



TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS AUGUST, 2018 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Jo Ruth Hancock, CP

Dear TAALP Members:

We are off to a fantastic start with renewals and new memberships for the 2018-19 year! If you have not already submitted your membership renewal, please do so soon. You don't want to miss out on future newsletters and evites about upcoming meetings!

Our Board this year is really excited about our year ahead and is focused on increasing our membership and attendance at meetings, so here is what we are offering in August. **ALL members who bring a guest to our regular meeting Thursday, August 9th, will get their name entered in a drawing for a \$50 CASH card AND their guest will have the opportunity to join TAALP in August, 2018 for ½ price!** Be sure to invite your co-workers and friends in the legal field who are not currently TAALP members and let's get them engaged. We love meeting new people too!

If you haven't already volunteered to help on one or more committees this year, won't you please take a look again at our committee list and find a place where you would like to serve behind the scenes! We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead and want you to be a part of it.

Our Joint Luncheon is just around the corner. It will be held in sometime in October/November time frame at Hollytree, but at this time, we do not have a date confirmed. If you would like to work on the committee for the Joint Luncheon, we would love to have your help! Let committee chair Sarah Connor (sconnor@wilsonlawfirm.com), or me (joruth@sscfirm.com), know your interest in helping with this upcoming event.

Our **School Supply Drive** is still ongoing, so please bring school supplies, or cash or check donation with you to our membership meeting on Thursday, August 9th! If you have any questions on what to bring, please email Cindy Kirby at cindy@sscfirm.com. You always do an awesome job of supporting our school supply drive every year. Let's outdoor what we've done before. If you don't have time to shop, Cindy will be glad to accept cash or check donations and do the shopping for us!

Our membership meeting is **Thursday, August 9, 2018, at noon at Coyote Sam's** on Old Jacksonville Hwy., Tyler. Don and Cynthia Kent will be speaking to us on the topic of Lewy Body Dementia. They have teamed up for the purpose and with the hope of educating others about the disease and how it affects our lives inside and outside the Law Firm. Lunch is \$15.00. Try to bring either a check or correct cash if you can. We want to say **DEPOSITION RESOURCES** for sponsoring our room and door prizes this month.

We are planning some exciting things this year! We have an evening meeting/happy hour planned in October, location TBD, Christmas Luncheon in December, and an April evening meeting/membership drive/social. Other things are in the works, so please stay tuned!

We also have tentatively scheduled a FREE CLE day event for October 26, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce for 6 FREE CLE hours. Lunch will be provided.

THANK YOU members, vendors and sponsors who make our professional organization what it is. You are AWESOME!

See you Thursday!

Jo Ruth

TAALP can help get your name out to our members.

Just email me at:
melissa@sscfirm.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

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 a 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.

MEMBERSHIP
IT'S A NEW YEAR!

If you or a friend are interested in renewing or joining TAALP, please send in the attached Application. Our 2018-2019 year starts July 1 and runs through June 30.

NOTE: If your renewal is not received prior to August 30, 2018, you will no longer receive the Newsletter.

Dear TAALP Members,

Please accept my heartfelt thanks to those of you who have donated to our Back-To-School Supply Drive benefitting kids who live at the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter and families who are seeking help. Your caring spirit is deeply appreciated.

There is still time left to make donations - please send by Thursday, August 9 - bring to TAALP Meeting if attending. Cindy Bell, Director of Development at the Salvation Army told me she has had many requests and they have already started filling backpacks, but need more supplies! I will be happy to come by your office if you need me to. I will be representing TAALP and will gift our donations to the Salvation Army Homeless Shelter on Friday morning August 10. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation please contact me. Thank you again for your giving heart!

Please send your donations to: Cindy Kirby, 110 N. College Ave., Suite 1700, Tyler, Texas * (903) 534-0200.

School Supply List

Crayons
Colored pencils
Wide ruled loose leaf notebook paper
College ruled loose leaf notebook paper
Index cards - 4 x 6
Composition notebooks
Wirebound notebooks, single subject and multi subject
Index dividers
Graph paper
Pocket folders; with brads and without
Glue
Glue sticks
Ink pens: red, black and blue
Pencils
Pencil sharpeners
Rulers
Scissors
Pencil bags
Highlighters
Dry erase markers
Sharpies
Scotch tape
Mini staplers/staples
Post it notes
Back packs

TAALP
MINUTES OF AUGUST 1, 2018 BOARD MEETING
By: Helen G. Koch, Recording Secretary

The Executive Board met at JACK RYAN'S on Wednesday, August 1, 2018, for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Jo Ruth Hancock, President; Lisa Betts, 1st Vice President; Penny Clarkston, 2nd Vice President; Carrie King, Treasurer; Helen G. Koch, Recording Secretary; Melissa Wallace, Corresponding Secretary; and Bonnie Brooks, Parliamentarian. Absent were Leatha Kopech, President-Elect; and Ann Kuhn, Executive Advisor.

