



TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Leatha Kopech, PP, PLS

Dear TAALP Members:

Can you believe it is already VALENTINE'S DAY? Time really needs to slow down. Thankfully, old man winter has been fairly nice to us this year and Spring is just around the corner. I am SO ready for spring and getting back to into my flip flops.

Our meeting his past Thursday was great. Judge Wilson was an amazing speaker and provided lots of great information. We had a great turnout for the meeting and even had some new faces.

A special THANK YOU Deposition Resources for sponsoring our meeting this month!!

Upcoming events you will want to remember:

- Half-price membership for new and renewing members for the remainder of our 2021-22 year (Jan. 1 – June 30);
- March meeting will be March 10th;
- April evening membership meeting and happy hour and membership social; and
- Law Day – Save the Date – April 28th - more information to come.

Elections for next year's board is approaching fast. We will be taking nominations in May, and our June meeting is Election Day. If you are interested in serving on the Board, now is the time to start putting some serious thought to where you might be interested in serving next year. Active members, remember that in order to be nominated for an office and for active voting members, your active membership status must be in good standing. In order to ensure that you remain in good standing, you cannot miss attendance at one meeting (either regular or board) per month for three (3) consecutive months during any fiscal year. If a member misses attendance at one meeting (either regular or board) per month for three (3) consecutive months during any fiscal year, then the member will be placed on "associate" status, without refund of dues, for the remainder of the fiscal year in which the violation occurred or until the said member has attended one meeting (either regular or board) per month for two (2) consecutive months, at which time the member may be reinstated as an active member. So, to paraphrase that, just make sure you don't miss attending meetings 3 months in a row! If you have, then please attend the two monthly meetings in a row before May 1st to reinstate your active status. If you have any questions or concerns about your attendance and current active status, please contact Lisa Betts at lisa@sscfirm.com regarding your attendance/active status.

See you all next month!!!

Leatha Kopech

TAALP can help get your name out to our members!

For more information, email:
branditurchi@gmail.com

Transcript Ad Rates (Per Month):

Business Card - \$10.00
Quarter Page - \$20.00
Half Page - \$30.00
Full Page - \$50.00

NOTICES:

The price of lunch is \$15.00, which covers an hour of CLE and a full course meal (salad, entrée, drink and dessert). Feel free to bring your own lunch with you should you chose not to eat the catered meal.

When responding to your evite, please note whether you will attend and whether or not you will eat so an accurate count can be provided to the caterer. If an RSVP is made with a notation that a meal will be paid for and you do not attend the meeting, you will still be responsible for the cost of that meal. Those with extenuating circumstances will be taken under advisement.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

TAALP
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2022 BOARD MEETING
By: Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

The Executive Board met at Texas Music City Grill and Smokehouse on Wednesday, February 2, 2022 for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Leatha Kopech, President; Jo Ruth Hancock, President Elect, Lisa Betts, 1st Vice President, Candace Dillon, 2nd Vice President; Brandi Turchi, Corresponding Secretary, Helen Koch, Parliamentarian; and Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary.

Absent: Tina Knighton, Treasurer
Carrie King, Executive Advisor

President Leatha Kopech called the meeting to order at 12:22 pm

LEATHA KOPCH, President

Old Business:

- January meeting attendance 31

New Business:

- Half Price Membership – Now through June.
- February Luncheon – The Jalapeno Tree
- February Sponsorship – Deposition Resources
- April Meeting – Member Social. Evening meeting. Location TBD.
- Scholarships – Four scholarships requested by Barbara Skeen were approved

JO RUTH HANCOCK, President-Elect

- No new business

LISA BETTS, 1st Vice President

- 21-2022 Renewal Membership total to date 86
- Evite for February 10, 2022 membership meeting at noon (Deadline to RSVP Tuesday, February 8th at noon) - send evite on Friday, February 4, 2021
Location: The Jalapeno Tree
Menus will be sent prior to those attending in person. Orders should be returned to Jo Ruth prior to the meeting. Jo Ruth will send to restaurant prior in advance of meeting to expedite.

CANDICE DILLON, 2nd Vice President

- February – Judge Robert Wilson, Topic – 321st District Court Processes

A discussion was held regarding potential speakers for upcoming meetings

GAYE BOYNTON, Recording Secretary

- Board Meeting Minutes

Gaye Boynton moved that the Minutes of the January, 2022, board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. The motion was seconded, carried and the minutes were approved.

BRANDI TURCHI: Corresponding Secretary

Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, February 9th. Deadline to get your information to Brandi is Friday, February 4, 2022, by 5:00 pm.

