



**TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL
PROFESSIONALS
NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER**

President's Message

Leatha Kopech, PP, PLS

Dear TAALP Members:

WOW, where has the year gone? Seems like just yesterday we were all talking turkey and buying Christmas gifts and yet, here we are doing it all again. It's time of year to spend lots of time with family and friends and count our many blessings. With Thanksgiving almost here and Christmas right around the corner, there is no better time for reflection, reflect on your blessings. It's also a time of giving. Giving to those in need, doesn't have to be monetary, or just giving a smile can brighten someone's day. I hope that each of you know what a blessing you are to TAALP. Each and every one of you bring strength, positivity and professionalism to our organization and for that, I am thankful.

Who has already started their Christmas shopping? Who is already finished? Who waits until the last minute? I have started, well at least for my grandchildren...everyone else, well, not so much. Every year I usually go all out and buy LOTS of gifts for my family; however, although everyone will certainly get gifts, I have decided to focus more on the true meaning of Christmas and what the celebration is really all about and making memories with my family.

Our November meeting is **Thursday, November 11, 2021, at noon** at the Jalapeno Tree. Our speaker is Katherine Elliott with CASA. We will have a select menu that will be emailed prior to the meeting. Please return your menu selection to Jo Ruth Hancock. We want to say **THANK YOU** to **Lexitas** for sponsoring our meeting this month.

You have always been so generous in contributing to both of our holiday (Thanksgiving and Christmas) community service projects, and I feel like this year is going to be no different! You all have such a giving heart. Candy emailed last week to let you know how to participate in this year's event. We will be donating to the East Texas Food Bank. If you plan to donate, please bring your check or cash to our meeting Thursday! If you cannot attend, email Candice Dillon at Candice.Dillon@lgbs.com or call her at 903-597-2897 to make arrangements to get your donation to her. Your generosity and charitable spirit are very much appreciated. Everyone had so much fun last year at our Christmas Story ornament exchange, December meeting so it is back by popular demand. Please plan to attend this year as we always have so much fun. Bring your wrapped ornament...price limit is \$10. We will meet at Jalapeno Tree on **December 9th at noon**. Mark your calendars!!!!

Our Sunshine Committee chairperson this year is Candice Dillion. She will keep up with the tradition of sending birthday cards and get well cards when needed. So, 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! Tina's email address is Candice.Dillon@lgbs.com.

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

See you Thursday!
Leatha

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 November 3, 2021 BOARD MEETING
By: Carrie King on Behalf of Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

The Executive Board met at Texas Music City Grill and Smokehouse on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Leatha Kopech, President; Jo Ruth Hancock, President-Elect; Candace Dillon, 2nd Vice President; Tina Knighton, Treasurer; Brandi Turchi, Corresponding Secretary; Helen Koch, Parliamentarian; and Carrie King, Executive Advisor.

President Leatha Kopech called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm

Old Business:

- Our 2021-22 Membership total to date is 80
- Our September meeting attendance was 26
- Tina Knighton checked the status of payment for our State Bar Paralegal Division dues and they were paid in May.

New Business:

- Our Christmas Luncheon will be held at Jalapeno Tree and we will have Ornament Exchange with a \$10 limit.
- Our November meeting sponsor is Lexitas
- The board discussed an updated picture for our website. Board members will submit pictures to Leatha.

JO RUTH HANCOCK, President-Elect

- Jo Ruth reported that Jalapeno Tree is confirmed for our November and December Meetings.

LISA BETTS, 1st Vice President

- Lisa was not present but it was confirmed that she will send the Evite for our November 11th membership meeting.

CANDICE DILLON, 2nd Vice President

- Candice reported that our November speaker will be Katherine Elliott with CASA. There will be no speaker for December and our January speaker will be Jacob Putman, Smith County District Attorney.
- The board discussed our community service projects for November and December. We will collect food/donations for East Texas Food Bank in November and a charity for senior donations will be identified in December.

GAYE BOYNTON, Recording Secretary

- Gaye was not present but Candice Dillon moved that the minutes of the October 2021 board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. The motion was seconded and carried. The minutes were approved.
- Candice Dillon moved that the minutes of the October 2021 budget meeting be approved, as reported to the board. The motion was seconded and carried. The minutes were approved.

CARRIE KING, Executive Advisor

- Carrie reported that renewal fees for our website will be due in December.

