



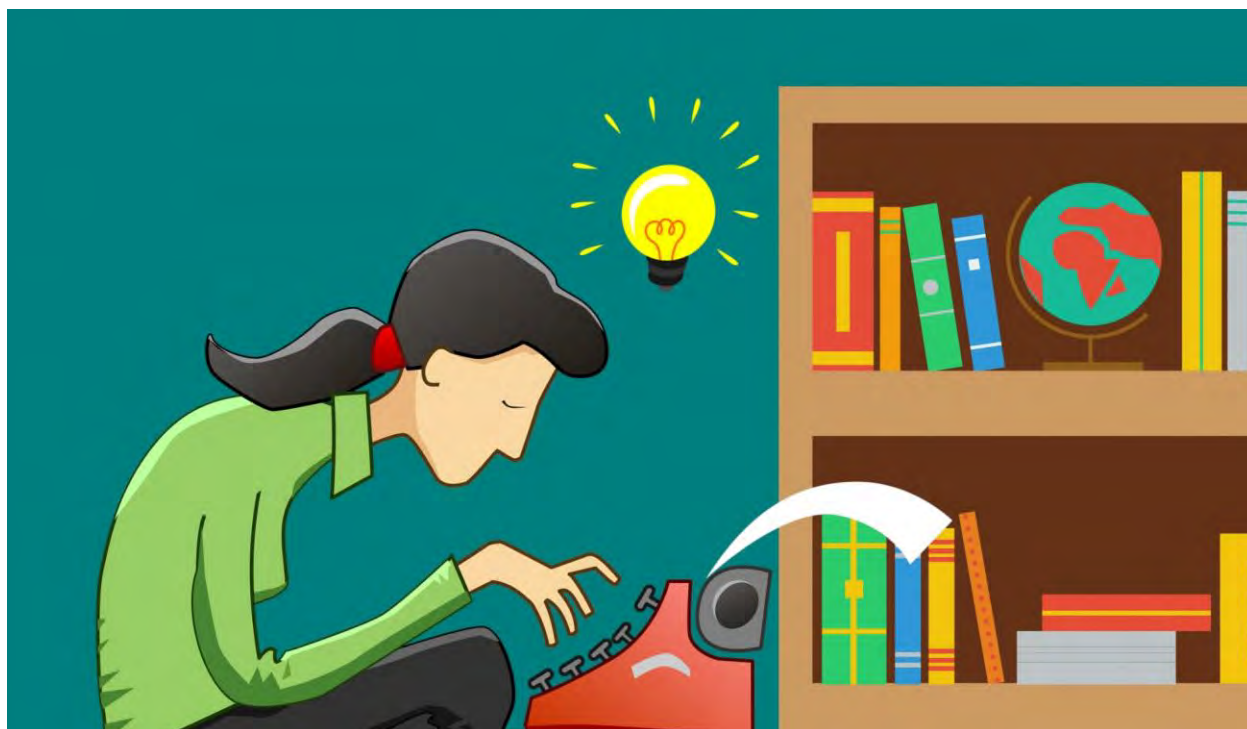
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The Texas Docket

June/July 2021
Volume 19, Issue 1

Introduction Prologue Chapter 1

IT'S TIME! TO BEGIN WRITING YOUR STORY WITH Texas ALP



Editor

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Professionals

Materials in *The Texas Docket* are for general informational purposes only; they are not intended to, and do not, constitute legal advice. For specific legal advice, readers are encouraged to consult with counsel of their choice.

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The Texas Docket

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Pretend to be completely in control and people will assume that you are." Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson

So I am going to pretend for a minute that I am not worried about how this year will go. I am going to pretend that I am a fan of talking in front of groups of people no matter how big or small, and that my legs don't quake and my voice doesn't shake. When I joined NALS, Texas ALP, and Lubbock LPA, 9 years ago, being the President of Lubbock LPA was my biggest goal, and maybe serving as a chair for a committee for Texas ALP or NALS. At that time, I did not dare to even dream that I would be standing here in front of all of you, after being sworn in as President of our State Association and to stand in the high heel space of the many wonderful, amazing, and strong women who have stood here before me, women who made their mark and grew our association. I admire those women, I consider them mentors, ground breakers, and most of all friends.

And to be able to stand here after being sworn in by Matthew, my boss, my friend and mentor who has taught me so much over the last 9 years, a person whom I admire more than I can say, a person who believes in me and pushes me, and has let me help him grow his small firm to a growing active practice. I hope I have learned from all of these mentors, men and women alike, and will continue to learn from them, as I too continue to grow in Texas ALP. As I have grown as a member of Texas ALP, I have written down my dreams and goals for our association, dreams I hope we can achieve together this year, and to build on in the years to come.

I am a bookworm, as you can tell by our theme this year. Blake and I have turned both of our kids into bookworms as well. I mostly read to relax in the evenings or on the weekends, or when we travel, or well whenever I can. My favorite thing to do besides hanging out with my family is to curl up on a chair with a drink and a blanket and lose myself in the pages of a good book. I listen to audiobooks when we travel and have spent many late nights finishing that "one more chapter" of a good book that I can put down anytime I want.

Our lives, like a book, are made up of chapters, and this year I want us to challenge each other, whether locally, statewide, or nationally, to write in the pages of our books to continue the story. These chapters can be filled with leadership, certification, education, personal growth and knowledge, and planning the future of our association.

Your chapter will look different from mine, but together those chapters make a book that we will show to people who want to join us, and their chapters will change the story line and someday years from now members will look at those books and chapters and see how we have grown.

Leadership to me means that I work with each of you and listen to each of you, and I will not ask you to do something that I am not willing to do myself, like speak in front of a group of people. (smile)

I have dreams and goals and working together we can achieve those things. As we write the next chapters of our Association, I will be calling on the EC, the chairs, and members for their suggestions and help. I know we are all up to the challenge and I look forward to working, listening, and writing our chapters with you this year.

"The question isn't who's going to let me; it's who is going to stop me."- Ayn Rand

Emily D. Walterscheid PP, CLP
President 2021-2022





YOUR EC MEETS

Members and Friends:

On June 5, 2021, the Executive Committee met in Dallas for our retreat and planning session. We discussed each committee and ideas for ways to write the 2021-2022 chapters of the Texas ALP history book. Some of those chapters will be written with online functions and during

zoom meetings, while others will be written the “old-fashioned” way through in-person meetings and the use of the Texas ALP Docket.