TINA KNIGHTON, Treasurer- ABSENT

- January, 2022 Treasurer's Report was presented by Leatha Kopech, President

Candace Dillon moved that the Treasurer's Report for January, 2022, be filed for audit. The motion was seconded and it carried.

CARRIE KING, Executive Advisor- ABSENT

- No new business

Next Regular Meeting: February 10, 2022 – Jalapeno Tree - Select Menu

Next Board Meeting: March 2, 2022 – TBD

HELEN KOCH, Parliamentarian

- Law Day – No updates to report to date

The meeting concluded at 12:45 pm.

Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

Leatha Kopech, President

EMPLOYMENT – FEBRUARY 2022

*Contact: Lisa Betts
TAALP Job Bank Coordinator
903.534.0200 or lisa@sscfirm.com*

Position	Practice Areas/Job Description	Location
1.Receptionist, Immigration Legal Asst. & Immigration Paralegal	Due to the length of the job description, please see my email from 4/15/21.	Tyler
2. Paralegal	Full time paralegal need for a small law firm located in downtown Tyler. Family law experience preferred but will consider any experience	Tyler
3. Legal Assistant	A law firm located downtown is looking for the following: 3-8 years of experience. Would be nice if their experience is personal injury on the plaintiff side. It will be doing Medical Malpractice on the plaintiff's side.	Tyler
4. Paralegal	A Longview law firm with an office in downtown Tyler is needing a full-time Paralegal for its Plaintiff personal injury practice. Must have at least 3-5 years of Paralegal experience. Requirements include; self-starter, trustworthy, be able to draft pleadings, discovery, complete the service process on a lawsuit, and be able to work independently. Benefits offered are: medical, dental, vision, retirement, and life insurance with a competitive pay. Any travel expenses and overtime are paid by firm.	Tyler
5.Bankruptcy/Civil Litigation Clerk – Paralegal	Paralegal needed for local bank to work on bankruptcy, collection, and judgment accounts. See full job description emailed 11-3-21	Tyler
6. In-take Specialists	We are looking for someone to handle our intake process. This position involves constant monitoring of our firm's intakes and reaching out to potential clients via email/text/phone to get information and set up appointments. It is a busy position. Spanish language proficiency is a plus, but not an absolute requirement. Compensation will be based upon background and experience. We do offer health insurance and the firm covers 50% of the premium for the employee. Please have candidates email their resume to info@hommelfirm.com .	Tyler
7. Paralegal	A small law firm located in downtown Tyler is currently looking for a full-time paralegal to begin in February or March 2022. Would prefer litigation experience. Salary commensurate with experience. This firm primarily practices family law, probate, and school law.	Tyler
9. Receptionist/Office Asst.	Full-time receptionist/office assistant need for law firm. Duties include answering the business phone, greeting clients and guest, and other office duties.	Tyler

	See my email from 1/11/22 for further info. Please send resumes to: Hailey Vickers at hailey@baumansmith.com	
10. Paralegal III	Paralegal/Legal Assistant III Supporting the USAO; apply at : www.fsafederal.com ; See my email from 1-19-22 on how to apply	Tyler
11. Legal Assistant	Full-time Legal Assistant; Must have 3+ years personal injury litigation experience, with some criminal defense experience preferred Salary: Negotiable depending on experience; Benefits include: health insurance after 6 month probationary period, paid vacation/holiday/sick time	Tyler

TAALP would like to thank all of the following for your membership:

Baker, Michele	Earls, Kristen	Lexitas	Sparks, Rhonda
Beck, Karen	Field, Joanna	Liska, Rhonda	Speerly, Amanda
Bedlington, Sally	Green, Cecilia	Luker, Kayla	Spencer, Ashley
Betts, Lisa	Grissom, Janice	Marshall, Tracy	Stewart, Clothilda
Blair, Erin	Hall, Carrie	Martin, Melissa	Taylor, Vickie
Blubonnet Process Service	Hancock, Jo Ruth	Martinez, Marieliza	Tekell, Amanda
Boynton, Gaye	Harvey, Terri	May, Tamara	Thedford, Kimberly
Brooks, Bonnie	Hemphill, Carla	Mayfield, Tammye	Thomas, Deborah
Brotherton-Pyatt, Margaret	Hesse, Wendy	McKnight, Tiffanie	Toon, Kristine
Buchanan, Ann	Heyder, Brittany	Mendell, Melissa	Turchi, Brandi
Burns, Katherine	Jackson, Laura	Parker, Nancy	Vallery, Jo
Carter, Kimberly	Jones, Christine	Penn, Ofelia	Vickers, Hailey
Cash, Lanell	Jones, Gabby	Pilcher, Laney	Wade, Kelly
Clarkston, Paul	Kinard, Griselda	Rakestraw, Macy	Webb, Stacey
Clayton, Catherine	King, Carrie	Reynolds, Kylista	Wheeler, Connie
Collins Investigations	Kirby, Cindy	Rex, Renda	Wilgus, Melissa
Connor, Sarah	Knighton, Tina	Scirto, Hannah	Williams, Brandi
Coplan, Patricia	Koch, Helen	Sepmoree, Tina	Wootton, Magen
Crawford, Melani	Kopech, Leatha	Sherrill, Sharon	
Crim, Nancy	Kramer, Jackie	Shipp, Kelsey	
Deposition Resources		Shirley, Racheal	
Dillon, Candice		Skeen, Barbara	
Discovery Records		Skinner, Peggy	
Dowdy, Alicia		Slayter, Linda	