Next Regular Meeting: November 11, 2021 – Jalapeno Tree - Select Menu
Next Board Meeting: December 1, 2021 – TBT

The meeting concluded at 12:45 pm.

Carrie King on behalf of
Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

Leatha Kopech, President

EMPLOYMENT – NOVEMBER 2021

*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 Secretary/Assistant	We are looking for a skilled Legal Secretary/Assistant with a minimum of 1 year of experience in civil litigation law. Experience should include multi-line phone management, calendaring case deadlines, electronic organization/filing. This individual shall possess the ability to work independently in a fast-paced environment, in addition to working well within a team. We require strong organizational and writing skills as well as the ability to manage a high volume of work. Salary depends on experience. Performance based bonuses.	Tyler
4. Legal Assistant	Legal Assistant needed for family, criminal, and probate practice. Must have experience drafting pleadings, discovery, and trial attendance. Please see full description in my 8-3-21 email	Tyler
5. Administrative Legal Asst.	Full-time administrative legal assistant needed for downtown Tyler solo practice law office. Law office is a general practice, including bankruptcy, civil lawsuits, probate, and estates. Must be familiar with efile.txcourts.gov and PACER, as well as software programs for billing, calendaring, and word processing. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday.”	Tyler
6. Legal Assistant	Full-time legal assistant needed for Jacksonville law office. Law office is personal injury practice. Willing to train. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday	Jacksonville
7. 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
8. Legal Assistant	Full-time Legal Assistant needed for insurance defense firm. Health insurance, vacation, and courthouse holidays. The pay is hourly and	Tyler

	depends on experience. Some law firm experience would be necessary.	
9. 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
10.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

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

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

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
<p>Michael J Collins Private Investigator</p> <p>COLLINS INVESTIGATIONS</p>		
<p>110 N. College Ave Suite 1504 Tyler, TX 75702 Lic. No. A08864</p>	<p>903-526-1411 FAX 903-526-6453 mikecollins@sprintmail.com</p>	
Background Searches	Jury Research	Interviews

mikecollins@sprintmail.com

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November Speaker: Katherine Elliott with CASA

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a nation volunteer movement founded in 1977. CASA for Kids of East Texas is a member of the National and Texas CASA Associations. There are more than 1,000 CASA programs nationwide and 72 CASA programs in the state of Texas.



HOW DOES A CASA HELP?

CASA volunteers provide a consistent presence in a child's life while working collaboratively with everyone involved on the case. CASA volunteers stay by the child's side during their time in foster care, advocating for the child's voice to be heard and for the needs of the child and family.

A CASA VOLUNTEER WORKS TO:

- Identify and address risks to the child's safety,
- Establish supportive connections for the child and provide information on support available to those connections for better placement stability,
- Ensure appropriate physical and mental health assessments are completed and any health needs are understood by the family and everyone involved in the case, and
- Verify educational assessments are completed and educational supports are in place.

WHAT DOES A CASA DO?

VOLUNTEER.
Ready to advocate for a child and family? Take the first step towards becoming a CASA volunteer by visiting [BecomeACASA.org](https://becomeacasa.org).

