

The Verdict

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Denton County Paralegal Association

Update on Football Raffle

The winner of the TROY AIKMAN, the Legendary Dallas Cowboys Quarterback, autographed football was Letty Benning of College Station, Texas.

Toy Drive

The Fundraising Committee is collecting donations for the Christmas Toy Drive benefitting Denton County Friends of the Family. If you would like to make a toy or monetary donation, please contact Michelle Beecher at (940) 891-0003. The deadline for donations is December 2, 2013.

Legal Directory

The deadline to return the Attorney and Paralegal information sheets to be included in the 2014 Legal Directory is December 31, 2013. There are advertising pages still available. For additional information please contact Michele George at (940) 387-3518 or mgeorge@hbwvlaw.com.

Meeting Notice

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **October 24, 2013** at noon at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Drive, Corinth, Texas.

The all-inclusive cost of lunch is \$14.00 payable when you sign in. We cannot accept debit or credit cards, or make change, so please bring **exact** amount of cash or a check made payable to DCPA.

2013 Officers

Ria Sherman, President
ria@cokerlegal.com

Kim Guertler, President-Elect
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

Michelle James, Secretary/Parliamentarian
mljames1960@yahoo.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
lpittman@hbwlaw.com

Jennifer Stout, Historian
Jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made via e-mail to ria@cokerlegal.com. The Deadline for making your reservation is **5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 21, 2013.**

Notice: We must notify Oakmont of the number attending prior to the meeting for preparation of adequate food and seating arrangements. Those that have RSVP'd will get served and seated first. We cannot guarantee that you will have seating or food if you do not RSVP. Please note we are also required to bill those individuals who make reservations and do not attend.

Directions to Oakmont

Oakmont Country Club is located in Corinth off I-35 East between Lewisville and Denton.

- Exit 461 – Shady Grove Road/Post Oak Drive
- Turn west onto Post Oak Drive
- Turn right (west) onto Robinson Road at stop sign
- Turn left (south) onto Oakmont Drive – you will see an Oakmont sign in the median
- Turn right into Oakmont Country Club (second right)

2013 Committee Chairs

CLE, Vicki Schmidt
Vicki@cmloveless.com

Fundraising, Michelle Beecher
mbeecher@dentonlaw.com

Legal Directory, Michele George
mgeorge@hbwlaw.com

Membership, Gina Elliot
gottigina@yahoo.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman
lpittman@hbwlaw.com

Social, Christy Powell
cpowell@csplaw.net

TAPA, Jennifer Stout
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

Ad Hoc Scholarship, Georgya Rankin
georgya@cokerlaw.com

AGENDA FOR OCTOBER MEETING

Date: October 24, 2013
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business
 - a. Approve September minutes
 - b. Approve September treasurer's report
3. New Business
 - a. Officer Elections
 - b. Committee Quarterly Reports
4. Adjournment

President's Message

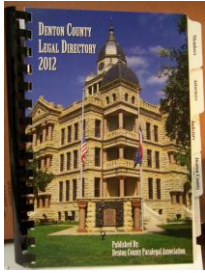
By: Ria Sherman

It's time to wrap up this year at the DCPA! So I thought I would offer you another Richard Serra piece, this one entitled 'Sequence". It is a path into the, as yet, unseen future. It has light and strength and forward motion. Three attributes that any thriving association must have.



This year has had elements of all three. Of course, just as the path suggests in the Serra piece, we could always go further! This year we looked for new ways to serve and entertain our members as well as encouraging new ideas to add more fun to fundraising! I am happy and proud that this year we have been able to raise enough money to pay for the TAPA conference DCPA is hosting in 2015! It was hard work for everyone involved. We partnered and strengthened our bond with the TXPD for a successful half day CLE. Our goal to create promotional literature is in the works still, but moving forward, and should be ready to go sometime next year. We still need to find innovative ways to increase membership and the need to work on a cohesive plan to bring in and partner with local and larger vendors is, in my opinion, a priority for the coming years at DCPA.