Our purpose of TAALP is:

To establish good fellowship among association members, national and state legal associations, and members of the legal community.

- ✚ To encourage a high order of ethical and professional attainment.
- ✚ To advance high standards of integrity and professionalism for legal professionals to the end that the public and the legal profession may be better served.
- ✚ To further education among members of the legal profession.
- ✚ To cooperate with state and local bar associations.
- ✚ To further the interests of legal support staff and professionals through this Association.
- ✚ To support and carry out the programs, purposes, aims and goals of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.

The benefits you will have with TAALP are:

- ✚ CLE approved programs and seminars
- ✚ Discounts to TAALP seminars
- ✚ Access to job bank
- ✚ Subscription to monthly newsletter - The Transcript
- ✚ Great network to other legal professionals

Process Service

Surveillance

Witness Locate

Michael J. Collins
Private Investigator

COLLINS
INVESTIGATIONS

110 N. College Ave
Suite 1504
Tyler, TX 75702
Lic. No. A08864

903-526-1411
FAX 903-526-6453
mikecollins@sprintmail.com

Background Searches

Jury Research

Interviews

mikecollins@sprintmail.com

KTS
LITIGATION
SUPPORT SERVICES



SERVING EAST TEXAS SINCE 2002

www.KTSLitigationSupport.com

Phone: 903.533.9559

Like us on Facebook

THE LITIGATION SUPPORT SOLUTION OF EAST TEXAS AND BEYOND

COPY/PRINT/SCAN

BLACK & WHITE
COLOR
OCR
NO JOB TOO SMALL OR TOO LARGE

PATENT LITIGATION SUPPORT

EXHIBIT SET BLOWBACKS
WITNESS BINDERS
PRINT & BIND PRESENTATIONS
HIGH VOLUME
OVERNIGHT SUPPORT

DEMONSTRATIVE BOARDS

STANDARD OR DRY-ERASE
DOCUMENT/PHOTO ENLARGEMENT
SIZES UP TO 7' LONG

BINDING

SPIRAL
COMB
3-RING
CUSTOM TABS/NUMBER & LETTER TABS

OTHER KEY SERVICES

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DESIGN
VIDEO EDITING
CD/DVD/DRIVE DUPLICATION
ELECTRONIC BATES LABELS
ELECTRONIC EXHIBIT STICKERS

QUALITY ORIENTED

PROMPT RESPONSE
QUALITY CONTROLLED PROCESSES
ON-TIME DELIVERY

ON CALL 24 HOURS

SERVING: TYLER • LONGVIEW • MARSHALL • SHERMAN • TEXARKANA • WACO
FREE PICK UP & DELIVERY IN TYLER

BLUBONNET PROCESS SERVER

*Serving Tyler-Smith County & Longview-Gregg County
& surrounding areas in East Texas*

Pamela "Blu" Daniels

903-372-2818

blondefilly@wb4me.com

SCH4241

Member TPSA, NAPPS and TAALP

Discovery Records, Inc.

Toll free 866-4MEDREC

- √ Medical and Business Records Retrieval
- √ Depositions on Written Questions
- √ Litigation Services for Attorneys and Insurance

Fast turnaround

Very reasonable rates

Electronic delivery available

On-Line Repository

Over 20 years experience in Class Action and MDL dockets

Visit us on-line at: www.discoveryrecordsinc.com



Happy Birthday February Birthday's

Michele Baker 2nd

Patricia Coplan 2nd

Cindy Kirby 3rd

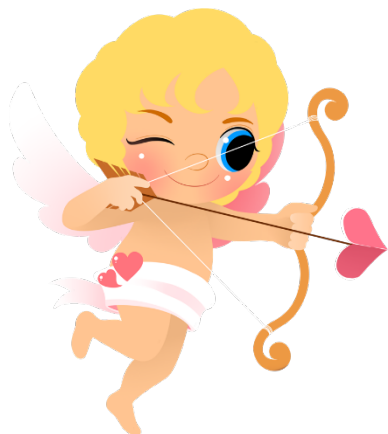
Carla Hemphill 7th

Cecilia Green 11th

Rhonda Sparks 14th

Tammye Mayfield 15th

Terri Harvey 25th



In The Know

Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility

PREAMBLE

Fundamental to the success of any professional organization are the integrity of its members and a high standard of conduct. This Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility is promulgated by the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas and accepted by its members to accomplish these ends.