There was an abundance of ideas from both the committee chairs and the EC. We are looking for ways to increase and retain membership, grow our education and certification programs, help increase fundraising, and generally make sure that Texas ALP grows with the “new normal” of our times. We are all excited about the direction that Texas ALP is going, and we look forward to working with not only the

committee chairs, but our members, the foundation of Texas ALP. If you are not currently serving on a committee, please volunteer for one-and help us write our chapters for Texas ALP this year. If circumstances prevent you from serving on a committee but you have an idea, please reach out to a member of the EC or to a committee chair and let us know. The EC is here to serve Texas ALP.

All work and no play? No, we also laughed, we joked, and we bonded. It was a good weekend to reconnect and to be able to see friends again. Thank you for the trust you have placed in me, Diane, Michelle, Patricia, and Faynell in allowing us to serve as the Texas ALP Executive Committee.

Emily D. Walterscheid PP, CLP
President 2021-2022



MEET YOUR EC
(Executive Committee)
WE ARE HERE TO SERVE TEXAS ALP AND ITS MEMBERS

Emily D. Walterscheid, PP, CLP – Texas ALP 2021-2022 President

I am honored and humbled to be able to serve as President this year. I have been a member of the legal community for 15 years, and I am a proud member of NALS, Texas ALP, and Lubbock LPA. I enjoy the community service, membership event, and networking. I value the friends I have made by being part of these organizations over the years. I am looking forward to serving Texas ALP and writing the chapters for the books of our year!

Diane M. Stanley, RP, Emeritus - Texas ALP 2021-2022 President-Elect

I am honored and privileged to serve as your 2021-2022 Texas ALP President-Elect. For those of you who do not know me, I am a seasoned legal professional, specializing in Corporate, Real Estate, and Oil & Gas law. My earlier career began in Banking & Finance. I have been a member of NALS since 2008 and have served on the boards of Texas ALP and Houston ALP for the past ten years. I am the immediate past Treasurer of Texas ALP and I am currently serving as President-Elect of my local chapter, Houston ALP.

Michelle McDaniel -Treasurer

Hi all! I am so excited to serve as your Treasurer for the 2021-2022 year. We had some exciting ideas exchanged at our EC Retreat and I absolutely cannot wait to get working on them. Always remember the EC is working for TALP and we love your input. Contact any of the EC members with your questions and concerns and we will find the answers for you. Can't wait to see everyone soon!

Patricia Nuhn, PLS - Secretary

It is my pleasure to serve as TALP Secretary for the 2021-2022 year. I am excited to be involved and learn more about Texas ALP. This level of involvement is a bit out of my comfort zone, but the reward is to grow personally and professionally and to help others do the same. My thanks to the EC for welcoming me so warmly and already providing so much support and encouragement.

Faynell Poe, PP, PLS Parliamentarian:

Back to the Future! Parliamentarian, Faynell Poe, PP, PLS is back on the EC after an 18 year absence. She brings with her a knowledge of the workings of Texas ALP (when it was Texas ALS) and *the olden days*. She is looking forward to working with the new officers and encouraging the members to get involved because she was always taught that “you get out of Texas ALP what you put into it.”

We are the Executive Committee for Texas ALP for 2021-2022 and we look forward to serving our members! Please feel free to reach out and contact any of us by e-mail or phone.

Congratulations! Laura DeLeon

TALP Legal Professional of the Year

I have been working in the legal field since 2000. I have worked on administrative, criminal, and civil law cases. I absolutely love my job and the people I get to work with. It is an extreme blessing to work somewhere where my coworkers are more of a family. This family type atmosphere helps us do the best job we can for our clients.

The past five months have been the hardest of my entire life with the loss of my beloved parents. My parents were a huge part of my life and we were often found together. They were always my biggest supporters and believed in pushing me to be the best I could be. I know they would be extremely proud of my receiving TALP Legal Professional of the Year. Hard work is a principle that they instilled in me my whole life.

I am a very family-oriented person. In August, my husband Delton and I will celebrate our 11th Wedding/22nd Dating Anniversary. We have a five-year-old daughter who is the light of our life. I love spending time with them, my brother and his family, as well as many extended family/friends either camping, attending sporting events, four-wheeling, or just being together.

Being a part of this Association has been truly enjoyable. I love the relationships and education that I can continue through participation. The TALP members have been some of the people that I see as proud and upstanding members of the legal profession. Therefore, I am truly privileged to be this year's Legal Professional of the Year.



WRITE YOUR CHAPTERS WITH TALP!



CHANGE OF ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE

For Texas ALP Notify:

Helene L. Wood, PP, PLS, TSC-RE
Texas ALP Communications Chair
713-651-3713 • helene.wood@nortonrosefulbright.com

And don't forget to update your NALS profile, too!!!



Wichita County LPA received its charter on July 7, 1958
El Paso ALP received its charter on September 19, 1968
Waco LPA received its charter on September 22, 1956

Webmaster

When was the last time you looked through the Texas ALP website? Did you know it is packed full of a LOT of good things, including leadership development articles? It is YOUR website, and it is always in need of new ideas, changes, and fun things.

If you see anything that needs to be added, changed, or even deleted, please contact the webmaster, Julie Abernathy, at julie.abernathy@sbcglobal.net



texasalp.org

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

By: Barbara S. Akins, PLS

Google says that professional development is learning to earn or maintain professional credentials such as:

Academic degrees to formal coursework;
Attending conferences; and
Informal learning opportunities.

Professional Development has also been described as intensive and collaborative, ideally incorporating an evaluative stage. But that's only a part of what Google says. What does professional development mean to you? Have you formed your own opinion? Have you set a goal to learn/study, to attend conferences and take advantage of other opportunities to learn? Have you set a goal to become certified? Let's talk about what we should do or continue to do to achieve our "opinion" of professional development.

Professional development has a broad meaning and it lends itself to more than a few paragraphs. Shall we explore the idea of "CAB" in this article?

- **Conduct**--how a person behaves. Your conduct in your office, church, and community should be consistent and worthy. We project our conduct in everyday tasks with our employer, associates, and local community.
- **Attitude**--Do you ever stand on the "ledge" of anger or dissatisfaction about decisions affecting you at work? Of course, we're human. But dealing with the anger or dissatisfaction is when we learn we can be reasonable and can work within those decisions. We can learn a lot about ourselves when we adjust to those decisions.
- **Behavior**--the way you act in response to a particular situation. Does your behavior reflect what you believe a professional should "look/act like"? We can't always be optimistic, but we sure can try.

There are many ways for us to explore "Professional Development" and taking a CAB is only one of them. We'll continue in future articles.

A hand is shown pointing at a digital interface. The interface features several buttons with labels: "Business Records Affidavits", "Litigation Records", "Process Service", and "Courthouse Research Filings". The background is a dark, slightly blurred image of a person in a suit.

