

THE VERDICT

FIRST QUARTER 2024

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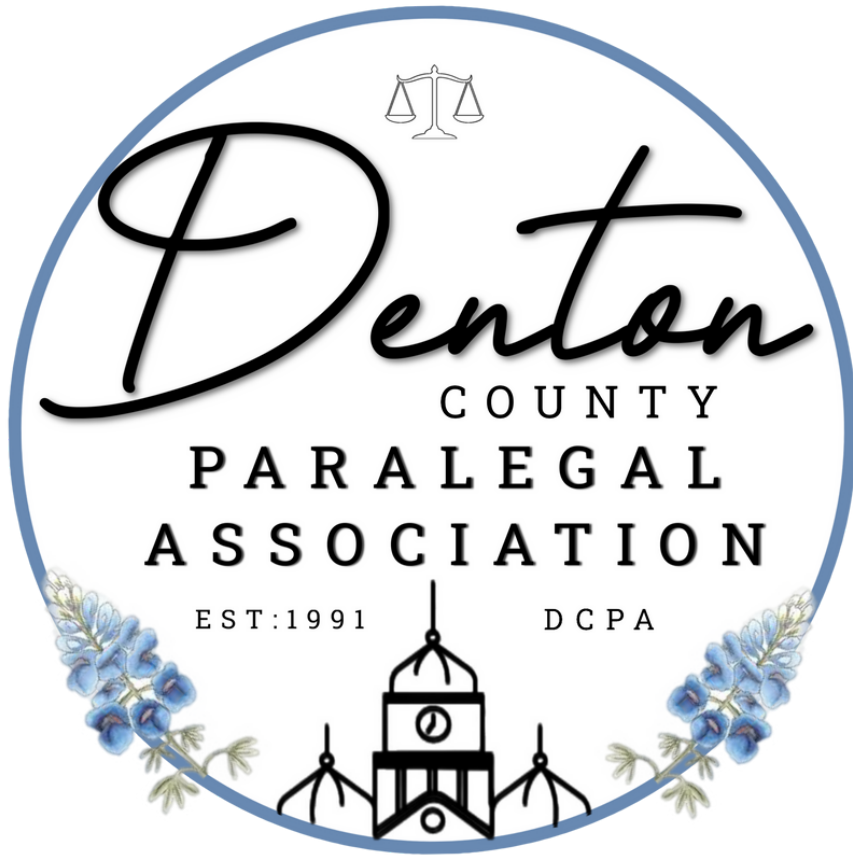


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2024 OFFICERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: RENITA MURPHY

PRESIDENT-ELECT: MELISSA HOPKINS

SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN: MELISSA HOPKINS

TREASURER: LISA PITTMAN

HISTORIAN: KRISTINA CHIARELLI



2024 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MARKETING: MADISON DUEHR

CLE: AURORA MORENO

FUNDRAISING: KRISTINA CHIARELLI

SCHOLARSHIP: LISA PITTMAN

MEMBERSHIP: ALICIA SPENCER

SOCIAL: ALISON HOPKINS

NEWSLETTER: MADISON DUEHR

SPONSORSHIP: KRISTINA CHIARELLI



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President Message



DEAR MEMBERS:

I AM HONORED TO LEAD THE DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION INTO ITS 32ND YEAR. MY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION INCREASED DRAMATICALLY WHEN I SAW THE DRIVE IN THESE STRONG WOMEN I HAVE COME TO KNOW. I TRULY ENJOY THE WORK I DO WITH DCPA AND FIND IT BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY REWARDING.

MY HOPE FOR MY PRESIDENCY IS TO SHARE WITH ALL OF YOU THE PASSION I HAVE FOR THE PARALEGAL PROFESSION. I CHOSE "INSPIRING OUR LEGACY" AS MY THEME FOR 2024. AS THE PRESIDENT OF DCPA, I WANT TO INSPIRE YOU ALL PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY TO SUCCEED IN ALL YOUR ENDEAVORS. I SAY, LET'S ENRICH OURSELVES WITH KNOWLEDGE AND HELP ONE ANOTHER SUCCEED!

DCPA PROMOTES THE PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF PARALEGALS, BY ENCOURAGING, PROMOTING, AND CONDUCTING PROGRAMS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. WE ADVANCE HIGH STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM FOR PARALEGALS TO THE END THAT BOTH THE PUBLIC AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION ARE BETTER SERVED. WITH ALL OUR MEMBERS UNITED, WE ARE A STRONG AND VITAL NETWORK OF BEST-IN-CLASS PARALEGALS.