A word of thanks: These achievements were not accomplished by any one person! I would like to recognize our Committee Chairs for their hard work and determination in making this year a success. Thank you to Vicki Schmidt and her committee for providing us with quality CLE throughout the year. Thank you to Michelle Beecher for her dogged determination in raising the most funds ever in any one year at the DCPA. Christy Powell, Social Committee Chair, thank you for being brave enough to try something new! Gina Gotti, Membership Chair, your insight and willingness to serve were such an encouragement to me this year, thank you! Lisa Pittman, Newsletter Chair, love the new layout to The Verdict; that combined with all you do for our Association is, as always, amazing! Michele George, Georgya Rankin and Jennifer Stout, thank you all for taking the lead on your committees, the DCPA could not be what we are today without your hard work in support of its programs. Executive Committee, thank you for all that you did for DCPA this year. Kim Guertler, suffice to say that you just plain ROCK! Thank you for your support this year. You are going to have a great year in 2014!



Legal Directory

The 2012 Legal Directory is available for purchase. This latest directory has been updated to include some of the newest attorneys in Denton County. The cost of the directory is \$25.00 each. If you have an old directory, turn it in for a \$2.00 rebate on the purchase price. This is a great resource! Get yours today! For more information contact Michele George or Lisa Pittman at (940) 387-3518 or at mgeorge@hbwwlaw.com or lpittman@hbwwlaw.com.

Birthdays

Our members with November birthdays are:

- Beth Honeycutt (11/5)
- Patti Biffar (11/8)
- Rodney Bernal (11/14)
- Pamela Snavely (11/22)

Hope each of you will have a **Happy Birthday!**

Membership News

Please encourage those paralegals and others in the legal field, whom are not currently members, to join. If you know of anyone who would like to join, please contact Gina Gotti at gottigina@yahoo.com, (972) 436-7584.

Support Our Sustaining Members

Please help support our Sustaining Members by calling them when you have a project that needs outside support. Remember it is through their continued support and generosity that DCPA is able to provide social events at a low cost.

Benefits of Membership In The Denton County Paralegal Association Include:

- ❖ Receipt of the monthly issue of *The Verdict*
- ❖ Free Accredited CLE at monthly meetings
- ❖ Continuing Legal Education seminars on various topics
- ❖ Job Bank
- ❖ Motivation
- ❖ Networking with other paralegals in Denton County
- ❖ Professional growth through participation
- ❖ Communication and promotion of professional conduct and responsibility
- ❖ Continued individual and professional growth as paralegals

Stewart Process Service, Inc.

Bruce G. Stewart
 110 Sheraton Place
 Denton, Texas 76209
 Phone: 940-367-4643
 Fax: 940-484-0999
 Email – stewartprocess@verizon.net

The Reporting Professionals

Cheryl K. Perlich
 2925 Country Club Road, Suite 104
 Denton, Texas 76210
 Phone: 940-484-6053
 Fax: 940-484-6054
 Email – reportingpros@sbcglobal.net

Stoffels & Associates, Inc.

Janel M. Stoffels
 207 W. Hickory St., Ste. 304
 Denton, Texas 76201
 Phone: 940-565-9797
 Fax: 940-565-9197
 Email – jmstoffels@aol.com



Employment Opportunity

Seeking a Legal Secretary/Legal Assistant with at least three years of past professional office experience. Law office experience is preferred. A working knowledge of criminal and civil law will be beneficial. Responsibilities include front desk, multi-line telephone, secretarial support for two attorneys, ordering supplies, file organization and maintenance, communication with court staff, and drafting pleadings. The qualified candidate will possess strong customer service skills, be able to interact with clients, be organized, reliable, show discretion and professionalism when dealing with sensitive or confidential information, and be able to work independently. Experience with Microsoft Office is required. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:00. Candidates must submit their resumes, along with references and salary requirements to gloria@dobsoncrimlaw.com or gloria@furlowlegal.com. Applications without a complete resume and salary requirements will not be considered. No phone calls, please. (10/13)

Denton law office looking for a temporary legal assistant experienced in family law. Dates needed: Nov. 4 - 8, Nov. 11 - 15, and Nov. 18 - 22, 2013 Hours: 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. May required additional hours as needed. Experience with transcribing from Dictaphone a plus. Please forward resume and salary requirements to debbie@lawyerdentontx.com. (10/13)

Denton Law Firm is seeking experienced full-time Paralegal/Legal Secretary in a small private law firm setting to handle both paralegal and secretarial assignments. Responsibilities include significant word processing, file organization and maintenance, drafting/revising correspondence, memoranda and legal documents and case status maintenance. Ideal candidates will have: Working knowledge of Outlook, Excel, MS Word and strong typing skills; excellent communication skills, both written and verbal; strong organization and time management skills, ability to work independently, keen attention to detail and strong proofreading skills. Paralegal certification and proficiency in e-filing and Tabs is a plus. Candidates must submit their resumes, along with references and salary requirements to East2225@verizon.net or P.O. Box 918, Denton, Texas 76202. Benefits available. (10/13)