Business Records Affidavits

Litigation Records

Process Service

Courthouse Research Filings

Access your litigation records **ONLINE**

*The records you need,
when you need them.*

As a professional in the legal field, you know how important it is to have quick, easy access to your litigation records. That's why, at Express Records, we make available all records for your case right at your fingertips, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

And we don't stop there. At Express Records, we also know that you require dependable, experienced, reliable solutions. Unlike many other companies, we focus solely on records retrieval services, providing you with the highest dependability in on-time records retrieval and delivery.

So go ahead, let us start working for your next case.

*Call 1-877-584-9890 to get started today.
Or call us locally at 915-584-9890.*

EXPRESS Services

- « Research and Verification of Records
- « Notice of Intent to Take Deposition by Written Questions
- « Subpoena Duces Tecum
- « Business Records Affidavits
- « Courthouse Research/Filings
- « Mobile Notary and Mobile Scanning

EXPRESS Records 
Don't Stress. **Call EXPRESS!**

Located in El Paso, Texas. Visit us online at www.expressrecords.net

Why EZ Venue?

Stop filing cases in the wrong court venue. Incorrect filing leads to a decrease in productivity and lost revenue.

EZ Venue is your business solution to locating and identifying the correct court venue or court jurisdiction for your cases.



Efficiency

The EZ Venue Team is here to simplify the time consuming and costly methods of locating and selecting the correct court venue for your cases.

Support Staff

Our system is operated and maintained by full-time staff. Support is not outsourced to other companies.

You can always contact the EZ Venue Team for assistance.

Current Data

The EZ Venue Team monitors judicial boundary revisions through various agencies and networking contacts. We update the venue identification tool as necessary to provide a current and quality product to our clients.

Single Address Search

The Single Search tool provides a visible pinned map of the address for the user, indicating the physical location within the jurisdictional boundary of the venue and the correct court venue name.

Batch Processing

Needing to process large numbers of cases? Our system can process thousands of addresses or geocoded data points in a single data upload.

Technology

EZ Venue utilizes the latest Geospatial Technology and GIS systems for mapping court jurisdictions and venue boundaries to provide our clients with the most accurate data available.

API Support

The EZ Venue system supports API calls for you to process files electronically. Visit our API documentation online to learn more.

Contact

For questions, product information, and to schedule an online demonstration, please contact:

Bobby Kubin

EZ Venue Product Manager

info@ezvenue.app

(214) 379-0953

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INFO@EZVENUE.APP

Emily Walterscheid, PP, CLP - Texas ALP 2021-2022 President:

By Lola Smith-Gentry

Emily is a servant to our trilevel association (LLPA, TALP, and NALS). Emily has been on the local board since she became a Member and has served in almost every position. Before being elected as an officer, she served on numerous state committees. She is on committees at the national level. She is never too busy to go speak to paralegal students about the benefits of membership.

Emily graduated with her Master's degree in Paralegal Studies from National Juris University in April 2021.

She has been employed with Matthew Harris Law, PLLC, since January 2012.

She is a proud Mom to Donnavan and Kira. Blake is supportive of all her endeavors. The whole family loves books and reading!



New Membership Campaign for 2021-2022!

Join in the **fun** and earn points toward **prizes**!

Campaign runs May 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022

—See flyer for more rules—

Submit your activit(y/ies) as you go or
by the submission deadline on March 31, 2022

Questions? Contact—

Sondra Heugatter, PP, PLS, TSC-CL, TSC-RE
Texas ALP Membership Chair

sondra.panam@yahoo.com ★ heugatters@att.net

Texas Association of Legal Professionals 2021-2022 Membership Campaign

May 1, 2021, Through March 31, 2022
(Submission Deadline: March 31, 2022)

Member Campaign

2 Points

- Each new individual member recruited
- Each new student member recruited
 - Each past member reclaimed
- Acquiring a new advertiser for The Texas Docket
- Obtaining a CLE article for publication in The Texas Docket

5 BONUS POINTS

- Each article written and published in The Texas Docket
- Supporting a Literacy Program (such as the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation)
- Participation in a local reading program

20 SUPER BONUS POINTS

- Obtaining a new advertiser for The Texas Docket



PRIZES

Member Campaign Prizes

1st Place — \$75 • 2nd Place — \$50

Chapter Campaign

2 Points

- Each membership drive (in person or virtually) held
- Each new member the chapter or member brings into the Association
- Each past member the chapter or member reclaims

5 BONUS POINTS

- 100% retention of chapter membership
- Each brag written and published in The Texas Docket
- Support of a Literacy Program (such as the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation) by the chapter
- Participation in a local reading program by the chapter

20 SUPER BONUS POINTS

- Obtaining a new advertiser for The Texas Docket



PRIZES

Chapter Campaign Prizes

1st Place — \$100 • 2nd Place — \$75



Happy Birthday!*



2021

June

- 4 — Bonnie J. Brown (Waco LPA)
- 6 — Barbara S. Akins, PLS (Member at Large)
- 6 — Elizabeth D. Page (Houston ALP)
- 9 — William J. Kesman (Houston ALP)
- 10 — Joyce E. (Look) Buck, PLS (Houston ALP)
- 10 — Melissa Ramos (Corpus Christi ALP)
- 11 — Victoria Foster (Lubbock LPA)
- 13 — Patricia M. Nuhn, PLS (Austin LPA)
- 16 — Emily Folsom (Waco LPA)
- 17 — Jeanine M. Broyles, PP, CLP (Houston ALP)
- 24 — Nicole Price (Lubbock LPA)
- 25 — Dannie L. Mason (Lubbock LPA)
- 29 — Carol L. Mitschlatis, CP (Houston ALP)

July

- 1 — Thelma A. Martinez, PP, PLS (El Paso ALP)
- 8 — Avis Morris (NALS of Amarillo)
- 9 — Mica L. DeScioli (Houston ALP)
- 9 — Glenda R. Fuqua, PLS (Lubbock LPA)
- 9 — Millie S. Weiss, PLS (Houston ALP)
- 10 — Susan E. Moore, PLS (Houston ALP)
- 13 — Mary D. Teague, PP, PLS (Waco LPA)

- 14— Judy Stephenson, PP, PLS, CLA, TSC-CL (Dallas ALP)
- 15— Vickie Summerall (NALS of Amarillo)
- 17— Gina Simmons, CLP (San Antonio LSA)
- 17— Jill E. Watts, PP, PLS (NALS of Amarillo)
- 19— Marie E. Cordova (Houston ALP)
- 20— Petre Racu (Lubbock LPA)
- 20— Patricia Wilken, ALP (Houston ALP)
- 24— Diana (Dee) M. Martinez (Corpus Christi ALP)
- 24— Ione K. Mixon, PP (NALS of Amarillo)
- 24— Beverly Sloan, CLA, TBLS-PI (Wichita County LPA)
- 28— Carol R. Gutierrez, PLS (El Paso ALP)
- 31— Donna K. Dendy, PP, PLS, CP, TSC-RE (Waco LPA)

