



## TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

### MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

*President's Message*

*Jo Ruth Hancock, CP*

Dear TAALP Members:

Another year has flown by so fast. Even though we are in our final month before election of new officers for 2016-2017, we have a packed month. Just because it's nearing the end of the year, we are not done! Here's our agenda!

May Membership meeting - Thursday, May 13, 2016, at noon at The Chamber of Commerce.

Nomination of Officers

May Annual Membership Social - Thursday, May 19, 2016, at Coyote Sam's after work

Then, in June we will hold our annual election of officers for 2016-2017 year.

Please be sure to join us for our May noon meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the Chamber of Commerce, 315 N. Broadway, Tyler. Robert Bailes with Bailes & Co., P.C. will be speaking to us. His topic is "A View from the Expert's Seat." Come get your one hour of CLE credit. The meal is \$12.00, catered by Traditions. The menu was published in the evite, so please RSVP and let us know who is eating. If your plans change, please let us know, so we can adjust our food order accordingly, as we have to pay for the number of RSVP's we turn in even if you do not show up. Thank you for helping us manage our TAALP resources. Thank you **Deposition Resources** for sponsoring our May meeting!

We held our CLE event on April 22, 2015, at The Chamber of Commerce. Even though our crowd was small this year (12 registered attendees), the feedback was excellent. We had awesome speakers and the food and snacks were outstanding. I cannot express my appreciation enough to Catherine Clayton and our CLA/CLE committee for the wonderful job you did. And, to all our many vendors who donated money, time, supplies, services and much more, thank you so much!

A big thanks to ALL OUR VENDORS! You so generously support TAALP, and we appreciate you all so much!

I know several of you attended Law Day on May 4, 2016, because I saw you there. I want to congratulate once again our TAALP Legal Professional of the Year recipient, Jan Seale!

Remember, we have a very active Sunshine Committee chaired by **Cindy Kirby**. She is doing a fabulous job of reaching out to everyone on their birthday with a little extra special birthday treat! If you know of a member who is sick, facing surgery, death of a family member, or any other crisis, please let us know. We care! Cindy's email address is [cindy@sscfirm.com](mailto:cindy@sscfirm.com).

A big thanks to ALL OUR VENDORS! You so generously support TAALP, and we appreciate you all so much!

I look forward to seeing you Thursday at our meeting!

Have a great month!

Jo Ruth

## NOTICE:

1. Please note: Effective next month, if you RSVP that you will eat at a monthly membership meeting, but end up not attending without advising a board member by one day in advance, you will be expected to pay for your lunch, and an invoice will be forwarded for payment.
2. SCYLA is having an event: Wills for Heroes. The event will be held on Friday, June 17, 2016, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the HUB. They are looking for volunteer notaries to notarize multiple documents for multiple first responders: Will, Power of Attorney, and Medical Power of Attorney. SCYLA is wondering if you, individually, or TAALP might be willing to put forward some volunteer notaries or even volunteers as witnesses for the signing of the documents. SCYLA needs about 5-10 notaries present per hour of the event. The busiest time will be from 1-3 and then very slow after that. Also, SCYLA will put together a sample notary entry to pass around for each set of documents, so the notaries can either a) prepare their individual books with several sets of entries ahead of time, or b) have a guide to follow during the event. Jo Ruth has a sign-up sheet if you are interested, please contact her at [joruth@sscfirm.com](mailto:joruth@sscfirm.com).

### Sunshine Notices:

Do you know of some news about our members that should be shared with our members?

Please send any submissions to Cindy Kirby

at [cindy@sscfirm.com](mailto:cindy@sscfirm.com).

**TAALP can help get your name out to our members.**

**Just email me at:  
brandi.williams@hotmail.com for more information.**

**Transcript Ad Rates:  
(Per Month)**

**Business Card - \$10.00**

**Quarter Page - \$20.00**

**Half Page - \$30.00**

**Full Page - \$50.00**

**❖ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ❖**

May 19, 2016

Membership Social at Coyote Sams, 5-7pm

June 17, 2016

Volunteer notaries are needed for Wills for Heroes Will signing day at the Hubb on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 in appreciation for the services of our Police Officers and Fire Fighters. If you can spare any time, please do. There will be a signup sheet in the newsletter.

