



# The Texas Docket

[www.texasalp.org](http://www.texasalp.org)

March 2024  
Volume 21, Issue 4



**TEXAS ALP 69<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**  
*“Dazzled Determination”*  
**Waco, Texas, April 5-6, 2024**

**Editor**

Lola J. Smith-Gentry, ACP  
lgentry@hkwwlaw.com

©2023-2024 Texas Association of Legal 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.

*The Texas Docket* is the official publication of the Texas Association of Legal Professionals. Texas ALP assumes no responsibility for the opinions or points of view expressed by contributors unless statements have been authorized by action of the Association. All articles not otherwise signed are staff written. Permission to reproduce material appearing in *The Texas Docket* must be obtained from the Editor. Texas ALP endorses no item or service other than those under the auspices of the Association.

*The Texas Docket* is published electronically four times a year by the Texas Association of Legal Professionals. Publication dates are July, October, January, and April, with submission deadlines being June 1, September 1, December 1, and March 1. One copy of each issue is furnished to members as part of their membership dues.

The subscription rate for nonmembers is \$20 per year. Subscription requests should be directed to the Editor.

Send address corrections to:

Helene Wood, PP, PLS, TSC  
Communications Chair  
communications@talp.org

# *The Texas Docket*

## Contents

MARCH 2024  
VOLUME 21 ■ ISSUE 4

**President’s Message** .....3  
 Getting Ready to Dazzle .....4  
 2024 NALS Election.....4  
 2024 2024 TALP Election .....5  
 Communications .....7  
**TALP Hugs** .....9  
**Professional Development**  
   Ethics Question .....10  
   10 Top Skills .....12  
**Membership**  
   Membership Campaign .....15  
   Certification News .....17  
   Chapter Anniversary .....18  
   Anniversaries .....19  
   Welcome New Members.....20  
   Birthdays .....22  
   The Bar.....23  
   Member Spotlights.....24  
**Chapter Brags**  
   Austin .....27  
   Lubbock .....28  
**Conferences**  
   Registration .....30  
   Schedule of Events.....31  
   Note from Co-Chairs.....32  
   Charity.....32  
   Professional Development Luncheon .....33  
   Fundraising .....34  
**Docket Advertising**.....37  
**Mini Roster** .....38

### THANK YOU! ADVERTISERS

**Express Records** .....6  
**Blend Litigation Support** .....8  
**Kim Tindall & Associates (MAGNA)**.....9

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Texas ALP,

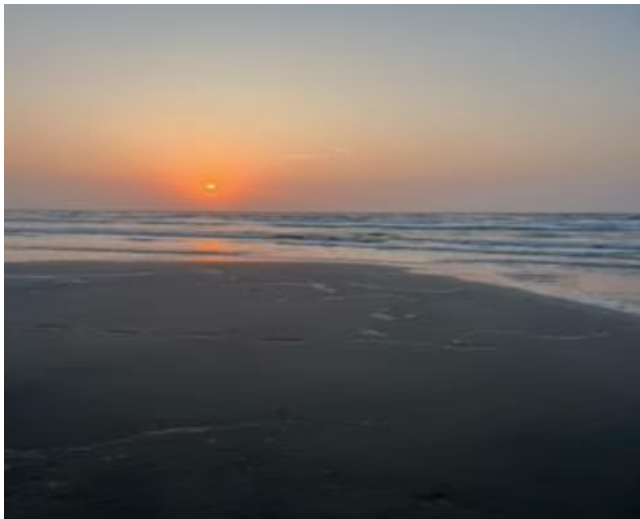
And here we are... I write my last message in The Texas Docket as your President. My words leave me—I don't know what to say for a change...

I should start by saying thank you to everyone for your love, your support, your mentoring, your encouragement, your participation, and mostly for being you. This is a network of the best people. I have been involved in other organizations, and the experience I had was not what I was looking for. This is a place to succeed. I have enjoyed my time on the EC, not just as President, but each position I held. I enjoyed growing and learning; and this last year, I have enjoyed watching the upcoming officers grow and learn. That has to be the best feeling—watching others grow and learn and yes, make mistakes. That is part of the growth period and yes, I admit to only one mistake...LOL. I tried to lead with my heart but mostly with TALP's best interest. I have been honored to serve you, the members.

