

THE VERDICT

DENTON COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2012

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jennifer Stout

Spring is upon us, I think, but let us not forget we are in Texas. Spring is honored in many countries as "the King of seasons." It is the seasonal transition period between Winter and Summer and rules over the months of March and April (at least here in Texas). Spring is a time for change, growth, renewal, of new life (both plant and animal) and a time for human beings to de-clutter and simplify their lives, both personal and professional.

The seasonal transition brings us the best – mornings retain a bit of the winter's chill, the rains relieve us from last year's drought, the flowers bloom, birds chirp, bees buzz, the sun is warm, and our skies are clear. Children of all ages are enjoying Spring Break, while the working masses (us) develop Spring Fever. Who wants to be at work during this glorious time of year? Not me, but unfortunately we must and we do. It is so difficult for me to be at work, look at the beautiful day outside and concentrate on the work at hand, especially when all I want to do is ... kid's play! However, the beauty of the season mustn't be allowed to distract from our work and obligation to our clients. Raucous clients and impatient attorneys will not overcome the beauty of the season and our devotion to professionalism.

What is the solution? I don't really know, but maybe if we could condition our minds to think Spring is a working woman's (man's) time to renew focus and enthusiasm of our work and our lives; to de-clutter our office space (file documents that have been sitting on or desks since last year), get caught up on entering our billable hours and sending out the invoices timely and to simplify our lives and enjoy after-work hours by not bringing work home.

Let us try to bring a little bit of "the King of seasons" into our professional work lives, but not deprive ourselves of enjoying the season in our private lives before we are hit with the Texas "dog days of Summer."

Enjoy!

Jen



2012 DCPA OFFICERS

President – Jennifer Stout

President Elect – Ria Sherman

Secretary/Parliamentarian – Kim Guertler

Treasurer – Lisa Pittman

Historian – Vicki Schmidt



2012 DCPA COMMITTEES

CLE Committee -

- Lisa Bowles, Chairman
- Michelle James
- Debbie Mitchell
- Marguerita Alba
- Allison Martin

Fund Raising Committee -

- Jenna Earhart, Chairman
- Lisa Pittman
- Ria Sherman
- Michele George

Legal Directory Committee -

- Debbie Maldonado, Chairman
- Ava Watson
- Lisa Pittman

Membership Committee -

- Priscilla Brooks, Co-Chairman
- Linda Lewis, Co-Chairman
- Sunnie Palmer
- Jennifer Harris
- Denise League
- Michelle Beecher
- Rachel Huntman

Newsletter Committee -

- Lisa Pittman, Chairman
- Jennifer Earhart
- Wanda Woodworth
- Michele George

Social Committee -

- Christy Powell, Co-Chair
- Pam Snavely, Co-Chair
- Carolyn Ganzer
- Carol Pelzel

do not attend an invoice will be sent to cover the expense.

MEETING NOTICE

The Denton County Paralegal Association's next Luncheon will be on Thursday, **March 29, 2012** 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 jennifer.stout@dentoncounty.com. The Deadline for making your reservation is **5:00 P.M. on Monday, March 26, 2012.**

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)



PLEASE NOTE: EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Due to the increase cost in food & beverages, and to insure there is no increase in cost to DCPA members, the DCPA monthly luncheon meetings will now be held in the smaller banquet room at Oakmont; space will be limited. Therefore, it is imperative you make your reservation to attend and eat or to attend with no lunch. And per policy if you RSVP and





AGENDA FOR MARCH MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012

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

Time: Noon

1. Welcome members and guests
2. Old Business - Approve February minutes and Treasurer's report
3. New Business -
4. Speaker: Dr. Michael Flynn, Mental Illness v. Personality Disorders (Understanding them and How to Handle Clients with same)
5. Door Prizes
6. Adjournment



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.



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 Priscilla Brooks at Priscilla.brooks@dentoncounty.com, (940) 349-2758 or Linda Lewis at linda@dentonfamilyattorneys.com, (940) 591-1191.

