

July 2015

# The Verdict

*Denton County Paralegal Association*

**Special Interest  
Articles:**

- Birthdays
- Marriage  
Announcements
- Important Deadlines

**Individual  
Highlights:**

Meeting Notice	2
Meeting Agenda	3
President's Message	4
Birthdays	5
Sustaining Members	6
Marriage Announcements	7
Important Deadlines	8
Minutes	9-10

## **Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar** (a three day CLE seminar)

***Saddle Up for CLE - TAPS 2015***

**Don't Miss Early Registration Deadline - August 29, 2015**  
(after August 29, a \$35 late fee will be applied)

**Register at [www.txpd.org/taps](http://www.txpd.org/taps)**

**September 30 - October 2, 2015**  
**Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel - Fort Worth, TX**

The Paralegal Division is sponsoring the 2015 Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar (TAPS) in Fort Worth, TX at the [Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel](#) on September 30 - October 2, 2015. You don't want to miss this event. Three days of CLE, Networking and meet and greet! Even an Exhibit Hall. There are grand prizes for TAPS 2015...\$500 each. Details include pricing and speakers at [www.txpd.org/taps](http://www.txpd.org/taps).

Over 60 substantive legal topics; vendor exhibit hall, welcome social, networking social, and attendee luncheon and door prizes galore!

## Meeting Notice

### 2015 Officers

Cheryl Cooper, President  
dentoncopa@gmail.com

Melody Brackeen, President-Elect  
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Pamela Snavely, Secretary/Parliamentarian  
psnavely@hbwlaw.com

Lisa Pittman, Treasurer  
lpittman@hbwlaw.com

Kim Guertler, Historian  
Kim.guertler@dentoncounty.com

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **July 23, 2015** 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.

## Did you know...

Payments for the CLE Luncheon can now be made online. For more information and online registration see Events/CLE Luncheon at [www.dentonparalegals.org](http://www.dentonparalegals.org).

***RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED and can be made via e-mail to Cheryl Cooper@dentoncopa@gmail.com. The deadline to RSVP is July 17, 2015.***

**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)

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### 2015 Committee Chairs

CLE, Michelle Beecher  
mbeecher@dentonlaw.com

Fundraising, Melody Brackeen  
mbrackeen@dentontexaslawyers.com

Legal Directory, Brandi Hunter  
BHunter410@gmail.com

Membership, Sunnie Palmer  
sunnie@zellmerlaw.com

Newsletter, Lisa Pittman  
lpittman@hbwlaw.com

Social, Heather Walker  
heather.walker@dentoncounty.com

Scholarship, Ria Sherman  
ria@cokerlegal.com

## **AGENDA FOR MEETING**

Date: July 23, 2015  
Place: Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210  
Time: Noon

- 1. Welcome members and guests**
- 2. Old Business**
  - a. Approve June meeting Minutes
  - b. Approve June Treasurer’s Report
- 3. New Business**
  - a. Social Committee Chair – announcement on Social at Painting with a Twist and upcoming events.
  - b. Remind everyone to check out the website and our Facebook page.
- 4. CLE Speaker – Attorney Jackie Cannon**
- 5. Announcements and Door Prize**
- 6. Adjournment**

## **CLE GUEST SPEAKER**



Our speaker will be attorney Jacqueline “Jackie” Cannon with Duane L. Coker & Associates, P.C. Ms. Cannon will be speaking on “Same Sex Marriage and the Butterfly Effect.”

## President's Message

By: Cheryl Cooper

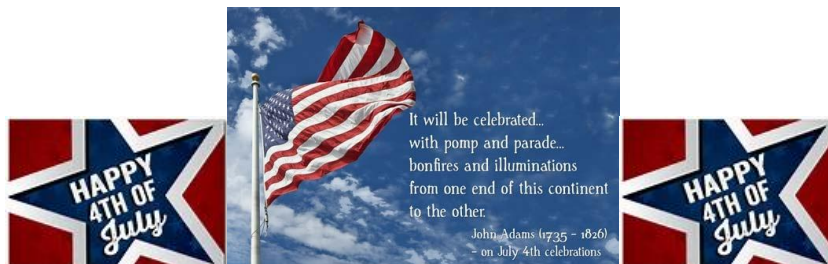


July means celebrating our independence and freedoms!

