



## TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS FEBRUARY, 2019 NEWSLETTER

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

Dear TAALP Members:

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! I can't believe how fast the New Year is already passing. Hopefully, spring is just around the corner! I don't know about you, but I'm so ready for it! We have an exciting spring lined up for you.

Join us Thursday, February 14, 2019, for our noon meeting at the HUB, 304 E. Ferguson, Tyler, TX. You will not want to miss this meeting! Penny Clarkston, Smith County District Clerk, will update us on the new e-filing changes to take effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>, also address some family law filing issues, and much more!! **THANK YOU Lexitas** for sponsoring our meeting this month!!

Things you will want to remember:

- \*Half-price membership for new and renewing members for the remainder of our 2018-19 year (Jan. 1 – June 30). Be sure to share this with friends and co-workers, and invite them to join TAALP!
- \*April 11, 2019, evening membership meeting and happy hour and membership social.
- \*Law Day is Wednesday, May 1, 2019, at TJC Rogers Student Center. Mark your calendars, and make plans to attend! I love that TAALP always has a good representation at these meetings!

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

**Cindy Kirby** does such a fabulous job of 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).

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):**

<b>Business Card -</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>
<b>Quarter Page -</b>	<b>\$20.00</b>
<b>Half Page -</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>
<b>Full Page -</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>

**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!

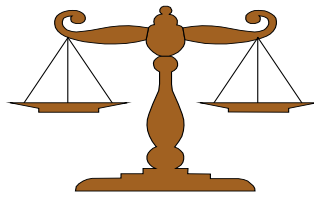
The Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals got a refreshing start to 2019! The January Membership luncheon meeting was held at the Hub, downtown Tyler, on Thursday, January 10th.

Our speaker was the Honorable Nathaniel Moran, Smith County Judge and he presented us with an impressive and engaging discussion “Interacting with the Court: A View from the Inside”.

Thank you Deposition Resources for sponsoring our meeting last month and for the wonderful door prizes!



You will not want to miss our next regular monthly meeting, Thursday, February 14th at noon at The Hub, as our very own Penny Clarkston, Smith County District Clerk, updates us on the new e-filing changes that will take effect March 1<sup>st</sup> and much more!



## TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS **LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD** 2019 SOLICITATION OF NOMINATIONS

**All nominations must be submitted in accordance with the following guidelines:**

1. Nominations must be made in narrative form, explaining why the nominee should be chosen as the 2019 Tyler Legal Professional of the Year, and shall not be more than three typewritten pages in length. **All nominees must be TAALP members.**
2. Selection of the 2019 Tyler Legal Professional of the Year shall be made by a volunteer selection committee comprised of at least three legal professionals (who are not current TAALP members), and is based upon the nominees' professional experience, professional development and community involvement.
3. Nominations received after February 15, 2019 will not be considered. Self-nomination is encouraged. Prior recipients are not eligible.
4. The recipient of the 2019 Legal Professional of the Year Award will be announced at the Law Day Luncheon.

### **PRIOR RECIPIENTS OF LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Firm</u>
1997	Melinda Lollar	Richard Grainger Law Office
1998	Rhonda Shamburger	Wes Volberding Law Office
1999	Rosa Ferguson	Becky Dempsey(District Clerk)
2000	Sarah Connor	Wilson Law Firm
2001	Sheri Barrett	Wilson Law Firm
2002	Sharon Sherrill	Ireland, Carroll & Kelley Law Firm
2003	Lynda Barron	Trey Yarbrough Law Office
2004	Lynn McGinnis	Judge Becky Dempsey
2005	Nancy Crim	Ireland, Carroll & Kelley Law Firm
2006	Virginia Burgess	Bain-Files Law Firm
2007	Dana Martinez-Jones	Flowers Davis Law Firm
2008	Carrie King	Flowers Davis Law Firm
2009	Debbie Magee	Bain-Files Law Firm
2010	Barbara Calcote Skeen	U.S. Attorney's Office
2011	Alice Zillmer	Bain-Files Law Firm
2012	Sandy Johnson	Michael K. Hogan Law Office
2013	Bonnie Brooks	Gillen & Anderson
2014	Twyla Fields	J. Bennett White, P.C.
2015	Suzanne Wimberley	U.S. Attorney's Office
2016	Jan Seal	Ron Vickery
2017	Jo Ruth Hancock	Starr Schoenbrun Comte McGuire, PLLC
2018	Ann Kuhn	Wilson, Robertson & Cornelius, PC

RETURN ALL NOMINATIONS ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 15, 2019