August

- 1— Dana Rachal (Austin LPA)
- 3— Theresa Ann Alba, PLS (Austin LPA)
- 4— Candace Hammond (Waco LPA)
- 9— John Martin S. Casayuran (Dallas ALP)
- 9— Marilyn W. Lewis, PLS (Houston ALP)
- 12— Wilma H. Cook (Dallas ALP)
- 14— C. Susan Eskew, PP, PLS (Waco LPA)
- 15— Tina L. Berger (Austin LPA)
- 15— Staci Gaffney (NALS of Amarillo)
- 16— Jovita Johnson (Houston ALP)
- 19— Faynell Poe, PP, PLS, BBA
- 22— Kimberly L. Culpepper, PLS, TSC-CL (Dallas ALP)
- 23— Judith S. Smith, PLS, CLA (San Antonio LSA)
- 24— Paula Cooper (Waco LPA)
- 27— Sherri Thurman (Dallas ALP)



*If your noted birthday is incorrect, please notify Communications Chair Helene Wood. If your birthday is missing from the above list and you want to be recognized in the future, please notify Communications Chair Helene Wood at helene.wood@nortonrosefulbright.com.

READER'S CORNER

Share what you are reading!
You can write a review or just
give the title and author!

So many books, so little time . . .

From Emily Walterscheid:

Fun Book: **Faithless in Death** (its book #52 in the series by JD Robb (Nora Roberts)
I have read the whole series, it's about a Cop in 2050 and her friends and family and her investigations.

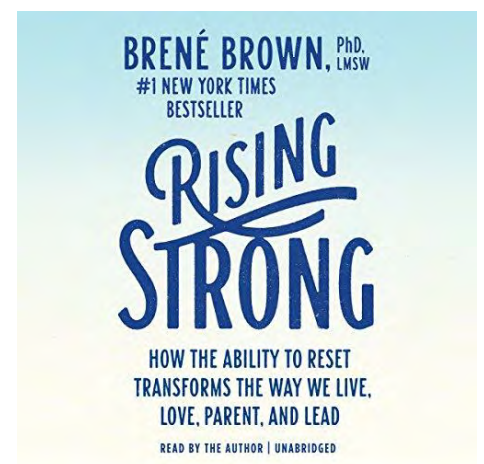
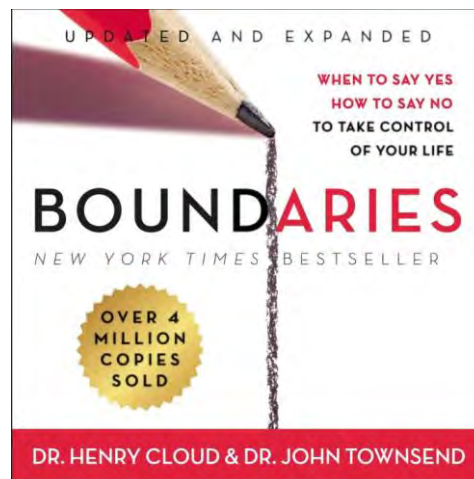
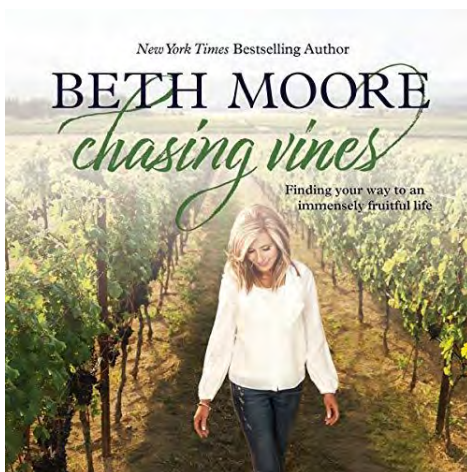


Personal Development book:

Becoming SuperWoman by Nicole Lapin. She has written several PD-type books for money management and personal growth and development. This one focuses on personal wellness and still being a Superwoman even if you do say "no" every now and then.

From Lola Smith-Gentry:

I listened to all of these.



Just email to: lgentry@hkwwlaw.com

WRITE YOUR CHAPTER!

**Individuals
Local Associations
TALP
NALS**

(aka “It Ain’t Braggin’ If It’s True!”)

**Did you know you get points under Membership Campaign
for submissions?**



**Share your local association news!
Just send your stories and brags to
lgentry@hkwwlaw.com**



Brag

Introducing our Officers



Rachel Scott

Was born and raised in El Paso and is a UTEP graduate. She has a B.A. in History with a minor in Legal Reasoning. Rachel has a passion for learning and continuously pursues different certifications. In 2006, she obtained a Paralegal Certificate from UTEP so she could get her foot in the door in the legal field.

Rachel began her journey in the legal field at Express Records. She has since served as President of the El Paso Association of Legal Professionals for two terms as well as chaired several committees. She has also been on the El Paso Paralegal Association annual golf tournament committee since 2013 and has served as the Marketing Chairman for the Texas Association of Legal Professionals since 2018. Her commitment to the legal community has also included assisting the El Paso Bar Association with registration at the legal clinics held twice a year. Beginning in 2018, Rachel began teaching in the Paralegal Program at Vista College and remains a part of the program's faculty.

She loves to travel and will stop everything she is doing to help an animal in need. However, her true passion is her two daughters, Denise and Arlette.



Carol Gutierrez

Hello. I am the current President-Elect of El Paso ALP. I also serve as Certification chair for Texas ALP and am a member of the Education Committee for NALS. I have worked in the legal field for more than 35 years and prefer litigation over most other areas of law. At my current firm, I serve as the Firm's Recruiting Coordinator as well as provide secretarial support to one of our Shareholders who also serves on our Board of Directors. My husband and I have been married for 35 years and are blessed to have 3 sons and 4 grandchildren

whom we love spending our free time with. I love showing off pictures of my grandkids and just watching them grow.



Denise Castro

Hi everyone! I am serving my second term as secretary for the El Paso Association of Legal Professionals. I am the Quality Control Specialist clerk at Express Records; I also study at the University of Texas at El Paso. I am pursuing a degree in Organizational & Corporate Communication and Religious Studies. I also like to do volunteer work and am part of the El Paso Executive Women Lions Club.