Jo Ruth Hancock called the meeting to Order at 12:10 pm

JO RUTH HANCOCK, President:

Old Business:

- 2018-19 Renewal Membership total to date 48
- July meeting attendance 33
- School Supply Drive - we have collected \$140 cash and some school supplies to date. We will collect supplies and or cash again at August meeting.
- SBOT Paralegal Division Sustaining Membership has been renewed.

New Business:

- Joint Luncheon Committee - October ____, 2018, at Hollytree
- Bank Signature Card
- Committee Chairs and Volunteers/Assignments
- School Supply Drive - we will continue collecting supplies (or money for supplies) at August meetings to donate...(Cindy Kirby, Chairperson)
- We need to narrow down a date in October for CLE and start working on it. Any other volunteers to work with Carrie, Penny & me?
- The Board agreed to work on a plan to increase membership. The following ideas were discussed:
 1. **At the August meeting - all those who bring a guest will get their name entered in a drawing for a \$50 cash card and their guest will receive a ½ price membership if they join in August, 2018.**
A motion was made by Lisa Betts to offer a ½ price membership, and seconded by Penny Clarkson and it carried.
 2. Having a drawing for a free membership.

3. Offering first time, new members, a discount on first year annual dues.
4. Targeting professionals in other offices to invite.
5. Mentoring

LEATHA KOPECH, President-Elect:

- NALA Liaison – In the process of submitting application for Affiliate Membership
- Sent an update of record of officers to NALA

LISA BETTS, 1st Vice President:

- Membership Renewals/Outreach
- Evite for August meeting - send evite after board meeting and send reminder the following Monday. We will have a limited menu to choose from at Coyote Sam's.

PENNY CLARKSTON, 2nd Vice President:

August Speaker	<u>Don & Cynthia Kent.</u> “Dealing with Dementia Inside and Outside of the Law Firm” – Don and Cynthia Kent will speak on the topic of Lewy Body Dementia. They have teamed up for the purpose and with the hope of educating others about the disease and how it affects our lives inside and outside of the Law Firm.”
September Speaker	TENTATIVE - Matt Tibbetts with Express Employment Professionals
October Speaker	_____

HELEN KOCH, Recording Secretary

Board Meeting Minutes

Helen Koch moved that the Minutes of the July, 2018, board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. The motion was seconded by Lisa Betts, and it carried.

MELISSA WALLACE, Corresponding Secretary:

- Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, August 8th. **Deadline** to get your information to Melissa is **Friday, August 3, 2018, by 5:00 pm.**
- Ads for the Newsletter - Have we gotten a good response for renewal of ads?
- August spotlight member: Jennifer Smith
- September spotlight member: Tina Sepmoree

CARRIE KING, Treasurer:

- Treasurer's Report
- Budget Meeting (Carrie is working on a date.)

Carrie King moved that the Treasurer's Report for July, 2018, be filed for audit. The motion was seconded by Helen Koch, and it carried.

ANN KUHN, Executive Advisor: - ABSENT

BONNIE BROOKS, Parliamentarian:

Next Regular Meeting:	August 9, 2018 - Coyote Sam's
Next Board Meeting:	September 5, 2018 - Jack Ryan's

Jo Ruth Hancock adjourned the meeting at 12:57 pm.

TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS



2018-2019 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND/OR

RENEWAL ***Please see attached Membership Definitions for further details***

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (Check One):

- ☐ RENEWAL
☐ NEW MEMBER

CHECK HERE IF APPLICABLE:

- ☐ NAME/EMAIL/ADDRESS CHANGE

MEMBERSHIP RATES (Check One):

- ☐ \$50.00 ACTIVE
☐ \$40.00 ASSOCIATE
☐ \$25.00 GOVERNMENT / COURTHOUSE
(☐ ACTIVE/ ☐ ASSOCIATE)
☐ \$25.00 STUDENT (ASSOCIATE)
☐ SUSTAINING/VENDOR

NAME: _____

SPECIALTY AREA (if any): _____

EMPLOYER: _____

POSITION: _____ HOW LONG: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP CODE: _____

BUSINESS PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP CODE: _____

HOME/CELL PHONE: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____
(Month/Day)

I PREFER TO RECEIVE MAIL AT: ☐ HOME ☐ WORK

LEGAL TRAINING: _____

PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATION(S): _____
(i.e., CLA, CP, CLAS, PLS, CPS, TBLs)

I CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT AND THAT I MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP FOR WHICH I AM APPLYING (see Bylaws). I AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE BYLAWS AND CODE OF ETHICS AS ADOPTED BY THE TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS (TAALP).

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

COMMITTEES

THE REAL WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION IS PERFORMED THROUGH ITS COMMITTEES.
ON WHICH COMMITTEES WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SERVE?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP | <input type="checkbox"/> SCHOLARSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEWSLETTER | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY SERVICES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW DAY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOINT LUNCHEON | <input type="checkbox"/> FINANCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WAYS & MEANS | <input type="checkbox"/> AUDIT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HANDBOOK | <input type="checkbox"/> PROCEDURES MANUAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NOMINATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROFESSIONAL ETHICS | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LONG RANGE PLANNING/ BYLAWS & STANDING RULES | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CLE | |

PLEASE MAIL YOUR APPLICATION WITH PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES TO:

(PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO TAALP)

TAALP 1ST VICE PRESIDENT
LISA BETTS

110 N. COLLEGE AVE. SUITE 1700
TYLER TEXAS 75702

****The membership period runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019. ****

MEMBERSHIP

Membership levels are as follows:

➤ **Active Membership**

- (1) Any individual who has been engaged as a legal secretary, law office administrator, legal assistant, stenographer, typist or clerk in any law office or any person employed in the Court, the trust department of banks or trust companies, or in any public or private institution or office directly engaged in work of a legal nature, including, the public offices of the US Government, states, cities, counties or municipalities for a period of more than 1 year;
- (2) Any individual who has successfully completed a curriculum or full course of studies from an ABA approved or institutionally accredited school or a curriculum or full course of studies specifically prescribed for training as a legal professional from a non-ABA approved non-institutionally accredited school; or
- (3) Any individual who has successfully completed the voluntary certification examination given by NALA, who shall prove that certification or certification renewal by providing documentation of the same to the membership committee and is entitled to the use of the designation “CLA” or “CP”; or
- (4) Any individual who has successfully completed the voluntary certification examination given by the Professional Legal Secretary Association who shall prove that certification or certification renewal by providing documentation of the same to the membership committee and is entitled to the use of the designation “PLS”; or
- (5) Any individual who has been a member in good standing of any organized legal professional association for a period of one (1) year or more.

➤ **Associate Membership**

- (1) Any educator, judge, attorney or a university or college student in good standing who has interest in the legal profession.
- (2) Any individual who has been engaged as a legal secretary, law office administrator, legal assistant, stenographer, typist or clerk in any law office or any person employed in the Court, the trust department of banks or trust companies, or in any public or private institution or office directly engaged in work of a legal nature, including, the public offices of the US Government, states, cities, counties or municipalities for a period of less than 1 year; or
- (3) Any individual who is employed in some type of legal capacity and who is interested in supporting the profession but who may not otherwise qualify at present as an active member or may elect to join as an Associate rather than an Active member.

➤ **Sustaining Membership**

Will be granted to any individual, firm or organization who has rendered some special or distinguished service to this Association and who is not a member of this Association or who subscribes to the goals of this Association and shares the common interest of promoting the legal professional and in addition contributes annually to the Association an amount equal to or in excess of the current annual active membership dues.

EMPLOYMENT – August, 2018

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

Position	Practice Areas/Job Description	Location
1. Document Preparation Paralegal	Full-time Paralegal with extensive experience in real estate transactions; see email from 5-25-18	Tyler
2. Patent Paralegal	Full-time Paralegal for local patent firm; please see email from 7-25-18 for further details	Tyler
3. Paralegal	Full-time Paralegal; At least two years experience in civil defense litigation. Family and transactional law a plus, but not required. Must be proficient in Word, WordPerfect, Excel, e-filing/e-service, excellent phone skills, work independently, and a team player. Must also be able to manage multiple assignments and prioritize with excellent written and verbal communication skills. Also must be able to draft and respond to discovery. Insurance provided.	Tyler

NOTE: Job postings are for TAALP members. If you share with a friend/co-worker, please advise them that they have to be a member in order for the job bank to be shared or their resume forwarded.



