

The Verdict

Denton County Paralegal Association

Special Interest Articles:

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- Santa In September
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Are You Ready For Some Football? - Raffle

The Fundraising Committee is having a raffle for the chance to win a football autographed by TROY AIKMAN, the Legendary Dallas Cowboys Quarterback. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased from any DCPA Member or may be purchased from Michelle Beecher, Alagood & Cartwright, 1710 Westminster, Denton, Texas. The drawing will be held on **SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**. Proceeds are for the benefit of Denton County Paralegal Association and Denton County Friends of the Family. If you have any questions, please call Michelle Beecher at (940) 891-0003.

Santa In September

We will have the DCPA Members Only social on September 26, 2013 starting at 6:30 p.m.. There will be no door prizes or ornament exchange. Instead, each attending Member is asked to bring an unwrapped toy to be donated to the Friends of the Family – Christmas Toy Drive. The Social will be poolside so you may want to bring a lawn chair, swim suit & towel. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, chips and dessert available. Refreshments will include water, tea and adult beverages. T-Shirts with Summer Santa printed on the Front and Sponsors listed on the back will be given to party attendees. Members will have to pre-register with their T-shirt size by September 13th. Members **MUST** be present at the party to receive their T-shirt.

Legal Directory

Submitted by Michele George, Legal Directory Committee Chair

The Legal Directory Committee mailed letters to potential advertisers and have already had three responses. The back cover, inside front cover and inside back cover have already been purchased and paid for. The Committee will be e-mailing the member and attorney information confirmations later this month. Please complete the information sheets and return to ensure that the information for you, your attorney and/or firm is correct.

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

Meeting Notice

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **August 22, 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.

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, August 19, 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)

AGENDA FOR AUGUST MEETING

Date: August 22, 2013
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business
 - a. Approve July minutes
 - b. Approve July treasurer's report
3. New Business
4. Speaker – Brian McGrath – E-filing in Denton County
5. Adjournment

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

President's Message

By: Ria Sherman

It looks as though the local legal economy has taken a step towards recovery judging from the amount of firms hiring additional staff. That's great news! Most of us are happy where we are, but for those of us who are ready for a new challenge, its time to plan and prepare for a successful job search. Here are a few tips we thought worth mentioning, based on our recent round of hiring for both paralegals and legal secretaries.

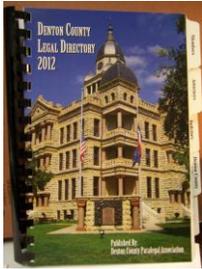
Update your resume: read professional articles on how to brush up your old one or seek out a reputable company to help you. Tailor it to the position you are seeking and keep it brief. Include skills and experience from non-legal endeavors if they would be useful in the new position or show important professional depth. Don't list every single task you ever performed, stick with your main areas of responsibility. Try not to guild the lily too much with fancy terms for duties performed, the reviewer will know that is what you did and think that you are insecure about what you can offer. Include dates, don't be vague!

The all important cover letter: This is the real door to landing the interview for me. Whether the posting requires it or not, provide one. Of course, make sure it is well written, concise without being curt, tailored to the company and addressed to the correct person in the firm and engaging. Miss the mark with your cover letter and it's likely you won't be called for an interview. You can show a little personality here, just not too much! Proofread!

The interview: Be punctual! Your clothing, hair and makeup will be professional but it should also be fresh and polished. You want to look approachable, smart, and confident. Your resume speaks to your abilities and got you the interview. The interview should tell the rest of the story. Before the interview look over the company/firms website again. You already did that once before you sent the resume, right? They *expect* you to have perused it, so be prepared to make mention of something from it to the interviewer. He or she will be gratified that you took an interest and you will look like an energetic, research oriented, can-do candidate! Don't forget, the interview is a two-way street. Is this the right place for you? Ask questions, be honest and be upbeat. After the interview, be careful how much follow up you do. Too little, you don't really care, too much and you are annoying! Needs to be just right!

There are many resources online to help you put together the perfect package. Look at www.paralegal.edu, and <http://paralegaltoday.com> to get you started.

Good luck and happy hunting!



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.

CLE Guest Speaker



Our Speaker this month is Brian McGrath with TexFile, who will speak about "E-filing in Denton County."