Miriam Garcia

I am the EPALP Treasurer for the 2021-2022 term. I started my membership with EPALP in 2017 and immediately was interested in volunteering. During my first term, I volunteered in the Auditor Committee. After my first term, I have served as Treasurer for these past terms. I received my Associate's Degree in Paralegal/Legal Support Studies in 2013. I started my legal profession in 2016 as a Legal Secretary for an employment & labor firm. My current job, I started in 2017, as a Paralegal/Legal Assistant for a sole practice attorney who also practices employment & labor law. As a member and elected Board member of EPALP, I am enjoying and taking advantage of every opportunity to network with fellow legal professionals.



Lesly Orozco

I have been a member of EPALP since August 2020. I started as the Newsletter Chairman, and am now serving as Vice President. I have been working for Express Records since 2018. I have an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies and plan on going back to school in the fall to become a teacher. I am a very honest, patient, and very shy person. I am very excited to learn more about EPALP and see what the future will bring.



Monica Acuña

Hi, I am Monica Acuña. I have been a member of NALS since 2000. I am currently the Director of El Paso ALP and enjoy being a part of EPALP as I am always willing to help and open to new ideas in order to move the association forward.

I have been working in the legal field for over 20 years. I am employed at Mounce, Green, Myers, Safi, Paxson & Galatzan in the insurance defense section as a legal secretary.

I married my high school sweetheart and have two children and two grandchildren. My grandbabies are such a joy and absolutely love being a grandma!

Congratulations to our President **Rachel Scott** on receiving the Liberty Bell award from the El Paso Young Lawyer's Association.

The Liberty Bell Award recognizes an outstanding non-lawyer who has made a selfless contribution to the community that strengthens the effectiveness of the American system of justice.





CONGRATULATIONS, HELENE L. WOOD, PP, PLS, TSC-RE!

By Diane M. Stanley, RP Emeritus, Director

Houston ALP and Helene's employer, Norton Rose Fulbright ("NRF"), want to brag on *Helene*, who is celebrating her 50th year with her employer in May 2021.

Helene is truly a valued member of NRF and of the NALS trilevel association, which she has served at every level and position over the past 29 years of her membership. The celebration at NRF is ongoing as they continue to pay tribute to a truly remarkable person and legal professional. Below is an excerpt from NRF published on the firm's website:

Helene says that her favorite thing about working for the firm is the people, stating, "I've made so many friends at the firm at all levels."

Of Counsel Uriel Dutton, who has worked with Helene for almost all of the 50 years, commented that she "is extremely proud of her profession and has devoted days and months to self-improvement and mentoring her fellow professionals, and in the process has brought honor to our firm and achieved the highest position available in the professional organization of legal secretaries of which she has served as National President."

Mr. Dutton concluded, "It has been an honor and privilege to know and work with Helene for these many years; all I can say is "Please don't quit until I am ready to quit!"

Exemplifying quality, unity and integrity with each assignment, Helene has always held the role of legal secretary, which has recently evolved into the position of Practice Coordinator. "It is in my nature to help people, which is perfect for a legal secretary. I like helping people meet their own goals or help them do a better job."

In recognition of this anniversary, US Managing Partner Jeff Cody said, "Congratulations to Helene on this significant achievement. Your loyalty and dedication are inspiring to us all. For 50 years, you have symbolized our guiding principles of quality, unity and integrity. Thank you for your service."

Starting the same year that the Microprocessor was created, Helene noted that there are many differences to how the firm was run back then compared to now. "It was a different world back then. Change happens, whether you go with it or not. I choose to go with the flow."

These statements are true of us all! Please join Houston ALP and NRF in congratulating Helene on this most notable accomplishment!



HOUSTON ALP

May 10, 2021, **Helene L. Wood** celebrated her 50th anniversary with Norton Rose Fulbright. When Helene started with the firm in 1971 the firm was known as Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman, Bates & Jaworski and one month later the name was changed to Fulbright, Crooker & Jaworski. Helene was interviewed for an article that appeared on the firm's website and she made the following comments:

To Attorneys: I would advise them to be kind to the support staff and to remember they can make their work as an attorney easier or harder.

To the Support Staff: I would advise them to respect the attorneys, always be professional and represent their attorneys in the best light to the best of their ability.

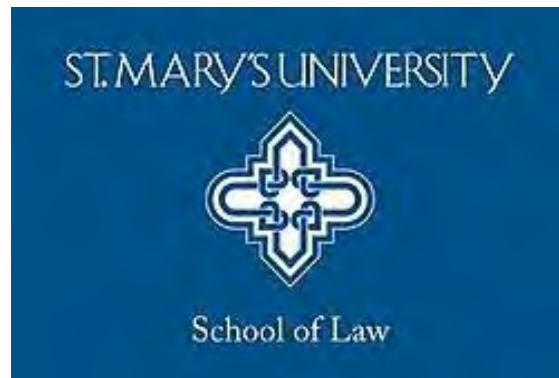
CORPUS CHRISTI

On May 21, 2021, Wood, Boykin & Wolter threw a surprise party for **Kathie Jean Capeheart** f/k/a Kathie Jean Keys as she celebrated her 40th anniversary at the firm.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE TWO REMARKABLE LADIES!

LUBBOCK LPA

**CONGRATULATIONS
PETRE RACU
FUTURE ATTORNEY**



REPORT OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

by Blake Walterscheid, Director, Lubbock LPA

The Annual Education Conference for 2020-2021 was held on April 16th & 17th. Due to the continued safety protocols for the Covid-19 threat the conference was held in a hybrid format. As the Covid Vaccine had been made available for most individuals, the conference was held in person for the local chapter as well as the individuals who elected to travel to Lubbock, which created the unique experience of this organization's first Hybrid Conference.

While we have all been faced with the use of videoconference equipment in the past for small-scale meetings, never before have we, as a profession, come to rely so heavily on technology to complete what was once a simple face-to-face meeting. With our profession's sudden experience and expertise in the use of videoconference equipment we realized we were faced with an interesting opportunity, we could utilize the same equipment to finally meet again, share knowledge, and socialize almost like we had pre-pandemic. The Lubbock Legal Professional Association (LLPA) would like to say what a success the Hybrid Conference was. With a few minor issues that we were able to overcome, we learned things that will make future conferences and even local meetings more accessible not only to Texas members, but to members across NALS.

