

## Special Interest Articles:

- Birthdays
- Congratulations
- In Memoriam

## Individual Highlights:

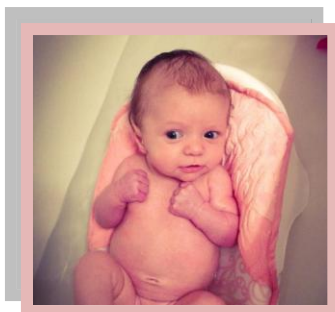
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## Denton County Paralegal Association

### Legal Directory

The Legal Directory will be going to print soon. To make each Legal Directory the most updated resource to have on hand, members must participate and encourage others to do so as well. There are advertising pages still available. Attached is the 2014 Legal Directory Order Form for your convenience. For additional information please contact Michele George at (940) 387-3518 or [mgeorge@hbwvlaw.com](mailto:mgeorge@hbwvlaw.com).

### Congratulations



Congratulations to member Cheryl Cooper of the birth on her granddaughter, Harper Riley Cantrell born to her daughter, Jessica Lynne Garcia on September 17, 2013 at 1:48 p.m. She weighed in at 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 18.9 inches. What a cutie!

### Past President Appreciation



Ria Sherman, 2013 President was presented with an appreciation gift, a Saint Bernard business card holder, for her hard work and dedication to DCPA.



## Meeting Notice

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **January 23, 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.

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED** and can be made via e-mail to **kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com**. The Deadline for making your reservation is **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 17, 2014**.

### **2014 Officers**

Kim Guertler, President  
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

Cheryl Cooper, President-Elect  
mjames1960@yahoo.com

Melody Brackeen, Secretary/Parliamentarian  
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer  
lpittman@hbvwlaw.com

Sunnie Palmer, Historian  
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

**Fundraising**, Jennifer Stout  
jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

**Legal Directory**, Michele George  
mgeorge@hbvwlaw.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

**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 JANUARY MEETING**

Date: January 23, 2014  
Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210  
Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business
  - a. Approve November minutes and Treasurer's Report
  - b. Announce/introduce DCPA officers elected for 2014 year
3. New Business
  - a. 2014 budget and committees. Announce chairs and that budget was approved by EC
  - b. Encourage members to complete and send in their surveys.
  - c. Encourage members to sign up for committees.
  - d. New website – Wild Apricot.
  - e. Participation prize
4. Speaker: Sam Burke, Attorney – “Changes to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.”
5. Door Prize and Announcements
6. Adjournment

## **CLE GUEST SPEAKER**



Our Speaker this month is Sam Burke with Alagood & Cartwright, P.C. He will speak to us about “Changes to the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.”

## President's Message

By: Kim Guertler

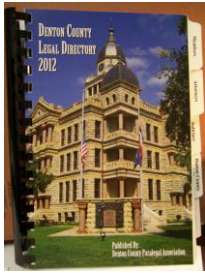
Welcome to 2014 DCPA members! I am so excited to serve as your President this year. I think it is going to be a great year for our Organization. Thank you to our members who have volunteered to chair and serve on our Committees. They are already hard at work planning events and activities for us all, but they still need help. Please consider joining one of our Committees. It is a great opportunity to get to know our members and to have say in the activities our Organization participates in.

People often set goals at the beginning of a new year, and I am no exception. I am eager to begin working toward the goals I have set for myself while serving as President of the DCPA this year. The first goal I have is to get our new website up and running. It will basically look the same, but it will be under our control providing us much more flexibility. Among other things, we will be able to apply for membership and register and pay for CLE luncheons through the website. There will be a blog forum where we can ask each other questions and share our knowledge, and we will be able to offer recognition to our generous sponsors. I am still learning about all of the ways we will be able to utilize the new website, and I will share the new information with you as I am able.

Another goal I have is for the DCPA to provide our members with more opportunities for community involvement and fun events to help us unwind and relax. This will serve two purposes: (1) it will allow us an opportunity to spend time together and get to know each other better and (2) it will benefit our community. Look for emails announcing events that we will be participating in. If you know of a local charity that needs assistance or if you just have a fun idea for a night/afternoon out, please email me and let me know about it.

These are just a few of my goals, but I would love to hear from each of you and learn about what you would like to see happen in our Organization this year. If you have not sent in the surveys that were sent out at the end of last year, please try to carve out some time and do so. We have a lot of talented people in our Organization and we want your ideas!

Thank you for this opportunity to serve as your President in 2014. I look forward to seeing you all at our first CLE luncheon on January 23, 2014, where Sam Burke will be speaking on the new Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. As we did last year, we are going to have a Participation Prize at the end of the year for our members who attend our functions. If you attend any function put on by the DCPA, your name will go into a drawing for a prize that will occur at the last event of the year. I will announce the prize at the luncheon. Carolyn Ganzer won an Ipad last year. Who will win this year?? Join in the fun and let's make this a great year!

