



TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Leatha Kopech, PP, PLS

Hard to believe it's May and we have barely hit the high 80s for temperatures. To me, this is the perfect weather lately...well without all the devastating storms!!! Sadly, this month is our final CLE meeting of fiscal year 2021-2022. Election of 2022-2023 is approaching. If you are an active member, you will be receiving emails from our Nominating Committee chair, Sarah Connor, 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 do so. If you are nominated for an office, I encourage you to consider the nomination. There are several positions that will be open for nominations as several board members have served the maximum term in their current position. Having some new faces on the board would be great. If you are wondering what serving as a board member requires, or what a particular position entails, please feel free to reach out to one of the current board members. We would all be happy to answer your questions.

Last week Smith County Bar Foundation was finally able to once again host Law Day. It was held at Holly Tree Country Club. It was a great event and lots of fun. Our very own Lisa Betts was recognized as being the longest running Legal Professional of the Year for her three-year tenure, CONGRATULATIONS LISA!!!! I can't think of anyone who deserves it more. SHOUT OUT to TAALP for having a great representation at the event. If you did not attend, I highly recommend you make arrangements to attend next year.

Our May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022 noon at The Jalapeno Tree. Our speaker will be John Sjovall, in-house atty for Brookshire's, who will be speaking to us regarding Practice Tips for Working with In-House Legal Counsel. You should have already received an E-Vite for the meeting. Don't forget to RSVP and comment as to if you will be eating or not. THANK YOU to **LEXITAS** for sponsoring the meeting!!

Elections will be held at our June meeting for officers for 2021-2022 year, so if you are an active TAALP member, please plan to attend so you can vote. If you are unsure of your active status with TAALP, just contact Lisa Betts. The meeting will be held at The Jalapeno Tree on Thursday, June 9th at noon.

See you all at the next meeting!

Leatha Kopech

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.

TAALP
MINUTES OF MAY 4, 2022 BOARD MEETING
By: Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

The Executive Board met at Texas Music City Grill and Smokehouse on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Leatha Kopech, President; Jo Ruth Hancock, President-Elect; Lisa Betts, 1st Vice President; Candace Dillon, 2nd Vice President; Brandi Turchi, Corresponding Secretary; Helen Koch, Parliamentarian; Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary, and Carrie King, Executive Advisor.

Absent: Tina Knighton, Treasurer

President Leatha Kopech called the meeting to order at 12:11 pm

LEATHA KOPECH, President

Old Business:

- April meeting attendance: 30
- Half Price Membership – Now through June
- Looking forward to 2022-23 year

New Business:

- Nominations for 2022-23 – Out by May 15th – Sarah Connor
- May Sponsorship – Lexitas
- Tx St. Bar PD Sustaining Membership – Renewal not yet received but will renew soon.

JO RUTH HANCOCK, President-Elect

- June Meeting – Elections – Location: Jalapeno Tree

LISA BETTS, 1ST Vice President

- 21-2022 Renewal Membership total to date 96 members.
- Membership Roster – Active Members – Nominations & Elections – To be sent to Sarah Connor
- Evite for May 12, 2022 membership meeting at noon (Deadline to RSVP Tuesday, May 10 at noon) - send evite on Friday, May 6, 2022. Location: Jalapeno Tree, Menus will be sent prior to those attending in person. Orders will need to be returned to Jo Ruth prior to the meeting. Jo Ruth will send to restaurant prior to meeting so orders can be ready upon arrival. Reminder E-Vite no later Tuesday, May 10th, at noon.

CANDICE DILLON, 2nd Vice President

- May: John Sjovall, in-house atty for Brookshire's - Practice Tips for Working with In-House Legal Counsel
- June: Elections
- July: Jason McMurray – E-Discovery

GAYE BOYNTON, Recording Secretary

- Board Meeting Minutes

Gaye Boynton moved that the Minutes of the April, 2022, board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. The motion was seconded, carried and the minutes were approved.