JOIN US AS WE DEFINE A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR THE ASSOCIATION IN REGARD TO MONTHLY MEETINGS, RELATIONSHIP BUILDING, AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE WORKING THROUGH ECONOMIC ISSUES TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR IN-PERSON CLE, OUTREACH TO PARALEGAL STUDENTS, AND PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH TO DENTON COUNTY CAREER PARALEGALS.

FINALLY, I JUST WANT TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH DCPA AND ENCOURAGE FELLOW PARALEGAL INVOLVEMENT. IF YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING MORE INVOLVED WITH DCPA BUT DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO, PLEASE REACH OUT TO ME. THE FIRST STEP IS TO EMAIL OR CALL SO WE CAN FIND A PLACE FOR YOU AND YOUR STRENGTHS. EVEN THE SMALLEST AMOUNT OF VOLUNTEER TIME CAN BE A HUGE HELP.

I AM TRULY THANKFUL FOR THE PAST AND PRESENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR THEIR DEDICATION, AND FOR THE MEMBERSHIP'S ENCOURAGEMENT TO LEAD THE ASSOCIATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO A YEAR OF POSITIVITY AND GROWTH FOR DCPA, AND HOPE TO CONTINUE "INSPIRING OUR LEGACY" AS WE TAKE ON NEW CHALLENGES TOGETHER. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME WITH YOUR QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS, OR CONCERNS.

- Renita Murphy

2024 DCPA PRESIDENT



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Business Meeting Notice:

JOIN US ON APRIL 18TH FOR OUR NEXT BUSINESS MEETING!

Special Shoutout

SPECIAL NOTICE TO OUR MARKETING AND SOCIAL CHAIRS FOR HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING THIS QUARTER AND PROVIDING FUN, NEW, EVENTS AND IDEAS FOR 2024! WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT!

Anniversary

THIS YEAR IS DCPA'S 32ND YEAR AS AN ASSOCIATION. WE WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1992 AND WE WERE ORIGINALLY KNOWN AS THE GREATER DENTON LEGAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION (GDЛАА). IN 2005, THE ASSOCIATION CHANGED ITS NAME TO THE DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION (DCPA).

Our purpose

DCPA'S PURPOSE IS TO PROMOTE THE PROFESSIONAL OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF PARALEGALS IN DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS; TO ENCOURAGE, PROMOTE, AND CONDUCT PROGRAMS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT; AND TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY AND PROFESSIONALISM FOR PARALEGALS.

[CHECK IT OUT! ALL UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE NEWSLETTER CAN BE CLICKED TO TAKE YOU TO A NEW WEBSITE OR PAGE IN THIS NEWSLETTER!](#)



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S P R I N G 2 0 2 4 C L E S E M I N A R

Save the date

DCPA IS HOSTING ITS ANNUAL SPRING CLE!

DATE: MARCH 28, 2024
TIME: 8:15 AM TO 3:30 PM.
LOCATION: IN PERSON AT THE DENTON COUNTY COURT BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR JURY ROOM; 1450 E. MCKINNEY STREET, DENTON TX OR ATTENDEES CAN WATCH BY ZOOM

5 HOURS OF CLE

DCPA MEMBERS: \$40.00
NON-MEMBERS: \$50.00
BOX LUNCH & SWAG BAG INCLUDED FOR IN PERSON.

HONORABLE EDWARD NOLTER, ASSOCIATE JUDGE DENTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT #1

STEPHANIE GOHLKE, PROBATE AUDITOR OF DENTON COUNTY PROBATE COURT #2

DONNA BLOOM, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

KIM ALEXANDER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

ALI HAYSLIP, 442ND DISTRICT COURT ADMINISTRATOR OF DENTON COUNTY

DEANA SCOBEE, 442ND DISTRICT COURT REPORTER OF DENTON COUNTY

CASSY CARROLL, COUNTY COURT AT LAW #2 COURT ADMINISTRATOR

DAWN GREEN, COUNTY COURT AT LAW #2 COURT REPORTER

HONORABLE ROBIN A. RAMSAY, JUDGE OF THE DENTON COUNTY MAGISTRATE COURT & ASSOCIATE CRIMINAL JUDGE

DAVID B. KRUGER, ATTORNEY AT HAYES, BERRY, WHITE & VANZANT

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Code of Ethics Canons 1-10

CANON 1:

A PARALEGAL SHALL NOT ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW AS DEFINED BY STATUTES OR COURT DECISIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ACCEPTING CASES OR CLIENTS, SETTING FEES, GIVING LEGAL ADVICE OR APPEARING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY IN COURT OR BEFORE AN ADMINISTRATIVE OR REGULATORY AGENCY (UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY STATUTE, COURT OR AGENCY RULES); THE PARALEGAL SHALL ASSIST IN PREVENTING THE UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF LAW.