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

**Birthdays**

Our members with January and February birthdays are:

Monica Smith (1/2)  
Lacey Young (1/5)  
DeWana Peterson (1/5)  
Joni Barr (1/9)  
Vicki Schmidt (1/11)  
Brandi Hunter (1/21)  
Nina Winfrey (1/21)  
Carol Pelzel (1/24)  
Amy Riggs (1/24)

Toya Brown-Phillips (2/5)  
Kim Guertler (2/19)  
Debbie Mitchell (2/10)  
Adriana Sanchez (2/14)

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

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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

**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).



## **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)



## In The Know

By Wanda Woodworth

**Month:** January 2014

**Talking with:** Angela Juarez

**Employed by:** Kelsey, Kelsey & Hickey in Denton TX

**Years' experience:** 15

**What made you want to become a paralegal?** I wanted to do something that would be helping people. In High school we also took two fieldtrips to watch parts of some actual trials and I was hooked. I earned my Associates Degree in Legal Assisting from NCTC and have been a paralegal ever since.

**What kind of law is practiced at your current firm?** Oil & Gas, Real Estate, Probate and Civil Litigation

**How many paralegals are at your current firm?** There are 4 paralegals.

**What was it like being a new paralegal?** It was fun, interesting and some days challenging. Back then we transcribed a lot of dictation tapes—it is very different now. I had an experienced Paralegal (Lori Gage) who was sort of a mentor who guided me from the start.

**What is your advice to new paralegals?** Learn your attorney's likes & dislikes and the way s/he wants things done. Every attorney can be different in how they want the calendar kept and their work style for example. It can be challenging when you work with a few attorneys with totally different work styles. Every day and every case will come with a new set of challenges that can sometimes be pretty fun.

**To which paralegal organizations do you belong?** DCPA

**How do you relax after a tough day at work?** I go home and play with my kiddos - I have two really fun boys, Legend, 8 years old and Jacob, 4 years old.



## In Memoriam

### In Memoriam of Terry Dale Allen, Sr.

By Deborah R. Maldonado

The world lost a great friend on October 27, 2013 with the passing of Terry Dale Allen, Sr. Born in Guthrie, OK on October 5, 1948, Terry was a simple man enamored of knowledge and learning. He originally studied agricultural engineering and graduated with a B.S. from Oklahoma State University. From there, he worked for CARGILL, INC. in Memphis, TN and Fayetteville, NC and then later bought into the family business of PAYNE COUNTY IMPLEMENT which sold INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER tractors and implements and used his engineering savvy in troubleshooting and repairing tractors. The business was eventually sold and his wife, Dr. Diane Allen obtained a position at the UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS (“UNT”) and they moved the family to Denton. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve eventually retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He began working as a paralegal at that time.

Terry was quick-witted, mischievous and jovial. He loved life and the people around him. Terry always had stories to tell and it was a delight to hear them. He was kind and understanding when it came to showing someone the ropes. He was a font of information and an able teacher, not only showing what was to be done, but why. Terry was a member of the GREATER DENTON LEGAL ASSISTANT ASSOCIATION of which he was an animated member. Terry retired from the legal field in 2009 and began working on a Ph.D. in education at UNT. Terry then followed Diane to Louisiana and then to Maryland as she ultimately became Dean of one of the colleges there.

Terry was an active person and one of his passions was mountain biking. It was during training for a biking marathon that it was discovered that Terry had cancer. But, in Terry fashion, he persevered until he was in recovery and it was then that his heart betrayed him.

The family held the funeral in Salisbury, MD where Diane still resides and a memorial service was held in Stillwater a couple of weeks later. The memorial was a bittersweet reminiscence of Terry, several stories were told that outlined the kind of person Terry was. It was like a family reunion, which Terry would have loved.





## **Minutes**

1. President Elect Kim Guertler called the business meeting of November 21, 2013, to order at 12:05 p.m. at the Denton County Law Library. There were 18 attendees (15 members and 3 guests), all of whom were welcomed by President Elect Guertler.

### OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Elect Guertler asked for a vote on the October 24, 2013, meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Vickie Schmidt and seconded by Jennifer Stout. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Elect Guertler asked for a vote of approval of the October, 2013, Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Christy Rodgers and seconded by Carolyn Ganzer. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

### NEW BUSINESS:

4. President Elect Guertler announced that the year end reports were due from the committee chairs. The newly elected officers comprising the DCPA Executive Committee and the committee chairs were announced. It was also announced that Michelle Beecher agreed to assume the vacancy for the CLE chair for 2014. President Elect Guertler encouraged members who were interested to volunteer to serve on a committee for the 2014 year.
5. President Elect Guertler relayed a message from President Ria Sherman thanking the committee chairs and their members for their service during the year. A description of the thank you gift given by DCPA to President Sherman for her service as President was announced and a photo of the gift was passed around for all to see.
6. President Elect Guertler announced that there would be a new website utilized by DCPA effective January 1, 2014, via WildApricot.com. The new website would provide many advantages such as paying online for lunches which was viewed as a huge improvement over our present website.
7. The drawing for the progressive prize for attending CLE throughout the 2013 year was held and the mini iPad was won by Carolyn Ganzer.
8. President Elect Guertler announced that this was the final meeting of the year for DCPA.
9. CLE Chair, Vickie Schmidt, introduced the librarians, Kathleen Bransford and Stephanie Bassinger who gave a tour of the library, along with an overview of the services they provided, and the resources that are available there.
10. There being no further business, President Elect Guertler adjourned the meeting at 12:42 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](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 January 17, 2014**

Balance 01/01/14 \$7,489.06

**FIRST QUARTER 2014**

CREDITS:

Dues \$70.00  
Legal Directory – Ads 150.00

DEBITS: