

# The Verdict

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## Denton County Paralegal Association

### **BINGO NIGHT – JUNE 5, 2014**

By Cheryl Cooper

On behalf of the DCPA Fundraising and Social Committees, Christy & I wanted to inform you about our upcoming event – ***Bingo at Bridgemoor***. This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Bingo event. Our event is scheduled for **Thursday, June 5, 2014**, from **6-8 p.m.** Each person will pay \$10.00 for the event which will give them a pad of 10 games and a dauber. Extra games and daubers are available for purchase that night. The profits from this year's event will again be split between DCPA and Friends of the Family (our chosen charity). We decided to target a demographic from our community that might have an increased interest in Bingo – our seniors. Bridgemoor of Denton has graciously allowed us to host the event at their clubhouse Bistro and we have invited their residents to attend. Melody Brackeen is working with The Vintage to bus folks over that evening.

We are giving away prizes to the winner of each Bingo game. Thanks to Carol Pelzel, she has secured the majority (if not all) of the door prizes for this event. Heather Walker is working on getting wreaths made as door prizes. Both committees are working hard, individually and collectively, to ensure that this Bingo event will be a successful and enjoyable time for everyone involved.

Bridgemoor of Denton is located at 2801 Spencer Road, Denton, Texas, 76208 (beside Lowe's off of Loop 288). It is really a nice property. Jennifer Stout has secured a donation from Kroger for the majority of our food and drinks (sandwiches, fruit, cookies, drinks), and Richard Hayes (thanks to Lisa Pittman) has donated the popcorn which will be popped by a couple of new DCPA members from Minor & Jester - Ginger Escobedo and Amanda Peachee, in the old tyme popcorn machine that Bridgemoor is allowing us to use.

## Meeting Notice

### 2014 Officers

Kim Guertler, President  
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

Cheryl Cooper, President-Elect  
mlj@steelelawfirm.com

Melody Brackeen, Secretary/Parliamentarian  
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer  
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Sunnie Palmer, Historian  
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **May 22, 2014** 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.

## Did you know...

Payments for the CLE Luncheon can now be made online. For more information and online registration see Events/CLE Luncheon at [www.dentonparalegals.org](http://www.dentonparalegals.org).

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made via e-mail to [kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com](mailto:kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com). The May 19, 2014.**

**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)

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### 2014 Committee Chairs

CLE, Michelle Beecher  
mbeecher@dentonlaw.com

Fundraising, Jennifer Stout  
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

Legal Directory, Brandi Hunter  
BHunter410@gmail.com

Membership, Gina Elliot  
gottigina@yahoo.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman  
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Social, Priscilla Brooks  
priscilla.brooks@dentoncounty.com

TAPA, Jennifer Stout  
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

Ad Hoc Scholarship,  
Wanda Woodworth  
wandawoodworth@dentoncounty.com



## AGENDA FOR MAY MEETING

Date: May 22, 2014  
Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210  
Time: Noon

1. **Welcome members and guests**
2. **Old Business**
  - a. Approve April, 2014, Treasurer’s Report
  - b. Approve April, 2014, meeting Minutes
  - c. Update on forthcoming DCPA T-shirts
3. **New Business**
  - a. Update on Legal Directory Committee
  - b. Announce the need for vendor for the upcoming Bingo fundraising event that is co-sponsored with Social
  - c. Acknowledge new memberships – encourage members to renew their memberships
4. **Speaker:** Richard Hayes – speaking on “Taking Private Property for Public Use.”  
**(Thank you trophy given to speaker, along with Certificate of Appreciation)**
5. **Door Prize and Announcements**
6. **Adjournment**

## CLE GUEST SPEAKER



Our speaker will be Richard Hayes, with Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, LLP. Mr. Hayes will be speaking on “Taking Private Property for Public Use.”

## President's Message

By: Kim Guertler

Hello DCPA members,

As we barrel through the month of May toward Memorial Day, I want to encourage us all to slow down a little and truly reflect on what this holiday represents. While it is usually a great day to enjoy the day off from work and celebrate with friends and family, here are a few suggestions on how to make it a truly "Memorial" Day by remembering our ancestors, family members, loved ones, neighbors and friends who have given the ultimate sacrifice by serving in our armed forces:

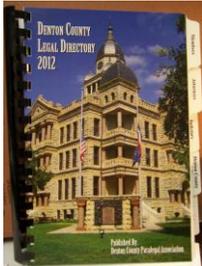
- Visit cemeteries and place flags or flowers on the graves of our fallen heroes
- Visit Memorials
- Fly the U.S. Flag at half-staff until noon
- Pledge to aid the widows, widowers and orphans of our fallen soldiers
- Pledge to aid the disabled veterans.