Please remember to renew your membership applications by August 31st or you will miss out on all the great benefits of TAALP.

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

Also, please invite co-workers and friends in the community who are not members to join. For any member who brings a guest, that member's name will go in a drawing for a \$50 gift card. If that guest joins TAALP by the end of August, that guest will receive half-off membership for the year.

2018-2019 TAALP COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

COMMITTEE	VOLUNTEERS
MEMBERSHIP	Lisa Betts – Chairman Christine Hudson Susan Miller Tabitha Freeman Aryn Walker
NEWSLETTER	Melissa Wallace-Chairman Susan Miller Brandi Turchi
EMPLOYMENT	Lisa Betts – Chairman Tabitha Freeman Carla Eichelberger
JOINT LUNCHEON	Tabitha Freeman Ann Buchanan Bonnie Brooks Sandy Johnson Sarah Connor Brandi Turchi
WAYS & MEANS	
HANDBOOK	
NOMINATIONS	Sandy Johnson Sarah Connor
PROFESSIONAL ETHICS	Brandi Turchi Penny Clarkston
LONG RANGE PLANNING/BYLAWS & STANDING RULES	Ann Buchanan Sarah Connor
LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR	Sandy Johnson Aryn Walker

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CLE	Carrie King - Chairman Jo Ruth Hancock – Chairman Penny Clarkston Tracy Marshall
SCHOLARSHIP	Sandy Johnson
COMMUNITY SERVICE	Cindy Kirby – Chairman Cayce Holmes
LAW DAY	Ann Buchanan Sandy Johnson Helen Koch Brandi Turchi Cayce Holmes
FINANCE	Carrie King
AUDIT	
PROCEDURES MANUEL	
HISTORY	
SUNSHINE	Cindy Kirby
ANY/ALL	Tina Sepmoree

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

Anderson, Katrina	Dieringer, Mary	Hesse, Wendy	Parker, Nancy
Assunto, Kimberly	Dillon, Candice	Holmes, Cayce	Phillips, Samantha
Austin, Sara	Discovery Records	Hudson, Christine	Power, Kerri
Barrett, Sheri	Dixon, Renee	Jackson, Laura	Pratt, Lindsey
Barron, Jennifer	Dodds, Janet	Johnson, Sandy	Rex, Renda
Beasterfield, Elizabeth	Doffer, Teresa	King, Carrie	Robbins, Marie
Beck, Karen	Earls, Kristen	Kirby, Cindy	Robison, Rhonda
Betts, Lisa	Eichelberger, Carla	Kirby, Hailey	Seal, Jan
Blair, Erin	Elite Deposition	Knighton, Tina	Sepmoree, Tina
Blubonnet Process	Technologies	Koch, Helen	Sherrill, Sharon
Service	Evans, Karen S.	Kopech, Leatha	Shoemaker, Sarah
Brooks, Bonnie	Fields, Twyla	Kuester, Cheryl	Shreder, Connie
Brotherton-Pyatt,	Flowers, Marilyn	Kuhn, Ann	Skeen, Barbara
Margaret	Forbey, Lauren	Lennon, Molly	Smith, Jennifer
Brownlow, Laura	Foster, Codi	Lewis, Mallory	Sparks, Rhonda
Buchanan, Ann	Franklin, Katrina	Lexitas f/k/a Depo Texas	Starcher, Darcy
Burgess, Ginny	Freeman, Tabitha	Liska, Rhonda	Stewart, Clothilda
Calton, Sonya	Fulkerson, Chris	Liston, Lisa	Stone, Meredith
Chavez, Karina	Garcia, Maria	Lollar, Melinda	Stracener, Melinda
Clarkston, Penny	Godwin, Carol	Marshall, Tracy	Thedford, Kimberly
Clayton, Catherine	Goley, Carol	Martin, Kara	Thomas, Deborah
Collins Investigations	Green, C.J.	Martin, Melissa	Toon, Kristine
Connors, Samantha	Hall, Carrie	May, Tamara	Turchi, Brandi
Connor, Sarah	Hancock, Jo Ruth	Mayfield, Tammye	Walker, Aryn
Coplan, Patricia	Harris, Melissa	McDonald, Laurie	Wallace, Melissa
Cox, Kristin Railsback	Harvey, Terri	Miller, Susan	Ward, Dana
Crawford, Melani	Hays, Sarah	Morris, Mechele	White, April
Crim, Nancy	Hemphill, Carla	Murphy, Julie	Wimberley, Suzanne
Deck, Mary	Henry, Donna	Neel, Lesley	Zillmer, Alice
Deposition Resources		Newman, Kristen	

Save the Date!