LLPA used the Zoom application to present this year's conference and here are a few lessons learned:

1. When speakers need to share their screens with attendees, they need to be certain that they know which one is considered their primary screen, if they use more than one, because that is the only one that can be seen by the attendees.
2. Test the methods of utilizing the planned sound recording equipment, i.e. microphones, or computer mics, to ensure that they are working as expected. Also, there should be a separate speaker that can project the sound of the members in the meeting so that there is not interference between the primary computer's microphone and speakers projecting the attendees' voices.
3. The individuals in person at the meeting need to ensure that either their computer/phone speakers are off or that they are wearing headphones/earbuds, so they do not generate a feedback loop, preferably prior to logging into the meeting. Also, any attendee who is not actively speaking should mute their own equipment's microphones.
4. Don't rely on the application's waiting room unless you have specifically named someone to monitor the room to accept the requests to enter the meeting.

With this year's conference we were finally able to see and speak to, perhaps not in person, our friends, mentors, and fellow professionals whom we long to see each year. The use of the video conferencing equipment and applications has given us a means to reach a broader group of people who may not have been able to make the conference and gain more knowledge in their careers.

LLPA would also like to congratulate our own Emily Walterscheid on her installation as President of the Texas Association of Legal Professionals. We look forward to her and her board's contributions to the organization. We would also like to thank The MCM Elegante' for its continued support of our organization and the excellent service that we receive when we hold events at their hotel.



Just a few
pictures from
TALP
Annual
Meeting and
Education
Conference



LLPA Celebration Banquet

**Congratulations
LLPA Boss of the Year
Matthew Harris
and
LLPA Legal Professional of the Year
Emily Walterscheid**



**MC:
John Grace**



Mentor: Queen Barb Sucsy

Rookie: Carrie Nevarez

Inspiration: Lola Smith-Gentry

WACO LPA CHAPTER BRAG

Spring has been a season of many accomplishments for Waco Legal Professionals Association. It began with the Texas Association of Legal Professionals' Annual Meeting held in a hybrid format on April 16, 2021. During the annual meeting, it was announced that Waco LPA won first place for Chapter Membership during the 2020-2021 Campaign. The following day at the Recognition Luncheon, it was announced that Laura DeLeon from Waco received the esteemed Legal Professional of the Year award. Also during the Recognition Luncheon, Donna K. Dendy, PP, PLS received the Rising Star award which was chosen by the Executive Committee.

In May during our monthly Chapter Membership meeting, it was announced that Laura DeLeon was chosen by her peers as the Member of the Year.

Waco LPA is extremely proud of their members who participate in all levels of NALS.



LAURA DeLEON

**WACO LPA
MEMBER OF THE YEAR!**

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS MARKET YOUR UPCOMING CLE

Chapter Presidents/Directors:

The EC met the first weekend in June, and we talked with our communications chair, Helene Wood, and came up with a way for our local chapters to share CLE across the state with ease. Attached you will find a form your chapter may use to advertise upcoming CLE to all Texas ALP membership.

The information MUST be to Helene no later than the 3rd Monday of a month for the following month (example by June 21st for July speakers). Please do not fill out the form, but instead use it as a guide to ensure you give Helene all the necessary information needed. Once you have given the information to Helene, she will fill out the form and send out the notice for CLE with the other notices for CLE that she receives by the deadline. CLE notice/information not received by the deadline of the 3rd Monday of the month will not be sent.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the EC. You can also share your information to Rachel Scott (marketing chair) for posting on the Texas ALP Facebook page and she can guide you on sharing the information on the NALS calendar.

Texas Association of Legal Professionals

... the association for legal professionals



Chapter Education Meeting Notice—July 2021

July __, 2021

Your Chapter Name Here

Topic: _____
Speaker: _____
Time: _____
Registration/Zoom Link : _____
Deadline: _____

July __, 2021

Your Chapter Name Here

Topic: _____
Speaker: _____
Time: _____
Registration/Zoom Link : _____
Deadline: _____

UNSUBSCRIBE NOTICE

If you wish to be removed (unsubscribe) from the Texas ALP e-mail distribution list, your request should be made by **replying** to this message.

CAUTION REGARDING REMOVAL FROM THE TEXAS ALP E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

In the event you desire to be removed from the Texas ALP e-mail list, please be aware of the consequences of such removal. In today's business environment, e-mail is the method which allows Texas ALP to communicate most expeditiously and cost-effectively with its members and has become the primary communication tool. Please know that, in removing you from the e-mail distribution list, you are also requesting that you not receive the Call and other notices that may be sent by Texas ALP to its members. If you wish to be removed from the e-mail distribution list of your local chapter or of NALS, please contact them directly.

Certification, Does It Matter?

Carol R. Gutierrez, PLS

In any field, Certification is important, and here are just a few reasons why:

It's a stamp of excellence:

Certification provides validation that you have the skills needed to succeed while providing employers a benchmark for measuring candidates.

Certification indicates that you meet a certain standard of competence and can give you a competitive advantage as well as more job opportunities, a higher pay scale, and job security. It shows that you take your career seriously and that you have a passion for what you do.

Certification can help you get hired:

Whether you pursue a career as a medical assistant, an office professional, or as an employee in information technology, Certifications tell your employer and co-workers that you are qualified. The American Association of Medical Assistants states that its CMA certification "offers proof to employers that a medical assistant has achieved the highest standards of education and credentialing in the medical assisting field."

Employers looking to hire want you to have knowledge, experience *and* certifications in your area(s) of expertise.

It could help you earn more money:

Certifications don't just separate job candidates starting out; they also demonstrate that you're committed to your profession and are willing to invest in your future. And, that's why employers are more likely to invest in you if you hold a certification.

Certification keeps you current:

One of the most important reasons to become certified is that it helps you stay ahead of the competition. It shows that you keep up with industry trends and use the latest tools and software to better serve your clients. Always keep learning and you'll have a knowledge base that will make you an asset to your employer far into the future.

Interested in becoming certified but not sure how to proceed? Go to www.nals.org where you will find detailed information for the PP (Professional Paralegal); CLP/PLS (Certified Legal Professional/Professional Legal Secretary) and ALP (Accredited Legal Professional).

Please also visit www.texasalp.org for even more certification information.

INTERESTING ARTICLES TO READ AND PASS ALONG

Submitted by Angela Gschwend

Opinion: You can lose your kids, home and freedom without ever seeing a lawyer. It's a profound injustice.

Fatinha Ramos for The Washington Post Opinion by the Editorial Board

Feb. 26, 2021 at 12:50 p.m. CST



It's a given that criminal defendants in the United States are entitled to legal representation, free of charge if they cannot afford it — a right enshrined by the Supreme Court nearly six decades ago and then expanded to cover even minor cases in which incarceration is unlikely. Yet in courts across the country, poverty-stricken litigants in noncriminal cases routinely face life-shattering outcomes, including jail time, without ever seeing a lawyer or receiving basic legal advice.