BRANDI TURCHI, Corresponding Secretary

- Publish the newsletter by Wednesday, May 11, 2021. Deadline to get your information to Brandi is Friday, May 6 by 5:00 pm.

TINA KNIGHTON, Treasurer - ABSENT

- April 2022 Treasurer's Report

Candace Dillon, 2nd Vice President moved that the Treasurer's Report for April 2022, be filed for audit. The motion was seconded, and it carried.

CARRIE KING, Executive Advisor

- No new business

HELEN KOCH: Parliamentarian

- No new business

Next Regular Meeting: May 12, 2022 – Jalapeno Tree
Next Board Meeting: June 1, 2022 – TBD

The meeting concluded at 12:40 pm.

Gaye Boynton, Recording Secretary

Leatha Kopech, President

EMPLOYMENT – MAY 2022

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

Position	Practice Areas/Job Description	Location
1. 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
2. In-take Specialists	We are looking for someone to handle our intake process. This position involves constant monitoring of our firm's intakes and reaching out to potential clients via email/text/phone to get information and set up appointments. It is a busy position. Spanish language proficiency is a plus, but not an absolute requirement. Compensation will be based upon background and experience. We do offer health insurance and the firm covers 50% of the premium for the employee. Please have candidates email their resume to info@hommelfirm.com .	Tyler
3. Paralegal	Part-time (20-25 hours) Paralegal needed for estate planning firm; 3 plus years in legal field; proficient in Microsoft Office, strong oral and written communication skills; please email: Sherry@tomjbrownlaw.com	Tyler
4. Office Mgr and Tax Assistant	This job is located in North Dallas/Richardson area. Please visit www.tugglerussell.com for more information or my email from 3/16/22.	North Dallas/Richardson
5. Legal Assistant	Family Law Legal Assistant Downtown – Small office Minimum requirements – five plus years as legal assistant and at least three years with family law experience Need ability to independently draft initial pleadings and orders and discovery (sending and answering,) lots of client contact; trial and hearing preparation. Benefits – competitive salary with bonuses, paid health insurance for employee, paid parking, CLE and TAALP and SBOT dues paid, most court holidays and additional vacation days. Need proficiency with Prodoc (or Family Law Practice Manual,) Efile, Adobe Pro, Word, Outlook, and Excel is a plus.	Tyler

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

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

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

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INVESTIGATIONS

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Suite 1504
Tyler, TX 75702
Lic. No. A08864

903-526-1411
FAX 903-526-6453
mikecollins@sprintmail.com

Background Searches

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Happy Birthday May:

Laura Jackson 10th
Tiffanie McKnight 16th
Stacey Webb 16th
Lanell Cash 28th



Law Day 2022

The 2022 Law Day theme is “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change.” Commemorated annually on May 1, Law Day is an opportunity to host or participate in discussions about law and its role in society. Resources are available for schools, state and local bar associations, civic organizations, and others to plan programs, lessons, and activities for a variety of public audiences, in-person and virtually.

Toward a More Perfect Union:



The Constitution in Times of Change

The Constitution is a dynamic document, as it not only outlines a blueprint for government, but also delegates power, articulates rights, and offers mechanisms for change. It is neither perfect, nor exhaustive, as our nation’s history makes clear. Legislation, court rulings, amendments, lawyers, and “we the people” have built upon those original words across generations to attempt to make the “more perfect Union” more real. That effort continues today, as contemporary leaders and everyday citizens raise their voices as loud as ever to fulfill the promise of the Constitution. Defining and refining those words of the Constitution might be our oldest national tradition, and how each of us works—together—toward a more perfect Union.

Toward a More Perfect Union, Perspectives on Practice and the Constitution

What is the role of the Constitution, especially in turbulent times? Should the Constitution be subject to more frequent change or be an unwavering source of guidance regardless of issues of the day? Join us as we explore these questions and discuss the role and impact of lawyers in society. This Law Day webinar is intended for classroom use by schools and educators. Please feel free to replay this recording to your students.

