

## Special Interest Articles:

- School Supply Drive
- Bingo Night
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- Birthdays

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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 **watercolors** and **rulers**. We are also accepting spirals, notebook paper, composition books, pens and pencils, markers and colored pencils, folders and dividers!

### Bingo Night

The Fundraising and Social Committees invite you to attend BINGO NIGHT at the North Texas State Fair Grounds on June 13, 2013 benefiting Denton County Paralegal Association and Denton County Friends of the Family! Please see attached flyer for more information.

DCPA members bring a new member and receive a FREE bingo card!

Advanced Sales: \$9.00 for 10 games! Please complete the attached Advanced Sales Registration Form and return to either Christy Powell or Michelle Beecher at the addresses listed on the registration form.

Vendors are invited to come to Bingo Night and sell their products! Vendors would be able to reach some of the professionals in the legal community. Vendor Cost is \$50.00. We will give a sales pitch for their business/product between Bingo games! There is unlimited sales potential and name recognition, so if you are interested in being a vendor at Bingo Night or know someone who is, PLEASE forward the attached Vendor Registration Form to them.

Please feel free to invite your family and friends for a fun evening of Bingo!

Send in your registrations, B 4 it is too late, you do not want to miss out on being able to shout BINGO and win a great prize!

Christy Powell, Social Committee Chair  
Michelle Beecher, Fundraising Committee Chair

### 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, **May 23, 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, May 20, 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 MAY MEETING

Date: May 23, 2013  
Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210  
Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business
  - a. Approve March minutes
  - b. Approve March Treasurer's Report
  - c. Report on ½ Day CLE Seminar
3. New Business
  - a. Update on upcoming Fundraising/Social event - Bingo Night
  - b. Membership Committee update
4. Speaker – Damon Wykrent
5. Adjournment

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### 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**, Sunnie Palmer  
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

**Ad Hoc Scholarship**, Georgya Rankin  
georgya@cokerlaw.com

## **UPDATE: ½ Day CLE Seminar**

*2013 Joint CLE – Sponsored by DCPA and PD- District 12  
By Vicki Schmidt, CLE Subchair for PD District 12 and DCPA CLE Chairman*

For those of you who missed the DCPA and PD-12 joint half-day CLE seminar held April 25<sup>th</sup>, I wanted to give you a summary of the event: “Protect Yourself – Due Diligence and Beyond.”

We anticipated there would be 20-30 attendees. The final head count was 31. Five of the attendees were guests (not DCPA members). Eighteen of the attendees were Paralegal Division members.

Lisa Pittman, DCPA Treasurer, reports that the registration fees brought in \$645.00 and the cost of food and gratuity paid to Oakmont Country Club was \$579.48. Other expenses included the costs of producing the seminar booklet and gifts for the speakers.

Our first speaker was Wendi Rogers, a PD Ambassador and past-president of the PD. Wendi’s presentation covered some of the ethical considerations arising from the use of new technologies and the unintended consequences of the improper use of technology.

Jerry Raburn, concealed handgun instructor and Denton County Constable, informed us about the Texas laws concerning carrying a concealed weapon and the rules and regulations for keeping weapons out of the workplace.

Katrina Sandberg, Denton County Assistant DA – Family Violence Unit, provided valuable information about the various kinds of protective orders and the advantages and disadvantages of each. She also reviewed the Texas laws and the DA’s procedures that govern protective orders.

Lt. David Mays, City of Denton Police Department, gave a thoughtful presentation about workplace violence, including possible causes and suggested responses if a person is the subject of workplace violence.

Bob Widmer, Attorney, Board Certified in Tax Law by TBLS, gave tips and information on estate planning, including some common misconceptions that have an adverse impact on a person’s estate.

Lastly, I especially want to thank the following individuals who were actively involved in planning and preparing for the seminar, without these people’s efforts, the seminar would not have been as successful.