Those cases include disputes in which the stakes could not be higher: forfeiture of parental rights; eviction or foreclosure; danger from abusive spouses and domestic partners; and, in guardianship cases, the loss of control over property, and even liberty. In child-support cases, defendants are routinely incarcerated, for days, weeks or months without recourse to legal assistance.

All of this is an offense to justice.

Alone Before the Law

This is Part 1 of a series examining the injustices faced by people who can't afford representation in civil court.

Most European countries have long-standing rules granting a right to counsel to litigants in property and monetary cases, as well as ones in which life and liberty hang in the balance. In England, Parliament acted more than 500 years ago to ensure that paupers would be provided lawyers when suing in King Henry VII's courts; that right found its way into laws in some of the original 13 colonies.

In today's United States, lawmakers and judges have carved out a hodgepodge, varying wildly from state to state and even by locality, under which certain at-risk individuals may qualify for court-appointed counsel in some types of civil matters. In most states, for instance, that's the case when authorities seek to remove children permanently from their parents and send them to foster care, owing to alleged neglect or abuse. In a handful of big cities, other laws enacted in recent years grant a right to counsel to tenants facing eviction, an event that often triggers a cascade of other problems, such as homelessness.

Far more often, however, poor people unversed in the law are on their own when states have not specified a right to counsel and judges cannot or will not provide one. That produces appalling results across a range of legal disputes.

In roughly half the states, indigent birth parents may be, and frequently are, stripped of their right to rear or even see their own children in so-called private adoptions — usually initiated by relatives — with no right to a lawyer's help. In domestic violence cases, survivors often have no legal help as they argue for protection. A study showed that more than 80 percent of survivors were granted protective orders in court when they had lawyers arguing their cases; those without lawyers were successful just a third of the time. Nearly 1 in 8 inmates in South Carolina's jails ended up behind bars over failure to make child-support payments, and very few of them had the assistance of a lawyer in court.

Alone Before the Law.

If the nationwide eviction freeze is thrown out, renters will be on their own. In our system, landlords have lawyers. Tenants often don't. So tenants lose. Faced with the loss of her twin boys, she asked for a lawyer — and was refused. Her case changed the law in Ohio.

You can lose your kids, home and freedom without ever seeing a lawyer. It's a profound injustice.

Elderly people who lack representation in guardianship cases have become easy marks for predators. In Nevada, hundreds of them were bilked of their savings and deprived of their property by crooked state-approved guardians who worked their scams with impunity, knowing no lawyer was likely to confront them.

A scandal generating embarrassing headlines should not be the necessary precondition of advancing the cause of fairness and justice in the courts, but that has often been the case. After the guardianship racket in Nevada ran unchecked for years, until it finally exploded in damning media coverage, the state Supreme Court urged an overhaul of the system. That yielded a bill of rights for protected persons, enacted by the state legislature, which expanded the right to legal representation for individuals facing the prospect of a court-appointed guardian.

Eviction has rightly become a particular focus of attention during the pandemic, which has cost millions of Americans their jobs and put them in peril of losing the roofs over their heads. Moratoriums imposed by federal, state and local authorities have blocked some evictions, but far from all. Landlords, nearly always able to deploy lawyers to plead their cases in court, continue to enjoy overwhelming advantages.

Thirty million or more tenants may face the risk of eviction when the moratoriums are lifted, according to the Aspen Institute, and very few of them will have the means to hire lawyers to help them keep their homes. Yet the evidence is clear that when the playing field is more level — especially when both renters and landlords have lawyers — the magnitude of grief is diminished. In New York City, which in 2017 became the first major locality to grant low-income tenants in some neighborhoods the right to legal representation in eviction proceedings, the number of renters forced from their homes has dropped sharply.

Still, in many places, resistance remains entrenched to enacting a broader or more uniform right to counsel in civil cases. Most often, opponents cite the price of expanding access to legal assistance.

Cost is a legitimate concern; even in criminal cases, poor defendants often are represented with utter inadequacy. When the Supreme Court held in 1981 that when states terminate parental rights, they are not constitutionally obligated to appoint counsel for indigent birth parents, cost was a factor cited by the majority. Yet that same 5-to-4 decision acknowledged that most states did require that lawyers be provided to parents in such cases, and that doing so is good public policy. Cost is a concern, but it cannot be allowed to become an excuse.

Today, the battleground for expanding justice and protecting the poorest litigants is in state capitals and courts. Even as the Supreme Court has refused to step in, and even as federal funding has stagnated in recent decades for the Legal Services Corp., which helps a network of programs provide lawyers for penniless litigants, states have expanded their own spending. The beneficiaries have been hundreds of typically small organizations staffed by public-spirited lawyers — and their needy clients.

That's the good news. The bad news — and there's a lot of it — is that millions of Americans continue to find the odds stacked heavily against them in legal proceedings they are forced to navigate alone, confused by the rules and outmatched by state or private adversaries. In fact, it's not just bad news. Too often, it's a profound injustice.

HAVE AN ARTICLE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?
SEND TO lgentry@hkwwlaw.com

TALP HUGS

Need a HUG!

Know someone that needs a HUG?

Please send to:
jllocknane@cdmlaw.com



HOSTED BY WACO LPA

SAVE THE DATES!!!!

**TEXAS ALP 2021 FALL EDUCATION CONFERENCE
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 15-16, 2021**

Waco LPA is excited to host the TALP 2021 Education Conference virtually. The theme is “Come Take a Look, It’s in a Book.” Mark your calendar now to attend this event! To get you excited about Waco, did you know?

Home of three higher education institutions:

- Baylor University
- McLennan Community College with Texas Tech University and Tarleton State University 4-year degrees available
- Texas State Technical College (TSTC)



Home of Chip & Joanna Gaines from Fixer Upper Show:

- Magnolia Market at the Silos – food trucks, event facility, and store
- Magnolia Table - restaurant
- Magnolia Realty– remodeling and design business
- Magnolia House – bed and breakfast in McGregor, Texas
- Magnolia Network
- Silos Baking Co.
- Magnolia Seed & Supply



TEXAS ALP FALL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 15-16, 2021

Waco LPA is excited to host the Fall Education Conference by Zoom. The legal education topics are as follows:

Ethics	Ben Selman, Esq., Adjunct Professor, Baylor Law School
Legal Writing	Gena Turner, Esq, Adjunct Professor, Baylor Law School
Patent Court & Procedures	Dave Deaconson, Esq., Pakis, Giotes, Page & Burleson, P.C.
How CASA Assists with Foster Children	Sonja Cooper, CASA
Veterans Court & Mental Illness	Honorable Gary Coley, District Judge, 74 th District Court

The Professional Development presentation will be goal setting, specifically for certification. This presentation will be by Donna Dendy, PP, PLS, and Julie Abernathy, PP, PLS, on Friday afternoon. We are excited that NALS President Nakia Bradley-Lawson will join us during the Open Forum.

