



*President's Message*  
*Jo Ruth Hancock, CP*

**TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS**  
**MAY, 2019 NEWSLETTER**

Dear TAALP Members:

Wow...I can't believe this year has flown by so fast. This is our final CLE meeting this year before election of officers for 2019-2020. All active members will be receiving emails from our Nominating Committee chair soon with a list of those eligible for nomination and election. I encourage everyone who is active and eligible to participate in this procedure, to please do so. If you are nominated for an office, I encourage you to accept the nomination. TAALP is blessed with an outstanding group of Board members this year; however, some are having to vacate their position because of the amount of time served, so we do need some NEW blood on our Board. If you are wondering what all this involves, we hold our monthly Board meeting a week prior to the Regular meeting on the Wednesday of that week prior. There is not a lot of extra work to be done outside of the meetings, but if you are concerned what might be involved with regard to a particular office you might be nominated for, please, please contact the officer currently serving in that position or me. We are all listed on the last page of this newsletter and are most happy to visit with you about your concerns.

Our May Membership meeting is Thursday, May 9, 2019, at noon at The Hub, 304 E. Ferguson, Tyler. Taylor Heaton, County Court at Law #2 Judge, will be our guest CLE speaker. As always, we will be enjoying another yummy meal catered by Clear Springs. We want to thank **Deposition Resources** for sponsoring our meeting this month.

At our June meeting, we will be holding our annual election of officers for 2019-2020 year, so if you are an active TAALP member, we need you there to vote. If you are unsure of your active status with TAALP, just contact Lisa Betts, [lisa@sscfirm.com](mailto:lisa@sscfirm.com). In the years past we have held them at Coyote Sam's and have experienced slow service, so this year, we are excited that we will hold them at Jack Ryan's, where we believe service will be much quicker and the food of your choice delicious. Jack Ryan's is located in the People's Building, downtown. If you haven't eaten there yet, you are in for a treat. Cost of lunch is still our usual \$15 fee. There is plenty of free parking in the Fair Plaza Garage, one block north of Jack Ryan's (beside the library), or you find a spot around the square and feed the meter.

I also want to again thank **Barbara Skeen**, our **Scholarship Chairman**, and her committee members for their hard work and dedication in selecting the TAALP Scholarship recipients this year. We had some really qualified applicants, and I believe the recipients have been selected. The winners will be announced at our May meeting. Hopefully, the recipients' schedules will allow them to attend and accept their scholarship personally. This year we are blessed and able to award four scholarships to these deserving candidates.

I never want to miss the chance to express a big thanks of gratitude to ALL OUR VENDORS! You so generously support TAALP, and we appreciate you all so much! Also, thank you **Cindy Kirby** for the outstanding job you do serving as our Sunshine Committee chairperson. Cindy, we cannot thank you enough for remembering everyone on their birthdays 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 has a new email address. It is [ckirbytexas@yahoo.com](mailto:ckirbytexas@yahoo.com).

I look forward to seeing you all Thursday.

Jo Ruth

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

Just email me at:  
[melissa.wallace@burtonoil.com](mailto:melissa.wallace@burtonoil.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 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!

