

THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

MAY 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Vicki Schmidt, CLA



Dear Members:

Last month I enjoyed an all too short vacation/CLE trip to Germany and I can testify that travel to a foreign country has changed my world view. You can see from the attached photos that I experienced an opera with several paralegals from Midland and Austin. We knew the opera, *Parsifal* by Richard Wagner, was sung in German, but we adventurers wanted to have a cultural experience that was uniquely German. It was interesting, however, jet lag got the better of us, and most of us left early. Richard Wagner's work greatly influenced one of the Bavarian kings, Ludwig II, who was primarily responsible for bankrupting the free state of Bavaria with his numerous monumental building projects. He built himself several castles, hunting lodges, and weekend get-away mansions – all with tax dollars. None of these projects benefited his subjects until King Ludwig's political cronies declared the king "mad," removed him from office, and began selling admission tickets to tourists to see the many interesting, but self-serving projects King Ludwig built with public money. This brings me to another picture – this one of me at the king's most fanciful castle, Neuschwanstein.

Fast forward about a century and we come to the not so free state of Bavaria, ripe for rebellion again due to the mistakes of the country's leaders that led to the defeat of Germany at the end of World War I. The economic panic and distrust of the political establishment following that war soon led to conditions that permitted the rise of a new and radical leader – Adolf Hitler. The legal education portion of my trip included a visit to the town of Nuremberg, Germany and the

Palace of Justice where the Nuremberg War Trials that took place at the end of World War II. We had a very interesting presentation by a local guide who walked us through the museum and courtroom where the process took place. World War II was one of the first wars to be filmed in "moving pictures" – not just still photography. This museum uses many film clips to show portions of the trials and even the behind the scenes work of dozens of paralegals who went through thousands of pages of records looking for evidence – those "smoking guns" that would help prove the International Tribunal's case against some of the men the court believed to be the masterminds behind the worst of the atrocities committed by Hitler's regime.

Those paralegals had to have exceptional organizational skills, be fluent in English and German, be able to remember details, write summaries and reports, and catalogue the documents that came into their control. Not only that – it was done without today's modern equipment. It's amazing what skilled paralegals can do!

The trip gave me a chance to see another part of the world and to see how the lives of people in that part of the world have been affected by economic and political situations similar to those faced by Americans. I also met many awesome fellow paralegals.

The PD trip in 2012 is to Italy ... hmmm...I wonder what unique situations the paralegals at the Vatican face; I wonder what obstacles ancient Italian paralegals faced when Mt. Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, smothering the city of Pompeii in ash and lava – maybe I'll find out.



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 Snively
 - Landra Turner
 - Amy Riggs

DCPA WEBSITE

Check out what's new on our website at 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

Brent Ballow, *DepoTexas*, Sustaining

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 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 June birthdays are:
Lorin Strickland (6-1);
Debbie Maldonado (6-10);
Carolyn Ganzer (6-19);
Wanda Woodworth (6-28);
Cynthia Steenson (6-29);
Jay Freeman (6-29)



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

MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association May Luncheon will be on Thursday, *May 26, 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. The Deadline for making your reservation is 5:00 P.M. on Monday, May 23, 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 MAY MEETING

Date: Thursday, May 26, 2011

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

Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business
 - Approve the April Minutes and Treasurer's report
3. Introduction of guest speaker by Michelle Beecher; Guest Speaker – Blake P. Mitchell, PhD
4. Door prizes and adjournment

MAY SPEAKER INFORMATION



Our Speaker this month is Blake P Mitchell, PhD, and he will be speaking about social studies and psychological evaluations.

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 yearhart@hbvwlaw.com. Thank you!



Memorial Day is May 30th. Please take a moment to give thanks to the men and women who have sacrificed so much for the freedom we all enjoy!

TAPS 2011

TAPS 2011 will be held October 5-7, 2011 at the Marriott Hotel (DFW) & Golf Resort. *See flyer attached.*

PD Members: Scholarships are available to attend TAPS if you need financial assistance. For information regarding TAPS visit the PD website: www.txpd.org

DCPA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Deadline to submit your application for the DCPA Scholarship Award is September 15, 2011. Attached are the instructions and the application. This is a scholarship for paralegals sitting for the certification test such as TBLS, NALA, NFPA.

PARALEGAL DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting Luncheon will be held in San Antonio, Texas on Friday, June 24, 2011. Registration deadline is May 27, 2011. For more information, please see attached flyer.

DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENT

SILENT AUCTION



Donation Sign Ups are now being accepted. – We have received some emails with items willing to be donated – a huge **THANK YOU** to those who have done that already! We definitely need more participation to make this Silent Auction a success – remember the proceeds will benefit our Thanksgiving and Christmas families we assist with each year. Items we are looking for include: baked goods, plants, jewelry, skin care goodies, baby blankets, photography, monogrammed items, etc. If you do something as a hobby or a part-time job on the side or have a special talent in creating or making items - this is what we are looking for!

Please email Jenna Earhart, Fundraising Committee Chair, at jeahart@hbwvlaw.com or call at (940) 387-3518, with your donation commitment. Deadline to turn in your donated item(s) is September 16, 2011.



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.

APRIL MINUTES

1. President-Elect, Michelle Beecher, called the meeting of April 28, 2011, to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 26 in attendance, which included 25 members, and the

speaker, all of whom were welcomed by the President-Elect.

2. President-Elect Beecher advised that the minutes from the March meeting and the current Treasurer's Report had been distributed and asked for a vote of approval. A motion for approval was presented by Michele George and seconded by Jenna Earhart, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President-Elect Beecher announced that plans were being made for the Association's silent auction event and encouraged everyone to pick up a flyer and participate.
4. President-Elect Beecher introduced the speaker, State Bar Paralegal Division Ambassador, Michele Boerder, who presented "*Benefits of Being Certified.*"
5. Gloria Porter won the monthly drawing for the gift presented by the Association.
6. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.