



## TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS NOVEMBER, 2018 NEWSLETTER

### *President's Message*

*Jo Ruth Hancock, CP*

Dear TAALP Members:

November is a time of reflecting on the things we are grateful for all year long, and I just wanted to take this opportunity to let each and every one of you know how thankful I am for the roll each of you play in making TAALP the fine organization that it is. I have made many great friends throughout the years of my affiliation with TAALP, and you all are very dear to my heart. As President, I want to convey my gratitude to the members of your Executive Board of Directors, whom I have the privilege of serving with this year. They work tirelessly serving you!

Our November meeting is **Thursday, November 8, 2018**, at noon at the Hub, 304 East Ferguson Street, Tyler, TX 75702. Our speaker will be Eric Kolder with Ramey & Flock, and he will be speaking on The Other Side of the "Me Too" Movement. I think this will be a very interesting topic. Lunch will be provided by Clear Springs, and cost is \$15.00 for lunch. We want to say **THANK YOU** to **Deposition Resources** for sponsoring our meeting this month.

October was filled with events, and I wanted to let everyone know what a great Joint Luncheon we had. We had a great turn out of TAALP members, and I was so proud to see you all there. Also, we held our CLE event October 26<sup>th</sup>, and we had great attendance and awesome speakers. Attendees left us with good verbal reviews and some awesome Facebook reviews too. Check out the pictures on our Facebook Page!

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! So many of you are willing and eager to share from your abundance with others in the community who are less fortunate. By now, you have received emails from our Community Service chairman, Cindy Kirby, letting you know that we are collecting donations for Meals on Wheels who will deliver a hot meal and provide a friendly visit to elderly and disabled in our community on Thanksgiving! That brings a smile to my face knowing they will have a hot meal delivered by a friendly face on what might otherwise be a very lonely day for them. If you plan to donate, please bring your check or cash to our meeting Thursday! If you cannot attend, email Cindy at [cindy@ssefirm.com](mailto:cindy@ssefirm.com) or call her at 903-534-0200 to make arrangements to get your donation to her. She will come to you if you need her to pick it up! Your generosity and charitable spirit are very much appreciated.

We have a great Christmas meeting event lined up for you. We will have Christmas music entertainment provided by a surprise talented entertainer from our legal community! This year, the Board thought it would be fun to do a Christmas ornament exchange at that meeting (limit \$10), so start watching for those pre-Christmas sales (I know Hobby Lobby runs one all the time)! Mark your calendar for **December 13, 2018, at noon at the Hub** for this fun and festive event.

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

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

**TAALP**  
**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 31, 2018 BOARD MEETING**  
**By: Helen G. Koch, Recording Secretary**

The Executive Board met at JACK RYAN'S on Wednesday, October 31, 2018, for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Jo Ruth Hancock, President; Lisa Betts, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Penny Clarkston, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Carrie King, Treasurer; Helen G. Koch, Recording Secretary; Melissa Wallace, Corresponding Secretary; Bonnie Brooks, Parliamentarian; Ann Kuhn, Executive Advisor.

Absent was: Leatha Kopech, President-Elect;

Jo Ruth Hancock called the meeting to Order at 12:14 pm

**JO RUTH HANCOCK, President:**

**Old Business:**

- 2018-19 Renewal Membership total to date 90
- September meeting attendance 27
- The October 26, 2018 CLE event went really well.

**New Business:**

- Bank Signature Card
- Our Thanksgiving community service project has been selected. We are excited to donate to Meals on Wheels for elderly shut-ins in our community to be provided with a Thanksgiving meal delivered to them at their home.
- Christmas ornament exchange and singing entertainment

**LEATHA KOPECH, President-Elect - ABSENT:**

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

- Membership Renewals/Outreach
- Evite for November meeting - send evite after board meeting and send reminder the following Monday. Menu will be provided later today.

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

November Speaker	Eric Kolder with Ramey & Flock - The Other Side of the "Me too" Movement
December Speaker	NONE - we will have musical entertainment and enjoy socializing with our fellow members

**HELEN KOCH, Recording Secretary**

Board Meeting Minutes

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

**MELISSA WALLACE, Corresponding Secretary:**

- Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, November 7, 2018. **Deadline** to get your information to Melissa is **Friday, November 2, 2018, by 5:00 pm.**
- Ads for the Newsletter were discussed
- November spotlight member: Carrie Hall

**CARRIE KING, Treasurer:**

- Treasurer's Report

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

**ANN KUHN, Executive Advisor:**

**BONNIE BROOKS, Parliamentarian:**

**OTHER:**

Discussion was had regarding the possibility of TAALP members volunteering to mentor and assist TJC's paralegal program student(s) as needed. Jo Ruth Hancock will contact Patricia Coplan to discuss a potential Paralegal mentoring program and/or other ways TAALP can support the TJC paralegal program.