The paralegal profession is by nature closely related to the legal profession. Although the Code of Professional Responsibility of the State Bar of Texas does not directly govern paralegals except through a supervising attorney, it is incumbent upon the members of the Paralegal Division to know the provisions of the attorneys' code and avoid any action which might involve an attorney in a violation of that code or even the appearance of professional impropriety.

The canons set forth hereafter are intended as a general guide, and the enumeration of these canons does not exclude others of equal importance although not specifically mentioned.

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 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 judgment.

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 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 8. A paralegal shall maintain a high standard of ethical conduct and shall contribute to the integrity of the paralegal profession.

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.

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.

Source: <https://txpd.org/ethics-pages/professional-ethics-and-the-paralegal/>

This Month in History

Valentine's Day, also called **St. Valentine's Day**, holiday (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century. Valentine's Day is celebrated on Monday, February 14, 2022.

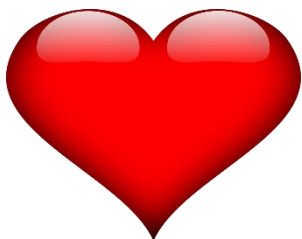
Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

The day is popular in the United States as well as in Britain, Canada, and Australia, and it is also celebrated in other countries, including Argentina, France, Mexico, and South Korea. In the Philippines it is the most common wedding anniversary, and mass weddings of hundreds of couples are not uncommon on that date. The holiday has expanded to expressions of affection among relatives and friends. Many schoolchildren exchange valentines with one another on this day.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica This article was most recently revised and updated by *Melissa Petruzzello*.

Source <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Valentines-Day>



TAALP
would like to extend a
BIG “THANK YOU”
to **DAIRY QUEEN OF TYLER,**
for donating the nice **TREATS**
members are finding in their
birthday cards!!
Be Sure To Frequent Your Local
DAIRY QUEEN!





TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

President

LEATHA KOPECH, PP, PLS
J. Scott Killough, PC
4660 Kinsey Drive
Tyler, Texas 75703
903-561-8280
llkopech@gmail.com

President-Elect

JO RUTH HANCOCK, CP
Wilson, Robertson & Cornelius, P.C.
Mailing: 909 ESE Loop 323, Suite 400
Tyler, Texas 75701
(903) 509-5016 Direct
(903) 509-5000 Main
(903) 509-5091 Facsimile
jhancock@wilsonlaw.com

First Vice President

LISA BETTS
Starr Schoenbrun & Comte, PLLC
110 North College Avenue, Suite 1700
Tyler, Texas 75702
903-534-0200
lisa@sscfirm.com

Second Vice President

CANDY DILLON, CP
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson,
LLP Attorneys at Law
1517 W. Front St., Suite 202
Tyler, TX 75702
Main: (903) 597-2897
Fax: (903) 597-2402
Candice.Dillon@lgbs.com

Executive Advisor

CARRIE KING, CP, TBLS
Fish & Richardson, PC
1717 Main Street, Suite 5000
Dallas, Texas 75201
214-760-6109
cking@fr.com

Recording Secretary

GAYE FINLEY BOYNTON, CP
Ritcheson, Lauffer & Vincent, P.C.
821 ESE Loop 323, Ste. 530
Tyler, TX 75701
903.535.2900
rsfinley@msn.com

Corresponding Secretary

BRANDI TURCHI, CP
MacKenzie Life Care Planning
110 N College Ave #1118
Tyler, Texas 75702
903-521-2820
branditurchi@gmail.com

Treasurer

TINA KNIGHTON, CP
County Court, Smith County
200 East Ferguson, Suite 100
Tyler, Texas 75702
903-590-4611
tknighton@smith-county.com

Parliamentarian

HELEN G. KOCH
TOM J. BROWN, PLLC
2080 Three Lakes Parkway
Tyler, TX 75703
903-561-8400
helen@tomjbrownlaw.com

Find us on:  and at www.taalp.com