CANON 7:

A PARALEGAL SHALL AVOID, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, ANY INTEREST OR ASSOCIATION WHICH CONSTITUTES A CONFLICT OF INTEREST PERTAINING TO A CLIENT MATTER AND SHALL INFORM THE SUPERVISING ATTORNEY OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANY POSSIBLE CONFLICT.

CANON 10:

A PARALEGAL SHALL DO ALL OTHER THINGS INCIDENTAL, NECESSARY OR EXPEDIENT TO ENHANCE PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE PARTICIPATION OF PARALEGALS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE LEGAL PROFESSION.

CANON 2:

A PARALEGAL SHALL NOT PERFORM ANY OF THE DUTIES THAT ATTORNEYS ONLY MAY PERFORM OR DO THINGS WHICH ATTORNEYS THEMSELVES MAY NOT DO.

CANON 3:

A PARALEGAL SHALL EXERCISE CARE IN USING INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT AND IN DETERMINING THE EXTENT TO WHICH A CLIENT MAY BE ASSISTED WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF ANY ATTORNEY, AND SHALL NOT ACT IN MATTERS INVOLVING PROFESSIONAL LEGAL JUDGEMENT.

CANON 8:

A PARALEGAL SHALL MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF ETHICAL CONDUCT AND SHALL CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE PARALEGAL PROFESSION.

FUN FACT: PRESIDENT RENITA MURPHY ENCOURAGES ALL MEMBERS TO MEMORIZE THE CANONS... ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?



CANON 4:

A PARALEGAL SHALL PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE CONFIDENCES AND SECRETS OF A CLIENT.

CANON 5:

A PARALEGAL SHALL NOT SOLICIT LEGAL BUSINESS ON BEHALF OF AN ATTORNEY.

CANON 6:

A PARALEGAL SHALL NOT ENGAGE IN PERFORMING PARALEGAL FUNCTIONS OTHER THAN UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN ATTORNEY, AND SHALL NOT ADVERTISE OR CONTRACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF PARALEGAL FUNCTIONS.

CANON 9:

A PARALEGAL SHALL MAINTAIN A HIGH DEGREE OF COMPETENCY TO BETTER ASSIST THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN FULFILLING ITS DUTY TO PROVIDE QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC.

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First Quarter Fundraiser



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DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY WE DID OUR VALENTINE'S DAY GRAM FUNDRAISER. THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF OUR MEMBERS AND FOLLOWERS WE SOLD 152 BOXES AND RAISED \$1,131.00!

Valentines Day Grams



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Current Fundraising Opportunities



NATIONAL LOVE OUR CHILDREN DAY: APRIL 6, 2024

DCPA INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL LOVE OUR CHILDREN DAY BY FILLING A BOX OR DONATING TO SPONSOR A CHILD WITH LOVEPACS, DENTON.

LOVEPACS, DENTON IS A VOLUNTEER-LED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES TO FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN AS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE. DCPA BELIEVES IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO VOLUNTEERING WITH LOVEPACS, DENTON.

1 IN 5 CHILDREN IN NORTH TEXAS HAVE FOOD INSECURITIES AND THROUGH LOVEPACS, DCPA IS DETERMINED TO HELP ENSURE THAT CHILDREN HAVE FOOD DURING SCHOOL BREAKS. BELOW IS A PRINTABLE [SHOPPING LIST](#) OF ITEMS THAT WE NEED TO FILL ONE BOX, WHICH SPONSORS ONE DENTON COUNTY CHILD.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION IN LIEU OF DONATING FOOD ITEMS YOU MAY DO SO WITH THIS LINK: [DCPA DONATION LINK](#) LOVEPACS, DENTON SUGGESTS \$25/PER BOX. WE ASK THAT ANY DONATION BE AT LEAST \$25.

DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE IS APRIL 3, 2024.