The Executive Board of TAALP would like to thank all following new members:

**Terri L. Verner**

**Krystal Lacy**

The Executive Board would also like to thank all of our awesome returning members, as follows:

<b>Arscott, Cristy</b> <b>Baker, Emily</b> <b>Barrett, Sheri</b> <b>Barrett, Sunshine</b> <b>Barron, Jennifer</b> <b>Becker, Beverly</b> <b>Betts, Lisa</b> <b>Blubonnet Processing Service</b> <b>Bonnie, Brooks</b> <b>Brownlow, Laura</b> <b>Bryan, Joy</b> <b>Buchanan, Ann</b> <b>Burgess, Ginny</b> <b>Campbell, Kristi</b> <b>Cash, Lanell</b> <b>Clayton, Catherine</b> <b>Colley, Lori</b> <b>Connor, Sarah</b> <b>Coplan, Patricia</b> <b>Crawford, Melani</b> <b>Crim, Nancy</b> <b>Crutchfield, Charlotte</b> <b>Deck, Amanda</b> <b>Deck, Mary</b> <b>Depoma, David</b> <b>Deposition Resources</b> <b>Sunblett</b> <b>Dickey, Lisa</b> <b>Dieringer, Mary</b> <b>Dillon, Candice "Candy"</b> <b>Discovery Records</b> <b>Dixon, Renee</b> <b>Doffer, Teresa</b> <b>Dow, Katie</b> <b>Eargle, Kristen</b> <b>Espinosa, Debbie</b> <b>Evans, Karen</b>	<b>Express Personnel</b> <b>Finley, Gay</b> <b>Flowers, Marilyn</b> <b>Foster, Codi</b> <b>Gable, Amanda</b> <b>Galvan, Jasmin</b> <b>Gaddis, Chelsea</b> <b>Godwin, Carol</b> <b>Goley, Carol</b> <b>Gray, Melissa</b> <b>Green, Cecilia J.</b> <b>Hall, Carrie</b> <b>Hancock, Jo Ruth</b> <b>Harris, Melissa</b> <b>Harvey, Terri</b> <b>Hays, Sara</b> <b>Hebron, Lucy</b> <b>Hembrough, Samantha</b> <b>Hemphill, Carla</b> <b>Henry, Donna</b> <b>Henson, Kristen</b> <b>Hesse, Wendy</b> <b>Hill, Keesia</b> <b>Hudson, Christine</b> <b>Hudson, June</b> <b>Hurst, Jessica</b> <b>Jackson, Laura</b> <b>Kay, Vicki</b> <b>Kim Tindall &amp; Assoc.</b> <b>King, Carrie</b> <b>Kirby, Cindy</b> <b>Koch, Helen</b> <b>Kopech, Leatha</b> <b>Knighton, Tina</b> <b>KTS Quest</b> <b>Kuhn, Ann</b>	<b>Lennon, Molly</b> <b>Lollar, Melinda</b> <b>Maxey, Kayla</b> <b>Maxwell, Emily</b> <b>May, Tamara</b> <b>Mayfield, Tammye</b> <b>McCaa, Leslie R.</b> <b>McGinnis, Lynn</b> <b>McIntyre, Ashley</b> <b>McKinney, Patty</b> <b>McLaughlin, Suzanne</b> <b>McLen, Kerri</b> <b>Moore, Natashea Ellan</b> <b>Molina, Rocio</b> <b>Morris, Mechele</b> <b>Moylan, Carla</b> <b>Murphy, Julie</b> <b>Neel, Lesley</b> <b>Oden, Rachel</b> <b>Oliver, Susan</b> <b>Parker, Nancy</b> <b>Penner, Amber</b> <b>Peters, Michael</b> <b>Poire, Melissa</b> <b>Rhodes, Lora</b> <b>Robbins, Wanda Marie</b> <b>Roberts, Vicki</b> <b>Robison, Rhonda</b> <b>Rogers, Kassi</b> <b>Rowe, Renda</b> <b>Retano, Rosario</b> <b>Rongel, Maria</b> <b>Sherrill, Sharon</b> <b>Skeen, Barbara</b> <b>Smalley, Heather</b> <b>Smith, Jennifer</b> <b>Sparks, Rhonda</b> <b>Stewart, Clo</b>	<b>Taylor, Vickie</b> <b>Tekell, Amanda</b> <b>Thedford, Kimberly</b> <b>Thomas, Kristen</b> <b>Toon, Kristine</b> <b>Tucker (Ortiz), Kim</b> <b>Verduzco, Jocelyn</b> <b>Wallace, Mellissa</b> <b>Waller, Jennifer</b> <b>Williams, Brandi</b> <b>Wright, Strickland Janet</b>
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**TAALP**  
**MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2016 BOARD MEETING**  
**By: Ann Kuhn, Recording Secretary**