**Next Regular Meeting:**

**November 8, 2018 - The Hub**

**Next Board Meeting:**

**December 5, 2018 - Jack Ryan's**

Meeting adjourned at 12:49 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 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 – November, 2018

*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. Paralegal	Local tax law firm looking for full-time Paralegal/Area Manager Trainee; Associates Degree required, 1-2 exp. with real estate or delinquent taxes preferred; training provided; travel required. Benefits offered.	Tyler
2. File Clerk/Runner	Full-time file clerk ; knowledge of legal field required	Tyler
3. Receptionist	Full-time Receptionist needed for a disability firm. Must be bilingual and exp in ordering medical records a plus.	Tyler
4. Legal Assistant	Full-time legal asst needed for Plaintiff personal injury firm; personal injury experience required, benefits offered	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>Deck, Mary</b>	<b>Hemphill, Carla</b>	<b>Parker, Nancy</b>
<b>Anderson, Katrina</b>	<b>Deposition Resources</b>	<b>Hesse, Wendy</b>	<b>Power, Kerri</b>
<b>Barron, Jennifer</b>	<b>Dillon, Candice</b>	<b>Holmes, Cayce</b>	<b>Rex, Renda</b>
<b>Bass, Nancy</b>	<b>Discovery Records</b>	<b>Jackson, Laura</b>	<b>Robison, Rhonda</b>
<b>Beck, Karen</b>	<b>Dixon, Renee</b>	<b>Jobe, Baily</b>	<b>Sepmoree, Tina</b>
<b>Betts, Lisa</b>	<b>Earls, Kristen</b>	<b>Johnson, Javan</b>	<b>Sherrill, Sharon</b>
<b>Black, Alexandra</b>	<b>Eichelberger, Carla</b>	<b>Johnson, Sandy</b>	<b>Shoemaker, Sarah</b>
<b>Blair, Erin</b>	<b>Elite Deposition</b>	<b>King, Carrie</b>	<b>Shreder, Connie</b>
<b>Blubonnet Process</b>	<b>Technologies</b>	<b>Kirby, Cindy</b>	<b>Skeen, Barbara</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>Evans, Karen S.</b>	<b>Kirby, Hailey</b>	<b>Smith, Jennifer</b>
<b>Brooks, Bonnie</b>	<b>Finley, Gay</b>	<b>Knighton, Tina</b>	<b>Sosa, Yecenia</b>
<b>Brotherton-Pyatt,</b>	<b>Flowers, Marilyn</b>	<b>Koch, Helen</b>	<b>Sparks, Rhonda</b>
<b>Margaret</b>	<b>Forbey, Lauren</b>	<b>Kopech, Leatha</b>	<b>Starcher, Darcy</b>
<b>Brownlow, Laura</b>	<b>Franklin, Katrina</b>	<b>Kuhn, Ann</b>	<b>Stewart, Clothilda</b>
<b>Buchanan, Ann</b>	<b>Freeman, Tabitha</b>	<b>Lexitas f/k/a Depo Texas</b>	<b>Taylor, Vickie</b>
<b>Burgess, Ginny</b>	<b>Fulkerson, Chris</b>	<b>Liska, Rhonda</b>	<b>Tekell, Amanda</b>
<b>Chavez, Karina</b>	<b>Godwin, Carol</b>	<b>Lollar, Melinda</b>	<b>Thomas, Deborah</b>
<b>Clarkston, Penny</b>	<b>Goley, Carol</b>	<b>Marshall, Tracy</b>	<b>Toon, Kristine</b>
<b>Collins Investigations</b>	<b>Hall, Carrie</b>	<b>Martin, Kara</b>	<b>Turchi, Brandi</b>
<b>Connor, Sarah</b>	<b>Hancock, Jo Ruth</b>	<b>May, Tamara</b>	<b>Walker, Aryn</b>
<b>Coplan, Patricia</b>	<b>Hanks, Julie</b>	<b>Mayfield, Tammye</b>	<b>Wallace, Melissa</b>
<b>Crawford, Melani</b>	<b>Harvey, Terri</b>	<b>Murphy, Julie</b>	<b>Ward, Dana</b>
<b>Crim, Nancy</b>	<b>Hays, Sarah</b>	<b>Newman, Kristen</b>	<b>White, April</b>
		<b>Nichols, James</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

## 2018-2019 TAALP COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

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

<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT &amp; CLE</b>	Carrie King - Chairman Jo Ruth Hancock – Chairman Penny Clarkston Tracy Marshall Leatha Kopech
<b>SCHOLARSHIP</b>	Sandy Johnson Barbara Skeen – Chairman
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>	Cindy Kirby – Chairman Cayce Holmes Lauren Forbey Katrina Franklin Sarah Hays
<b>LAW DAY</b>	Ann Buchanan Sandy Johnson Helen Koch – chairman Brandi Turchi Cayce Holmes Laura Brownlow Lauren Forbey Kristen Earls 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



**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](http://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](mailto:blondefilly@wb4me.com)

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS		DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
Melani Crawford	16	Renee Dixon	3
		Carla Eichelberger	5
		Melissa Wallace	5
		Sarah Connor	6
		Ginny Burgess	8
		Penny Clarkston	12
		Nancy Parker	19
		Leatha Kopech	20
		Tabitha Freeman	27
		Marilyn Flowers	29

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

### CARRIE HALL, TBLs-BCP



My name is Carrie Hall and I am the spotlight member for this month.