TO: Barbara Skeen, CP

c/o Mewbourne Oil Company

3620 Old Bullard Road, Tyler, TX 75701

(903) 534-7643 email [bskeen@mewbourne.com](mailto:bskeen@mewbourne.com)

# 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.



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

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



**EMPLOYMENT – January, 2019**

*Contact: Lisa Betts  
TAALP Job Bank Coordinator  
903.534.0200 or [lisa@sscfirm.com](mailto:lisa@sscfirm.com)*

Position	Practice Areas/Job Description	Location
1. Receptionist	Temporary receptionist position for a local Tyler law firm. Position could be part or full-time on an hourly basis. Would begin around end of March and last through mid-to-end of May. Duties include: answering the business telephone, greeting clients, and filing	Tyler
2. File Clerk	Part-time File Clerk needed. Must have a great work ethic, dress professionally, and have a great attitude.	Tyler
3. Legal Asst/paralegal	Tyler Plaintiff firm is looking for 2 paralegals for growing practice. Requires 5 plus years of experience as a paralegal; personal injury preferred. See email from 2-7-19	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.

**TAALP**  
**MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2019 BOARD MEETING**  
**By: Helen G. Koch, Recording Secretary**

The Executive Board met at JACK RYAN's on Wednesday, February 6, 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; Penny Clarkston, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Carrie King, Treasurer; Helen G. Koch, Recording Secretary; Melissa Wallace, Corresponding Secretary; Bonnie Brooks, Parliamentarian, and Ann Kuhn, Executive Advisor.

Jo Ruth Hancock called the meeting to Order at 12:17 pm

**JO RUTH HANCOCK, President:**

**Old Business:**

- 2018-19 Renewal Membership total to date 100
- January meeting attendance 38

**New Business:**

- Half-price membership
- Looking forward - 2019-20 Executive Board
- Helen Koch reports that she is in the middle of Law Day Mock Trial plans right now and has only had three schools participating so far.
- Law Day Luncheon is May 1, 2019, at TJC Rogers Student Center
- The May Board Meeting date has been moved to Tuesday, April 30, 2019, due to a conflict with Law Day Luncheon.
- Membership Social/evening meeting – April 11<sup>th</sup> - we need to explore meeting place options. Likely Don Juan's - PENDING.

**LEATHA KOPECH, President-Elect**

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

- Membership Renewals - ½ price membership
- Evite for February meeting - send evite after board meeting and send reminder the following Monday.

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

February Speaker:	<u>District Clerk, Penny Clarkston - How to Work with the District Clerk's office with an emphasis on family law procedures</u>
March Speaker	<u>County Judge Taylor Heaton - Topic to be announced</u>
April Speaker (evening)	
May Speaker	<u>District Attorney, Jacob Putnam - Topic to be announced</u>
June	<u>Elections</u>
July Speaker	

**HELEN KOCH, Recording Secretary**  
Board Meeting Minutes

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

**MELISSA WALLACE, Corresponding Secretary:**

- Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, February 13, 2019. **Deadline** to get your information to Melissa is **Friday, February 8, 2019, by 5:00 pm.**
- February spotlight member: \_\_\_\_\_

**CARRIE KING, Treasurer:**

- Treasurer's Report

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

**ANN KUHN, Executive Advisor:**

**BONNIE BROOKS, Parliamentarian:**

<b>Next Regular Meeting:</b>	<b>February 14, 2019 - The Hub</b>
<b>Next Board Meeting:</b>	<b>March 6, 2019 - Jack Ryan's</b>

Meeting adjourned at 12:44 pm.

## 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

# TAALP

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## TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

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**Office of:** Barbara Skeen, CP, Chairman  
TAALP Scholarship Committee  
c/o Mewbourne Oil Company  
3620 Old Bullard Road  
Tyler, Texas 75701  
(903) 534-7643 (Direct line)  
Email: bskeen@mewbourne.com

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### SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

- SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT:** Three scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each. One scholarship is designated for an Applicant in a Paralegal program.
- APPLICATIONS:** Applications must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2019. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNER:** The winners of the scholarships will be announced at a regular meeting of the Association; however, the winners will be advised immediately upon selection.
- SCHOLARSHIP AWARD:** A scholarship certificate will be presented to the recipient at a future TAALP meeting.
- PAYABLE:** Each scholarship is payable in one installment to the recipient and presented with the certificate.
- ELIGIBILITY:**
- (1) Applicant must be a high school senior or currently enrolled in a school of advanced education, i.e. junior college or four-year college and working toward a career in the legal field;
  - (2) Applicant must have a **grade point average of 3.0** or higher; and
  - (3) Applicant be enrolled in or intending to enroll in a field of study relating to the legal profession.