The Executive Board met at JACK RYAN'S on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Jo Ruth Hancock, President; Catherine Clayton, President-Elect; Leatha Kopech, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Chelsea Gaddis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Ann Kuhn, Recording Secretary, Brandi Williams, Corresponding Secretary; Suzanne Wimberley, Treasurer; Bonnie Brooks, Parliamentarian, Carrie King Executive Advisor.

Jo Ruth Hancock called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

**JO RUTH HANCOCK, President:**

Jo Ruth presented the calendar of upcoming events, and they were discussed by the board members.

**Old Business:**

- 2015-2016 Renewal membership total to date – 136
- April meeting attendance - 40
- Average meeting attendance – 37
- Half price membership still continues.

**New Business:**

- Membership Social is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at Coyote Sams, 5-7pm. Please attend if you can.
- Nominations solicitation in May
- Elections in June
- Volunteer notaries are needed for Wills for Heroes Will signing day at the Hubb on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-5 in appreciation for the services of our Police Officers and Fire Fighters. If you can spare any time, please do. There will be a sign up sheet in the newsletter.

**CATHERINE CLAYTON, President-Elect:**

- NALA report due 6/1/2016. Traditions will be providing the meal for our regular meeting this month.

**LEATHA KOPECH, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:**

- Membership Renewals – 136 renewals to date. Membership is up 2 from last month. If you are interested in joining TAALP, please send in your application.
- ½ price membership renewals for the remainder of the membership year ending June, 2016.

**CHELSEA GADDIS, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**

- May Speaker: Robert Bailes – View from the expert seat.
- June: Elections
- July Speaker: Bobby Lamb – Electronic Filing in Federal Court

**ANN KUHN, Recording Secretary:**

- Moved that the Minutes of the April, 2016 board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. Catherine Clayton seconded the motion and it carried.

**BRANDI WILLIAMS, Corresponding Secretary:**

- May Spotlight Member: Breahan Gonzalez
- June Spotlight Member: Renda Rowe

**SUZANNE WIMBERLEY, Treasurer:**

- Suzanne presented the Treasurer's Report.

**CARRIE KING, Executive Advisor:**

**BONNIE BROOKS, CP, Parliamentarian**

**Next Regular Meeting: May 12, 2016 - Chamber of Commerce**

**Next Board Meeting: June 1, 2016 – Jack Ryans**

**June Regular Meeting: June 9, 2016 – The Hub (Elections)**

There being no further business, Jo Ruth adjourned the meeting at 12:42

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*JO RUTH HANCOCK, President*

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*ANN KUHN, Recording Secretary*



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The Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals is pleased to announce the recipients of five scholarships awarded by the organization for 2016. In the past, TAALP has historically awarded three scholarships each year. However, for 2016 the organization was financially able to award two additional scholarships. One of the additional scholarships is designated as the President Scholarship and the recipient is selected by the President of TAALP. The remaining scholarships are awarded based on evaluations performed by the Scholarship Committee and scored for neatness, content and academic performance.

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The recipients for 2016 are as follows:

**Presidential Scholarship: Kimberly Assunto**

Kimberly Assunto is the recipient of the Presidential Scholarship. Kimberly attained her Associates of Applied Science Paralegal Degree from Tyler Junior College in 2015. She is currently attending the University of Texas at Tyler majoring in English with a minor in Pre-Law. Kimberly is employed with local attorney Gregory Porter, who hired her fresh out of the paralegal program and she is a member of TAALP. In 2015, Kimberly received the WestLaw award while she was attending TJC. She has volunteered in the past for the SPCA adoption center and enjoys traveling with her husband. Kimberly recently attained her CLA designation on her first testing.

**Betty Kirby Memorial Scholarship: Sunshine Barrett**

The Betty Kirby Memorial Scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Betty Kirby who was a founding member of TAALP and a teacher in the TJC Paralegal Program. This is the only scholarship awarded by TAALP that is strictly awarded to an individual who is in a program leading toward a paralegal degree or certificate.