In The Know

By Wanda Woodworth

Talking with: Beth Honeycutt

Employed by: KoonsFuller, P.C. in Denton

Years experience: 30 years

What made you want to become a paralegal? I became a paralegal by chance. The company I was working for as an administrative assistant was going out of business and the firm's attorney, John Narsutis, stopped by my desk one day and invited me to work with him. I was a graduate of UNT with a double major in English and History, loved to write, and being a legal assistant sounded like something I could do.

What type of law did your attorney practice? John had a General Civil practice. When he later partnered with Don Windle, as John went into local politics, I learned about Real Estate law as well. When Don later also went into local politics, he had joined his firm with the Hammerle law firm and there I learned a good amount about bankruptcy work. When Carolyn Ganzer approached me about working for Mike Gregory, a man whose family I knew from church, I confess it took a couple of meetings to convince me that this was the next direction my life was to take, and now I am grateful for the direction in which I was led.

What was it like being a new paralegal? I knew very little about the practice of law but I had a lot of common sense. It was a good uphill climb and was a great learning experience.

How many paralegals are at your current firm? There are six paralegals at the Denton office where I work. KoonsFuller has five offices in different cities and each office has several paralegals on staff.

What kind of law is practiced at your current firm? The attorneys with KoonsFuller practice exclusively in the area of family law.

What is your advice to new paralegals? First, make sure this is the type of work to which you are called: it can be demanding. Be organized and willing to ask questions. Be true to yourself, and don't compromise your ethics and principles. It is helpful to find a positive mentor. Make sure you take care of yourself in all ways, paying attention to your health physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

How do you relax after a tough day? I do several things, actually. One of them is that I write poetry. (My first poetry book is called Finding Direction and is available through the publisher, Finishing Line Press, as well as on Amazon.com under 'poetry.') I am also the Director of The Calming Center (my own business at www.thecalmingcenter.com) where my purpose is to assist others to live into their highest potential. I teach workshops on dying consciously, hold ceremony for different events, and help open dialogue when people are faced with changes in their lives or feel they are "stuck" for any reason. I find daily meditation and the practice of awareness especially beneficial after leaving the office, and exercise is

important. I love taking time with family, too, eating together and learning about each other's lives. Most important, I love being able to sit down with my family and discuss the future. When it comes to what's next, as I believe the best is yet to be.

September Minutes

1. President Ria Sherman, called the business meeting of September 26, 2013, to order at 12:11 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 22 attendees (20 members and 2 guests), all of whom were welcomed by President Sherman.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Sherman asked for a vote on the August 22, 2013, meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Beth Honeycutt and seconded by Carolyn Ganzer. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Sherman asked for a vote of approval for the August, 2013, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Kim Guertler and seconded by Christy Rodgers. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. The following announcements were made:
 - a. Kim Guertler, 2013 President Elect, announced that Gina Elliott, the 2013 Membership Committee Chair, is responsible for handling the election of the 2014 DCPA officers at the October meeting next month. President Elect Guertler announced that we currently don't have a member willing to serve as Secretary next year. We also do not have Committee Chairs for the Social or Fundraising committees. For the October elections, members may either vote at the October meeting, or they can vote by proxy. President Elect Guertler announced that there would be no December meeting.
 - b. Vicki Schmidt, CLE Committee Chair, announced that the November meeting would be on the 3rd Thursday in November (21st) at the Denton County Law Library located in the Denton County Courthouse. We will be given a tour by the librarians and educated about their resources. We will order from Jimmy Johns for those eating lunch.
5. Vicki Schmidt, CLE Committee Chair, introduced the speaker – David R. Wilson from D6 Consulting, a certified computer forensic examiner and President of D6 Consulting, who enlightened us with his presentation entitled "Discover the Naked Truth."
6. There being no further business, President Sherman adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

**Denton County
Paralegals Association**

PO Box 2641
Denton, TX 76206

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Denton-County-Paralegal-
Association](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Denton-County-Paralegal-Association)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dentonparalegals.org