I work as a paralegal in the criminal law section of Bain, Files, Jarrett and Harrison.

My husband, David and I have been married for almost 26 years. We started dating in 1990 and were married in 1993. David is a Sgt. with the Tyler Police Department, where he has worked since 1994. David and I have two girls, Bethany, 15, and Audrey, 11. Our girls keep us busy with their activities and we wouldn't have it any other way. Bethany is a mascot for Whitehouse High School and Audrey plays club soccer for the East Texas Football Club. We love going to the football games on Friday nights and traveling to Plano each weekend to watch Audrey play. I enjoy baking sweets for my family, friends and the girls' teachers.

My first job in the legal field was in 1993, as a felony secretary in the Smith County District Attorney's office working for Jack Skeen, Jr. I worked there for three years. When I got this job, I did not have any legal experience, but Mr. Skeen took a chance on me. I learned so much and made a lot of friends during my time at the District Attorney's office. My "partner secretary" and I had incredible fun working together. By the time I left the DA's office I had a nickname that stuck – Sister Mary Margaret. Judge Skeen still calls me this to this day!

I was torn when I was offered a job with the Bain Files firm. The position was as a legal assistant for Lance Larison, a prosecutor that I had worked with at the District Attorney's office. I took a leap of faith and accepted the job. After six months, Lance left our firm and went back to being a prosecutor. That was a lucky break for me. Mr. Files took me under his wing and offered me a full time position working with him and his three legal assistants. Under these ladies' guidance, I watched, learned and grew. In 2001, I earned my paralegal certification through NALA.

Brett Harrison joined our firm in 2005. Working with these two amazing lawyers has been challenging, but so rewarding. Both Buck and Brett encouraged me to take the criminal law specialization and I was thrilled to become one of eight paralegals Board Certified in Criminal Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in 2014.

I have worked at Bain Files for 22 years. I have gained leadership skills and self-confidence. I love working with our clients and helping them through what is a very difficult time in their lives. I am thankful for the friendships I have made along the way and the people that I work with every day.



## TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

### President

JO RUTH HANCOCK, CP  
Starr, Schoenbrun & Comte  
110 North College Avenue  
Suite 1700  
Tyler, TX 75702  
903-535-0200  
[joruth@sscfirm.com](mailto:joruth@sscfirm.com)

### Second Vice President

PENNY CLARKSTON  
Howard & Davis  
100 East Ferguson Avenue  
Suite 1200  
Tyler, TX 75702  
903-533-9997  
[penny@hdbtyler.com](mailto:penny@hdbtyler.com)

### Corresponding Secretary

MELISSA WALLACE, CP  
Burton Oil Service Operations, LLC  
102 North College Avenue  
Suite 1023  
Tyler, Texas 75702  
903-360-0628  
[melissa.wallace@burtonoil.com](mailto:melissa.wallace@burtonoil.com)

### President-Elect

LEATHA KOPECH, PP, PLS  
Kent, Anderson, Bush, Frost & Metcalf  
2320 Dueling Oaks  
Tyler, TX 75703  
903-579-7537  
[leathak@tyler.net](mailto:leathak@tyler.net)

### Executive Advisor

ANN KUHN  
Wilson, Robertson & Cornelius  
909 ESE Loop 323  
Suite 400  
Tyler, Texas 75701  
903-509-5030  
[akuhn@wilsonlawfirm.com](mailto:akuhn@wilsonlawfirm.com)

### Treasurer

CARRIE KING, CP, TBLS  
Assistant to Judge Leonard Davis  
Fish & Richardson  
110 North College, Suite 1116  
Tyler, Texas 75702  
214-760-6109  
[cking@fr.com](mailto:cking@fr.com)

### First Vice President

LISA BETTS  
Starr, Schoenbrun & Comte  
110 North College Avenue  
Suite 1700  
Tyler, TX 75702  
903-535-0200  
[lisa@sscfirm.com](mailto:lisa@sscfirm.com)

### Recording Secretary

HELEN KOCH  
Brown, Bauman & Smith  
400 East Fifth Street  
Tyler, TX 75701  
903-597-6333  
[helenk@brownbaumsmith.com](mailto:helenk@brownbaumsmith.com)

### Parliamentarian

BONNIE BROOKS, CP  
Gillen & Gillen  
2381 Oak Alley  
Tyler, 9TX 75703  
903-581-8600  
[bonnie@gillenandgillen.com](mailto:bonnie@gillenandgillen.com)