September 26 - 28, 2018

Register online starting June 1 at www.txpd.org/taps

~ includes 14 hours of CLE, socials, and keynote luncheon ~

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Paralegal Division



**LONDON, YORK, STONEHENGE, SALISBURY - OH MY!
YOU CAN SEE ALL OF THIS AND MUCH MORE ON THE 2019 PARALEGALS RETURN TO
LONDON TRIP !**

**PARALEGALS RETURN TO LONDON
April 12 – April 20, 2019**

In 2019, the Paralegal Division is sponsoring a trip in conjunction with ACIS and traveling to **LONDON!** This is where the Paralegal Division traveled on their first sponsored trip in 2005! If you went on the first trip to London, don't worry we have an all new itinerary lined up for this trip. The detailed itinerary for the 2019 trip, can be found on the PD website home page at <http://txpd.org> under **NEWS - Paralegals Return to London**. Friends and family are welcome to travel with the group.

FEE WITH AIR INCLUDED:

Departing Cities:

Dallas/Fort Worth– \$4,526.00

Austin/San Antonio - \$4,786.00

Houston - \$4,526.00

Amarillo - \$4,826.00

Midland - \$4,826.00

Other Locations can be priced upon request.

REGISTER BY AUGUST 1 AND RECEIVE A \$200.00 DISCOUNT!

Note: Registrations after August 1 may include additional fuel surcharges that are finalized 45 days prior to departure; an invoice will be sent at that time if there are any increases. Fees based on 20 persons and includes airfare, hotel, transportation, tours, and meals (as indicated on flyer).

Additional/Optional fees: Single room supplement: \$859; Ultimate Protection Plan: \$270; Comprehensive Protection Plan: \$225. If the Ultimate or Comprehensive Plan is purchased there is a surcharge for guests ages 66+ of \$100

LAND ONLY FEE: (if you wish to make your own air travel arrangements): \$3,479.00

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: **Final Deadline for registration is November 1, 2018;** Initial non-refundable deposit is \$200; another \$295 payment will be due 30 days after registration, third payment of \$500 is due November 1, 2018; fourth payment of \$500 is due December 1, 2018, with balance due on January 15, 2019. **MAKE IT EASY AND SIGN UP FOR AUTO PAYMENT!** Travelers who use autopay will be given a \$50 discount.

REGISTER: at www.acis.com/register, choose Participant from the drop down menu and sign in using: Group Leader ID: 46775 - Group Leader's Last Name: Brashears - Click on the appropriate circle for your departure city for the **"London Trip"** and fill in your information.



blondefilly@wb4me.com

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Terry Reeves, CEO
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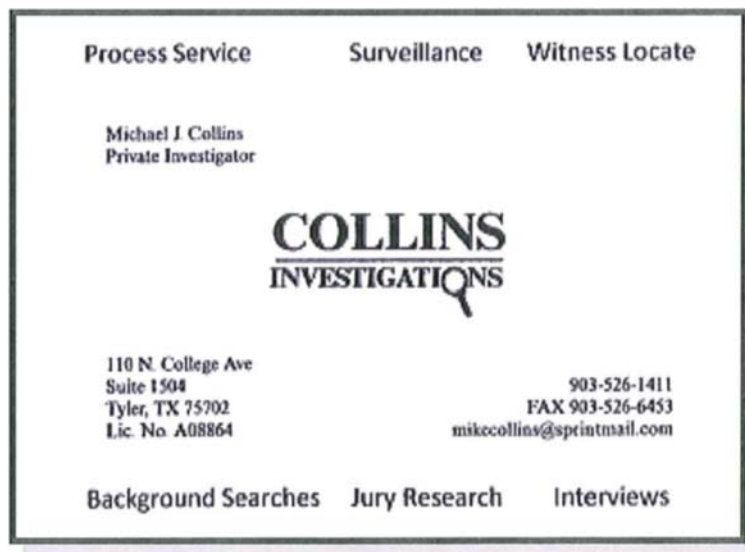
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by Sandy Johnson - TAALP