Enough sappy talk. Let's get real. Get your registration in. The Annual Conference is a hop, skip, and a jump away. If your calendar isn't marked for April 5-6 in Waco, mark it down. Final arrangements are being made for the conference and let's not forget the President's Banquet. The Banquet is always something to remember. The Banquets are a chance to welcome our new President, Officers, and Chairs and a time to enjoy each other's company for one last time until the next conference. I can't wait to see you.

By the way, I want to share the symbolism behind the picture I include on my correspondence. You may remember that not long after I became President, my sister passed away. The picture I use was taken after her death. My niece was at the beach...alone, but yet you see footprints in the sand. Her love was the water and those footprints lead to the water. When she found out my theme for this year was "Footprints in the Sand," she was excited as that was one of her favorite poems. Each time I use this picture and see those footprints, I know that my following statement is true. . .

Keep following the footprints in the sand. . . they will lead you where YOU need to be.



Love and Blessings to all,

Michelle McDaniel,

President

## GETTING READY TO DAZZLE

As we are quickly approaching the Annual Conference on April 5-6<sup>th</sup>, I am getting excited to dazzle this next year and make Texas ALP sparkle. I am looking forward to new experiences and opportunities to develop my relationships with all of you. As I have been discussing my upcoming commitment to this Association with other people it has reminded me of the pride and determination that I have for this profession. I do love what I do. Now do not get me wrong, it is stressful and demanding but I am honored to do what I do.

I believe that our continued investment in this Association and other professional Associations shows that we are committed to continuing to learn and grow in this profession. It is this investment that allows us to dazzle our bosses, coworkers and clients in all that we can do.

I cannot wait to see how our next year will expand our Dazzling Determination to be the best we can be in the legal world. See you all in Waco soon.

Laura DeLeon  
Texas ALP President-Elect

## 2024 NALS Leadership Election Results

---

NALS

NALS elections were held February 1-15, 2024. Thank you to all voting members who submitted ballots. The Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) announces the following results.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New Director, as of May 1, 2024:

- Brandy Bewley, PP, CLP-SC, RP

Continuing Directors:

- Tara Jean Brown, PP, PLS, SCCP
- Ed Clark, PP, SC - Civil Litigation
- Amylyn Riedling, PP, PLS-SC

Debbie Sutton, CLP



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY  
ELECTED 2024-2025 TEXAS ALP OFFICERS!**

President: Laura DeLeon (Waco LPA)

President-Elect: Theresa Ann Alba, PLS (Austin LPA)

Treasurer: Jerri Locknane, CLP (Lubbock LPA)

Secretary: Emily Folsom (Waco LPA)

Parliamentarian (appointed officer) will be installed at the  
annual conference: Donna Dendy, PP, CLP, TSC-RE  
(Waco LPA)

Best wishes for success in the coming year.

Tina Hurley, PP, PLS  
Acting Chair, Nominations & Elections



**Online Records Retrieval**



**Fast and Convenient Access**



**Exceptional Customer Service**

**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 **915-584-9890** to get started today.  
**[www.expressrecords.net](http://www.expressrecords.net)**

*Serving Texas and New Mexico.*

- 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 & Scanning



**EXPRESS Records**

*Don't Stress. Call EXPRESS!*



*Keep Smiling—Change Happens*



**E-MAIL? CELL PHONE? EMPLOYER? ADDRESS?**

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

*For TALP, Notify:*

Helene L. Wood, PP, PLS, TSC-RE  
Texas ALP Communications Chair

713-651-3713 \* [helene.wood@nortonrosefulbright.com](mailto:helene.wood@nortonrosefulbright.com)

*(Don't forget to update your NALS profile, too!)*



# DON'T GAMBLE WITH YOUR RECORD RETRIEVAL SERVICES

Happy Customers



On-Line Repository

Great Communication

Fast Turn Around

Go with the sure thing.

## blend

LITIGATION SUPPORT

Partnering with Law Firms throughout Texas

**BlendLit.com**

Rex@BlendLit.com

210-227-9500

**Ready to Double Down on Success?**

**Call Blend!**

We also offer E-Discovery, Hosted Review and traditional Copy/Scan/Print Services.



**KTA** KIM TINDALL & ASSOCIATES  
A MAGNA LEGAL SERVICES COMPANY

- COURT REPORTING
- VIRTUAL DEPOSITIONS
- RECORD RETRIEVAL
- TRIAL PRESENTATION
- VIDEO SERVICES
- LANGUAGE SERVICES
- JURY CONSULTING
- TRIAL GRAPHICS

Kim Tindall & Associates, a Magna Legal Services company, provides court reporting and end-to-end legal support services to law firms, corporations & governmental agencies throughout the nation.

