



## *President's Message*

*Jo Ruth Hancock, CP*

Dear TAALP Members:

Welcome to 2016! Are you used to writing that yet??? I know I'm not! I can't believe we are already half way through our 2015-16 year. Just six more months until election of next year's board, so if you are interested in serving, now is the time to start putting some serious thought to where you might be interested in serving next year. We have five more months, including this month, of some really great meetings, speakers, topics and networking opportunities, and then elections in June.

Listed below are some things we currently have planned for the remainder of this year in addition to our regular monthly meetings, so mark your calendar and make plans to join us.

\*Half-price membership for new members for the remainder of our 2015-16 year (Jan. 1 – June 30).

\*NBC party (Next Best Candidate party), date/place TBA. If you are an active member in good standing and would like to know more about serving on the Board of Directors this is the place to be.

\*April evening membership meeting and happy hour at Don Juan's. Rosemary Jones will be our guest speaker.

\*Working on a spring CLE event.

\*Law Day is May 4, 2016....start making plans to attend.

\*Make plans to attend our Annual Membership Social May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Join us Thursday, January 14, 2016, for our noon meeting at the HUB, 304 E. Ferguson, Tyler, TX. Our speaker is Tom Mighell will be speaking to us about *Going Mobile: Providing Legal Services on the Go*. This should be a very enlightening topic since the world is so connected via mobile! We want to say **THANK YOU** to **Sunbelt/Depo Texas** and **Collins Investigations** for co-sponsoring our meeting this month!!

In looking ahead, 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 Leatha Kopeck [leathak@tyler.net](mailto:leathak@tyler.net) regarding your attendance/active status.

Don't forget, we have a very active Sunshine Committee chaired by **Cindy Kirby**. She is doing 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@sscfirm.com](mailto:cindy@sscfirm.com).

See you Thursday!

## **REMINDERS:**

- **Section I, Rule 1.10 of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct is included in this newsletter**
- **2016 Solicitation of Nominations for Legal Professional of the Year is attached**

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

**Just email me at:  
brandi.williams@hotmail.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>

**Sunshine Notices:**

Do you know of some news about our members that should be shared with our members?

Please send any submissions to Cindy Kirby

at [cindy@sscfirm.com](mailto:cindy@sscfirm.com).

❖ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** ❖

April 13-23, 2016

“Paralegal Fly to Tuscany, Italy”

May 19, 2016

TAALP Membership Social

The Executive Board of TAALP would like to thank all following new members:

**Amanda Gable**

The Executive Board would also like to thank all of our awesome returning members, as follows:

<b>Baker, Emily</b>	<b>Express Personnel</b>	<b>Lennon, Molly</b>	<b>Taylor, Vickie</b>
<b>Barrett, Sheri</b>	<b>Finley, Gay</b>	<b>Lollar, Melinda</b>	<b>Tekell, Amanda</b>
<b>Barron, Jennifer</b>	<b>Flowers, Marilyn</b>	<b>Maxwell, Emily</b>	<b>Thedford, Kimberly</b>
<b>Becker, Beverly</b>	<b>Foster, Codi</b>	<b>May, Tamara</b>	<b>Toon, Kristine</b>
<b>Betts, Lisa</b>	<b>Galvan, Jasmin</b>	<b>Mayfield, Tammye</b>	<b>Tucker (Ortiz), Kim</b>
<b>Blubonnet Processing Service</b>	<b>Gaddis, Chelsea</b>	<b>McCaa, Leslie R.</b>	<b>Wallace, Mellissa</b>
<b>Bonnie, Brooks</b>	<b>Godwin, Carol</b>	<b>McGinnis, Lynn</b>	<b>Waller, Jennifer</b>
<b>Brownlow, Laura</b>	<b>Goley, Carol</b>	<b>McKinney, Patty</b>	<b>Williams, Brandi</b>
<b>Buchanan, Ann</b>	<b>Gray, Melissa</b>	<b>McLen, Kerri</b>	<b>Wright, Strickland Janet</b>
<b>Burgess, Ginny</b>	<b>Hall, Carrie</b>	<b>Molina, Rocio</b>	
<b>Campbell, Kristi</b>	<b>Hancock, Jo Ruth</b>	<b>Morris, Mechele</b>	
<b>Cash, Lanell</b>	<b>Harris, Melissa</b>	<b>Moylan, Carla</b>	
<b>Clayton, Catherine</b>	<b>Harvey, Terri</b>	<b>Murphy, Julie</b>	
<b>Connor, Sarah</b>	<b>Hebron, Lucy</b>	<b>Neel, Lesley</b>	
<b>Coplan, Patricia</b>	<b>Hembrough, Samantha</b>	<b>Oden, Rachel</b>	
<b>Crawford, Melani</b>	<b>Hemphill, Carla</b>	<b>Oliver, Susan</b>	
<b>Crim, Nancy</b>	<b>Henry, Donna</b>	<b>Penner, Amber</b>	
<b>Crutchfield, Charlotte</b>	<b>Hesse, Wendy</b>	<b>Peters, Michael</b>	
<b>Deck, Amanda</b>	<b>Hill, Keesia</b>	<b>Rhodes, Lora</b>	
<b>Deck, Mary</b>	<b>Hudson, Christine</b>	<b>Roberts, Vicki</b>	
<b>Depoma, David</b>	<b>Hudson, June</b>	<b>Robison, Rhonda</b>	
<b>Deposition Resources Sunblett</b>	<b>Hurst, Jessica</b>	<b>Rogers, Kassi</b>	
<b>Dickey, Lisa</b>	<b>Jackson, Laura</b>	<b>Retano, Rosario</b>	
<b>Dieringer, Mary</b>	<b>Kim Tindall &amp; Assoc.</b>	<b>Rongel, Maria</b>	
<b>Dillon, Candice "Candy"</b>	<b>King, Carrie</b>	<b>Sherrill, Sharon</b>	
<b>Discovery Records</b>	<b>Kirby, Cindy</b>	<b>Skeen, Barbara</b>	
<b>Dixon, Renee</b>	<b>Koch, Helen</b>	<b>Smalley, Heather</b>	
<b>Dow, Katie</b>	<b>Kopech, Leatha</b>	<b>Smith, Jennifer</b>	
<b>Eargle, Kristen</b>	<b>Knighton, Tina</b>	<b>Sparks, Rhonda</b>	
<b>Espinosa, Debbie</b>	<b>KTS Quest</b>	<b>Stewart, Clo</b>	
<b>Evans, Karen</b>	<b>Kuhn, Ann</b>		

**TAALP**  
**MINUTES OF January 6, 2016 BOARD MEETING**  
**By: Ann Kuhn, Recording Secretary**

The Executive Board met at STARR SCHOENBRUN & COMTE, PLLC on Tuesday, January 6, 2016, for the monthly meeting. The following board members were present: Jo Ruth Hancock, President; Catherine Clayton, President-Elect; Leatha Kopech, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Tina Knighton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Ann Kuhn, Recording Secretary; Brandi Williams, Corresponding Secretary; Suzanne Wimberley, Treasurer; Bonnie Brooks, Parliamentarian; Carrie King, Executive Advisor; and Sarah Connor, Joint Luncheon Chairperson.

Jo Ruth Hancock called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m.

**JO RUTH HANCOCK, President:**

Jo Ruth presented the calendar of upcoming events, and they were discussed by the board members.

**Old Business:**

- 2015-2016 Renewal membership total to date – 115
- December meeting attendance - 40
- Average meeting attendance – 39
- Our Christmas Community Service Project collected \$170. Debbie Espinosa shopped with our donations for two children. Thanks for giving these two children a Merry Christmas!

**New Business:**

- Half price membership.
- 2015-2016 Executive Board – NBC party mid-March.
- Law Day Mock Trial plans are under way reported by Helen Koch. The following schools have responded with some dates confirmed:

5/10/16	Grace	1:30 – 3:10 pm
5/12/16	Rice	afternoon
5/20/16	Bell	morning
	Griffin	
	Owens	

Determining whether the trials will be held at each school or the courthouse.

- Membership Social May 19, 2016.

**CATHERINE CLAYTON, President-Elect:**

- The Website is live. Check it out at TAALP.com

**LETHA KOPECH, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:**

- Membership Renewals – 115 renewals to date. Membership is 5 below last year. If you are interested in joining TAALP, please send in your application.