YOU CAN DROP OFF AT 2 LOCATIONS:

BURROWS LAW GROUP- 4401 LONG PRAIRIE RD., SUITE 500, FLOWER MOUND, TEXAS 75028

HAYES, BERRY, WHITE, & VANZANT- 512 W. HICKORY STREET, SUITE 10, DENTON, TEXAS 76201



DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR DCPA? CONTACT US SO WE CAN WORK TOGETHER!



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First Quarter Events:

ON FEBRUARY 15, WE HOSTED OUR FIRST SOCIAL EVENT AT MISS ANGELINE'S. WE ENJOYED HEARING FROM OUR EVENT SPONSOR, DANIEL DOWER WITH CTA REPORTING, LLC. WE HAD A GREAT TURN OUT AND WERE ABLE TO ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY.



Upcoming events:

APRIL: LOVEPACS, DENTON BOX DECORATING
 MAY: COOKIE DECORATING BY KIM'S SWEET SANITY
 JUNE: BINGO DAY
 JULY/AUGUST: SIP N' SPA

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Social Giveaways:

IN FEBRUARY & MARCH WE DID TWO GIVEAWAYS ON SOCIAL MEDIA! TIFF'S TREATS WERE DELIVERED TO CTA REPORTING, LLC FOR OUR COOKIE GIVEAWAY AND THE WINNER OF OUR ST. PATRICK'S DAY BUNDLE WAS SHARRON DOWDLE!



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KEEP AN EYE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR FUTURE GIVEAWAYS! IF YOU LIKE PARTICIPATING ON OUR PAGE, INVITE YOUR COLLEAGUES! THE MORE THE MERRIER!



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First Quarter Birthday Shoutouts!

JANUARY

ADELLE ANDERSON
SHARRON DOWDLE
AMY HOFFEE
JONI LEE
TERRA PAUL

FEBRUARY

KATHERINE BLUME
TOYA BROWN-PHILLIPS
CAITLIN HARRIS
JENNIFER HARRIS
SONJA HOKE
LINDA MATAS
KRISTEN MORRISON
STORMI SCHERB
LINDA STANLEY

MARCH

JACKIE BELL
ELIZABETH BORKOWKI
LISA BOWLES
HEATHER COLLARD
KACEY FRANKLIN
BRANDI GREATHOUSE
HOLLY KEEN
LISA PITMAN

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First Quarter Speakers



EVENT SPONSOR & GUEST SPEAKER

DANIEL DOWER, ATTORNEY; CTA REPORTING, LLC

DANIEL DOWER GRADUATED FROM THE TEXAS ACADEMY OF MATH & SCIENCE AT UNT BEFORE COMPLETING A BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AT UTD, MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM SMU, AND JURIS DOCTOR FROM SMU. HE IS ALSO A CERTIFIED DIVORCE FINANCIAL ANALYST AND A LICENSED INVESTMENT ADVISOR.

DANIEL HAS A LONG CAREER AS A BUSINESS EXECUTIVE, INCLUDING SERVING AS CFO FOR A LOCAL REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT COMPANY AND CEO FOR A NATIONAL BEVERAGE COMPANY. THROUGH DALLAS FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS, INC., DANIEL ACTS AS AN ANGEL INVESTOR AND BUSINESS ADVISOR FOR ENTREPRENEURS. IN 2024, DANIEL LAUNCHED CTA REPORTING, LLC TO HELP SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS COMPLY WITH THE NEW REQUIREMENTS OF THE CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT.

DANIEL HAS SIGNIFICANT EXPERIENCE IN STRUCTURED FINANCE, BUSINESS DISPUTES, CORPORATE FORMATION, AND CONTRACTS. AT BURROWS LAW GROUP'S FAMILY LAW DIVISION, HE SPECIALIZES IN BUSINESS VALUATION, CONSTRUCTIVE FRAUD, FORENSIC ACCOUNTING, AND PROPERTY TRACING.

DANIEL LIVES IN COLLIN COUNTY AND HANDLES CLIENT MATTERS IN DENTON, COLLIN, DALLAS, AND TARRANT COUNTIES. ALTHOUGH HE ENJOYS HIS WORK, DANIEL HAS A LARGE FAMILY AND UNDERSTANDS THE NEED TO MAINTAIN POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS EVEN WHEN SPOUSES, BUSINESSES, OR PARTNERS NEED TO PART WAYS. HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES HELP HIM RELATE TO CLIENT NEEDS, EVEN WHEN THEY GO BEYOND PURE LEGAL OR FINANCIAL EXPERTISE.