- 3,500+ Court Reporters
- 500+ Employees
- 5,000+ Interpreters
- 40+ Litigation Consultants

www.KTandA.com  
866.672.7880

*A message from TALP Hugs Chair  
Tina Hurley, PP, PLS (Dallas ALP)*

*From all I've seen on social media, it's been a rough holiday and winter season for many of our TALP friends. I've heard of lots of illnesses, loss of loved ones, relationship losses, and loneliness for some.*

*Please feel free to reach out if you need a "virtual hug" or someone to just listen. As part of the TALP family, we are here to support each other in times of need.*

*Reach out...I'll be there for you.*

**Sending virtual Hug**



**Loading..**



## ETHICS QUESTION

### IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING?

*Submitted by Diane M. Stanley, RP, Houston ALP President*

When an attorney notices that another attorney's substance abuse issues may be affecting their ability to practice law, do the ethics rules require them to do anything about it?

#### THE SITUATION

Carl is a solo practitioner who decides to hire an associate, Sonia, to help with his caseload. Sonia is a recent law school graduate who is excited to work with and learn from Carl, a well-known litigator. Carl quickly begins to give her increasing responsibility, asking her to help cover hearings and meet with clients.

After a year, Sonia begins to observe increasingly erratic behavior by Carl, including working odd hours and disappearing without letting Sonia or their legal assistant know his whereabouts. She has had to step in for him at the last minute, including attending hearings where he was supposed to appear as lead counsel as well as handle client meetings he was supposed to attend.

Eventually, Sonia begins to suspect that Carl has a substance abuse problem. She has seen him sneaking drinks during office hours, and he often appears intoxicated after disappearing from the office during the day. To protect the clients' interests, she has had to remind him numerous times about hearings or deadlines that he has forgotten. She also finds that court papers he has prepared have numerous errors that she has had to correct before filing them.

Sonia has become increasingly concerned about Carl's fitness to practice law and knows that his clients are likely unaware of his substance abuse issues and his inability to handle their matters competently. She has been able to cover for him thus far so that no client's interests have been jeopardized, but she believes that she needs to take action. She is considering whether she should report Carl to either the Chief Disciplinary Counsel's office (CDC) or the Texas Lawyer's Assistance Program (TLAP).

#### THE QUESTION

Which of the following is the most accurate?

- A – Sonia must report Carl's behavior to CDC.
- B – Sonia must report Carl's behavior to TLAP.
- C – Sonia must report Carl's behavior to both CDC and TLAP.
- D – Sonia must report Carl's behavior to either CDC or TLAP.
- E – Sonia is not required to report to either CDC or TLAP because Sonia's corrective actions have thus far prevented any harm to the clients' interests.

#### THE EXPLANATION

**Rule 8.03(a)** of the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct states:

*Except as permitted in paragraphs (c) or (d), a lawyer having knowledge that another lawyer has committed a violation of applicable rules of professional conduct that raises a substantial question as to that lawyer's honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects, shall inform the appropriate disciplinary authority.*

The initial question here, therefore, is whether Carl’s conduct raises a “substantial question” as to his fitness as a lawyer. Comment 2 to Rule 8.03 states that “[t]he term ‘substantial’ refers to the seriousness of the possible offense and not the quantum of evidence of which the lawyer is aware.” Generally speaking, the Rule does not obligate the reporting lawyer to be absolutely certain about either the misconduct of the other lawyer or the existence of a “fitness” issue; the Rule errs on the side of reporting where the conduct observed otherwise meets its threshold requirement. So what constitutes fitness to practice law? In Texas, lawyers must meet the threshold set forth in TDRPC [Rule 1.01](#), entitled “Competent and Diligent Representation,” which states in part:

*(b) In representing a client, a lawyer shall not:*

*(1) neglect a legal matter entrusted to the lawyer; or*

*(2) frequently fail to carry out completely the obligations that the lawyer owes to a client or clients.*

*(c) As used in this Rule neglect signifies inattentiveness involving a conscious disregard for the responsibilities owed to a client or clients.*

Carl’s behavior – which includes excessive alcohol use, forgetting about hearings and deadlines, and making substantive legal errors – is clearly sufficient to raise a “substantial question” about Carl’s “fitness as a lawyer.” Sonia must report Carl’s behavior.