- The Evite for the monthly meeting was sent out January 7th with a reminder on January 11, 2015.
- Half (1/2) price membership renewals began January 1, 2016 and end June, 2016.

**TINA KNIGHTON, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:**

- January Speaker: Tom Mighell – Going Mobile: Providing Legal Services on the Go.
- February Speaker: Grant Gaston – Copyright/libel/entertainment.
- March Speaker: Jim Huggler – Competency to Stand Trial
- April Speaker – Rosemary Jones
- May Speaker: Robert Bailes
- June: Elections
- July Speaker: Bobby Lamb – Electronic Filing in Federal Court

**ANN KUHN, Recording Secretary:**

- Moved that the Minutes of the December, 2015 board meeting be approved, as reported in the Transcript. Catherine Clayton seconded the motion and it carried.

**BRANDI WILLIAMS, Corresponding Secretary:**

- January Spotlight Members: Katie Dow
- February Spotlight Members: Amanda Gable and Keesia Hill

**SUZANNE WIMBERLEY, Treasurer:**

- Submitted the Treasurer's Report.
- Suzanne Wimberley moved that the Treasurer's report be filed for audit. Brandi Williams seconded the motion and it carried.
- Sarah Connor presented the final budget for the 2015 Joint Luncheon. Sarah moved that the final budget be filed for audit. Suzanne Wimberley seconded the motion and it carried.

**CARRIE KING, Executive Advisor**

**BONNIE BROOKS, CP, Parliamentarian**

**Next Regular Meeting: January 14, 2015 - The Hub**

**Next Board Meeting: February 4, 2015 – Noon - STARR SCHOENBRUN & COMTE, PLLC**

There being no further business, Jo Ruth adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

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*JO RUTH HANCOCK, President*

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*ANN KUHN, Recording Secretary*



**TYLER AREA ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS**  
**LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
**2016 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 2016 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 2016 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 January 29, 2016 will not be considered. Self-nomination is encouraged. Prior recipients are not eligible.
4. The recipient of the 2016 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	United States 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

RETURN ALL NOMINATIONS ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 29, 2016 TO:

Barbara Skeen, CP  
c/o Mewbourne Oil Company  
3620 Old Bullard Road, Tyler, TX 75701  
(903) 561-2900 \* (903) 561-1515 Facsimile \* email [bskeen@mewbourne.com](mailto:bskeen@mewbourne.com)



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## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS!!!



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## **Rule 1.10. Successive Government and Private Employment**

(a) Except as law may otherwise expressly permit, a lawyer shall not represent a private client in connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially as a public officer or employee, unless the appropriate government agency consents after consultation.

(b) No lawyer in a firm with which a lawyer subject to paragraph (a) is associated may knowingly undertake or continue representation in such a matter unless:

(1) The lawyer subject to paragraph (a) is screened from any participation in the matter and is apportioned no part of the fee therefrom; and

(2) written notice is given with reasonable promptness to the appropriate government agency.

(c) Except as law may otherwise expressly permit, a lawyer having information that the lawyer knows or should know is confidential government information about a person or other legal entity acquired when the lawyer was a public officer or employee may not represent a private client whose interests are adverse to that person or legal entity.

(d) After learning that a lawyer in the firm is subject to paragraph (c) with respect to a particular matter, a firm may undertake or continue representation in that matter only if that disqualified lawyer is screened from any participation in the matter and is apportioned no part of the fee therefrom.

(e) Except as law may otherwise expressly permit, a lawyer serving as a public officer or employee shall not:

(1) Participate in a matter involving a private client when the lawyer had represented that client in the same matter while in private practice or nongovernmental employment, unless under applicable law no one is, or by lawful delegation may be, authorized to act in the lawyer's stead in the matter; or

(2) Negotiate for private employment with any person who is involved as a party or as attorney for a party in a matter in which the lawyer is participating personally and substantially.

(f) As used in this rule, the term "matter" does not include regulation-making or rule-making proceedings or assignments, but includes:

(1) Any adjudicatory proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, investigation, charge accusation, arrest or other similar, particular transaction involving a specific party or parties; and

(2) any other action or transaction covered by the conflict of interest rules of the appropriate government agency.