JOHN F. CASHMAN, ATTORNEY; OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOHN CASHMAN IS THE SENIOR REGIONAL ATTORNEY FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHILD SUPPORT DIVISION, REGION 9. JOHN WENT TO WORK FOR THE OAG IN 2010 AFTER MANY YEARS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AND WORKING FOR A GENERAL PRACTICE LAW FIRM.

JOHN GREW UP IN VERMONT AND EARNED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT IN 1990. FROM THERE, IN NEED OF SOME ADVENTURE, HE WAS RECRUITED TO THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE WAS A PATROLMAN AND TRAINING OFFICER FOR 13 YEARS.

JOHN WAS AWARDED A FULL-TUITION SCHOLARSHIP AND ATTENDED THE TEXAS WESLEYAN SCHOOL OF LAW (CURRENTLY A&M), GRADUATING #1 IN HIS CLASS IN 03. JOHN ATTENDED LAW SCHOOL WHILE WORKING FULL TIME AS A POLICE OFFICER, AND RAISING HIS TWO CHILDREN.



FEBRUARY 2024 CLE PRESENTER



[VISIT THE SPRING CLE PAGE](#)
TO SEE ADDITIONAL
[UPCOMING PRESENTERS](#)



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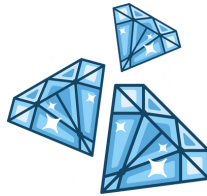
We love our sponsors

SPONSORS ARE THE REASON WE CAN DO WHAT WE DO! PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR FIRM TO SUPPORT DCPA BY BECOMING A SPONSOR. WHETHER IT BE A SUSTAINING SPONSORSHIP OR AN UPCOMING EVENT, WE LOVE TO SEE THE SUPPORT OFFICE LOCAL FIRMS AND ATTORNEYS! CONTACT KRISTINA CHIARELLI WITH QUESTIONS! VIA

D I A M O N D S P O N S O R S



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TEXAS FIRM



Proof®



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LAW GROUP

B R O N Z E S P O N S O R S

LOVELESS & LOVELESS

Attorneys at Law L.P.

Family Law & Divorce Attorneys
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Denton, Texas 76201
940-387-3776
<https://cmloveless.com/contact/>

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Family Law Section



OF OUR DIAMOND SPONSOR: HBWV



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TEXAS FIRM



WE ARE TEXAS FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS COMMITTED TO PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN MATTERS INVOLVING DIVORCE, CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS, AND OTHER DOMESTIC MATTERS. WHEN YOU NEED WISE COUNSEL TO SETTLE FAMILY DISPUTES AND OTHER ISSUES, IT IS IMPORTANT TO FIND AN ATTORNEY WHO TAKES THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND YOUR UNIQUE FAMILY SITUATION AND GUIDE YOU ACCORDINGLY.

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Brian Tackett
Partner



Kirsten Bode
Senior Counsel



Colby Berry
Associate

HAYES, BERRY, WHITE & VANZANT, LLP ADVISES NORTH TEXAS CLIENTS ON DIVORCES, CUSTODY ARRANGEMENTS, AND OTHER FAMILY LAW ISSUES. CALL US AT 940-334-7035 OR CONTACT US ONLINE TO SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION. WE HAVE NORTH TEXAS OFFICES, LOCATED IN DENTON, FLOWER MOUND AND GAINESVILLE.



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Compassionate & Strong



REPRESENTATION BY OUR DIAMOND SPONSOR: BURROWS LAW GROUP



Burrows Law Group boasts a legal team that has decades of experience in many facets of law among its members. At Burrows Law Group, our lawyers put you and your family's needs first, as we learn all the nuances of your particular legal matter by intently listening to you and meeting you where you're at in the matter. We take on cases in all areas of family law.

Featured on the cover of Argyle and Lantana Living magazines. Soon to be featured in Forbes.

Serving, Denton, Collin, Tarrant, and Dallas Counties.