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 April birthdays are:

- Jennifer Stout (4-8);
- Marguerite Alba (4-11);
- Miranda Miller (4-12);
- Christine Piott (4-16);
- Priscilla Brooks (4-24);
- Sunnie Palmer (4-24)

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



SPEAKER INFORMATION



Our Speaker this month is Dr. Michael H. Flynn, J.D., Ph.D, speaking on "Mental Illness v. Personality Disorders (Understanding them and How to Handle Clients with Same)"



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@hbwlw.com. Thank you!





CONGRATULATIONS!!

Member, Sunnie Palmer is the proud mother to a beautiful baby daughter, Darcy. Baby Darcy was born on March 3rd!

too. Be sure to participate during the bidding at the Auction - donations are great, bidding wars are even better!!

Please email Jenna Earhart, Fundraising Committee Chair, at jeahart@hbwvllaw.com or call at (940) 387-3518, with your donation commitment.

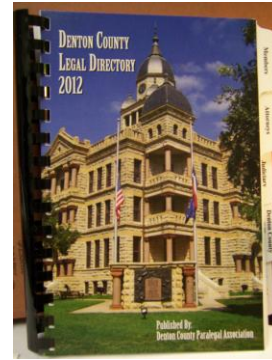


DCPA FUNDRAISER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Let the Silent Auction BEGIN!!

Our first annual silent auction was a big hit with our Members, so we are gearing up for our Second Annual Silent Auction benefitting our Thanksgiving and Christmas families. This year we have set in place FIVE very exciting categories to help our Members decide where their own talents might lay. Categories are as follows: Baby, Baked Goods, Gift Boxes, Photography/Art and Theme Baskets.



Members, please get your 2012 Legal Directory if you haven't already picked it up! 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. See attached Order Form. This is a great resource! Get yours today! For more information contact Debbie Maldonado at (940) 387-0404 or Debbie@spinger-lyle.com.



This is what we are looking for in each Category:

- ▶ **Baby** - Hand-made: blankets, clothes, hats, bibs, bags, etc.
- ▶ **Baked Goods** - Hand-made: pies, quiche, cookies, cakes, etc.
- ▶ **Gift Boxes Stuffed with Fun** - Birthday, Christmas, Pamper, Goodies, Crafts, Teachers, Boys, Girl, etc.
- ▶ **Photography/Art** - Hand-made: Photo session, Framed Art, Paintings, Drawings, Woodwork, etc.
- ▶ **Theme Baskets** - grab another Member or two, and create a theme basket of your choosing and create something fun. Some theme ideas include: movie, pamper, bbq, scrapbooking, Nascar, sports, cooking, games, candles, music, etc.

Remember - these items will be great for tackling early Christmas shopping, upcoming birthdays and baby showers



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

- Jay Freeman @ Accurate Concept Insurance
- Dana Miller @ Zenith Investigations
- Cheryl Perlich @ The Reporting Professionals
- Bruce Stewart @ Stewart Process Service Inc
- Janel Stoffels @ Stoffels & Associates Inc.



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.



FEBRUARY MINUTES

1. Historian, Vicki Schmidt, filled in for President, Jennifer Stout, who was absent due to illness. Historian Schmidt, called the meeting of February 23, 2012, to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Oakmont Country Club. There were 30 in attendance, which included 29 members and the speaker, all of whom were welcomed by the Historian.
2. Historian Schmidt asked for updates from any Committees. The Fundraising Committee Chair, Jenna Earhart, reported there were 133 Cookie Gram sales this year. She reported that DCPA made more profit this year because there were more donations and she thanked everyone who contributed. Legal Directory Chair, Debbie Maldonado, reported that the Legal Directories were ready to sell and she had brought a box with her to the luncheon for purchase.
3. Historian Schmidt asked for a vote of approval for the January minutes. A motion for approval was presented by Carolyn Ganzer and seconded by Beth Honeycutt, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
4. Historian Schmidt asked for approval of the Treasurer's Report. A motion for approval was presented by Michelle James and seconded by Carolyn Ganzer, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.
5. Lisa Bowles introduced the speaker, Randolph W. Stout, who presented *Texas Education Code v. Texas Family Code "Does the Left Hand Know What the Right Hand is Doing?"*
6. Lisa Bowles won the door prize which was a Dillard's gift card.
7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