mikecollins@sprintmail.com



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS	SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
<p>Nancy Crim 3 Christine Hudson 4 Margaret Brotherton-Pyatt 11 Lisa Dickey 11 Katrina Anderson 12 Rhonda Liska 21 Connie Shreder 21 Kristen Newman 28</p>	<p>Ann Buchanan 3 Renda Rex 4 Wendy Hesse 5 Karina Chavez 6 Melissa Martin 10 Jan Seal 11 Kimberly Thedford 11 Mallory Lewis 12 Mary Deck 13 Barbara Skeen 18 Molly Lennon 28 Maria Garcia 29 Jennifer Smith 29</p>

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!

SPOTLIGHT MEMBER

Jennifer Smith



A little about me –

I graduated from a small East Texas town, Brownsboro, and immediately headed to Dallas because, at the time, a small town just wasn't for me.

By happenstance, I began my legal career in 1995. I catered an event at a University Park Intellectual Property boutique, Warren & Perez, where my ability to talk to just about anyone and anything, including inanimate objects such as walls, and my ability to serve high dollar hor d'oeuvres to the University Park elite, caught the eyes of one of the managing shareholders. Within the week, I was offered a job at Warren & Perez as a receptionist and file clerk. I knew absolutely nothing about the legal field, especially things such as patents, trademarks, microchips from Texas Instruments, and the like. However, my need, want and desire to learn and succeed would not allow me to spend the rest of my days walking down to the local Kinko's to make color copies of microchips or be the fetcher of 12 ounce bags of Sumatra dark roast from the local Starbucks (only to make coffee for the aforementioned shareholder who, literally bounced off the walls, without the need of coffee; I do believe it is this shareholder who invented parkour – not literally, but he was “doing” parkour in the office before anyone had heard of it, much less knew how to spell it – he was wound that tight). Anyway, I began to research, review and sit in front of my computer for hours on end trying to figure out exactly what “pleadings” meant and how to “draft” them, what “a trial notebook” was and figuring out exactly what was involved in the “discovery” process.

Because of my innate desire to succeed, my never-ending need to learn and my mother's voice in my head saying, “Never give up”, I continually moved up the proverbial ladder from receptionist and file clerk to legal assistant, where I have worn many hats, have trained paralegals as well as attorneys fresh out of law school. I have worked at national and international law firms, some with over 2,000 attorneys, in 38 offices on 3 different continents. I have assisted on matters involving specialties running the gamut from intellectual property to personal injury. Along the way, I have made some amazing friends, have some very fond memories, have lost countless hours of sleep (thanks to the downtown Dallas law firms that employed me) and have been the head legal assistant on some cases that made headline news – one in particular being a trademark infringement of New Balance. I assisted a Partner, two Associates, a summer clerk and two Federal Marshals with a raid of a business on Harry Hines Boulevard in Dallas, Texas, where we confiscated all items, including computers, tennis shoes, money and all hard files. The raid took us a full day and filled up a large U-Haul moving truck with the confiscated items. Needless to say, this was definitely an event for the books.

Fast forward to 2018 – I am still in the legal field. I am the office manager of a local law firm and am in charge of all of the family law cases. I assist with the other cases in the firm, but all family law is filtered through me.

Personally, my family and I moved back to East Texas around 2006 where we settled in Lindale. I wanted to get back to my small-town roots, and it is tough to beat the schools in Lindale. My boyfriend, Matt, and I have an amazing home and three beautiful children: son, Logan, who is 20 and a student at TJC, daughters, Landen, who is 18 and on the cross country and track teams at UT Tyler, and Kiya, who is 11 and is about to start 6th grade in Lindale. We have some really cool fur babies – Roxy, our dog, and a few cats, Weezie, Peeps and Old Man. Matt would not agree with me as far as the cats being cool. As a matter of fact, he would say that the cats do not contribute anything toward the wellbeing of the household; however, we are both in agreement that our dog, Roxy, is, by far, the best dog ever!

In my spare time, which I don't seem to find much of, I enjoy being with my family – anything that involves us being together. I also enjoy the few and far between date nights I get with Matt. I love reading, running, laughing and daydreaming of winning the lottery!



WHAT: CLE Event

WHEN: October 26, 2018

TIME: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

WHERE: Tyler Chamber of Commerce

COST: FREE (TAALP members); \$40 (non-members)



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