018 and Chase in 2020, both from

the Austin Cocker Rescue. There are times we’ve had as many as four from the rescue and enjoyed every minute of it, we were even referred to as “the Cocker People” when we moved to a new neighborhood. Three of them were supposed to be foster dogs, but we ultimately adopted all of them. One of them wasn’t even our foster dog, it was my parents!

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
We love having mixed breed dogs. You can really see the different attributes from the different breeds in each of them. The mixing makes for some fun traits that only a mix could have: Dug’s entire body shakes like a Golden Retriever when we get home and the Cocker Spaniel hair on his head creates the best mohawk. Chase has the long body and short legs of a Bassett Hound with a Cocker Spaniel head and tail. They’re just two very unique characters.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
We love the appreciation and absolute love that comes from our dogs. They were both rescued from the streets, so they once knew a very hard life. When they come to our home, their whole demeanor changes as they get comfortable and become part of the family. Sometimes they get a little too comfortable!! I often find those two sleeping on the couch, which is normal for dogs, however my two can be found on velvet pillows and our nice blankets. They often steal spots on the couch, too, which makes us all laugh because it’s usually my husband’s spot! Also, many times we have to look for them before bedtime. It didn’t take us long to figure out to look on the bed because they will undoubtedly beat us there. Our dogs are definitely the ones that make our house our home.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
We love to take them for walks because it also gives us some time to just talk. My son found they love to chase the laser pointer. I can always tell when he’s using it because I just hear tremendous laughter from him as they run around together. Chase loves fetching his toys after you throw him and will often place his toy right where you are working so that he gets it thrown every time. He trains us well and will always go fetch it if we tell him to go get it. He runs out, grabs it, and comes back so excited. It’s a nice break from the hustle of the day. ■



**Ami Gordon**  
Proprietor  
Dog’s Names: Bella & Tink  
Breeds: Aussiedoodle and Bernedoodle

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?** Bella is an Aussiedoodle and Tink is a Bernedoodle. We have had them for three and a half years.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

Bella thinks she’s a professional dancer, and despite her size, Tink is the biggest lap dog ever!

Continued on page 64



**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
They are my life, my reason to be, and they own my heart! Nothing brings me greater joy than spending time with them, and seeing their sweet faces when I wake up and go to sleep. They fill my heart with so much love and gratitude.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
We love walks at the farm, porch time, and playing in my ballet studio! ■



**Taylor Crull**  
**Attorney with Kustoff & Sanders, LLP**  
**Dog's Name: Poco**  
**Breed: Labrador Retriever**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
I have an 8-year-old, black labrador retriever, named Poco. Poco has been a member of our family since she was 8-weeks-old. Most people would say that their dog somehow found them, but I'm certain that Poco chose our family. We were looking for

a dog that we could use for hunting, but also as a family pet, and that is exactly what we found in Poco. We were surrounded by puppies, all equally adorable and cute. Out of nowhere, the runt of the litter (Poco) jumps into the water bowl and begins to splash around, making a giant mess. From that moment forward, Poco has been our dog and it was one of the easiest choices I've ever made.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?** Poco is how her name suggests, she's small for a full-blooded labrador retriever. When we named her, we didn't know that she would be on the smaller-side when fully grown, but she definitely has a big personality to make up for her short stature. To go with her big personality, she has an attitude that she's not afraid to share. While she'll normally out-pace you on walks, you can always tell when she doesn't want to go somewhere because she'll walk slower or appear to have selective hearing. She's also not bashful when it comes to telling you that she's bored. She'll let out huge sighs as if to say "enough already, I'm bored, take me outside." Not to mention, Poco is a trained bird hunting dog that behaves better than most dogs, and even some people.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Poco is a once-in-a-lifetime dog. I know most people love their pets like they'd love their human children, but Poco truly is special. She's the first one to make sure that you take time for the small things, and the first one to drop her favorite toy at your feet or put her paw on you when she can tell you're having a rough day. Her heart is so big when it comes to being a companion; it's hard to have a bad day when Poco is around. At times, it's like she knows exactly what you're thinking, and when she's hunting, it's like we're the same person, she knows when I miss a shot and helps spot the birds before I even see them.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**