**Fun Fact:**

**Did you know that Texas ranks #2 in the nation for numbers of Certified Paralegals? Way to go!!!**

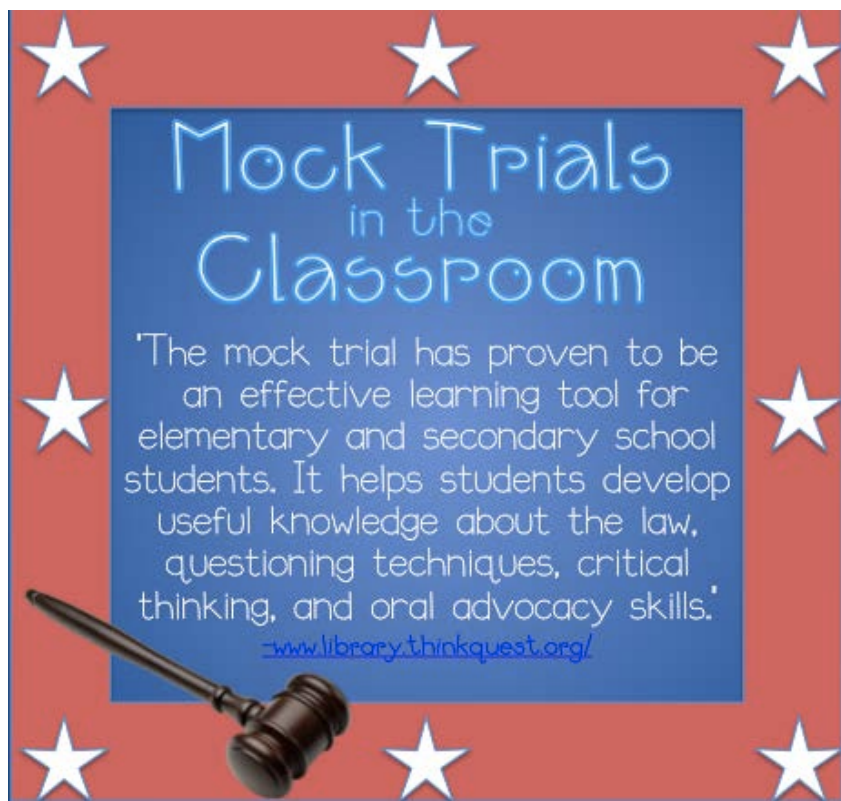


7666 East 61st Street, Suite 315 | Tulsa, OK 74133 | 918.587.6828 | www.nala.org

**CP EXAMINATION DATA  
As of April 17, 2019**

**STATES REPRESENTED AT TIME OF  
CERTIFICATION**

|                      |      |                |     |                |               |
|----------------------|------|----------------|-----|----------------|---------------|
| Alabama              | 245  | Louisiana      | 208 | Oklahoma       | 788           |
| Alaska               | 93   | Maine          | 81  | Oregon         | 157           |
| Arizona              | 1444 | Maryland       | 61  | Pennsylvania   | 194           |
| Arkansas             | 131  | Massachusetts  | 37  | Puerto Rico    | 34            |
| California           | 1392 | Michigan       | 226 | Rhode Island   | 10            |
| Colorado             | 311  | Minnesota      | 77  | South Carolina | 293           |
| Connecticut          | 31   | Mississippi    | 234 | South Dakota   | 187           |
| Delaware             | 6    | Missouri       | 146 | Tennessee      | 389           |
| District of Columbia | 15   | Montana        | 102 | Texas          | 3386          |
| Florida              | 4908 | Nebraska       | 250 | Utah           | 248           |
| Georgia              | 254  | Nevada         | 348 | Vermont        | 2             |
| Hawaii               | 9    | New Hampshire  | 105 | Virginia       | 461           |
| Idaho                | 55   | New Jersey     | 223 | Virgin Islands | 45            |
| Illinois             | 148  | New Mexico     | 230 | Washington     | 97            |
| Indiana              | 81   | New York       | 179 | West Virginia  | 128           |
| Iowa                 | 162  | North Carolina | 552 | Wisconsin      | 82            |
| Kansas               | 262  | North Dakota   | 137 | Wyoming        | 176           |
| Kentucky             | 38   | Ohio           | 219 | Canada         | 2             |
|                      |      |                |     | France         | 1             |
|                      |      |                |     | Belgium        | 2             |
|                      |      |                |     | Japan          | 1             |
|                      |      |                |     | Taiwan         | 1             |
|                      |      |                |     | <b>Total</b>   | <b>19,662</b> |



It's that time again! We are in need of volunteers to man the 4th grade Mock Trials on May 15, 16 and 17, 2019. If you haven't had an opportunity to review your calendars, please do so and contact Helen Koch at [helenk@brownbaumansmith.com](mailto:helenk@brownbaumansmith.com) to select a date and time for which you could assist.

**TAALP**  
**MINUTES OF APRIL 30, BOARD MEETING**  
**By: Helen G. Koch, Recording Secretary**

The Executive Board met at JACK RYAN'S on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Jo Ruth Hancock, President; Leatha Kopech, President-Elect; Lisa Betts, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Carrie King, Treasurer; Helen G. Koch, Recording Secretary; Melissa Wallace, Corresponding Secretary; and Bonnie Brooks, Parliamentarian.