# T A A L P

## TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

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### SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Soc. Sec. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or Guardian's Name, Address and Telephone Number:

\_\_\_\_\_

High School Attended or Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University/Program Planning to Attend or Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average (High School): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Point Average (College or University): \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Graduation Date (High School): \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Graduation Date (College or University): \_\_\_\_\_



What are your interests and hobbies? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will it be possible for you to continue your advanced education without financial assistance? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain briefly:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List extracurricular activities in which you have participated, such as athletics, clubs, etc.; include any offices held:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List any awards you have received or significant accomplishments during the past four (4) years:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List community, civic, or church activities in which you participated:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name, address, and phone number of two (2) character references:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please attach the following:

1. Official transcript of grades to substantiate at least a 3.0 (or “B”) average.
2. Your resume.
3. At least one reference letter from a teacher or someone who has known you for at least the past two (2) years.
4. An essay setting forth your reasons for having chosen the legal profession as a field of study. Please include the areas of law or the legal profession which most interests you at this time (minimum of 100 words).

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS TO:**

**Barbara Skeen, CP**  
**TAALP Scholarship Committee Chairman**  
**c/o Mewbourne Oil Company**  
**Tyler, Texas 75701**  
**(903) 534-7643 (Direct Line)**  
**Email: [bskeen@mewbourne.com](mailto:bskeen@mewbourne.com)**

**NOTE: Application Deadline: March 15, 2019**

**YOU MAY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY**

<p><b>APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER MARCH 15, 2019 WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED</b></p> <p><b>INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED</b></p>
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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS		MARCH BIRTHDAYS	
Patricia Coplan	2	Carol Godwin	4
Julie Hanks	3	Chris Fulkerson	6
Cindy Kirby	3	Julie Murphy	19
Carla Hemphill	7	Cayce Holmes	21
David Martin	13	Amy Rivers	23
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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

### Kerri Fidler



My name is Kerri Fidler and I am honored to be the TAALP spotlight member of the month.

I am a Senior Litigation Paralegal for CLARK & MCCREA. I have extensive experience with medical malpractice, catastrophic person injury including mining, oil field, workplace and construction injuries, and wrongful death cases.

I began my legal career quite by accident. In 1990, I was a naïve 19-year-old who moved from Brownwood to Austin on a whim. A friend of a friend helped me get an interview with PITNEY BOWES MANAGEMENT SERVICES. This company was contracted by large law firms to provide administrative support such as courier services, legislative runs, copy/production projects, errands, relief receptionist services, setting up conference rooms, and inter and outer office mail. I mention this because years later this work experience would be extremely beneficial to me in the career I have today.

While working for PITNEY BOWES, I was “stationed”, if you will, at AKIN, GUMP, STRAUSS, HAUER & FELD in Austin. I was exposed to different areas of law such as litigation, legislation, insurance, oil and gas and real estate. Once again, luck played a huge part in my journey as I was eventually placed in the litigation section’s copy room. The head of the litigation section at AGSH&F was an attorney named James W. Cannon, Jr. This man has played a huge part in my life and continues to be a mentor in my career today. Long story short, Cannon admired my work ethic and willingness to tackle anything so he hired me to be the Litigation Case Clerk. I literally honed my craft and organizational skills by indexing files.

While working, I attended college to become a respiratory therapist; however, luck (which now I consider it to be “fate”) lead me back to the legal field. I eventually graduated in May 2000 from McLennan Community College in Waco with an Associates Degree of Applied Science – Paralegal. To date, my claim to fame has to be working on the “Dr. Death” cases in Dallas when I worked for Kay Van Wey. I have been blessed to work with some of the most well-respected attorneys in Dallas. As a result, I found myself with an incredible opportunity to work with Collen Clark. About a year after I started working for Collen, he decided he wanted to open an office in Tyler and asked me to move here. I jumped at the opportunity and have been here ever since. I literally have the best job in the world and I work with an amazing team!

I joined TAALP to get connected to other legal professionals in the community. I believe this group of individuals bring so many talents to the table and I’m hoping to learn and grow personally and professionally. I also love to volunteer and wanted to be a part of an organization that could offer me the opportunities to pay it forward.

My husband, Troy Wade, and I have been together for 22 years and we have two daughters -- Emilee and Hayden. Hayden is 8 years-old and attends Cain Elementary in Whitehouse. She is loving, compassionate, smart and has an incredible sense of humor. She loves gymnastics and soccer. Emilee lives in Frisco and is 25, married and has blessed us with four grandchildren – twins Hannah and Heidi, Lynnlea and Knox. Needless to say, we stay very busy!

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