4401 Long Prairie Road, Suite 500, Flower Mound, Texas 75028
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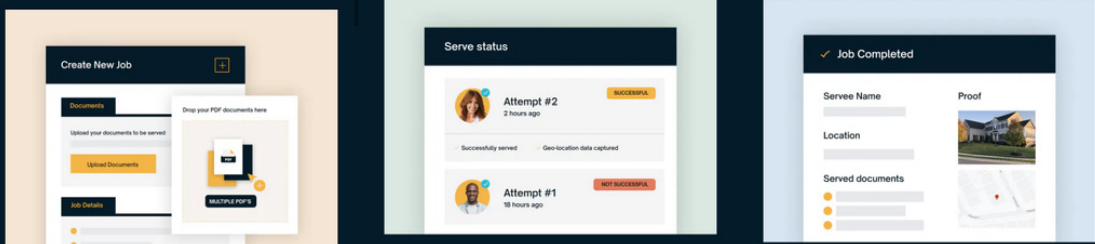



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Step 2
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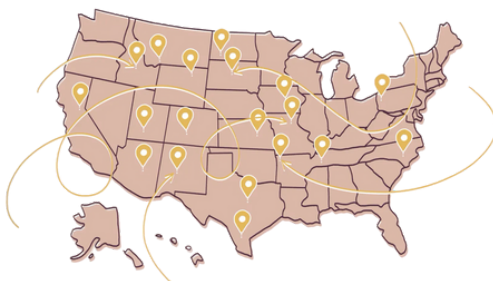
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Get geo-tagged photos and affidavits with every successful serve.

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WITH PROOF, THE HEAVY LIFTING IS ALL AUTOMATED—YOU GIVE THEM THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE, AND THEY FILL IN THE REST! YOU'LL RECEIVE REAL-TIME UPDATES AND CAN COORDINATE WITH YOUR SERVER DIRECTLY.



DID YOU KNOW THAT PROOF DOES SERVES OUT OF THE COUNTRY?

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First Quarter Featured Paralegals

LILY LORD, JANUARY 2024 PARALEGAL OF THE MONTH



LILY'S LIFE BEGAN IN A BOROUGH OF PENNSYLVANIA ABOUT 30 MILES NORTHWEST OF PHILADELPHIA. MOST OF HER CHILDHOOD OCCURRED IN THE TRIAD OF NORTH CAROLINA WITH A SHORT STINT IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. HOWEVER, SHE CAN NOW PROUDLY SAY THAT SHE HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF TEXAS FOR THE LONGEST AMOUNT OF TIME!

LILY BEGAN HER WORK IN THE LEGAL FIELD AS A RECEPTIONIST AND QUICKLY WORKED HER WAY THROUGH THE RANKS WHERE SHE LANDED A POSITION AS PARALEGAL FOR ADAM BURROWS, OWNER OF BURROWS LAW GROUP. SHE NOW HANDLES THE CASE LOAD OF A SECOND ATTORNEY AS WELL, BRIELLE WARD.

WHEN SHE IS NOT IN THE OFFICE, YOU CAN PROBABLY FIND LILY SOMEWHERE AROUND THE DENTON SQUARE WITH HER HUSBAND, CURTIS, AND THEIR DAUGHTERS. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION; HER HUSBAND SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY FOR SIX YEARS AS A COMBAT ENGINEER.

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First Quarter Featured Paralegals

PAMELA SNAVLEY, FEBRUARY 2024 PARALEGAL OF THE MONTH

PAMELA SNAVLEY IS A BOARD CERTIFIED FAMILY LAW PARALEGAL THROUGH THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION. SHE IS A CERTIFIED PARALEGAL AND ADVANCED CERTIFIED PARALEGAL THROUGH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS. FOR OVER 10 YEARS, PAMELA HAS WORKED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF BRIAN K. TACKETT, PARTNER AND HEAD OF THE FAMILY LAW SECTION OF HAYES, BERRY, WHITE & VANZANT, L.L.P. IN DENTON. SHE HAS BEEN A PARALEGAL FOR OVER TWENTY YEARS, WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELDS OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL LITIGATION, REAL ESTATE, AND TRANSACTIONAL MATTERS.

PAMELA OBTAINED HER PARALEGAL CERTIFICATE FROM TEXAS WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY IN 2006, AND THE CERTIFIED PARALEGAL DESIGNATION THROUGH NALA IN 2009. SHE GRADUATED MAGNA CUM LAUDE FROM TEXAS WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY IN 2010 WITH A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN GOVERNMENT, LEGAL STUDIES EMPHASIS, AND ENGLISH MINOR. IN 2014, PAMELA OBTAINED THE ADVANCED CERTIFIED PARALEGAL CREDENTIAL FOR FAMILY LAW (CHILD CUSTODY, SUPPORT, AND VISITATION) THROUGH NALA. PAMELA EARNED THE TBLS BOARD CERTIFIED CREDENTIAL IN FAMILY LAW THROUGH THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION IN 2023.