Poco's favorite thing to do is to be outside. She loves to hunt, especially ducks, and when she sees you start to get your hunting gear out, she goes crazy. She'll start jumping up and down, and gets really excited. It makes the hunting experience all the more fun, just to watch her in her element when she is retrieving. When she isn't hunting, she likes to play catch and swim in the pool. She's also happy riding in the car or going on walks, anything that gives her an opportunity to either be outside or look outside, she's happy. ■



**James W. Hollis Jr.**  
**Attorney**  
**Dog's Name: Hank**  
**Breed: Terrier Mix**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
Hank is an almost four-year-old terrier mix. My wife and I met him at a SNIPSA event at The Quarry a little over a year ago and were able to foster him before ultimately adopting him.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**

Hank was rescued from a hoarding situation and it has taken the better part of a year, but he is finally coming out of his shell. He loves to walk around the neighborhood, but really enjoys trips to the park. When not enjoying the outdoors, Hank can be found curled up on the sofa watching sports or perfecting the art of begging while I cook in the kitchen. He has also developed a habit of howling at the top of lungs when I return home from a day at the office.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
I am certain that I am Hank's No. 3, behind my wife and mother-in-law (can't say I blame him!) We've really bonded over car rides which is very odd considering he didn't want to be in the same room with me for the longest time. Now I try to take him for car rides every chance I get. We really cemented our relationship this summer on a road trip to the Ozarks where we spent many hours in the car together and where I snuck him more than a few bites of Kansas City's finest barbecue.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Camping, car rides, lunch at Orderup, walks around the neighborhood and Olmos Basin Park. He also thoroughly enjoys supervising while I work in the yard. ■



**Iliana Cuellar**  
**Administrative Coordinator-**  
**Rosenblatt Law Firm**  
**Dog's Name: RaLF**  
**Breed: Australian Labradoodle**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
RaLF is an Australian Labradoodle and came to live with us in September. He is almost six months old.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
RaLF – a play on Rosenblatt Law Firm's nickname RLF – is a high-energy, fluffy ball of joy that welcomes every client into our building with a smile that will make your week. His green eyes are captivating and allow him to get almost anything he wants. Every day is a new journey for RaLF. He generally makes his rounds to say good morning to each co-worker and whomever he might find sequestered in a conference room. RaLF has the luxury of exploring the many different homes of each of his co-workers as he cons his way into slumber parties and weekend excursions. As a puppalegal, he has no issue taking possession of items to keep himself entertained, whether it be dog toys, treats, or cardboard boxes. Although quite the bright puppy, RaLF is still struggling with whether the dog looking back at him in the mirror or in the reflection off the conference room glass is real. His continued trials in negotiating our offices, arguing for a run outside or deposing one of his humans regarding his need for more treats keep our offices on our toes.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
The puppalegal holds his humans and control over his humans close! RaLF loves each of his coworkers and appreciates his ability to make his case differently with each. RaLF is very affectionate and melts everyone's heart at his first introduction. He works hard, making his rounds at the office, finding that perfect cool spot on the floor for an afternoon nap, and amuses his co-workers during firm meetings. Having a punishing day? RaLF can put a smile on almost any face!

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
RaLF takes his office duties seriously. He enjoys a good siesta – and tries hard to convince his co-workers to join him. RaLF loves to go on walks and search the bushes around our office for any leads on his next big case. Runs are his favorite way to relax from the stress of being a top-tier puppalegal. An occasional game of fetch helps RaLF stay in shape, so he looks sharp for his clients when they visit. ■



**Carl Salvato**  
**Office Leasing and Tenant Broker**  
**at Cushman & Wakefield**  
**Dog's Name: Beverly**  
**Breed: Standard Poodle**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
Beverly is a Standard Poodle who walked right into my life at the height of the Covid lockdown, in April 2020.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Beverly has impeccable manners. She is very proud and regal in everything she does. She loves her stuffed babies and takes special care never to lose or damage one. Whenever a suitcase is open, Beverly makes certain to put a baby or two inside as she loves an outing and is generally down to have a "ball."