I love summer, even though I don't get a chance to enjoy it much due to working inside the majority of the week. Most of you who know me know I'm an American Patriot. I love our country and what our founding fathers created. I am sure I am not the only one who is dismayed by some of the changes we are experiencing due to decisions by those who are supposed to govern the people and protect our country and freedoms. I challenge each of you to do something proactive to champion your cause for freedom. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is always a fun and special holiday with lots of flag-waving, red, white & blue, good food, families, and fireworks. I seriously saw 16 different fireworks displays from one location. They were amazing. I hope you were able to celebrate our INDEPENDENCE in a memorable way.

Jackie Cannon will be our speaker at our July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting next week. Her topic is "Same Sex Marriage and the Butterfly Effect." It is mind boggling to think of the ripple effect that the SCOTUS (Supreme Court of the United States) decision will have on our country and state. The forms, laws, procedures, etc. that will have to change in order to accommodate this decision seem never ending. I hope you plan to join us next week. I'm eager to hear what Attorney Cannon has to say on this very controversial subject. Regardless of what we all personally feel on the subject, we will all be affected in some way by this historic decision.

Please note that I have accepted a job in Denton so I will no longer have to commute to Lewisville. Make a note of my new email address for paralegal association matters: [dentoncopa@gmail.com](mailto:dentoncopa@gmail.com). I will no longer be able to access emails at my old firm: [mli@steelelawfirm.com](mailto:mli@steelelawfirm.com). Thank you for your cooperation with this.



## Birthdays

Our members with August Birthdays are:

LaKesha Bell (8/3)  
Melody Brackeen (8/16)  
Michele George (8/22)  
Janene Koiner (8/23)  
Michael McNeil (8/12)  
Margie Mohr (8/11)  
Lindsay Nixon (8/27)  
Beverly Rezadad (8/7)  
Stephanie Smith (8/2)  
Landra Turner (8/3)

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

## 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 Sunnie Palmer at [sunnie@zellmerlaw.com](mailto:sunnie@zellmerlaw.com).

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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

## **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)

### **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)

### **Zoning-Info, Inc.**

#### **Joseph Lankford**

3555 N.S. 58<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 400  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112  
Phone: 405-525-2998  
Fax: 405-528-4878  
Email – [jlankford@zoning-info.com](mailto:jlankford@zoning-info.com)

### **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)

### **County Process Service**

#### **Fred Bowles**

159 Sunny Side Lane  
Valley View, Texas 76272  
Phone: 940.-390-0914  
Email - [fbowles@ntin.net](mailto:fbowles@ntin.net)

### **Kim Tindall & Associates, LLC**

#### **Dean Shaw**

16414 San Pedro, Suite 900  
San Antonio, Texas 78232  
Phone: 210-697-3400  
Fax: 210-697-3408  
Email - [dshaw@ktanda.com](mailto:dshaw@ktanda.com)

## MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT



Member Linda Lewis would like to announce the marriage of her daughter, Amy, to Lewis Anderson. Amy and Lewis were married in the presence of their family on June 10, 2015, on the beach at St. Thomas, USVI. After their honeymoon in St. Thomas, they will reside in Houston, Texas, where Amy is an attorney with the firm of Jones Walker LLP and Lewis is employed by Tiff's Treats.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

**DCPA TAPS Scholarship** - "Don't Forget! With TAPS right around the corner (registration is now open), it's time to submit your application for the DCPA TAPS Scholarship of \$250 for attendance at TAPS. This year the conference is in Fort Worth. ***Applications will be accepted up to close of business on September 15.*** Please send them to [ria@cokerlegal.com](mailto:ria@cokerlegal.com) . Forms will be provided at the monthly CLE luncheon. We hope to also have them available on our website soon. **All members in good standing with DCPA are eligible.** Additional information about the scholarship may be found on our website under Resources in the By-Laws and Standing Orders. The lucky recipient will be selected by the Executive Committee and announced at the October CLE luncheon. Payment of the scholarship is in the form of reimbursement after the conference and upon providing a receipt."