So to whom is Sonia required to report Carl’s behavior? While Rule 8.03(a) requires her to “inform the appropriate disciplinary authority” – which in Texas is the [Chief Disciplinary Counsel’s Office](#) – that requirement is subject to the exceptions of Rule 8.03(c) which reads:

*(c) A lawyer having knowledge or suspecting that another lawyer or judge whose conduct the lawyer is required to report pursuant to paragraphs (a) or (b) of this Rule is impaired by chemical dependency on alcohol or drugs or by mental **illness may report that person to an approved peer assistance program rather than to an appropriate disciplinary authority.** If a lawyer elects that option, the lawyer's report to the approved peer assistance program shall disclose any disciplinary violations that the reporting lawyer would otherwise have to disclose to the authorities referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b).*

Many Texas lawyers are unaware that Rule 8.03(c) provides a narrow but significant exception to the general obligation to report misconduct to the CDC when the case involves chemical dependency or mental illness. In these cases, Rule 8.03(c) permits the reporting lawyer to report the lawyer’s action to “an approved peer assistance program rather than to an appropriate disciplinary authority.” The [Texas Lawyer’s Assistance Program](#) is the approved peer assistance program pursuant to this Rule. Therefore, Rule 8.03(c) allows Sonia to choose between CDC and TLAP when fulfilling her duty to report Carl’s conduct, which clearly implicates substance abuse. The correct response is D.

**NOTE:** The State Bar of Texas created The Texas Lawyer’s Assistance Program (TLAP) in 1989 to provide attorneys help with substance abuse and mental health issues. Texas attorneys can contact TLAP 24/7 to seek help for themselves or to attempt to get help for a colleague. By law, all calls are completely confidential. To reach TLAP, call 800-343-TLAP (8527) or text TLAP to 555888.

Upon receiving information regarding a colleague, if appropriate, TLAP will confidentially reach out to the attorney in question directly or by means of a trained local volunteer attorney familiar with the problem faced by the attorney in need. TLAP helps connect lawyers in need to professional care, funding for such care, peer support, and group support. The identity of any attorney who calls TLAP regarding a colleague will not be revealed to anyone, and all callers can remain anonymous.

# 10 Top Skills for Leading and Managing Paralegals

*Submitted by Michelle McDaniel, President  
Author Unknown*

Paralegal managers are expected to lead their teams effectively in a high-pressure environment that has little room for error. Law firms rely on their paralegal managers to streamline work efficiently and cost-effectively, implement training, create and adhere to budgets, and generate revenue.

As a paralegal manager, it isn't enough to have management ability. You also need to be a leader, mentor, coach, financial analyst, and educator. Building and maintaining a successful paralegal team requires strong leadership skills.

By definition, a leader is a person who influences a group of people to achieve a goal. Let's examine the top leadership skills needed to be successful as a paralegal manager.

## Analyzing Leadership

A common misconception is that "leaders are born, not made." Anyone who has ever managed a team of paralegals can attest to the fact that they developed their leadership skills through education, training, experience, and trial and error. The art of leadership varies from the role of management, according to the *Wall Street Journal Guide to Management*, in that a leader is expected to inspire and guide others, while managers command and instruct. The paralegal manager needs to be able to do both, and it's worth taking a step back periodically to evaluate your strengths in the different skill areas.

## Leadership Skills

- ***Building a Team***  
Building a team requires development of common values and team goals. You need to be able to foster a shared vision for the law firm, and a [commitment to excellence and trust in the processes and co-workers](#). A leader supports the development of workplace relationships within the team, and encourages solutions to resolve conflicts when they arise. Fine-tune your listening skills to be able to hear what your paralegals are saying and understand the message they are delivering. Use a collaborative team approach to tasks and you'll gain the respect and support of your staff. Be transparent in order to avoid the perception of subjectivity.
- ***Motivation***  
Few qualified paralegals enjoy being micro-managed. Motivation of team members is a required attribute of leadership, encompassing the ability to serve as an example, inspire others, and lead with confidence. Treating your paralegals as respected equals, delegating responsibilities to them, and being prepared to listen to their ideas are among the strongest motivators in a successful team. You also need to challenge the paralegals with opportunities to develop their skills and abilities and to encourage a positive attitude toward the work and colleagues. Praise your paralegals when they do well, recognize their hard work, and be willing to correct misunderstandings. Roll up your sleeves and

help out in the trenches. This will prove your commitment and understanding to the team!