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
The bond we share is like hydrogen and oxygen. Beverly travels everywhere. 17 states and counting, endless road trips and national parks. Beverly loves the scents and sounds of the outdoors and she never misses a good photo opportunity.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Beverly enjoys sleeping in and stays in bed until the very last minute. When we are not on the go, Beverly enjoys chasing squirrels, long walks along the San Antonio riverwalk, and road trips to places yet to be explored.



*Continued on page 64*

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**Rebecca J. Carrillo**  
**Lawyer- Owner**  
**Dog's Names: Bruno & Major**  
**Breed: Boston Terrier**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
I have 2 polar opposite Boston Terriers. Major has been in my life for 4 years and Bruno for 2 years. I am truly blessed to have found them.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
We don't talk about Bruno. Actually... we do all the time! You haven't lived until you've held Bruno in your lap as he stares lovingly into your eyes. Bruno loves people and loves to be held by anyone who is willing. Bruno will do anything for a treat. Bruno loves food but he has a discerning palate and won't eat just anything. His idol is Gordon Ramsay and he enjoys binging Hell's Kitchen on his days off work. If he isn't eating or being cuddled then he is sleeping. He is probably one of the laziest dogs you could ever meet. He is obsessed with his Mom. The pure love he has for her is really sweet to see and you can learn a lot about showing gratitude and love by watching Bruno. Bruno is also a huge advocate for "treat yourself" days. In fact, that is his life creed.

Major snores like a grown man, but he has the heart of a sweet baby angel. Major loves coming to work and playing with anyone he meets. He loves to introduce our clients to his stuffed animals. Major is very photogenic and he knows it. He loves to have his picture taken! He loves chasing bubbles and laser lights. He also loves playing with cat toys. He gets so addicted to playing that sometimes we have to take it away so he can rest. Major also believes he is a cat. He enjoys napping in warm spots in the sun, climbing onto counters and desks, eating cat food, and is addicted to playing with cat toys. We are very proud to support him as a trans-species dog and we support him in his journey to enjoy this life to the fullest!

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
The bond between me and my dogs is undeniable. I have such a great time with them and they bring me so much joy. From watching my son and the dogs run around the house and yard to snuggling up on the couch watching a movie. There is no bond like having your arms and legs made into their comfy spot.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
I love to go everywhere with my dogs. They come to work with me and provide dog therapy to my staff. Payment comes in the form of treats so they are very happy to oblige. We go out to eat. Me and my dogs love dog friendly restaurants. We go hangout and the park. Dog walks feed the soul. We do so many things together throughout the day. Almost all my activities are

planned around my dogs. I get guilt trips when I have to leave them home and they run to the door ready to go.

**Tell us a great story about you and your dog.**  
There are so many great stories that entail my dogs. They are so crazy there is always something they are doing that makes me giggle. For one Boyz II Men have sang to Major. I love telling this story and if you have seen it somewhere else it is because it is one that I hold dear to my heart and I will never forget. Boyz II Men were streaming live and asked the audience to provide some things they can sing about. Major was so small and he was about to go get neutered at the vet. I felt so bad for what he may have to endure so I asked Boyz II Men to sing an apology song from me to Major about having to get rid of the gonads. And Oh Wow was it epic. My favorite band singing to my dog? I never thought this would be real life. ■



**Claire Sanders**  
**Area Sales Manager for Boston Scientific Neuromodulation Division**  
**Dog's Name: Pearl**  
**Breed: French Bulldog**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
Pearl is the third Frenchie I have had. Pearl moved in when she was about 6 months old, and has been with me since