Absent were Penny Clarkston, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Ann Kuhn, Executive Advisor.

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

**JO RUTH HANCOCK, President:**

**Old Business:**

- 2018-19 Renewal Membership total to date 107
- April meeting attendance 22

**New Business:**

- Half-price membership two more months
- April meeting RSVP vs attendance
- Looking forward - 2019-20 Executive Board - Jo Ruth sent emails to Sandy Johnson & Sarah Connor who have volunteered to serve.
- Helen Koch reports we have 6 schools participating in Law Day Mock Trials. Schools participating are: Caldwell, Griffin, Orr, Rice, Brookhill, and Owens. They are the week of May 13-17, 2019. Volunteers to help with the mock trials can contact Helen Koch at [helenk@brownbaumansmith.com](mailto:helenk@brownbaumansmith.com).
- Law Day Luncheon is May 1, 2019, at TJC Rogers Student Center
- June elections - We will hold the elections at Jack Ryan's

Melissa Wallace attended the TAPA 2019 Conference CLE event and meeting in Longview, Texas, on behalf of the Board. She discussed some ideas she took away from that meeting. Stay tuned for more information.

Jo Ruth advised that TAPS 2019 would be held in Austin, Texas on September 18-20, 2019 at the DoubleTree Hotel. There will be three days (up to 14 hours) of CLE and fun socials to catch up with your TAPS acquaintances. Check the Transcript for additional details.

**LEATHA KOPECH, President-Elect**

- Annual Report due June 1, 2019

**LISA BETTS, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:**

- Membership Renewals - ½ price membership through June. In the May Newsletter can we go ahead and put in a reminder that it is time to renew for next year and attached a renewal form for 2019-2020?
- Evite for May meeting - send evite after board meeting and send reminder the following Monday.

**PENNY CLARKSTON, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - ABSENT**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| May Speaker  | <u>Judge Taylor Heaton - Topic to be announced</u> |
| June         | <u>Elections</u>                                   |
| July Speaker |  |

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**HELEN KOCH, Recording Secretary**

Board Meeting Minutes

Helen Koch moved that the Minutes of the April 2019, board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. The motion was seconded by Carrie King, and it carried.

**MELISSA WALLACE, Corresponding Secretary:**

- Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, May 8, 2019. **Deadline** to get your information to Melissa is **Friday, May 3, 2019, by 5:00 pm.**
- May spotlight member: We will feature a tribute to one of our former members, Dana Martinez-Jones, who had moved to Florida. She recently lost her battle to cancer.

**CARRIE KING, Treasurer:**

- Treasurer's Report

Carrie King moved that the Treasurer's Report for April 2019, be approved and filed for audit. The motion was seconded by Melissa Wallace, and it carried.

**ANN KUHN, Executive Advisor - ABSENT**

**BONNIE BROOKS, Parliamentarian:**

|                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Next Regular Meeting:</b> | <b>May 9, 2019 - The Hub</b>      |
| <b>Next Board Meeting:</b>   | <b>June 5, 2019 - Jack Ryan's</b> |

# TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS



## 2018-2019 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND/OR RENEWAL

**1/2 PRICE MEMBERSHIP 1/1/19 – 6/30/19**

**\*\*\*PRICES BELOW ARE THE HALF PRICE FEE...DO NOT HALF  
THE FEES REFLECTED!**

**\*\*\*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):**

- \$25.00 ACTIVE – ½ Price  
 \$20.00 ASSOCIATE – ½ Price  
 \$12.50 GOVERNMENT / COURTHOUSE  
ACTIVE/  ASSOCIATE)  
 \$12.50 STUDENT (ASSOCIATE) ID req – ½  
Price

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 1<sup>ST</sup> 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. \*\***



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## MEMBERSHIP

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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 – May, 2019**