Vendor spotlights will be given by:

Blend Litigation Support
Central Texas Litigation
Raising Wheels Foundation.

Waco has designated Raising Wheels Foundation as the charity for this meeting. This Foundation is dear to our hearts as it was founded by one of our former members, Melissa Copp, who has two children with a rare life-threatening disease. She formed this Foundation to help other families with challenges who are unable to obtain medical equipment and other services through insurance. Look for more information in the future on how you can support this Foundation.

A program will be prepared for this meeting. If you would like to purchase an ad for the program, attached is the advertising form and rates. Please complete the form and send to the address indicated. For more information on the registration form and schedule of events, go to www.texasalp.org, conference tab, for the information.

We look forward to your joining us in October!

Donna K. Dendy, PP, PLS
Laura DeLeon
Co-Chairs

TEXAS ALP FALL EDUCATION CONFERENCE
"Come Take a Look, It's in a Book"
Waco, Texas ♦ October 15-16, 2021
Registration Deadline—September 30, 2021

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____
Address _____
City/ST/ZIP _____
Daytime Phone _____
E-mail _____

(Check all that apply)

Certifications:

☐ ALP ☐ PLS/CLP ☐ PP ☐ SC _____
☐ CLA/CP ☐ ACP ☐ RP ☐ TSC _____
Other _____

☐ NALS Life Member
☐ Texas ALP Past President
☐ This is my first Texas ALP meeting

Local Chapter _____

Current Local Position Held _____

Current Texas ALP Position Held _____

Current NALS Position Held _____

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Please indicate each event you will attend)

(PLEASE NOTE: TIMES ARE CST)

Friday, October 15, 2021

☐ 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm PD – Goal Setting - Certification
☐ 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm Open Forum/PYI – NALS President
☐ 5:30 pm – 5:45 pm Break-Vendor Spotlight
☐ 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm Board Meeting

(electronic link will be emailed to all members)

Saturday, October 16, 2021

☐ 9:00 am – 10:00 am CLE-Ethics
☐ 10:00 am – 11:00 am CLE-Legal Writing, Gena Turner, Esq.
☐ 11:00 am – 11:15 am Break-Vendor Spotlight
☐ 11:15 am – 12:15 pm CLE-Patent Courts & Procedures
☐ 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm Lunch Break-Spotlight-Raising Wheels
☐ 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm CLE-CASA Assisting Foster Children
☐ 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm CLE-Veterans Court & Mental Illness

(electronic link will be emailed to registrants after you have registered)

FULL REGISTRATION FEES

Note: Regular and Late Registrations include all events

☐ Board Meeting Only (Friday).....N/C
☐ Texas ALP Member\$ 75
☐ Texas ALP Chair.....\$ 25
☐ Nonmember\$125
☐ Student\$ 75
Late Fee (postmarked after September 30, 2021)\$ 25

CHARITY: Raising Wheels Foundation

Per Standing Rule No. 22, members are required to pay the full registration fee. Attending only the Board Meeting or Open Forum is at no charge.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total Amount Due: \$_____ (due with registration form)

Please make check payable to:
Waco LPA Special Meeting Account; Federal Tax ID No. _____

Notice: A \$30 fee will be assessed for returned checks. Refunds requested and confirmed in writing (less a \$25 fee) will be available until September 30, 2021.

Mail registration form to:
Mary Bullard, ACP, Retired
5 Lake Stone Court
Woodway, Texas 76712

For questions about conference, contact Conference Co-Chairs:
Donna Dendy, PP, PLS
254-297-7300 or dkd@pakislaw.com OR
Laura DeLeon
254-752-9688 or ldeleon@zlawhelp.com

Contributions or gifts to Texas ALP are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

TEXAS ALP FALL BOARD MEETING AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE

"Come Take a Look, It's in a Book"

Waco, Texas – October 15-16, 2021

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, October 15, 2021

4:00 p.m.	to	5:00 p.m.	Professional Development – Julie Abernathy, PP, PLS; Donna Dendy, PP, PLS – Goal Setting-- Certification
5:00 p.m.	to	5:30 p.m.	Open Forum/PYI – Nakia Bradley-Lawson, NALS President Presentation
5:30 p.m.	To	5:45 p.m.	Break-Vendor Spotlight – Central Texas Litigation Services
5:45 p.m.	to	6:45 p.m.	Board Meeting

Saturday, October 16, 2021

9:00 a.m.	to	10:00 a.m.	CLE-Ethics – Ben Selman, Esq.
10:00 a.m.	to	11:00 a.m.	CLE-Legal Writing, Gena Turner, Esq.
11:00 a.m.	to	11:15 a.m.	Break-Vendor Spotlight – Blend Litigation Support
11:15 a.m.	to	12:15 p.m.	CLE-Patent Court & Procedures, David N. Deasonson, Esq.
12:15 p.m.	to	12:45 p.m.	Lunch - Break-Raising Wheels Foundation
12:45 p.m.	to	1:45 p.m.	CLE – How CASA Assists with Foster Children-Sonja Cooper
1:45 p.m.	to	2:45 p.m.	CLE – Veterans Court & Mental Illness. Honorable Gary Coley, District Judge, 74 th District Court

Electronic link will be emailed to registrants once registered

(CLE sessions will be recorded and available for purchase on the website after the conference and the Board Meeting will be live for those who cannot attend)



2021 Texas ALP Fall Education Conference
Hosted by Waco LPA
October 15-16, 2021

Advertisement Form
Please print or type legibly

BUSINESS NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE / ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____ WEBSITE: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____ Check No.: _____

Select Advertisement for program

¼ Page **\$25** \$ _____

½ Page **\$50** \$ _____

Full Page **\$75** \$ _____

For your logo or ad to appear in the program, the application, fee
and logo **MUST** be received by September 15, 2021.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Return to: Waco LPA
Mary Bullard, ACP Retired
5 Lake Stone Court, Woodway, Texas 76712
Make Checks Payable to: Waco LPA Special Meeting Account

For more information contact:
Donna Dendy at dkd@pakislaw.com or (254) 297-7300
Laura DeLeon at ldeleon@zlawhelp.com or (254) 752-9688

TEXAS ALP 2021-2022 ROSTER OF OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Chartered July 27, 1956

ELECTED OFFICERS

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STANDING COMMITTEES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

See Communications

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FALL EDUCATION CONF. (Co-Chairs)

See Meetings Coordinator
See Awards

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THE TEXAS DOCKET

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