September 6, 2021.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Pearl got her name because at the time I got her, we lived in the Pearl.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
Pearl came into my life at a time that I was not looking or wanting to add a second dog in my home. My other Frenchie attracted the attention of a Frenchie owner, and she and I became good friends. My new found friend contacted me and asked if I would consider taking "Little Girl." I went to Austin to meet now Pearl. I fell in love and brought her home. What I did not know is that my current Frenchie would become ill and pass away 6 months later. Pearl brought comfort, laughter and the best kind of love... unconditional. Pearl makes me laugh every day, and brightens every aspect of my life. I cannot imagine how different my life would be without her happy, loving and needy self.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Pearl can be found just about any time in my car with me. I do a lot of driving, and she is a great copilot. We spend a lot of time with the dogs in our community at the dog park as well. She also loves a Pup Cup when I am enjoying my coffee.



**Peggy Davis**  
**Socialite**  
**Dog's Name: Derby**  
**Breed: German Shorthair Pointer**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
We have a long history of having Dachshunds, but last year we added a beautiful German Shorthair Pointer, Derby, to our pack.

**What is a unique feature, attribute or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Derby is an action dog! She loves to run laps as fast as she can around every yard, park, and any field she can get her paws in. She also enjoys leisurely swims in our backyard pool, and all around enjoys the best life has to offer. If she's not stretching her long legs, she's awkwardly sitting halfway in someone's lap thinking that she fits just right.

**Explain the bond between you and your dogs?**  
I know it's cliché to say, but my dogs are truly like my children. Being able to share my home with such beautiful and entertaining canine companions is the best thing in the world.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
We enjoy getting on the town with the dogs! We've participated in many parades in San Antonio with the dogs, as well as just bringing them to any community event that is dog friendly! Derby is also actively participating in manners classes to put her on the path of being a future therapy dog. ■



**Tina and Michael Guerra**  
**Michael, Chief Resource Officer, San Antonio Foodbank; Tina, Education Consultant**  
**Dog's Name: Blaze Reck Guerra and Gage Remington Guerra (also called Blazey Blaze of SA and Gagey Boy)**  
**Breed: English Springer Spaniel**

**What kind of dog or dogs do you have and how long have you had your furry friend?**  
We have two amazing English Springer Spaniels. Blaze will turn four years old in February, and her brother (same mother), Gage, will turn two on January 19. We got both of them when they were eight weeks old.

**What is a unique feature, attribute, or characteristic about your dog or dogs?**  
Blaze and Gage are an outstanding balance of loyal, energetic, and loving dogs. They have a lot of energy, making them the perfect companions for our active lifestyle, but at the end of the day, they are the BEST lap dogs. Blaze is particularly in tune with how we are feeling and knows when she needs to comfort us, or anyone for that matter. For the first two years of her life, she went to work with Tina and was a school dog.

**Explain the bond between you and your dog.**  
In this chapter of our lives, our house is empty of kids and

grandchildren, our "dogs are the new kids," and we get the love and attention we miss giving to our extended family daily.

**What are some activities you do with your dog?**  
Blaze and Gage love daily walks and hiking in Colorado with us. We thought the immaculately beautiful Colorado summers were their favorites until we took them for winter hiking and snowshoeing. They love the snow and the cool summers in the Rockies (basically, we think they love Colorado, no matter the season). They also love to play fetch with a ball. Blaze is very fast, but Gage is getting faster! Follow Blaze and gage on Instagram at Blazeyblazeofsa ■





# Congratulations to all our 2023 Rising Star S.A. Lawyers

San Antonio senior attorneys (15 years or more experience practicing law), recently nominated junior attorneys with 10 or fewer years in practice for our 2023 Rising Stars feature. We are pleased to list this year's Rising Stars representing firms and private practices in myriad specializations from across the area.

