

The Verdict

**Special Interest
Articles:**

- School Supply Drive
- ½ Day CLE
- Birthdays

Denton County Paralegal Association

School Supply Drive

This month to support our School Supply Drive endeavors, please bring to the luncheon a package of **Markers** and **Colored Pencils**. We are also accepting paper goods such as spirals, notebook paper, composition books, and pens and pencils!

2013-2014 Membership Drive

REMINDER: DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! Please don't forget to turn in your 2013-2014 Membership Application and fee of \$35.00 on or before April 1, 2013 so that you can be included on our Membership list. Visit www.dentonparalegals.org to download the renewal application. Make payment payable to DCPA, PO Box 50149, Denton, Texas 76202.

Individual Highlights:

Meeting Information	2
President's Message	3
Guest CLE Speaker	4
Did You Know...	5
Sustaining Members	5
In The Know	6
Minutes	7

½ Day CLE "Protect Yourself - Beyond Due Diligence"

Mark your calendar for DCPA's ½ Day CLE Seminar, co-sponsored with PD District 12, is scheduled for April 25, 2013, noon to 5 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. Lunch will not be served. Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

The speaker line up and their topics are:

- **Wendi Rogers**, PD Ambassador, who will speak on "Ethics and Technology"
- **Jerry Raburn**, Denton County Constable & CHL Instructor, will give us information about concealed hand gun license requirements
- **David Mays**, Denton Police Dept. will speak on ways to handle workplace violence
- **Trina Sandburg**, Denton County ADA will speak on the process and requirements for getting a protective order
- **Bob Widmer**, Attorney will speak on Wills and estate planning

Meeting Notice

2013 Officers

Ria Sherman, President
ria@cokerlegal.com

Kim Guertler, President-Elect
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

Michelle James, Secretary/Parliamentarian
mjames@csplaw.net

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer
lpittman@hbwvlaw.com

Jennifer Stout, Historian
Jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **March 28, 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, March 25, 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.

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 MARCH MEETING

Date: March 28, 2013
Place: Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210
Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business
 - a. Approve February minutes
 - b. Approve February Treasurer's Report
3. New Business
 - a. Donations
 - b. Quarterly reports
4. Speaker – Honorable Sherry Shipman, 16th Judicial District Court
5. Adjournment

President's Message

By: Ria Sherman

I hope you planned to come to our meeting on the 28th. We'll be hearing from Judge Sherry Shipman. I have to say that it is gratifying when those at the top of our legal community take us seriously. I have read several articles about our profession recently. Constant themes are professionalism, work ethic, and knowledge. We work hard to gain the respect of our employers and the courts they work in!

The DCPA serves that effort by providing quality CLE as well as networking opportunities (often disguised as fun) so that we can learn and discuss topics interesting to paralegals. Encouraging each other, learning advanced skills and concepts together, and mentoring new paralegals: that's what we are about!

On that note, mark your calendars! Our half day seminar, entitled "Protect Yourself: Beyond Due Diligence" is scheduled for the afternoon of April 25th at Oakmont Country Club. More information is available on our website, dentonparalegals.com. Thank you to our CLE committee for their hard work in putting this together. I'm proud that this year's seminar is co-sponsored by the State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division.

I look forward to seeing you!



CLE Guest Speaker

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@hbwlaw.com or lpittman@hbwlaw.com.



Our Speaker this month is Honorable Sherry L. Shipman, 16th District Court, who will tell us about how she runs her court and her preferences in her presentation "Practice In The 16th District Court."

Birthdays

Our members with April birthdays are:

Jennifer Stout (4/8)
Christine Piott (4/16)
Priscilla Brooks (4/24)
Sunnie Palmer (4/24)

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

Did You Know....



Our fellow member, Beth Honeycutt, has many talents. Many of you know that Beth writes poetry. In the past she has graced us with a reading from her work. She has a poetry collection from Finishing Line Press, Finding Direction, coming out this spring which in Beth's words "Is an appropriate time to explore the direction of our lives through poetry."

"Beth Honeycutt's book Finding Direction is an act of communion: communion with the sky, the earth, the wind, and the primal pagan and magic forces that all of us want to be shaped by. In the poem 'New Year's Eve' we all associate with the unnamed woman and "...the untouched future calling her forward." —Alan Birkelbach, 2005 Texas Poet Laureate

"... So alive and exquisite are her images that you will find yourself entering a magical realm with mysterious characters and creatures that come to life. Beth's expert wordsmithing will keep you enchanted until you turn the last page." —Jan Spence, author of Navigating the Old Road

Your early purchasing helps with the pressrun for the book, as advance sales have a direct impact on the number in the pressrun. Although the book is not yet available on amazon.com, that will come after printing and the release date: June 21st. You may preorder online at www.finishinglinepress.com and click on the "PREORDER FORTHCOMING TITLES" link on the right. Type in "Beth Honeycutt", and the search engine will find the book.

