

# THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jennifer Stout

HAPPY HALLOWEEN! Hope your treats outnumber the tricks. Be safe; have fun!



## 2012 DCPA OFFICERS

President – Jennifer Stout  
President Elect – Ria Sherman  
Secretary/Parliamentarian – Kim Guertler  
Treasurer – Lisa Pittman  
Historian – Vicki Schmidt

## 2012 DCPA COMMITTEES

### CLE Committee -

Lisa Bowles, Chairman  
Michelle James  
Debbie Mitchell

### Fund Raising Committee -

Jenna Earhart, Chairman  
Lisa Pittman  
Ria Sherman  
Michele George

### Legal Directory Committee -

Debbie Maldonado, Chairman  
Lisa Pittman

### Membership Committee -

Priscilla Brooks, Co-Chairman

Linda Lewis, Co-Chairman  
Sunnie Palmer  
Jennifer Harris  
Michelle Beecher  
Rachel Huntman

### Newsletter Committee -

Lisa Pittman, Chairman  
Jennifer Earhart  
Wanda Woodworth  
Michele George

### Social Committee -

Christy Powell, Co-Chair  
Pam Snavelly, Co-Chair  
Carolyn Ganzer  
Carol Pelzel

## PLEASE NOTE: EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2012

**Due to the increase cost in food & beverages, and to insure there is no increase in cost to DCPA members, the DCPA monthly luncheon meetings will now be held in the smaller banquet room at Oakmont; space will be limited. Therefore, it is imperative you make your reservation to attend and eat or to attend with no lunch. And per policy if you RSVP and do not attend an invoice will be sent to cover the expense.**

## MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **October 25, 2012** at noon at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Drive, Corinth, Texas. The all-inclusive cost of lunch is \$13.00 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 [jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com](mailto:jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com). The Deadline for making your reservation is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 22, 2012.

**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 Shores Rd/Post Oak Drive
- Turn west onto Post Oak Drive
- Turn right (west) onto Robinson Rd at stop sign
- Turn left (south) onto Oakmont Dr – you will see an Oakmont sign in the median
- Turn right into Oakmont Country Club (second right)



### AGENDA FOR OCTOBER MEETING

Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012

Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210

Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business - Approve August minutes and August, September & October Treasurer's report
3. New Business –
  - a. Officer Elections
  - b. Recap of ½ Day Seminar - Lisa Bowles
4. Door prizes and adjournment

### DCPA WEBSITE

Check out what's new on our website at [www.dentonparalegals.org](http://www.dentonparalegals.org). Let us know what you think, and what you would like to see on our website in the future. If you have any changes that need to be made to your contact information, please let us know.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Hardesty, Student, *Sustaining*

### MEMBERSHIP

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 Priscilla Brooks at [Priscilla.brooks@dentoncounty.com](mailto:Priscilla.brooks@dentoncounty.com), (940) 349-2758 or Linda Lewis at [linda@dentonfamilyattorneys.com](mailto:linda@dentonfamilyattorneys.com), (940) 591-1191.

### 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
- ❖ Fulfillment that is received from being involved in the direction of the paralegal profession

### BIRTHDAYS!



Our members with November birthdays are:

Beth Honeycutt (Nov 5)  
Stephanie Villa (Nov 13)  
Rodney Bernal (Nov 14)  
Alicia Hackney (Nov 21)  
Pamela Snavelly (Nov 22)

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

### EVENTS/NEWS



Do you have a recipe, informative tip/idea, or joke, etc. that you would like to share with your fellow DCPA Members? If so, please submit your idea to Jenna Earhart at [jeahart@hbvwlaw.com](mailto:jeahart@hbvwlaw.com). Thank you!

**DCPA 2013 OFFICER ELECTIONS**



**REMINDER: Our annual election of officers will be October 25, 2012.** If you are unable to attend, please complete a proxy form. If you have any questions, please contact Sunnie Palmer at (940) 383-2674 or sunnie@zellerlaw.com.