PAMELA IS A MEMBER OF THE DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, PARALEGAL DIVISION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL ASSISTANTS, AND THE TEXAS BAR COLLEGE. SHE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN DCPA SINCE 2008. SHE SERVED AS SOCIAL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR 2008-2011, TAPA PLANNING COMMITTEE 2015, SECRETARY/PARLIAMENTARIAN 2015-2016, PRESIDENT-ELECT 2016, PRESIDENT 2017, AND HISTORIAN 2018. PAMELA PREVIOUSLY SERVED DISTRICT 12 OF THE PARALEGAL DIVISION AS THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUB-CHAIR 2009-2010, MEMBERSHIP SUB-CHAIR 2010-2011 AND 2018 - 2021, DISTRICT 12 DIRECTOR 2012-2014, BOARD ADVISOR TO ELECTIONS CHAIR AND PROFESSIONAL ETHICS CHAIR 2012-2014, SOCIALS CO-CHAIR FOR THE TAPS PLANNING COMMITTEE 2015, CHAIR OF THE DISTRICT CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE 2015-2017, REGISTRATION CHAIR AND TAPS APP CHAIR OF THE 2022 TAPS PLANNING COMMITTEE, AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE 2023 TAPS SPEAKER COMMITTEE. SHE IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS THE DISTRICT 12 DIRECTOR 2021-2024. PAMELA HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS BAR COLLEGE SINCE 2017 AND IS AN ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER FOR PARALEGAL STUDIES AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY - COMMERCE FROM 2023 TO THE PRESENT.

PAMELA GIVES MUCH CREDIT TO HER MEMBERSHIP IN THE DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION AND IN THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS PARALEGAL DIVISION FOR THE INSPIRATION TO GROW PROFESSIONALLY THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION, CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION, AND LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDED GREAT HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE AND INTRODUCED HER TO SEVERAL EXCELLENT MENTORS. IT ALSO HELPED HER FORGE SUPPORTIVE FRIENDSHIPS AND ESTABLISH LASTING CONNECTIONS WITH COLLEAGUES IN THE LEGAL COMMUNITY.

PAMELA HAS BEEN A VOLUNTEER ON THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE OF HER CHURCH SINCE 2003. SHE IS AN AVID READER WHO ENJOYS ART AND MUSIC, EXPLORING THE GREAT OUTDOORS, TRAVELING WITH HER HUSBAND, AND SPENDING TIME WITH HER FAMILY AND GRANDKIDS.



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THE VERDICT

FIRST QUARTER 2024 [HTTPS://WWW.DENTONPARALEGALS.ORG/](https://www.dentonparalegals.org/)

First Quarter Featured Paralegals

JANENE KOINER-CLARK, MARCH 2024 PARALEGAL OF THE MONTH



JANENE KOINER-CLARK IS A VITAL PART OF THE NELSON LAW GROUP PARALEGAL TEAM. HER IMPRESSIVE RESUME SPANS OVER 30 YEARS AND INCLUDES LENGTHY STINTS WITH THREE PRESTIGIOUS LAW FIRMS. BEFORE COMING TO NELSON LAW GROUP IN 2021, SHE WAS WITH THE SAME LAW FIRM IN LEWISVILLE FOR 17 YEARS. JANENE IS KNOWN FOR HER POSITIVE AND HIGH-ENERGY APPROACH, AND BECAUSE SHE PREFERS NOT TO MOVE AROUND MUCH IN HER CAREER, SHE HAS DEVELOPED PROFOUNDLY PERSONAL AND TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CLIENTS WHO CRAVE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE DURING ARGUABLY THE MOST DIFFICULT TIMES OF THEIR LIVES. NATURALLY, THIS MAKES HER A VALUABLE ADDITION TO OUR CLIENT-FOCUSED PRACTICE.

A RESIDENT OF KRUM WITH HER HUSBAND, RANDY, JANENE'S SPECIALTY IS ALL ASPECTS OF FAMILY LAW, THOUGH SHE CAN BE CALLED UPON TO HELP FAMILIES NAVIGATE COMPLICATED PROBATE CASES. SHE EARNED HER BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN 1991 FROM TEXAS WOMAN'S UNIVERSITY AS A DOUBLE MAJOR IN ENGLISH AND GOVERNMENT, EMPHASIZING PARALEGAL STUDIES. SHE HAS ALSO SHOWN VERSATILITY THROUGHOUT HER CAREER WHILE TAKING ON PERSONAL INJURY AND CIVIL LITIGATION CASES.