*Contact: Lisa Betts*

*TAALP Job Bank Coordinator*

*903.534.0200 or [lisa@sscfirm.com](mailto:lisa@sscfirm.com)*

| <b>Position</b>                | <b>Practice Areas/Job Description</b>  | <b>Location</b> |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| 1. File Clerk                  | Part-time File Clerk needed. Must have a great work ethic, dress professionally, and have a great attitude.  | Tyler           |
| 2. Legal Asst.                 | Trust, Estate Planning, Probate and Business formation looking for office admin experience req., legal assistant experience preferred but not necessary, attn. to detail a must; health and dental offered, and 401k   | Tyler           |
| 3. Bilingual Immigration Asst. | Looking for a bilingual immigration assistant who can answer phones, attend clients, respond to mail, data entry, draft provisional waivers and assist attorney. We need someone who is fluent in Spanish, as in they must speak, read and write Spanish. We are looking for a full time employee who can work Monday-Friday from 8:30-5:00 and must be able to work one Saturday a month, minimum. We are looking for someone who is a fast learner, can easily comprehend direction, pays attention to detail and has good writing skills. We offer medical, dental, vision and supplemental insurance after a 3 months probationary period. We offer vacation pay and have a bonus structure, also. | Tyler           |
| 4. Receptionist/Runner         | A local Tyler law firm is looking for someone to work 9:00 to 3:00 Monday through Friday, with 12:00 to 1:00 for lunch. Basic duties would be to act as receptionist, to answer phones, do runs as needed, assist in filing, and to otherwise generally assist around the office. Must have own car. Mileage would be reimbursed.  | Tyler           |
| 5. Deputy Clerk II             | Full-time position for the 12 <sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals. Apply online at: <a href="http://www.twc.state.tx.us">www.twc.state.tx.us</a><br><br>Performs moderately complex appellate court work. Work involves maintaining records and filing, tracking, and managing cases filed in appellate Court. See 4-23-19 email for more info.   | 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.

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

|                                   |                            |                                 |                           |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Aaron, Liz</b>                 | <b>Dixon, Renee</b>        | <b>Johnson, Brittany</b>        | <b>Rex, Renda</b>         |
| <b>Anderson, Katrina</b>          | <b>DuBois, Cindy</b>       | <b>Johnson, Javan</b>           | <b>Rivers, Amy</b>        |
| <b>Assunto, Kimberly</b>          | <b>Dunn, Becky</b>         | <b>Johnson, Sandy</b>           | <b>Robison, Rhonda</b>    |
| <b>Baker, Michele</b>             | <b>Earls, Kristen</b>      | <b>King, Carrie</b>             | <b>Rowe, Krystal</b>      |
| <b>Barron, Jennifer</b>           | <b>Eichelberger, Carla</b> | <b>Kirby, Cindy</b>             | <b>Sepmoree, Tina</b>     |
| <b>Bass, Nancy</b>                | <b>Evans, Karen S.</b>     | <b>Kirby, Hailey</b>            | <b>Sherrill, Sharon</b>   |
| <b>Beasterfield, Elizabeth</b>    | <b>Fidler, Kerri</b>       | <b>Knighton, Tina</b>           | <b>Shoemaker, Sarah</b>   |
| <b>Beck, Karen</b>                | <b>Finley, Gaye</b>        | <b>Koch, Helen</b>              | <b>Skeen, Barbara</b>     |
| <b>Betts, Lisa</b>                | <b>Flowers, Marilyn</b>    | <b>Kopech, Leatha</b>           | <b>Slayter, Linda</b>     |
| <b>Black, Alexandra</b>           | <b>Flynn, Meghan</b>       | <b>Krailo, Karen</b>            | <b>Smith, Jennifer</b>    |
| <b>Blubonnet Process Service</b>  | <b>Forbey, Lauren</b>      | <b>Kuhn, Ann</b>                | <b>Snowden, Kim</b>       |
| <b>Brooks, Bonnie</b>             | <b>Franklin, Katrina</b>   | <b>Lexitas f/k/a Depo Texas</b> | <b>Sorrells, Kristen</b>  |
| <b>Brotherton-Pyatt, Margaret</b> | <b>Freeman, Tabitha</b>    | <b>Liska, Rhonda</b>            | <b>Sosa, Yecenia</b>      |
| <b>Brownlow, Laura</b>            | <b>Fulkerson, Chris</b>    | <b>Liston, Lisa</b>             | <b>Sparks, Rhonda</b>     |
| <b>Buchanan, Ann</b>              | <b>Godwin, Carol</b>       | <b>Lollar, Melinda</b>          | <b>Starcher, Darcy</b>    |
| <b>Burgess, Ginny</b>             | <b>Goley, Carol</b>        | <b>Marshall, Tracy</b>          | <b>Stewart, Clothilda</b> |
| <b>Cash, Sue Ell</b>              | <b>Hall, Carrie</b>        | <b>May, Tamara</b>              | <b>Taylor, Vickie</b>     |
| <b>Clarkston, Penny</b>           | <b>Hancock, Jo Ruth</b>    | <b>Mayfield, Tammye</b>         | <b>Tekell, Amanda</b>     |
| <b>Collins Investigations</b>     | <b>Hanks, Julie</b>        | <b>McClenny, Katrina</b>        | <b>Thomas, Deborah</b>    |
| <b>Connor, Sarah</b>              | <b>Hankins, Melanie</b>    | <b>McKnight, Ashley</b>         | <b>Toon, Kristine</b>     |
| <b>Coplan, Patricia</b>           | <b>Harvey, Terri</b>       | <b>Millican, Kenneth</b>        | <b>Turchi, Brandi</b>     |
| <b>Crawford, Melani</b>           | <b>Hays, Sarah</b>         | <b>Murphy, Julie</b>            | <b>Walker, Aryn</b>       |
| <b>Crim, Nancy</b>                | <b>Hemphill, Carla</b>     | <b>Newman, Kristen</b>          | <b>Wallace, Melissa</b>   |
| <b>Deck, Mary</b>                 | <b>Hesse, Wendy</b>        | <b>Nichols, James</b>           | <b>Ward, Dana</b>         |
| <b>Deposition Resources</b>       | <b>Holmes, Cayce</b>       | <b>Parker, Nancy</b>            | <b>Watson, Christy</b>    |
| <b>Dillon, Candice</b>            | <b>Jackson, Laura</b>      | <b>Pilcher, Laney</b>           | <b>White, May</b>         |
| <b>Dicovery Records</b>           | <b>Jobe, Baily</b>         | <b>Power, Kerri</b>             | <b>Wimberley, Suzanne</b> |