- ***Problem Solving Abilities***

The ability to resolve problems depends largely on having the confidence to make and follow through with tough decisions and implement difficult measures. As paralegal manager, you are [responsible for finding solutions to problems](#) ranging from increases in workload, resource difficulties, ethical issues, and personality clashes to financial challenges. Being able to see the big picture is an important leadership trait so you can predict the results of any actions taken in response to problems and challenges.

- ***Mentoring and Coaching***

As paralegal manager, you are responsible for the career development of paralegals and support staff reporting to you. In order to meet the needs of the lawyers and their clients, it is your responsibility to assist the paralegals in planning their careers and to develop the team with the substantive skills and professional competencies to bring value to the law firm and its clients. As a mentor, you lead by example and provide learning experiences to the paralegals. As a coach, there will be times when you need to manage work-life conflicts, intervene in issues relating to personal decisions, and occasionally work with team members to revisit their goals and objectives to improve their work performance. The secret to successful coaching and mentoring is the marrying of the welfare of the firm with the progress and success of the individual paralegal.

- ***Negotiation Skills***

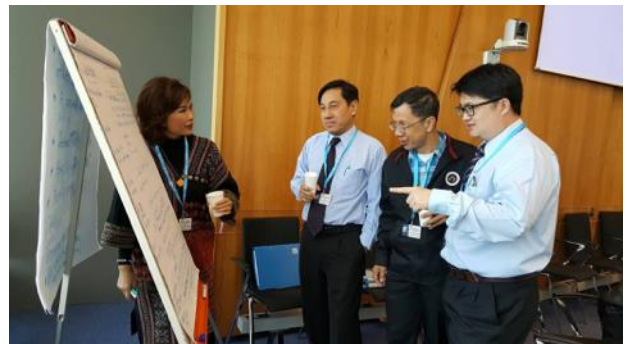
The ability to negotiate develops from knowing when you have the upper hand and when you need to compromise. This applies to your dealings with your paralegal team members, internal administration persons, and with external parties. Your team needs to know you are capable of negotiating successfully around issues such as workload, performance issues, and expectations. You are the paralegal advocate as well as part of the administration team of the law firm. It is sometimes a difficult balance.

- ***Staff Recruitment***

Building an effective paralegal team starts with the recruitment of the right personnel. Strong leaders tend to employ persons they believe will complement their abilities, rather than duplicating them, while weak leaders prefer to surround themselves with people they “understand” and can dominate. Studies have found that the most successful managers didn’t succeed from their motivational skills, but from teaching workers how to be more productive. i.e. capability building. Consistent productivity and value creation comes from how well leaders manage their best people.

- ***Professional Development***

Paralegal managers not only need to create professional development plans for their team, but also need to ensure that their skills are constantly updated and fine-tuned. Attending seminars, workshops, training programs, and reading are important. Equally as important is participating in leadership/management



associations to keep abreast of what other successful leaders are doing and the trends and changes in the applicable industry. Set annual goals for your professional development and monitor your progress and success.

- ***Organizational Ability***

Being able to organize effectively is a vital skill for paralegal managers. As the custodians of the law firm's paralegal workload and profitability, the law firm clients and your team members need to be able to rely on you to delegate appropriately. To be successful, you must be able to prioritize work, plan for projects, and allocate resources to enable the team to function optimally. At the same time, you are also organizing your time for budgeting, monitoring work, performance reviews, technology updates, reports, etc. A successful leader will use technology, systems, and processes to stay organized and manage responsibilities.

- ***Financial Oversight***

Budgeting and managing the costs and revenue generation of your department is paramount to your success as both a paralegal manager and a leader. Not only must you be able to compile and adhere to a budget, but you must also have the financial acumen to shift focus when you encounter a good financial opportunity. Whether it's savings on current services and vendors, recovery of costs, or an opportunity to increase revenue, the ability to maneuver within the constraints of your budget can make a difference to the firm's short-term and long-term profit and client satisfaction.



- ***Performance Evaluation***

Evaluating the performance of your paralegal team members is one of the cornerstones of management responsibilities. As an effective leader, you will inform yourself of industry practices and compensation models to ensure your firm is competitive. In addition, you need to have comprehensive job descriptions for your paralegals and clear guidelines of expectations to meet client satisfaction and career growth. Both the law firm and the paralegal team are depending on you to be a leader in this area. Accurate assessment and compensation are reliant on your management skills. It is also important to regularly give your paralegals feedback on their performance throughout the year. Communicate successes and required improvements regularly with an objective approach.