Sunshine Barrett is the recipient of the Betty Kirby Memorial Scholarship. Sunshine is currently attending Tyler Junior College and working toward attaining her Paralegal degree. She is on the Dean's List for TJC and is scheduled to graduate from the program next month. Sunshine is currently employed with Complete Business Systems in Longview as a Sales Administrative Assistant. She is a parent to three children, works full time and attends college. Sunshine is a member of TAALP and the Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals in Longview.

**Betty Miller Memorial Scholarship: Caroline Boylan**

The Betty Miller Memorial Scholarship is dedicated to the memory of Betty Miller who was a charter member of TAALP and a longtime paralegal in Tyler.

Caroline Boylan is the recipient of the Betty Miller Memorial Scholarship. Caroline is currently attending All Saints Episcopal School and is scheduled to graduate in May with a 4.0 GPA. She is a National Merit Finalist, member of the National Honor Society and has received Academic Excellence Awards for several classes. Caroline has received numerous awards for solo and group dance performances. She is also a semifinalist for direct admission to Baylor Law School. She has been active in many local charitable organizations and her church, Green Acres Baptist Church. Caroline hopes to pursue a career in international law or foreign affairs.

**TAALP Scholarship: Austin Campbell**

Austin Campbell is the recipient of a TAALP Scholarship. Austin Campbell is currently attending Sam Houston State University and is scheduled to graduate in May, 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Politic Science and a Minor in Legal Studies. He was on the Sam Houston State Football Team for three years, a leading contributor of the Inaugural

Moot Court Team, and an Ambassador for the Center for Law Engagement and Politics. Austin has an overall 3.50 GPA and has been on the Dean's List for 2012 to 2015 and on the Southland Conference Academic Honor Roll for 2012-2014. Austin plans to attend law school and hopes to practice corporate law upon achieving his law degree.

### **TAALP Scholarship: Felipe Contaifer**

Felipe Contaifer is the recipient of a TAALP Scholarship. Felipe is currently attending Lindale High School in the Distinguished High School Program with over a 4.0 GPA. He is ranked as #8 out of 280 students in the senior class and completed his high school requirements in three years. He also achieved the highest possible marks in seven college-level classes during his high school career.

Felipe is a member of the National Honor Society, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Society of High School Scholars, Texas Bank & Trust Student Board of Directors, and numerous other organizations. He achieved the First Place Delegation in General Assembly in Model United Nations, Second Place FAO committee in Model United Nations, and Third Place Mindset-Breaking at East Texas Academic Rodeo. Felipe is active in contributing to the community by volunteering through mission work, the East Texas Food Bank, Wounded Warriors, Bethesda Church, Lifts of Love Benefit, Allaso Ranch, and other charitable organizations. Felipe is also active in many sports organizations.

Felipe travels to Brazil every summer because his family lives there. He plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin and major in International Business or International Relationships. Felipe's goal is to attend Yale Law School and specialize in corporate law in hopes of working to bring justice as a corporate lawyer in Brazil.



*I wish to express gratitude to Heather Smalley, Patty McKinney, Melinda Lollar and Suzanne Wimberley for their hard work in evaluating and scoring the scholarship applications. This year we were blessed with an abundance of excellent applications and our committee is proud to honor the scholarship recipients. ~ Barbara Skeen*



## MAY

Rocio Molina 1  
Emily Maxwell 4  
Mechelle Morris 7  
Laura Jackson 10  
Melissa Harris 15  
Jennifer Stegall 21  
Kimberly (Ortiz) Tucker 25  
Blu Daniels 26  
Lanell Cash 28  
Amanda Ellis 29

## JUNE

Kristine Toon 3  
Suzanne Wimberley 5  
Karen Evans 8  
Kristi Campbell 12  
Tamara May 13  
Sharon Sherrill 15  
Kerri McLen 19  
Sarah Hayes 26  
Rhonda Robison 27

TAALP  
would like to extend a  
BIG "THANK YOU"

to DAIRY QUEEN and  
BRIAN KELLY,  
General Manager,

for donating the nice TREATS  
members are finding in their  
birthday cards!!

Be Sure To Frequent Your Local  
DAIRY QUEEN!

TAALP would like to extend a  
BIG "THANK YOU"  
to Andy's Frozen Custard  
for donating the nice TREATS  
members are finding in their  
birthday cards!!  
Be Sure To Frequent Your Local  
Andy's Frozen Custard!