I am thankful the DCPA has provided us with an opportunity to support our local public servants by assisting the Denton County Bar Association with the Wills for Heroes program on May 31, 2014. Let's make a strong DCPA showing and support this fine program! Several of you have already volunteered your time, but if you have not and are able to do so, please contact Carol Wolfram at [cwolframlegal@gmail.com](mailto:cwolframlegal@gmail.com) and let her know you want to help.

Our Fundraising and Social Committees are hard at work on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bingo event. It will be held on Thursday, June 5, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at The Bridgmoor of Denton. More information will be provided by the committees but mark your calendars for this fun event!

I hope to see everyone at our luncheon next Thursday, May 22. Richard Hayes will be providing us information on real property condemnation laws. In addition to getting to learn about this interesting and relevant topic, we will be handing out your DCPA t-shirts! And as always, you will get to put your name in the drawing we will have at the end of the year for the Pandora bracelet. Lots of good reasons to attend but the best reason is having lunch and spending time with your peers! See you all next week!





**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@hbwvlaw.com](mailto:mgeorge@hbwvlaw.com) or [lpittman@hbwvlaw.com](mailto:lpittman@hbwvlaw.com).

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**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

## Birthdays

Our members with June Birthdays are:

Carolyn Ganzer (6/19)  
Patty Ochoa (6/18)  
Wanda Woodworth (6/28)

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](mailto:gottigina@yahoo.com).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Suzanne B. Smart**, J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc., *Active*  
**Delma Aguilar**, Minor & Jester, P.C., *Active*  
**Jolene Silva**, Minor & Jester, P.C., *Active*  
**Kristi Edwards**, Minor & Jester, P.C., *Active*  
**Amanda Peachee**, Minor & Jester, P.C., *Active*  
**Ginger Escobedo**, Minor & Jester, P.C., *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](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)

### 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](mailto:jmstoffels@aol.com)

## Photographer Wanted....

The DCPA website continues to be improved and we need more photos! If you are interested in taking photos at monthly luncheons, socials, and other events, please email historian Sunnie Palmer at [sunnie@zellmerlaw.com](mailto:sunnie@zellmerlaw.com). Experience not required; photographers can use their own camera or phone or can borrow.

## Condolences



On May 19, 2014, Vicki Schmidt's husband Mike lost his valiant battle with cancer. Our prayers are with Vicki, her family and friends during this very trying time.



## DCPA Scholarship Information and Deadlines

Submitted by: Wanda Woodworth, Scholarship Committee Chair

Did you know that DCPA has a member-only certification scholarship fund?

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Must be currently enrolled as a member in good standing now and in the previous year,
- (2) Must be working as a paralegal in Denton County TX
- (3) Must be enrolled to sit, or have recently sat for a recognized paralegal certification examination (i.e., NALA, NFPA or TBLS) and must attach a copy of the exam application fee receipt to the scholarship application,

NALA Exam

Application filing deadline	Exam Date (Varies)
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	September 1-30
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	January 1-30
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	May 1-31

Recipient(s) of the scholarship are selected at the sole discretion of the DCPA Executive Committee and will be announced at the October meeting.

To apply, go to [Dentonparalegals.org](http://Dentonparalegals.org), from the menu bar select Resources, then select Resources page. Follow the link to download the application form.

NOTE: The application must be received by the Executive Committee on or before September 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year.



## Minutes

1. President Kim Guertler called the meeting of April 24, 2014, to order at 12:10 p. m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 23 attendees 19 members, 3 guests, and 1 guest speaker). President Guertler welcomed guests.

### OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Guertler asked for a vote on the March 2014 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Michelle Beecher and seconded by Melody Brackeen. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Guertler asked for a vote of approval of the March, 2014, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Beth Honeycutt and seconded by Michelle Beecher. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### NEW BUSINESS:

4. Michelle Beecher announced that the Denton County Bar Association's Wills for Heroes program is assisting members of the Denton County Sheriff's Department this year, the program provides free wills to employees and their spouses. Paralegals are needed to draft documents and to notarize at the will-signing event on May 31, 2014.
5. CLE Chair Michelle Beecher also announced that the half day CLE seminar is being moved to October this year and it will cover trial procedures. She will have more information to share as it becomes available.
6. CLE Chair Michelle Beecher introduced Guest Speaker, Hugh Coleman who spoke on the Texas Uniform Trade Secrets Act. Upon completion Michelle presented Hugh with his trophy and certificate of appreciation.
7. The speaker drew the name of the door prize winner: Wanda Woodward who won a \$25 Movie Gift Card
8. There being no further business, President Guertler adjourned the meeting at 12:45 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](http://www.dentonparalegals.org)