As you know, Ria Sherman will be President. The candidates are:

- Kim Guertler, President-Elect
- Michelle James, Secretary/Parliamentarian
- Lisa Pittman, Treasurer

**DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Let the Silent Auction BEGIN!!

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE SILENT AUCTION:** The DCPA Silent Auction will be October 23, 2012 from 5:30 p.m - 8:00 p.m., and will take place at the law office of Springer & Lyle, LLP located at 1807 Westminster, Denton, Texas 76205. The Auction will be in conjunction with the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas, District 12's celebration of Texas Paralegal Day. Snacks will be provided.

Please attend the Silent Auction and place your bids to help support our Thanksgiving and Christmas families adopted through the Denton County Children's Advocacy Center. If unable to attend, but interested in an item, please contact Jenna to place a bid directly with her BEFORE the date of the auction. Remember - these items will be great for tackling early Christmas shopping, upcoming birthdays and baby showers too. Be sure to participate during the bidding at the Auction - donations are great, bidding wars are even better!!

To view some of the items already donated – please visit the Denton County Paralegal Association on Facebook. We've had a great turn out so far and the talent of our Members is so wonderful and creative - Be sure to check it out! If you see an item you donated on our Facebook page, please feel free to add additional comments about your item.

Attached are the flyers with general information for the Thanksgiving and Christmas families. We will update with deadlines and specific wish list as we receive them.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS!!**



Our member, Carol Pelzel is the proud Meme to a beautiful granddaughter, Ava Claire Bautista who was born September 9, 2012. Ava weighed 6 lbs. 10 oz. and was 19 inches long.



Member Georgya Rankin's is proud to announce the birth of her granddaughter Shelby Madison Atkins (Katrina & Cody, mom & dad) was born on September 19, 2012 at 11:59 a.m. weighing in at 7 lbs. 10 ozs.

**OUR CONDOLENCES**



*Condolences* On October 1, 2012, Debbie Maldonado's father, Earl Rodgers, passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Lean on your friends for strength, and always remember how much you are cared about.

**IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**



October is the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Did you know that over 230,000 women and over 1,970 men are diagnosed yearly with breast cancer. Encourage your love ones to be tested regularly - early detection saves lives!



The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial honors the brave men and women that have died or been injured in the line-of-duty.

Firefighters must have the courage to face a multitude of risks in order to save lives and protect their communities. Their courage allows them to willingly risk their own lives so that others can be saved.

Please keep these brave men and women and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



**TIP OF THE MONTH**

**Pumpkin Fluff Dip**

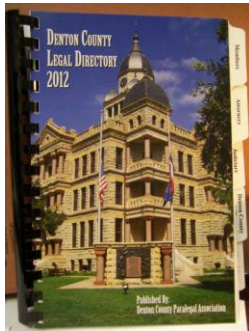
- 16 oz coolwhip
- small instant vanilla pudding pkg
- 1 can pumpkin
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice

Mix together ingredients, chill, and enjoy with pretzels, chips, graham stix, etc.

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**How to Write a Killer Resume Landing an Interview**

1. Basic Rule: Be brief, concise, straightforward, neat.
2. List categories such as personal information, work experience, relevant skills, honors and awards, trainings and character references.
3. Trim down irrelevant facts or anything outdated.
4. Include only most important details.
5. Delete work experiences that have nothing to do with desired position applying for.
6. Specify value of accomplishments (financial impact). Employers want to know what you can do for them and how you are going to be an asset.
7. One-two pages max.
8. Proofread and print.



Members, please get your 2012 Legal Directory if you haven't already picked it up! 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. See attached Order Form. This is a great resource! Get yours today! For more information contact Lisa Pittman at (940) 387-3518 or [lpittman@hbvwlaw.com](mailto:lpittman@hbvwlaw.com).



**SUPPORT OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

**Our Sustaining Members give so much to our Association, please be sure to think of them when you are in need of services that require their**

- Jay Freeman @ Accurate Concept Insurance
- Dana Miller @ Zenith Investigations
- Cheryl Perlich @ The Reporting Professionals
- Bruce Stewart @ Stewart Process Service Inc
- Janel Stoffels @ Stoffels & Associates Inc.
- Blake Owens @ US Legal Support

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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@hbvwlaw.com](mailto:lpittman@hbvwlaw.com).