Paralegal managers are under pressure to build high-performing paralegal teams that can deliver efficient and cost-effective paralegal services while adhering to revenue expectations and budgets. Managers with top leadership skills will secure the elite positions, high salaries, challenging careers, and self-satisfaction.

# Texas Association of Legal Professionals

## 2023-2024 Membership Campaign

May 1, 2023-March 31, 2024

(Official Tally Sheet Submission Deadline: March 31, 2024)

---

### MEMBER CAMPAIGN

2 Footprints

- Each new individual or student member recruited
- Each new member reclaimed
- Each CLE article obtained for and published in The Texas Docket

5 BONUS FOOTPRINTS

- Each CLE article written for and published in The Texas Docket
- Participation in a mentoring program for members

20 SUPER BONUS FOOTPRINTS

- Each new advertiser obtained for The Texas Docket

### CHAPTER CAMPAIGN

2 Footprints

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

5 BONUS FOOTPRINTS

- 100% retention of chapter members
- Each chapter brag published in The Texas Docket

20 SUPER BONUS FOOTPRINTS

- Each new advertiser obtained for The Texas Docket



*Texas Association of Legal Professionals*  
*2023-2024 Membership Campaign*

**Official Rules and Tally Sheet**  
**Reporting Period: May 1, 2023, Through March 31, 2024**  
**Submission Deadline: March 31, 2023**

**RULES**

The **Official Tally Sheet** (below) must be received by e-mail by Membership Chair Dee Martinez ([dmartinez@edwardsfirm.com](mailto:dmartinez@edwardsfirm.com)), By 5:00 p.m. Central on the submission deadline date.

**Eligibility to Participate in Campaign:** All full TALP members (Individual, Retired, Students) are eligible. Members of the TALP Executive Committee and members of the Membership Committee are not eligible.

**Participation:** The reporting member or chapter must submit the Official Tally Sheet to the Membership Chair in order to claim campaign points. The total campaign tally will be certified by the TALP Parliamentarian, who will have the final word on the matter.

**CHAPTER CAMPAIGN**

**REPORTING CHAPTER:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Space may be increased using Word document)

<b>New Individual or New Student Member Recruited</b>	
Name:	Joined Date:
Name:	Joined Date:
Name:	Joined Date:
<b>Past Member Reclaimed</b>	
Name:	Rejoined Date:
Name:	Rejoined Date:
Name:	Rejoined Date:
<b>Membership Drives Held</b>	
Location:	Date:
Location:	Date:
Location:	Date:
<b>Individual Nominated for LPY</b>	
Name:	Date:
<b>Chapter Member Retention</b>	
Official TALP Count on 5/1/2023:	Official TALP Count on 3/31/2024:
<b>Chapter Brags Published</b>	
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Title:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
<b>New Docket Advertiser Obtained</b>	
Advertiser:	Published in Docket Issue No.:
Advertiser:	Published in Docket Issue No.:



# CERTIFICATION NEWS!

News from Texas ALP  
Carol R. Gutierrez, PLS

Remember, Rule 3 requires you to email me at [cgut@scotthulse.com](mailto:cgut@scotthulse.com) if you want to be included in that drawing. The Official Rules are attached for your convenience and may also be found on the Texas ALP website.

## Certification Campaign Texas ALP (2023-24)

### OFFICIAL RULES

---

Every member will have three (3) opportunities to earn \$50 as follows:

1. May 1-September 1, 2023 - Each member who renews a certification or obtains a new certification during this time period will be entered into a drawing for \$50.
2. September 2, 2023-April 1, 2024 - Each member who renews a certification or obtains a new certification during this time period will be entered into a drawing for \$50.
3. Every member who holds a certification through April 1, 2024, will be entered into another \$50 drawing under the following conditions (you MUST email me at [cgut@scotthulse.com](mailto:cgut@scotthulse.com) by April 1, 2024, stating that you want to be included in this drawing):
  - a. Each person will receive entry into the drawing as follows:
    - i. If you have been certified for more than 20 years, you will receive 3 (three) additional entries into the drawing.
    - ii. If you have been certified for more than 10 years, but less than 20 years, you will receive 2 (two) additional entries into the drawing.
    - iii. If you have been certified less than 10 years, you will receive 1 (one) additional entry into the drawing.

visit [www.nals.org](http://www.nals.org)

for more information on certification exams,  
mock exams, fees, study materials, and many other details



San Antonio LSA received its Charter on June 7, 1957

**Note from the Editor:**

Have you read an article you think other members might be interested in reading?  
If so, you can share it for others to read in *The Texas Docket*.