Rodney Bernal, DCPA CLE Committee member, who contacted potential speakers, copied and bound the handouts and prepared the speaker appreciation certificates,

Michelle James, DCPA CLE Committee member, and Executive Committee liason for the CLE Committee, who prepared the advertising flyer and registration form, prepared and reviewed the speaker evaluation forms, and contacted potential speakers,

Lisa Pittman, DCPA Treasurer, who handled the registration and manned the sign-in desk,

Vicki Schmidt, DCPA CLE Committee Chairman and PD-12 CLE Subchairman, who worked with the DCPA and PD committees to plan the theme, contact potential speakers and interface with the DCPA Executive Committee and the PD Executive Committee, and

Pam Snavely, Paralegal Division District 12 Chairperson, and DCPA member, who attended planning meetings, disseminated the advertising flyers to PD members, and purchased and donated gift cards for the speakers.

A lot of time went into the logistics of the seminar and I hope each of you has a chance to thank the above mentioned people who made it happen.

## President's Message

By: Ria Sherman

The DCPA ½ Day Seminar was a smashing success! Thank you to Vicki Schmidt, Michelle James, and Rodney Bernal for putting together a thoughtful and professional event. Thank you also to Kim Guertler, our own President-Elect, for standing in so ably for me while I was out working on the Denton County Bench Bar conference.

As we turn out thoughts to summer, I hope you plan to kick it off by attending the DCPA's Bingo night social on June 13<sup>th</sup>! What a great opportunity to mix business with pleasure! It is going to be an amazingly fun event and will benefit not only our association but also Friends of the Family. Many of you know, and may even volunteer for, this organization. It is the only agency in Denton County providing shelter for victims of relationship violence/and or sexual assault. But that is not all they do! Funds raised at our Bingo night will help Friends of the Family continue to provide our community with a 24 hour crisis hotline, children's play therapy, victim advocacy team, community awareness projects, legal counsel for victims, as well as maintain the 32 bed shelter. In 2011, 9122 clients were served by Friends of the Family. Visit their website at [www.dcfof.org](http://www.dcfof.org) for more information.

I hope you are as proud as I am of our support of this great organization. Thank you so much Fundraising and Social committees for collaborating to bring this event into being! For more information please contact Christy Powell or Michelle Beecher.



## 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@hbvwlaw.com](mailto:mgeorge@hbvwlaw.com) or [lpittman@hbvwlaw.com](mailto:lpittman@hbvwlaw.com).

## CLE Guest Speaker



This month's speaker is Damon Wykrent, CFP, CDFA, CFE who will give a presentation on the "Ins & Outs of TRS and the QDRO Process".

## Birthdays

Our members with June birthdays are:

Carolyn Ganzer (6/19)  
Wanda Woodworth (6/28)

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:reportingpros@sbcglobal.net)

## 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 16<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court, who spoke on the subject of "Practice in the 16<sup>th</sup> 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**

PO Box 2641  
Denton, TX 76206

Visit us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Denton-County-Paralegal-Association>

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.dentonparalegals.org](http://www.dentonparalegals.org)

**Treasurer's Report As of May 13, 2013**

Balance 01/01/13 \$2,182.41

**FIRST QUARTER 2013**

CREDITS:

Dues	\$1,755.00
Valentine's Day Grams	1,765.00
Valentine's Day Donations	38.00
January Luncheon	251.00
February Luncheon	280.00
March Luncheon	294.00
CLE Registration Fees	245.00
School Supply Donations	100.00
Administration:	
TAPA Registration	40.00

DEBITS:

January Luncheon	266.04
February Luncheon	324.52
Valentine's Day Gram Expenses	147.62
March Luncheon	358.68
Administration:	
TAPA	180.00

**SECOND QUARTER 2013**

CREDITS:

Dues	60.00
CLE Registration	400.00
School Supply Donations	20.00
Administration:	
TAPA	60.00

DEBITS:

CLE – Expenses	661.55
Administration:	
Stamps	9.20
Website	129.60

**BALANCE AS OF 5/13/13 \$5,423.20**