## SPOTLIGHT TAALP MEMBER

Breahan Nicole Gonzalez



My name is Breahan Nicole Gonzalez. I am 22 years old and a mother of a 1 ½ year old daughter named Maddilyn. I was born and raised in Lewisville Texas, home of the fighting farmers. In high school I excelled at music and English and was planning on going to The University of Arkansas as a music major. My life took an unexpected turn when I informed the local police department of some bad choices my father had made. This was my introduction into the legal system firsthand. After a long and stressful three years my father plead no contest and my legal nightmare was over. During this time, I had found my husband, married, and had a beautiful baby girl. After Maddilyn's birth, I was offered a job with my husband's cousin as his legal assistant at his new office in Tyler. He then offered to pay part of my way through school. I finished my first 15 hours before he was forced to shut down his business in Tyler due to losing a customer that brought in most of his real estate business. I am currently a stay at home mother and a caretaker to my father in law who has been having some health issues lately. My ultimate goal is to go back to school and earn my teaching degree and teach first or second grade.

# EMPLOYMENT – MARCH/APRIL 2016

Contact: Nancy Crim, CP  
TAALP Job Bank Coordinator  
(903) 561-1600 or  
[nancy@icklaw.com](mailto:nancy@icklaw.com)

Position	Practice Areas	Location
Legal Assistant	Family Law; Proficient in WordPerfect, ProDoc, Microsoft Excel; Send application to: <a href="mailto:alicia@aliciacashell.com">alicia@aliciacashell.com</a>	Tyler
Legal Assistant	Family law	Tyler
Legal Assistant	Personal Injury – Dobbs & Tittle, PC Minimum 2 yrs PI experience Full-time position w/benefit package Contact: <a href="mailto:Deborah@davidedobbs.com">Deborah@davidedobbs.com</a>	Tyler
Personal Assistant/Office Manager (this is not a law office)	Technology experience in various programs including Excel, Power Point, Word; Ability to organize and manage office; Excellent customer service; Someone who thinks outside the box.	Mineola
Legal Secretary	Family Law and Probate Send resumes to: <a href="mailto:info@moranlawfirmtyler.com">info@moranlawfirmtyler.com</a>	
Legal Assistant	Personal injury and civil trial law Contact: Wanda Purcell <a href="mailto:wpurcell@charleswnicholslaw.com">wpurcell@charleswnicholslaw.com</a> Charlie Nichols <a href="mailto:cnichols@charleswnicholslaw.com">cnichols@charleswnicholslaw.com</a>	Palestine**
Legal Assistant	Litigation/Insurance defense Summarizing records & schedules	Tyler
Runner/File Clerk Part-time position	Hours: Mon-Friday, 4 hours per day Self-motivated, detail-oriented; must have your own transportation Contact: Crystal Lafitte <a href="mailto:crystal@rllawfirm.net">crystal@rllawfirm.net</a> ; (903) 535-2900	Tyler

<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	<b>Associate or Bachelor Degree in Business, Paralegal or Human Resources; Position involves marketing and accounting and Human Resources</b>	<b>Tyler</b>
<b>Intake Specialist</b>	<b>Personal Injury experience a plus but not required; excellent phone skills; proficient in Microsoft Office and database entry; multitasker; Inbound sales experience a plus; Bilingual a plus</b>	<b>Tyler</b>
<b>Administrative Land/Legal Assistant</b>	<b>3-5 years' advanced administrative experience preferably with legal experience in the oil and gas industry. For consideration, please fax or email resume to Attn: Human Resources, (903) 581-2111, or <a href="mailto:careers@vefinc.com">careers@vefinc.com</a>.</b>	<b>Tyler</b>

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE: If you are interested in positions that are located outside of Tyler, please let Nancy know that you want your resume submitted for those positions specifically.**

## 2015-2016 TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016



## President

JO RUTH HANCOCK, CP  
Starr Schoenbrun & Comte PLLC  
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## Second Vice President

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## Corresponding Secretary

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## President-Elect

CATHERINE CLAYTON, CP  
J. Scott Killough, P.C.  
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## Executive Advisor

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Assistant to Judge Leonard Davis  
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## Treasurer

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## First Vice President

LEATHA KOPECH, PP, PLS  
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## Recording Secretary

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## Parliamentarian

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## TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

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