Feel free to e-mail the article to me at [lgentry@hkwwlaw.com](mailto:lgentry@hkwwlaw.com)

**Local Associations,  
please send your brags!**

**What do you want *The Docket* to look like?**

**What articles do you read? (If any?)**

**What's your favorite thing to see?**

**What do you skip?**

**Be honest! We want this newsletter to be what you want and need!**

**Please advise the Editor or your TALP officers!**

# Happy Anniversary!

\*MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL MONTH

## — April\* —

Julie A. Abernathy, PP, PLS (member since 1975)  
Monica Acuna (member since 2010)  
Barbara S. Akins, PLS (member since 1960)  
Theresa Ann Alba, PLS (member since 1990)  
Rita C. Alesi, PP, PLS, TSC-CL (member since 1988)  
Brandi Bassett (member since 2023)  
Kathie Jean Capeheart, PP, PLS (member since 1987)  
Kimberly L. Culpepper, PLS, TSC (member since 1982)  
David A. DeFranco, PLS (member since 1986)  
Donna K. Dendy, PP, CLP, CP, TSC-Re (member since 1976)  
Lawrence Dike (member since 2023)  
Greta B. Duran, CLP (member since 2004)  
Patricia T. Heaney, PLS (member since 1994)

Joyce E. Look, PLS (member since 1969)  
Diana M. Martinez (member since 1987)  
Thelma A. Martinez, PP, PLS (member since 2001)  
Marty S. Olson, PP, PLS, TSC-RE (member since 1974)  
Faynell Poe, PP, PLS (member since 1989)  
Laura L. Rogers, PLS (member since 2007)  
Terri-Lynne Schofield, PLS (member since 1988)  
Diane M. Stanley, RP (member since 2008)  
Barbara Sucsy, PLS (member since 1978)  
Alyssa Sylva (member since 2023)  
Kristy R. Turner, PP, PLS, CP (member since 1999)  
Elizabeth G. Wells, PP, PLS (member since 1994)  
Helene L. Wood, PP, PLS, TSC-RE (member since 1992)

## — May\* —

Naomi D. Alexander (member since 2023)  
Jennifer Alonso (member since 2021)  
Brittany Calderon (member since 2023)  
Tony Calderon (member since 2023)  
Marie Elliott (member since 2023)  
Lydia Garcia (member since 2023)  
David Gutierrez (member since 2023)  
Krystal Gutierrez (member since 2023)  
Sondra Heugatter, PP, PLS, TSC-CL/RE (member since 1970)  
Sylvia Juarez (member since 2000)  
Monica Lara (member since 2023)  
Chloe Laroche (member since 2023)  
Daniela Martinez (member since 2023)

MaryAnn McCarn (member since 2023)  
Corina Mercier, PP, PLS-SC (member since 2009)  
Krystin N. Miller (member since 2011)  
Susan E. Moore, PLS (member since 1991)  
Laura L. Powers, CLP, CP (member since 2018)  
Shanna Rice (member since 2023)  
Ronnie Salinas (member since 2023)  
Araceli Sepulveda (member since 2023)  
LeAnn D. Shelton (member since 2022)  
Janalle Silva (member since 2023)  
Viviana Vega (member since 2023)  
Cheryl A. Wenzel, PP, PLS (member since 1998)  
Carolyn Wilkinson (member since 2019)  
Erika Zuniga (member since 2023)

## — June\* —

Suzanne H. Beatty, PP, PLS (member since 2010)  
Stephanie Brooks (member since 2022)  
Maria Carlson, PLS (member since 2012)  
Aurora (Rory) Cavazos, PLS, CLA, CPS (member since 2005)  
Thelma Ferry (member since 2007)

Jonathan Gross (member since 2023)  
Sonja Robinson (member since 2023)  
Diane G. Saucedo (member since 2017)  
Lida Vega, PP, PLS (member since 2004)  
Barbara L. Wojak, PP, PLS (member since 2012)

*Congratulations, Everyone!*

*With Special Kudos to Barbara Akins on her 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with NALS*

*For further membership information, contact:*

Diana M. Martinez | Membership Chair | [dmartinez@edwardsfirm.com](mailto:dmartinez@edwardsfirm.com)

# Welcome, New Members!

2023-2024

*Naomi D'anne Alexander*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 5/12/2023

