

# the VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2011

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vicki Schmidt, CLA



Our annual Valentine's Day fund raiser sold 113 Cookie Grams this year. Many of our members baked goodies for the event and we owe big applause to those who made donations including Michele George, Jenna Earhart, Lisa Pittman, Sunnie Palmer, Pam Snavelly, Ria Sherman, Gabrielle Davis, and Debbie Maldonado.

We are also grateful to the following individuals who helped put together the Cookie Grams: Adriana Sanchez, Lisa Pittman, Amy Pell, Erin Pack, and Jenna Earhart.

As we continue on our quest to empower ourselves to be the best we can be as individuals and as professional paralegals, consider this: the U.S. Department of Labor projects the paralegal field will add an additional 10,400 new jobs each year for the next several years. Becoming certified is one way to enhance your reputation in the legal community. Two of our members, Allison Martin and Michele George, have indicated they plan to take the NALA certification exam in the near future and I wish them well as they prepare for the exam.

Other ways to build your career include an ability to demonstrate your knowledge of the procedures preferred by the judges in each of the courts where your firm has cases. This could mean getting online to locate standing orders or local rules of the court. Or, you could attend the CLE our group is hosting this month to get first-hand information from the new judges in Denton County, as well as getting an update from the County and District Clerks concerning what's new in their offices.

I encourage you to sign up for this event and I hope to see you next Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> for the "Changing Faces of the Denton County Court." As of the newsletter deadline we have 70 attendees signed up and a terrific meal planned that will be served by the Oakmont staff.

## 2011 DCPA OFFICERS

President – Vicki Schmidt  
President Elect – Michelle Beecher  
Secretary/Parliamentarian – Gloria Porter  
Treasurer – Lisa Pittman  
Historian – Ava Watson

## 2011 DCPA COMMITTEES

CLE Committee -  
Michelle Beecher, Chairman  
Lisa Bowles  
Michelle James  
Christine Piott

Fund Raising Committee -  
Jenna Earhart, Chairman  
Lisa Pittman  
Adriana Sanchez

Legal Directory Committee -  
Ava Watson, Chairman  
Lisa Pittman  
Gloria Porter  
Carol Pelzel  
Denise League  
Debbie Maldonado

Membership Committee -

Sunnie Palmer, Chairman  
Jennifer Harris  
Denise League  
Christine Piott

Newsletter Committee -

Lisa Pittman, Chairman  
Jennifer Earhart  
Jackie Cox

Social Committee -

Jennifer Flores – Chairman  
Barbara Denton  
Pam Snavely  
Landra Turner  
Amy Riggs

Ad Hoc Scholarship Committee-

Information not available at this time

**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**

**Kelley Yancey**, *Bowen Law Group*, Field Associate  
**Laura Henggeler**, *Koons Fuller*, Field Associate

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 Sunnie Palmer at [sunnie@zellmerlaw.com](mailto:sunnie@zellmerlaw.com) or (940) 383-2674.

**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 March birthdays are:

Yolanda Jacques (3-11);  
Lisa Pittman (3-14);  
Carley Hensley (3-15); and  
Lisa Bowles (3-31)

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

**MEETING NOTICE**

**PLEASE NOTE:** THAT DUE TO THE DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CLE SEMINAR, THERE WILL BE NO MEMBERSHIP MEETING THIS MONTH.

ALL BUSINESS WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011.

**Because of seating and food service requirements, YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED TO ATTEND.**

We will be providing a CLE Certificate for 5 hours of CLE for paralegals. **Please note we cannot provide a certificate if you do not attend the entire seminar.**

**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)

**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@hbwvllaw.com](mailto:jeahart@hbwvllaw.com). Thank you!

## JANUARY MINUTES

### DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENT

#### COOKIE GRAMS

What a HUGE success we had despite Mother Nature's icy and snowy weather during the first part of February! 113 Cookie Grams were sold, put together, picked up and/or delivered successfully! I have to say a **BIG** thank you to our Members for the donations of homemade goodies – what yummy talents you each have. Thanks again!

#### SILENT AUCTION



The Silent Auction will take place around the end of September, early October time. We are looking for committed donations from our Members. Some ideas include: Arts & crafts, jewelry, skin care, baked goods, photography, etc. If you have skills that you use to create gifts for other or use as a hobby, and you would like to donate an item or items, please contact Jenna Earhart at [jeahart@hbwvlaw.com](mailto:jeahart@hbwvlaw.com) or (940) 387-3518.



### 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 specialty!**

### 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@hbwvlaw.com](mailto:lpittman@hbwvlaw.com).

1. President, Vicki Schmidt, called the meeting of January 27, 2011, to order at 12:07 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 33 in attendance, which included 28 members, 4 guests, and the speaker, all of whom were welcomed by the President.
2. President Schmidt announced that a revision had been made to November 2010 Meeting Minutes that had previously been distributed to the membership. "Number 10. was changed to reflect that after Sunnie Palmer counted the ballots for election of officers, and Lisa Pittman confirmed the count, the President announced the 2011 officers." A motion was made by Ava Watson and seconded by Michelle Beecher to accept the revision, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Schmidt advised that the current Treasurer's Report was in the newsletter and asked for a vote of approval. A motion for approval was presented by Pamela Snavely and seconded by Denise League, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. President Schmidt announced that the Association's annual Cookie Gram event was in process and the deadline for orders is February 4, 2011. February 11, 2011 is the deadline for payment.
5. President Schmidt announced that the Association's annual half day CLE is February 24, 2011, and encouraged everyone to attend and learn about the procedures of the new Denton County Judges, and the County Clerk and District Clerk offices.
6. President Schmidt announced that the Committee Chairs for the current year are:

Michelle Beecher – CLE

Jenna Earhart – Fund Raising – The President announced that the Fund Raising Committee was planning an auction for fall and requested members to contribute craft items for the auction

Ava Watson – Legal Directory – The President announced that a new directory was being published this year because of the many changes made in the judiciary. It was requested that all unsold directories be returned to Ava for recycling

Sunnie Palmer – Membership – The President announced that the Committee is working on ways to reach non-members and increase membership

Lisa Pittman – Newsletter

Jennifer Flores – Socials

7. President Schmidt asked if there was any other new or old business that needed discussion. There being none, she introduced Michelle Beecher, CLE Chair.
8. Michelle Beecher, CLE Chair, introduced the speaker, the Honorable Paul Johnson, Denton County District Attorney, who presented "*Policies and Procedures of the D.A.'s office.*"
9. Erin Pack won the monthly drawing for the gift presented by the Association.
10. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.