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

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The Reporting Professionals

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In The Know

By Wanda Woodworth

Talking with: Lacee Young

Employed by law firm: Duane L. Coker & Associates, P.C.

Years experience: 3 years

What kind of law is practiced at your current firm? Family Law & Probate Law

What made you want to become a paralegal? Prior to coming to Coker Legal, I earned my Bachelor's in Psychology with a minor in Sociology at the University of North Texas. I started working as a Legal Secretary at Coker Legal and then worked my way up to become a Paralegal. Following my promotion, I began the PDI (Professional Development Institute) program at UNT to earn my Paralegal certificate. It was then, I found I had a knack for Family Law and that it was something I really enjoyed.

What was it like being a new paralegal? Initially, I was a little nervous but with the encouragement and excellent training I received from Coker Legal, I was able to excel.

How many paralegals are at your current firm: There are currently 5 paralegals at Coker Legal.

What is your advice to new paralegals? I definitely think taking a paralegal program can be very helpful. Also, make it a point to continue your legal education by attending seminars and joining your local paralegal association. The laws are always changing and it is our job to stay in the know. Remember, you never stop learning.

To which paralegal organizations do you belong? I am on the Social Committee for the Denton County Paralegal Association and a member of the PDI at UNT Alumni group.

How do you relax after a tough day at work? I love to cook a good meal and catch up on some of my favorite shows. I look forward to the weekends so I can spend time with my family. I try to not check my work email but sometimes it's unavoidable.

February Minutes

1. President, Ria Sherman, called the meeting of February 28, 2013, to order at 12:07 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 18 members, 3 guests, and the speaker, all of whom were welcomed by President Sherman.
2. President Sherman welcomed the guests and asked that the members who brought them introduce them:
 - a. Alexandra MacDonald (*who works at Michael J. Whitten & Associates, P. C.*) was introduced by Vicki Schmidt, and
 - b. Gina Silva (*who works at Koons Fuller, P. C.*) was introduced by Beth Honeycutt. Guest, Beverly Rezadad, submitted her membership application at the meeting.
3. President Sherman asked for a vote of approval for the January 2013, meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Kim Guertler, seconded by Carolyn Ganzer, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. President Sherman asked for a vote of approval for the January Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Beth Honeycutt, seconded by Lisa Bowles, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
5. Fundraising Committee Chair, Michelle Beecher, provided a fundraising update:
 - a. The Valentine's Cupcake in a Jar was a tremendous success. The goal was 200 jars, with 282 jars sold at final count. Expenses were \$100.00. \$1,925.00 was made from the sale. Thanks was given to Alagood & Cartwright, Coker Legal, and Hayes, Berry, White and Vanzant for their donations and support. Thanks was also given to all those who volunteered their time by baking, making icing, helping to put the cupcakes together, or delivering them.
 - b. A joint event (Bingo) hosted by the Social and Fundraising Committees is upcoming on May 23, 2013, at the fairgrounds.
6. Membership Chair, Gina Elliott, reported that the membership applications for 2013 have been sent out with a CLE survey with all members encouraged to send their applications back as soon as possible so dues can be collected; and for all members to send an application to anyone who might be interested in becoming a member so we can grow our numbers.
7. President Sherman made the following announcements:
 - a. TAPA (Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations) has their annual CLE Seminar and Leadership Conference for 2013 coming up. It is April 5-6, 2013, in Dallas. President Sherman encouraged members to attend especially those on the Executive Committee as we are slated to host this annual event in 2015. The deadline to sign up for this conference is March 8, 2013. [Correction deadline is March 15, 2013 per the host's website]
 - b. The evening get togethers are going well so far. The first one was held on February 11th at Chuys in Denton. 5 showed up and discussed branding, among other topics. The next event is on March 7, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. at Sweetwater to discuss membership. The April get together will be in either Flower Mound or Lewisville.
8. CLE Committee Chair, Vicki Schmidt, introduced the speaker, Adam Whitten, who works at *Michael J. Whitten & Associates, P. C.* who presented information on "Casemaker" the free State Bar of Texas legal research tool, and well as other available free legal research websites. Upon the conclusion of the presentation, CLE Committee Chair, Vicki Schmidt, thanked Mr. Whitten and presented him with a 2012 Denton County Legal Directory as an appreciation gift.
9. There being no further business, President Sherman adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Denton County Paralegals Association

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Association](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Denton-County-Paralegal-Association)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.dentonparalegals.org