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Denton County Paralegal Association

School Supply Drive

This month to support our School Supply Drive endeavors, please bring to the luncheon a package of **folders** and **dividers**. We are also accepting paper goods such as spirals, notebook paper, composition books, pens and pencils, markers and colored pencils!

½ Day CLE "Protect Yourself - Beyond Due Diligence"

REMINDER: DCPA's ½ Day CLE Seminar, co-sponsored with PD District 12, is scheduled for April 25, 2013, noon to 5 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. A light lunch, beverages and two waves of snacks will be provided.

The speaker line up and their topics are:

- **Wendi Rogers**, PD Ambassador, who will speak on "Ethics and Technology"
- **Jerry Raburn**, Denton County Constable & CHL Instructor, will give us information about concealed hand gun license requirements
- **David Mays**, Denton Police Dept. will speak on ways to handle workplace violence
- **Trina Sandburg**, Denton County ADA will speak on the process and requirements for getting a protective order
- **Bob Widmer**, Attorney will speak on Wills and estate planning

Directions to Oakmont

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@hbwlw.com

Jennifer Stout, Historian
Jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

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 – 2014 Membership Drive

REMINDER: DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Please don't forget to turn in your 2013-2014 Membership Application and fee of \$35.00. Visit www.dentonparalegals.org to download the renewal application. Make payment payable to DCPA, PO Box 2641, Denton, Texas 76202.

2013 Committee Chairs

CLE, Vicki Schmidt
Vicki@cmloveless.com

Fundraising, Michelle Beecher
mbeecher@dentonlaw.com

Legal Directory, Michele George
mgeorge@hbwlw.com

Membership, Gina Elliot
gottigina@yahoo.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman
lpittman@hbwlw.com

Social, Christy Powell
cpowell@csplaw.net

TAPA, Sunnie Palmer
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

Ad Hoc Scholarship, Georgya Rankin
georgya@cokerlaw.com

Bingo Night

SAVE THE DATE: A tentative date of June 13, 2013 is set for a joint Fundraising and Social Committee event at the North Texas State Fair Association. A flyer with more details will be sent out shortly.



President's Message

By: Ria Sherman

I received my first renewal notice in the mail this week for the Texas State Bar Paralegal Division. I've been a legal assistant for close to 20 years, so I like to think I know what I am doing, but when it came to considering joining the paralegal division, I hesitated: "They would not want me, I'm not certified." and "That's for serious minded paralegals, from the big city!" Last year, at TAPS, a good friend and fellow DCPA member pointed out to me that certification is not necessary and you certainly don't need to be 'big city' to benefit from membership! She was right. One look at the email group and you'll know!

Memberships in the Paralegal Division as well as the DCPA complement each other. As we prepare to attend our seminar, 'Protect Yourself: Due Diligence and Beyond', co-sponsored by the Paralegal Division, think about that. Consider expanding your professional network and educational opportunities and bringing all of that knowledge back to Denton County with you! Membership is \$70 per year, student members can join for only \$35! The membership year runs from June 1st to May 31st so now is a great time to apply!



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@hbwlaw.com or lpittman@hbwlaw.com.

Birthdays

Our members with May birthdays are:

Mary Taylor (5/1)
Alice Hawes (5/4)
Georgya Rankin (5/4)
Kathy Klein (5/11)
Linda Lewis (5/20)

Employment Opportunity

If you have an open position in your office or know of another office that has an opening and would like to e-mail it to the members and have it posted in the next newsletter, please contact Lisa Pittman at (940) 387-3518 or lpittman@hbwlaw.com.

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

Did You Know....

The month of April brings about change, in time and place.

Of course there is April Fool's Day, Easter and Arbor Day, but did you know that April actually used to be the second month of the year on the Roman calendar, not the fourth? Many things in history have changed over time, and the moving around of various months of the year was one of them.

Throughout the world, the month of April is celebrated and acknowledge very differently than one may expect. In many parts of the world we begin planting our plants, however in other parts of the world, they begin to harvest them. It makes a lot of sense, seeing that the earth is in rotation, but it is not something that one may realize at first.

Interesting people that were born and died in the month of April

There are also many famous people in history that were born in the month of April. Leonardo Da Vinci was born in 1452; President, Thomas Jefferson in April 1743; and The Famous American Educator, Booker T. Washington was born in April 1856. Sadly, men like President Franklin D. Roosevelt died in the month of April as well.

Another interesting event that took place in the month of April was that marriage of Pocahontas and John Rolfe in April of 1614.