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

# TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

Paralegal Board Certification Program

APPLY NOW  
JUNE 30 DEADLINE  
[www.tbls-bcp.org](http://www.tbls-bcp.org)



## Texas Board of Legal Specialization BOARD CERTIFIED PARALEGAL

Established by TBLS in 1994, the paralegal certification program recognizes the quality of services of paralegals who have achieved a level of special knowledge in a particular area of law. The program is the only state organization authorized to certify paralegals as specialist in specialty areas of law, and there are only 398 Texas Board Certified Paralegals.

Review certification application forms at [www.tbls-bcp.org/Cert](http://www.tbls-bcp.org/Cert)

Examination for Paralegal Board Certification is early November in Austin.

**Bankruptcy Law**  
**Civil Trial Law**  
**Criminal Law**

**Estate Planning & Probate Law**  
**Family Law**

**Oil, Gas & Mineral Law**  
**Personal Injury Trial Law**  
**Real Estate Law**

### **General Requirements:**

- Minimum of 5 years of paralegal work experience under the direct supervision of a licensed Texas attorney
- An assessment of the paralegal's experience and duties showing 50% of their time is devoted to the practice area
- 30 hours of CLE in the specialty area
- Completion of a Baccalaureate or higher degree or completion of an accredited paralegal program; OR 2 additional years of paralegal work experience

### **About TBLS**

Texas Board of Legal Specialization, authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas, is the nation's largest and most successful legal board certification program. It certifies attorneys in 24 specialty areas of law and paralegals in eight specialty areas. TBLS serves as a resource by listing all certified attorneys and paralegals online. TBLS works to ensure that the citizens of Texas receive the highest quality legal services. To learn more about Board Certification and TBLS visit

[www.tbls-bcp.org](http://www.tbls-bcp.org)