(g) As used in this rule, the term "confidential government information" means information which has been obtained under governmental authority and which, at the time this rule is applied, the government is prohibited by law from disclosing to the public or has a legal privilege not to disclose, and which is not otherwise available to the public.

(h) As used in this Rule, "Private Client" includes not only a private party but also a governmental agency if the lawyer is not a public officer or employee of that agency.

(i) A lawyer who serves as a public officer or employee of one body politic after having served as a public officer of another body politic shall comply with paragraphs (a) and (c) as if the second body politic were a private client and with paragraph (e) as if the first body politic were a private client.

### **Comment:**

1. This Rule prevents a lawyer from exploiting public office for the advantage of a private



**JANUARY**

**FEBRUARY**

<i>Gay Finley</i> 5	<i>Patricia Coplan</i> 2
<i>Carrie Hall</i> 7	<i>Cindy Kirby</i> 3
<i>Leslie McCaa</i> 7	
<i>Kassi Rogers</i> 7	
<i>Catherine Clayton</i> 8	<i>Carla Hemphill</i> 7
<i>Leslie Neel</i> 9	<i>Cristy Arscott</i> 11
<i>Jennifer Barron</i> 11	<i>David Martin</i> 13
<i>Melinda Lollar</i> 11	
<i>Patty McKinney</i> 12	<i>Jessica Hurst</i> 14
	<i>Rhonda Sparks</i> 14
<i>Laura Brownlow</i> 20	<i>Tammye Mayfield</i> 15
<i>Jo Ruth Hancock</i> 22	<i>Terri Harvey</i> 25
<i>Carol Goley</i> 25	<i>Denise Langston</i> 26
<i>Amanda Deck</i> 30	



TAALP would like to extend a

BIG "THANK YOU"

to DAIRY QUEEN and  
BRIAN KELLY,  
General Manager,

for donating the nice TREATS  
members are finding in their  
birthday cards!!

Be Sure To Frequent Your Local  
DAIRY QUEEN!

TAALP would like to extend a

**BIG "THANK YOU"**

to Andy's Frozen Custard

for donating the nice TREATS  
members are finding in their  
birthday cards!!

Be Sure To Frequent Your Local  
Andy's Frozen Custard!



## SPOTLIGHT TAALP MEMBER

Katie Dow



Growing up in the East Texas area and molded by a farm environment, she has been raised to be independent, compassionate, and a resourceful helping hand. While working full time as a Universal Associate at BTH Bank in Lindale, TX, Katie graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in Business Administration from University of Texas at Tyler in 2014. Armed with a determined attitude to help the community and seek a career in the legal field, she registered for the paralegal program at Tyler Junior College in 2015. She is a student member of the Texas State Bar Paralegal Division, and is beginning her affiliation with the Tyler Area Association of Legal Professionals. In 2016, Katie plans to extend more of her talents and love for people to the Tyler community through volunteer organizations. In her free time, Katie enjoys spending time with her family, helping with work around her parents' farm, and supporting live music and artists in the area.



## EMPLOYMENT - JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

Contact: Nancy Crim, CP  
TAALP Job Bank Coordinator  
(903) 561-1600 or  
[nancy@icklaw.com](mailto:nancy@icklaw.com)

1. 2 - Legal Assistant (family law)
2. Legal Assistant (business, family, dispute resolution)
3. Legal Assistant – 20/30 hrs per week;  
(probate, estate planning, guardianship, family law, real estate, transactional work)
4. Legal Assistant (personal injury - Tyler)  
Tyler personal injury firm seeking experienced personal injury legal assistant. Minimum 2 years experience in personal injury is needed along with a desire to be a part of a dedicated [Deborah@davidedobbs.com](mailto:Deborah@davidedobbs.com).
5. Legal Assistant (Bilingual)  
Personal Injury, Business Transactions, Estate Planning, Family Law and Probate, Business Disputes
6. Legal Assistant  
Experience in Oil & Gas Title Opinions and Title Packets
7. Legal Assistant  
Insurance defense firm
8. Paralegal/Legal Secretary  
McFall Law Office, Palestine, Texas  
(Family law, criminal law, juvenile law and child protective services cases)
9. Legal Assistant – The Dacus Firm  
(Area of Practice: Civil Litigation ; requires at least two years experience)

## 2015-2016 TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**TAALP EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2015-2016**



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