Interesting events that take place in the month of April

It was interesting to find out, other than the traditional Holidays during the month of April, there are some not so traditional Holidays and Events as well. April World Health day is held on the Seventh of April and Earth day on the twenty-second. National Poetry as well as National Writing Month is also celebrated during the month of April.

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.

Stewart Process Service, Inc.

Bruce G. Stewart

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Denton, Texas 76209

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The Reporting Professionals

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In The Know

By Wanda Woodworth

Talking with: Christina Cain

Employed by law firm: The Wright Firm, LLP (since Oct 2010)

Years' experience: Six years

What made you want to become a paralegal? I became a paralegal with the hope that I could help others going through this miserable life experience after going through my own highly contested divorce with child custody. I became a paralegal in the most untraditional way. After my own divorce concluded I was hired by the attorney who handled my divorce. Unbeknownst to me, I was on the longest job interview I didn't know I was on.

What type of law did your attorney practice? The first attorney I worked for only practiced family law.

What was it like being a new paralegal? Very interesting. I quickly learned that "real life" is definitely more dramatic than any soap opera. Some days were frustrating and challenging since I was so "green" and didn't have any formal training to fall back on, but overall it was rewarding knowing that I was able to take the knowledge gained from my personal experience and use it to help people. I am grateful that my attorney/mentor was a patient man who took the time to train me well and teach the importance of good and thorough drafting. Through my personal experience, I feel I have a level of empathy and understanding for clients in some of the most difficult situations.

How many paralegals are at your current firm? The Wright Firm, LLP employs five family law paralegals and a total of seven paralegals are with the firm. Some of the family law paralegals also work with the other attorneys in another discipline of law.

What kind of law is practiced at your current firm? The Wright Firm, LLP has attorneys that practice in the following areas: Family Law; Criminal Law; Bankruptcy; Wills, Probate and Estate Planning; Taxation; Civil Law; Business Organization; Immigration; and Personal Injury.

What is your advice to new paralegals? The biggest piece of advice I would share is that the calendar is the most important thing to maintain. It is a paralegal's responsibility to remind their attorneys of the upcoming deadlines. Your attorneys rely on you to keep them informed of the next three steps, especially since they are often out of the office or away from their desks for court appearances, mediations, depositions and new client meetings. Also, I would tell new paralegals that it is important to find a mentor. Lastly, I would pass on some words of wisdom that I received, "Don't do things to get a reputation of being difficult". This means don't get so caught up in the case that you forget that you will continue to work with opposing counsel and their staff, court coordinators, and court clerks on other cases in the future.

To which paralegal organizations do you belong? DCPA

How do you relax after a tough day at work? I go home to my daughter and enjoy being her mom. The tough days remind me that I fought hard to have that right and privilege and remind me that I am trying to help other parents do the same. Being a part of the "craziness" that is family law, makes me realize how important and precious the time away from the office is to maintain a healthy balance.

March Minutes

1. President, Ria Sherman, called the meeting of March 28, 2013, to order at 12:06 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 26 attendees (24 members, one speaker, and one guest), all of whom were welcomed by President Sherman.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Sherman asked for a vote for the February 28, 2013, meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Carolyn Ganzer, seconded by Beth Honeycutt, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Sherman asked for a vote of approval for the February 28, 2013, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Kim Guertler, seconded by Lisa Bowles, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. President Sherman introduced the committee chairs to give their oral reports to support their written reports provided to the membership.
5. Georgya Rankin, chair of the Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee, provided information regarding scholarships, certification via State Bar of Texas TBLS and provided information and handouts for a CLA Review Course.
6. Christy Powell, chair of the Social Committee, provided information regarding an upcoming event co-sponsored with the Fundraising Committee-Bingo Night.
7. Gina Elliott, chair of the Membership Committee, providing information regarding membership and reminded everyone that the membership fee has increased to \$35.00.
8. Michele George, chair of the Legal Directory, provided information regarding the legal directory and her committee's recent activity.
9. Vicki Schmidt, chair of the CLE Committee, provided information and a reminder regarding the upcoming ½ day seminar scheduled for March 28, 2013.
10. Lisa Pittman, chair of the Newsletter Committee provided information about the Newsletter.
11. President Sherman welcomed our speaker, the Honorable Sherry Shipman, Judge of the 16th Judicial Court, who spoke on the subject of "Practice in the 16th Judicial District Court." Judge Shipman introduced her coordinator, Shannon Davis, who was a guest. Vicki Schmidt, chair of the CLE Committee thanked Judge Shipman for coming to speak to our membership and provided her with a DCPA Cookbook and certificate of appreciation.
12. There being no further business, President Sherman adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

**Denton County
Paralegals Association**

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Denton, TX 76206

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dentonparalegals.org