## 2018-2019 TAALP COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

| COMMITTEE  | VOLUNTEERS  |
|--|---|
| <b>MEMBERSHIP</b>                                      | Lisa Betts – Chairman<br>Christine Hudson<br>Susan Miller<br>Tabitha Freeman<br>Aryn Walker<br>Lauren Forbey<br>Alexandra Black |
| <b>NEWSLETTER</b>                                      | Melissa Wallace – Chairman<br>Susan Miller<br>Brandi Turchi   |
| <b>EMPLOYMENT</b>                                      | Lisa Betts – Chairman<br>Tabitha Freeman<br>Carla Eichelberger  |
| <b>JOINT LUNCHEON</b>                                  | Tabitha Freeman<br>Ann Buchanan<br>Bonnie Brooks<br>Sandy Johnson<br>Sarah Connor - Chairman<br>Brandi Turchi<br>Laura Brownlow |
| <b>WAYS &amp; MEANS</b>                                |   |
| <b>HANDBOOK</b>  |   |
| <b>NOMINATIONS</b>                                     | Sandy Johnson<br>Sarah Connor   |
| <b>PROFESSIONAL ETHICS</b>                             | Brandi Turchi<br>Penny Clarkston  |
| <b>LONG RANGE PLANNING/BYLAWS &amp; STANDING RULES</b> | Ann Buchanan<br>Sarah Connor  |
| <b>LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR</b>                  | Sandy Johnson<br>Aryn Walker<br>Barbara Skeen – Chairman  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT &amp; CLE</b> | Carrie King - Chairman<br>Jo Ruth Hancock – Chairman<br>Penny Clarkston<br>Tracy Marshall<br>Leatha Kopech   |
| <b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>                        | Sandy Johnson<br>Barbara Skeen – Chairman  |
| <b>COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>                  | Cindy Kirby – Chairman<br>Cayce Holmes<br>Lauren Forbey<br>Katrina Franklin<br>Sarah Hays  |
| <b>LAW DAY</b>                            | Ann Buchanan<br>Sandy Johnson<br>Helen Koch – chairman<br>Brandi Turchi<br>Cayce Holmes<br>Laura Brownlow<br>Lauren Forbey<br>Kristen Earls<br>Alexandra Black |
| <b>FINANCE</b>                            | Carrie King  |
| <b>AUDIT</b>                              |  |
| <b>PROCEDURES MANUEL</b>                  |  |
| <b>HISTORY</b>                            |  |
| <b>SUNSHINE</b>                           | Cindy Kirby  |
| <b>ANY/ALL</b>                            | Tina Sepmoree  |

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| MAY BIRTHDAYS   |    | JUNE BIRTHDAYS  |    |
|-----------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Melanie Hankins | 7  | Meghan Flynn    | 1  |
| Laura Jackson   | 10 | Kristine Toon   | 3  |
| Lauren Forbey   | 25 | Karen Evans     | 8  |
| Blu Daniels     | 26 | Lisa Liston     | 9  |
|                 |    | Tamara May      | 13 |
|                 |    | Sharon Sherrill | 15 |
|                 |    | Rhonda Robison  | 27 |

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!**



## In Memoriam

Former TAALP Member Dana Martinez-Jones sadly passed away on April 10, 2019 at the age of 55. Dana was a dedicated member of TAALP, serving on many committees and in many capacities, including First Vice President from 2006-2007 and President Elect from 2007-2008. Dana received TAALP's Legal Professional of the Year Award in 2008. Dana worked as a paralegal at Flowers Davis, PLLC from August 1999 to August 2008 and earned her advanced paralegal certification from NALA.

In 2008 Dana moved to Tampa, FL and worked as a corporate paralegal in the health care industry. She became very involved in her local paralegal associations there, serving on the Board of Directors for the Northwest Florida Paralegal Association and serving on the Board of Directors and as President from February 2016 until the fall of 2017 of the Tampa Bay Paralegal Association.

In 2017 Dana was diagnosed with leukemia, and she fought a long and hard battle. She was a fun loving, high spirited individual and was dedicated to the paralegal profession. She will be greatly missed by her husband Paul, her children, and her friends here at TAALP.

(Please note—at our last meeting, I mistakenly stated that Dana had served as TAALP President in the past. Dana did serve as President Elect, but moved to Florida before she could assume the role of President). — Carrie King





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