## **TBLS Certification Examination TBLS Board Certified Exams Announced**

***TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION (TBLS)  
PARALEGAL TBLS BOARD CERTIFICATION FILING PERIOD OPENS ON MAY 1, 2015  
FILING DEADLINE - JULY 20, 2015***

***EXAMINATION DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2015***

Established by TBLS in 1994, the paralegal certification program recognizes quality services of paralegals who have achieved a level of special knowledge in a particular area of law. The program is the only state organization authorized to certify paralegals as specialist in the following seven specialty areas of law: Bankruptcy, Civil Trial, Criminal, Estate Planning & Probate, Family, Personal Injury, and Real Estate. This year's certification applications will be available starting May 1 through July 20, 2015. Please request a form via email to [tbls@tbls.org](mailto:tbls@tbls.org) or visit the TBLS Paralegal website, <http://www.tbls-bcp.org>. There are currently 356 elite Board Certified Paralegals in Texas.



## Minutes

1. President Elect Melody Brackeen called the business meeting of June 25, 2015 to order at 12:13 p.m. at Oakmont Country Club. President Elect Brackeen welcomed 14 attendees, consisting of 13 members and 1 guest.

### OLD BUSINESS:

2. President Elect Brackeen asked for a vote on the May 2015 meeting minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Christy Rodgers and seconded by Amy Hoffee. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
3. President Elect Brackeen asked for a vote of approval for the May 2015 Treasurer's report. A motion for approval was presented by Lakesha Bell and seconded by Jenna Earhart. The motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. Quarterly reports were presented by the various committee chairs:  
Melody Brackeen, Fundraising Committee Chair, reported that there were no meetings this quarter and no funds spent. She anticipated that the next fundraiser would take place in late October around Halloween.
  - a. Heather Walker, Social Committee Chair, reported that the committee met in April. The scavenger hunt was cancelled due to inclement weather but would be rescheduled later in the year. Christy Rodgers, organizer of the Bingo Night Event, reported that it was a great success with a net profit of \$279.00. Kim Guertler added that it was a good community service event enjoyed by both DCPA members and Bridgemoor residents. Christy expressed thanks to sponsors and donors, all who helped with the event, and reminded members to support businesses and donors who support the DCPA. Heather reported that the next social will be held August 13<sup>th</sup> at Painting with a Twist. DCPA will cover a portion of the fees and participants will pay \$20.00 out of pocket for the remainder.
  - b. President Elect Brackeen reported on behalf of the Scholarship Award Committee that one application for scholarship funds was received and forwarded to the Executive Committee for review and approval.
  - c. Michelle Beecher, CLE Chair, reported that she has speakers lined up for April and May, and is planning a half day seminar slated for September. She also reported that NALA exams will be held in January. Pam Snavely added that TAPS will be held in in Fort Worth this year at the end of September/beginning of October. Michelle is also planning a paralegal day celebration in conjunction with the SBPD in October.
  - d. Lisa Pittman, Treasurer, gave an approximation of funds currently held by the association and referred members to the written report for actual figures concerning income and expenses for the quarter.

## **Minutes Con't**

- e. Lisa Pittman, Newsletter Committee Chair, reported that the committee will be looking at the Wild Apricot website for templates that will streamline the newsletter process. President Elect Brackeen encouraged members to let the committee know what they want and would like to see in the newsletter.
  - f. President Elect Brackeen announced on behalf of the Membership Committee that the membership contest was concluded and all entries were placed into a drawing for a door prize. Pam Snavely was the winner of the drawing for a \$25.00 gift card to Cracker Barrel.
5. There being no further business, President Elect Brackeen adjourned the meeting at 12:40 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)