Birthdays

Our members with September birthdays are:

Jennifer Earhart (9/3)
Angela Juarez (9/16)
Gina Silva (9/17)
Cheryl Perlich (9/21)
Kimberly Spivey (9/23)
Jean Manion (9/24)

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

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

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

DeWana Peterson, Law Offices of Derbha H. Jones, *Active*

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

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

Scholarship Information and Deadlines

Submitted by Georgya Rankin, Scholarship Committee Chair

The TBLs examination is November 9, 2013, in Austin, Texas. The specialty areas of law available for certification are: Bankruptcy, Civil Trial Law, Criminal Law, Estate Planning and Probate, Family Law, Personal Injury Trial Law and Real Estate Law. I highly encourage you to explore the possibility of becoming one of the state's elite paralegals by becoming board certified. For more information visit: <http://www.tbls.org/Cert/Paralegal.aspx> or call 855.277.TBLS(8257). To help with this, DCPA has allotted a scholarship of \$250.00. The Application and instructions can be found <http://www.dentonparalegals.org/resources.html> Please submit your application to the Scholarship committee by August 30th so that they have to be forwarded to the Executive Committee no later than September 15th to be announced at the October meeting. You may submit your application to any of the scholarship committee members Georgya Rankin at georgya@cokerlegal.com, Toya Brown at toya@cokerlqal.com or Christine Piott at cplawgirl@gmail.com. This is done as a reimbursement scholarship.

Secondly, there are two TAPS scholarships one is through our local chapter, Denton Paralegal Association, and through the State Bar Paralegal Division. The State Bar Paralegal Division has now closed their registration, but you can still apply for the DCPA scholarship.

For our local DCPA offers a \$250.00 scholarship to go towards the fees for TAPS. TAPS, this year, is October 2nd through October 4th at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio. You won't want to miss the fun. Once again, you can go to our website to fill out the application. You may submit your application to any of the scholarship committee members Georgya Rankin at georgya@cokerlegal.com, Toya Brown at toya@cokerlqal.com or Christine Piott at cplawgirl@gmail.com.

2013 TAPS SEMINAR

Submitted by Pamela Snavely, CP (PD District 12 Director 2012-2014)

REMINDER: Registration deadline for the Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar is **August 30, 2013**. TAPS will be held in San Antonio at the Omni Hotel (Colonnade) from October 2 - October 4, 2013. The three-day multi track seminar offers up to 14 hours of CLE with excellent speakers on a multitude of topics encompassing many different areas of law. Full registration includes three days of CLE, speaker materials, socials, and the Friday attendees' luncheon. As an Attendee you can pick and choose the sessions you want to attend during the three days of the seminar. There are various options for one day attendance, the Wednesday or Thursday socials, and Friday luncheon if you can't make it for all three days. Go to <http://txpd.org/taps> for taps prices, the speaker schedule, and for online registration.

July Minutes

1. President Ria Sherman, called the business meeting of July 25, 2013, to order at 12:12 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 49 attendees (45 members and 4 guests), all of whom were welcomed by President Sherman.

OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Sherman asked for a vote on the June 27, 2013, meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Michele George, seconded by Jennifer Stout, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Sherman asked for a vote of approval for the June, 2013, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Sunnie Palmer, seconded by Michelle Beecher, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. The following announcements were made:
 - a. Michelle Beecher, Chair of the Fundraising Committee has organized an upcoming fundraising event "Are You Ready for Some Football?" Each member will receive 10 tickets to sell for \$5.00 per ticket for a chance to win an NFL football signed by Troy Aikman.
 - b. There will be a joint Fundraising/Social Committee event entitled, "Christmas in September" to be held at Michelle Beecher's house in Argyle. To get into the party, members need to bring an unwrapped Christmas gift to benefit Friends of the Family. They should also bring a towel, chair, and swimsuit. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served. The event begins at 6:30 p. m.
 - c. Gina Elliott announced that she was updating the membership board as there seem to be a high switcheroo rate with members changing firms. She is working on the updated list.
5. President Sherman announced that the scheduled speaker, Sherri Adelstein had a death in the family, so she sent her backup quarterbacks in her place. She also announced that in August we would have a speaker from Tex-File presenting additional information to our membership about the upcoming mandatory efilng.
6. Vickie Schmidt introduced the speakers: Francis Knott, Chief Deputy District Clerk for Denton County, Texas, and Amanda Gonzales, the Denton County Efilng Clerk to present on the topic of "*Mandatory Efilng.*"
7. There being no further business, President Sherman adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p. m.

**Denton County
Paralegals Association**

PO Box 2641
Denton, TX 76206

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

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dentonparalegals.org