

# THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2011

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vicki Schmidt, CLA



Dear Members:

As you probably know, the co-founder of Apple Computers, Steve Jobs, died a few weeks ago. This week's edition of *Time Magazine* calls Steve Jobs "the inventor of the future" eulogizing him as follows:

"Steve Jobs remade the world as completely as any single human being ever has, but he had no business doing it. He wasn't qualified. He wasn't a computer scientist. He had no training as a hardware engineer or an industrial designer....Jobs' training was less in computers than it was in the humans who used them."

With no work experience and little higher education, Steve Jobs and two buddies started Apple Computers when Jobs was just 21 years old. Just think about how computers and cell phones have changed our environment. Steve Jobs' vision and work revolutionized personal computing, animated movies (Pixar Entertainment), music (iTunes, iPod, Nano), cell phones, and digital publishing.

The legal field has, for one, greatly benefited from the innovations in technology that have been introduced in the last 20 years. Just think about it – if a client arrives early for an appointment and the attorney isn't at the office, you can text or email the attorney "lunchtime is over, Mr. Niceguy is here to see you." How great is that? Or ... "Remember that rush hearing you had me set for today – the Judge is wondering where you are..." Of course the down side is this: 20 years ago pleadings were a lot shorter but the advent of computers

has encouraged attorneys to expound more often and at greater length.

One recurring theme of my messages to you has been to inspire you by showing you examples of how some of our contemporaries have changed our world for the better. I hope you are encouraged to do what you can to improve our world. Each year DCPA tries to help those who are less fortunate in our community and this year is no exception. Our annual canned food drive is starting, so please bring your donations to the next two meetings or take your donations to the Hayes Berry, White & Vanzant offices. Additionally, those of you who bid on items at our Silent Auction helped raise money that DCPA will use to support our commitment to giving to our community.

At this time of the year DCPA calls upon its own membership to contribute to the good of our group by calling upon its members to stand for election to office for the coming year. Sunnie Palmer will be sending out the slate of officers who will guide DCPA next year. Please vote. Please volunteer to serve on a committee for next year. Please continue to improve the paralegal profession by attending DCPA meetings, attending continuing legal education functions, and improving your professional skills whenever possible.



## 2011 DCPA OFFICERS

President – Vicki Schmidt

President Elect – vacant

Interim Secretary/Parliamentarian – Lisa Pittman

Treasurer – Lisa Pittman

Historian – Ava Watson



**2011 DCPA COMMITTEES**

CLE Committee -

Lisa Bowles, Interim Chairman  
Michelle James  
Michelle Beecher  
Christine Piott  
Debbie Mitchell

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  
Gina Elliott  
Michelle Merrit  
Miranda Miller  
Pamela Snavelly

Newsletter Committee -

Lisa Pittman, Chairman  
Jennifer Earhart  
Jackie Cox

Social Committee -

Lisa Bowles – Chairman  
Barbara Denton  
Pam Snavelly  
Amy Riggs  
Jennifer Flores



**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.

**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 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



Our members with November birthdays are:



Beth Honeycutt (11-5);  
Stephanie Villa (11-13);  
Jackie Cox (11-15);  
Pamela Snavelly (11-22)

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



**MEETING NOTICE**

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **October 27, 2011** 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 [Vicki@cmloveless.com](mailto:Vicki@cmloveless.com). The Deadline for making your reservation is **5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 24, 2011.**

**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 27, 2011

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

Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. New Business
  - A. Approve September minutes
  - B. Approve September treasurer's report
  - C. Announce the slate of officers to be voted on at the November meeting
  - D. Donations of canned goods are being collected
3. Old Business
  - A. Vote on new President-Elect, Jennifer Stout
  - B. Fund raising report - results of Silent Auction
4. Lisa Bowles will introduce the speaker - Charla Bradshaw



**SPEAKER INFORMATION**



Our Speaker this month is Attorney Charla Bradshaw with KoonsFuller, P.C. who will be speaking about family law legislative changes.



**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!

**REMINDER: SPECIAL ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup>**

Jennifer Stout is being willingly nominated as President-Elect, please be present to vote her in to this position. Jennifer has worked in the legal field for 31 years and has been a Paralegal since 1991. Jennifer started her legal career at 19 for Gerald W. Livingston, she then worked for Mr. Livingston for 16 years. Jennifer then went to the law firm of Handy & Robinson in Ft. Worth for 5 years and then to Denton where she worked for a short time at Hayes, Coffey & Berry, and then with David Bouschor. Jennifer is married to a wonderful man and an outstanding attorney, Randy Stout, and she is a very, very proud mother of 19 year old twin boys, Stephen & Thomas. Jennifer currently is employed by the Criminal District Attorney's Office-Civil Division and has been since 2006. So let's support Jennifer in her willingness to jump in and be active with DCPA. Thank you Jennifer!!



**DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENT AUCTION  
UPDATE!!**



First we must give a big **THANK YOU** to the following DCPA Members for their donations:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Barbara Denton   | Debbie Maldonado |
| Jennifer Earhart | Sunnie Palmer    |
| Carolyn Ganzer   | Christine Piott  |
| Michele George   | Lisa Pittman     |
| Glenda Hill      | Gloria Porter    |
| Beth Honeycutt   | Vicki Schmidt    |
| Angela Juarez    | Ria Sherman      |
| Linda Lewis      | Pam Snavely      |

Second we must say a big **THANK YOU** to Joe Zellmer of Joseph Zellmer, P.C. and Sunnie Palmer for providing the venue for our first ever Silent Auction.

Our total raised during DCPA’s Silent Auction Night was **\$590.00!**

We still have about 8 items available for bidding – these items need a new home and your bids go towards a worthy cause! Those items are labeled “**available**” on our Facebook page and will also be brought to our next meeting – feel free to place your bid while you are there!

If you did bid on an item, but did not win said item, if you would like - you can make a monetary donation to our Thanksgiving and Christmas families during our next CLE Luncheon. You may also mail those checks to Lisa Pittman at DCPA, PO Box 2641, Denton, Texas 76202, with the memo stating the purpose of the donation.

**THANK YOU** again to all Members who came to enjoy the Silent Auction and helping to make this event a success!



**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).

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

1. President, Vicki Schmidt, called the meeting of September 29, 2011, to order at 12:05 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 24 in attendance, which included 22 members and the speaker, all of whom were welcomed by the President.
2. President Schmidt asked for a vote of approval of the August meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Sunnie Palmer and seconded by Lisa Bowles, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Schmidt asked for a vote of approval of the August Treasurer’s report. A motion for approval was presented by Sunnie Palmer and seconded by Jennifer Earhart, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. Fundraising Committee Chair, Jennifer Earhart, reported that the Silent Auction and Ice Cream Social were two weeks away and that additional auction items have been uploaded to Facebook.
5. President Schmidt asked for nominations from the floor for President-Elect. No nominations were presented. Nominations were tabled until next monthly meeting.
6. Interim CLE Membership Chair, Lisa Bowles, introduced the speaker, attorney Rick Hagen with Jackson & Hagen, who presented information on the criminal law legislative changes.
7. Door prizes were won by Ava Watson and Kristi Patel
8. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