JANENE AND RANDY HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR SIX YEARS. THEIR BLENDED FAMILY INCLUDES HER TWO BIOLOGICAL CHILDREN, THREE STEP-CHILDREN, 10 GRANDCHILDREN, AND THREE GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN. BESIDES WANTING TO BE WITH THE NELSON LAW GROUP FAMILY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME, HER GOAL IS TO BECOME BOARD-CERTIFIED IN FAMILY LAW.

IN HER FREE TIME, JANENE ENJOYS BEING WITH FAMILY, READING, AND BEING ACTIVE IN CHURCH.

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THE VERDICT

FIRST QUARTER 2024

[HTTPS://WWW.DENTONPARALEGALS.ORG/](https://www.dentonparalegals.org/)

Approved First Quarter Minutes

DCPA MINUTES

January 18, 2024

President Renita Murphy called the meeting held on this date to order at 11:56 a.m. via Zoom. President Murphy welcomed 21 members and 0 guests.

President Murphy read off the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility Preamble and Cannons along with members Jenna Earhart, Madison Duehr, and Pam Snavelly.

Old Business- President Murphy announced the following:

1. Motion for November minutes made by Pam Snavelly. 2nd motion to approve made by Beth Honeycutt. Unanimously approved.
2. 2024 Budget Adopted announcement and 2023 Treasurer's Report was adopted.
3. President Murphy reiterated the need for volunteers to help with venue for in-person monthly meetings, socials, co-chairs, etc.
4. President Murphy reminded members of membership dues and renewals, and reiterated the fee increase to \$50.00.
5. President Murphy reminded members of the Wild Apricot App.
6. President Murphy reminded members of the Scholarship Deadlines for each certification/association.

New Business- President Murphy announced the following:

1. President Murphy announced that the DCPA has a new look! Credits to Madison Duehr.
2. President Murphy announced that end of December the EC approved the shredding of paper treasurer records from 2013 to 2019.
3. Sponsorship for the DCPA is on the rise. Talk to your firms about sponsoring.
4. President Murphy announced that the sponsorship form were revised and reiterated the tier sponsors vs the event sponsors.
5. DCAP Fundraising Events:
 - a. Valentines Grams – Deadlines for orders is February 7, 2024.
 - b. Lovepacs – Food drive to fill boxes. Details coming soon.
6. DCPA Social Events coming soon:
 - a. Mardi Gras/Galentine's Day!— February 15, 2024, at Ms. Angelines. Sponsored by Daniel Dower who will be speaking about Corporate Transparency Act.
7. Recognition of January member birthdays.

Door Prize: Jennifer Harris won a \$15 Amazon gift card.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

Renita Murphy, President

Melissa Hopkins, Secretary

DCPA MINUTES

February 15, 2024

President Renita Murphy called the meeting held on this date to order at 11:56 a.m. via Zoom. President Murphy welcomed 29 DCPA members, 13 SBOTPD members, 4 guests and Speaker John Cashman.

Old Business- President Murphy announced the following:

1. Motion for January minutes made by Lisa Bowles. 2nd motion to approve made by Pam Snavelly. Unanimously approved.
2. President Murphy announced our paralegal of the month for January – Lily Lord
3. President Murphy announced our paralegal of the month for February – Pamela Snavelly
4. President Murphy reiterated the need for volunteers to help with venue for in-person monthly meetings, socials, co-chairs, etc.
5. President Murphy reminded members of membership dues and renewals, and reiterated the fee increase to \$50.00.
6. President Murphy reminded members of the Wild Apricot App.
7. President Murphy reminded members of the Scholarship Deadlines for each certification/association.

New Business- President Murphy announced the following:

1. TAPA – Texas Alliance of Paralegal Association is hosted by Capital Area Paralegal Associate this year and is set for April 13, 2024
2. DCAP Fundraising Events:
 - a. Valentines Day Grams: Sold 152 total, \$1,131.00 collected; \$\$1,056.36 profit!
3. Social Events:
 - a. Mardi Gras TONIGHT! See you there!
4. Recognition of February member birthdays.

President Murphy introduced OAG Attorney, John Cashman as our CLE Speaker today. Mr. Cashman's topic was "Why is the AG involved in my case."

Door Prize: Emily Irby won a \$15 Amazon gift card.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Renita Murphy, President

Melissa Hopkins, Secretary

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