*Every effort was made to confirm the information presented here.*

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*Continued on page 71*



# San Antonio Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) Celebrates the Season

Editor: Leslie Foley  
 Photographer: Vivian Crook

San Antonio Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates gathered at Hotel Emma for the annual holiday and judicial reception party. ■



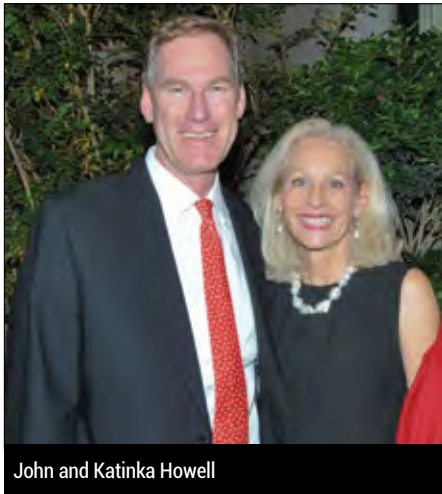
Alli and Danny Kustoff



Cathy and Steve Cichowski



Judge Catherine Torres-Stahl and Paul Stahl



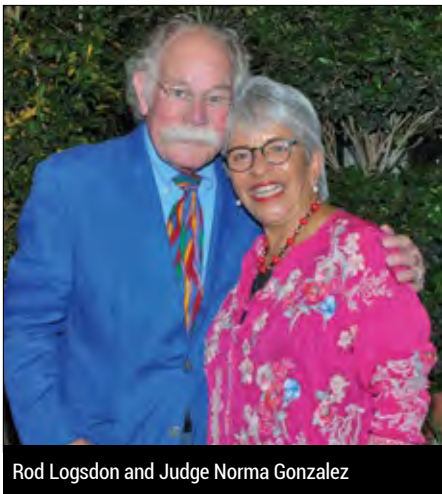
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## Paralegal Day

Editor & Photographer: Karen Evans

The 19th Annual San Antonio Paralegal Day Celebration and Recognition of the Paralegal of the Year was held October 21st at the Norris Conference Center. Congratulations to JoAnn Trevino who was named Paralegal of the Year 2022. Trevino works at USAA; with the award she also received \$500 cash from platinum sponsor LORR (law and order record retrieval). The representative was Jeff Ripley. Diana Olack will serve as the new President Elect for SAPA 2023. ■



2023 Paralegal of the Year JoAnn Trevino, Representative Jeff Ripley, Paralegal Diana Olack



Kathryn Flores, Susi Boss, Landa Diaz and Kerri Alexander



Attorney S. Dylan Percy and Rising Star Olivero Flores



Jeff Ripley and Jose Martinez



Pearl Garza & Rebecca Lorenz



Stacy Foushee and JoAnn Trevino 2022 Paralegal Award Winner of the Year

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## Scene In S.A. FALL Magazine Release Party

Our Fall party was held at **Paesano's Lincoln Heights**.

Always a great time and you never know who you might see. Get *scene* yourself at our Winter party. February 1, 2023 at Paesano's Lincoln Heights, 4:30 -7 p.m.



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## What's the buzz?

*Scene In S.A.* is pleased to share with our readers details, announcements, awards, events, or any good news about business-related matters in our community.

If you would like to share your information, please send it to: [editorsascene@gmail.com](mailto:editorsascene@gmail.com)



## MacArthur PALS Program Pay it Forward

Every year, the MacArthur High School Peers Assistance Leadership & Service (PALS) plan and host the school-wide festival known as Brahma Bash. Students, parents, staff and community members join together for a night of games, food, music, prizes, and fun.



*Student Chloe Grams and Kim Youngblood, Executive Director of Barrington Neighbors*

Before the festival, MacArthur PALS select a local organization to receive their fundraising proceeds. This important event is a great opportunity to raise and donate the money they receive.

This year, PALS raised \$3,000 to donate to **Barrington Neighbors Creative HeARTS Program**, a non-profit organization that serves the youth of our community. Volunteers, including MacArthur PALS student **Chloe Grams**, run a free children's art camp that provides a safe space for kids to explore their creativity, along with two meals and a snack per day.

**Kim Youngblood**, Executive Director of Barrington Neighbors, recently visited the PALS class to share more about her organization. They offer various programs, including after-school tutoring, health and wellness education, and youth leadership training. The organization relies on donations



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