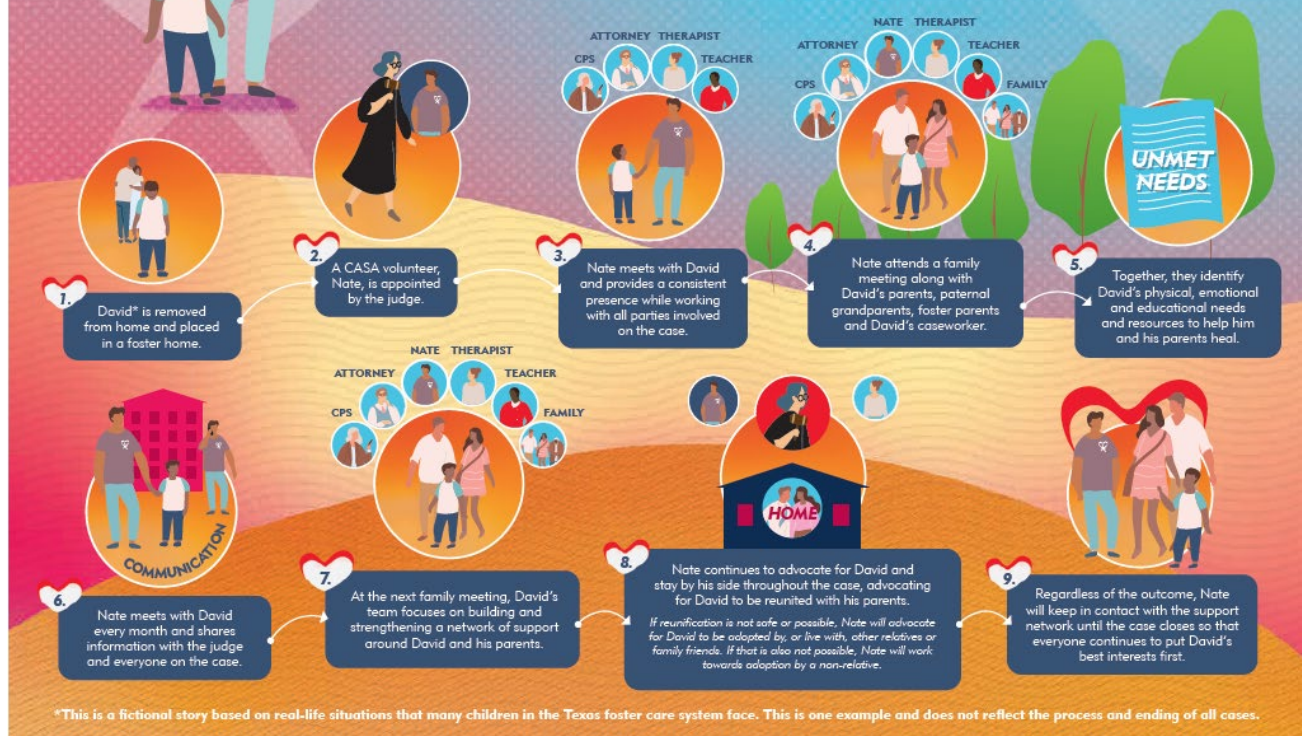
NOMINATE.
If you know someone who has what it takes to speak up for children and families, let them know by nominating them today at [NominateACASA.org](https://nominateacasa.org).



BECOMEACASA.ORG

WHAT DOES A CASA DO?

When a family is in crisis and becomes involved in the child welfare system, a CASA volunteer may be appointed by a judge to advocate for the child. This highly trained volunteer is someone from the child's community whose responsibility is to get to know the child and their family and advocate for their safety, permanency and well-being while in foster care. This is just one example of the difference a CASA volunteer can make in a child's life.





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Happy Birthday November Birthday's

Melani Crawford 16th

Kayla Luker 17th



In the Know

Data Shows Almost Half of All Child Car Seats Are Misused

According to Texas Department of Transportation:

Vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death among children in the nation, and according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 46% of all child car seats are misused. To encourage parents to schedule a free car seat safety check, the “Save Me With a Seat” campaign is traveling the state to help Texans keep their children safe on the road. “Save Me With a Seat” will coincide with National Child Passenger Safety week which is taking place Sept. 19 – Sept. 25, 2021.

TxDOT offers free car seat safety checks year-round. Parents and caregivers can visit [SaveMeWithASeat.org](https://www.savemewithaseat.org) and enter their zip code to find the nearest TxDOT Traffic Safety Specialist in their area to set up an appointment or view child car seat safety tips.



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Source: <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/media-center/statewide-news/016-2021.html>

This Day in History:

World War I ends
November 11th, 1918

On this day in 1918, World War I came to an end. The armistice found the two most prominent Texas units on active service in France. The Ninetieth Division was fighting its way through the Meuse-Argonne, while the Thirty-Sixth Division was resting behind the lines after suffering heavy casualties in the same offensive. A total of 198,000 Texans saw service in the armed forces during the course of the war. Five thousand one hundred and seventy-one Texans, including one nurse, died in the armed services; 4,748 of the dead served in the army. More than a third of the total deaths occurred inside the United States, many of them as a result of the influenza epidemic of 1918. Four Texans were awarded the Medal of Honor. In a trend that would become even more marked during World War II, military camps were established in Texas to train men for service and the state was the main location for pilot training for military aviation.



Source <https://www.tshaonline.org/texas-day-by-day>

Smile Like a Monkey with a New Banana



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
AIRY QUEEN!





TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

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