Presidential Proclamation on Law Day, U.S.A., 2022

On Law Day, U.S.A., we recommit to extending the full promise of America to all Americans and to building a Nation in which the extraordinary power vested in “We the People” truly and equally reflects all of us. This year’s Law Day theme, “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change,” is a reflection of this critical moment of reckoning for our democracy.

A Proclamation on Law Day, U.S.A., 2022

APRIL 28, 2022 • [PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS](#)

America is unique among the nations of the world because we were not built around any particular tribe, religion, or ethnicity — instead, we were built around an idea: that all people are created equally and deserve to be treated equally throughout their lives. Though we have never fully lived up to that idea, we have never walked away from it either. It is an idea that serves as the heart of American democracy, enshrined in our Constitution 235 years ago on a summer day in Philadelphia. To uphold those fundamental principles of equality, “We the People” would stand sovereign in America as stewards and subjects of the law — and ours would be, in the words of John Adams, “a government of laws, and not of men.”

On Law Day, U.S.A., we recommit to extending the full promise of America to all Americans and to building a Nation in which the extraordinary power vested in “We the People” truly and equally reflects all of us. This year’s Law Day theme, “Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change,” is a reflection of this critical moment of reckoning for our democracy. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our communities has put a spotlight on lingering inequities that we must continue to address head on. Together, we must build a better America, anchored by the rule of law, to ensure that every one of us can live lives of limitless possibility. Amid unprecedented threats to democracy both here at home and across the globe, the world is watching America to see whether we can meet this moment.

The rule of law is the cornerstone for extending the Nation’s full promise to all of our people, including those who were originally excluded when our country was founded. Since my first day in office, I have taken action to ensure that everyone — regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, religion, disability, income, or zip code — is ensured equal justice under the law and is entitled to an equal place in our democracy. My Administration continues to fight for voting rights legislation to protect that most sacred of rights from discriminatory and burdensome constraints, and continues to promote information about the election process and opportunities to register to vote.

The ongoing fight to strengthen American democracy informs our ability to support similar efforts around the world — including the heroic resistance of the Ukrainian people in the unprovoked and unjustified war Russia has thrust upon them. Their fight is part of a larger fight for essential democratic principles that unite all free people: the rule of law; free and fair elections; the freedom to speak, to write, and to assemble; the freedom to worship as one chooses; and the freedom of the press. These principles are essential in a free society, and we are leading efforts to advance good governance, transparency, and accountability and root out the corruption that undermines democratic institutions both at home and abroad.

This is a commitment we must all share. The Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building bears an inscription from Plato: “Justice in the life and conduct of the State is possible only as first it resides in the hearts and souls of the citizens.” Our hearts and souls are up to the task.

On this Law Day, U.S.A., I encourage my fellow Americans to join me in pursuing the path of inclusion and equity over exclusion and hate, so that we may continue to perfect our Union and pass on a stronger democracy for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, in accordance with Public Law 87-20, as amended, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2022, as Law Day, U.S.A. I call upon all Americans to acknowledge the importance of our Nation’s legal and judicial systems with appropriate ceremonies and activities, and to display the flag of the United States in support of this national observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.



OUR LAW DAY HONOREES

2020 - 2022



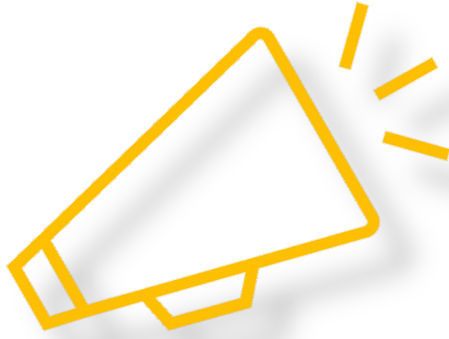
Margaret Hussey
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Barbara Bass
Cristy Arscott
Liberty Bell Award

Debby Gunter
Award of Excellence

Lisa Betts
Legal Professional
of the Year

Micah John Tarry
Outstanding Young
Lawyer



TAALP would like to thank the below sponsors for sponsoring our April membership social. Without them, this would not be possible!!

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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!





TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

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