*Courtney Alvarez*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 8/29/2023

*Cassidy Bass*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Student | 3/8/2023

*Brandi Bassett*  
Member at Large | Student | 4/18/2023

*Lori Betus*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 8/4/2023

*Melanie Anne Bolton*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/27/2023

*Deanna Gunn Borrer*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Brittany Calderon*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 6/26/2023

*Tony Calderon*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 6/27/2023

*Lisa Caldwell*  
Dallas ALP | Individual | 7/12/2023

*M Carmen Cindo*  
Dallas ALP | Individual | 7/14/2023

*Megan Dawes*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Lawrence Dike*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Student | 4/4/2023

*Madison Dimas-Ferriola*  
Dallas ALP | Student | 11/4/2023

*Maria Elliott*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Student | 5/18/2023

*Melissa Espinoza*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 7/28/2023

*Rebecca Farias*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Student | 3/1/2023

*Esmeralda Fierro*  
El Paso ALP | Individual | 11/22/2023

*Felisa Frias*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Lydia Garcia*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 5/12/2023

*Dawna Garza*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Zenaida Guerrero*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 8/29/2023

*David Gutierrez*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 5/12/2023

*Krystal Gutierrez*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 5/12/2023

*Brittini Hall*  
Waco LPA | Individual | 9/25/2023

*Samantha Hall*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Sylvia Hawthorne*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/12/2023

*Cynthia Hernandez*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 10/27/2023

*Nancy Hurt*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Cecilia Ibarra-Martinez*  
San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Beth Jones*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 2/29/2024

*Kayla Kelley*  
Waco LPA | Individual | 7/12/2023

*Natalie Klein*  
Houston ALP | Individual | 3/20/2023

*Monica Lara*  
El Paso ALP | Individual | 5/18/2023

*Chloe Laroche*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Student | 5/8/2023

*Robyn Lee*  
Lubbock LPA | Individual | 12/13/2023

*Rachel Linder*  
Austin LPA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Frances Lopez*  
Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 9/8/2023

*Tracey L. Loyd*

Dallas ALP | Individual | 2/15/2024

*Amanda Mahaffey*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 7/28/2023

*Daniela Martinez*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 6/29/2023

*MaryAnn McCarn*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 5/31/2023

*María Luisa Morales*

Austin LPA | Individual | 10/23/2023

*Chelsea Nunes*

Houston ALP | Individual | 8/10/2023

*Lori Rice*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 2/29/2024

*Shanna Rice*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 5/15/2023

*Sonja Robinson*

Houston ALP | Individual | 6/28/2023

*Helena Rodriguez*

San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/25/2023

*Ronnie Salinas*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 5/15/2023

*Araceli Sepulveda*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 8/7/2023

*Janalle Silva*

Waco LPA | Individual | 5/17/2023

*Stephanie K. Soria*

San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Alyssa Sylva*

Corpus Christi ALP | Student | 4/12/2023

*Anna Thomas*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 7/7/2023

*Adriana Valenzuela*

Member at Large | Individual | 9/24/2023

*Viviana Vega*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 5/25/2023

*Edith Vela*

San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/17/2023

*Cathy Ann Villalobos*

San Antonio LSA | Individual | 7/11/2023

*Leequita Washington*

Dallas ALP | Individual | 7/14/2023

*Jennifer Whitener*

San Antonio LSA | Individual | 8/11/2023

*Kya Wight*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 10/27/2023

*Alana Wood*

Houston ALP | Individual | 1/22/2024

*Loretta Ybarbo*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 8/31/2023

*Erika Zapata*

Lubbock LPA | Individual | 10/11/2023

*Erika Zuniga*

Corpus Christi ALP | Individual | 7/27/2023

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

*Jonathan Gross (FTI Consulting)*

Houston ALP | Associate | 6/5/2023

*Ileia Perry (Steno)*

Dallas ALP | Associate | 2/14/2024



*... Following in the footsteps of Texas ALP ...*

# Happy Birthday!

## *April*



- 1—Araceli Sepulveda
- 1—Lida Vega, PP, PLS
- 6—Katrina M. Smith
- 7—Kristy R. Turner, PP, PLS, CP, TSC-CL/RE
- 9—Naoma J. Zoller, PLS
- 11—Denise Castro
- 11—Andrea Saenz
- 13—David Gutierrez
- 16—Cassidy Bass
- 16—Patricia T. Heaney, PLS
- 17—Lydia Garcia
- 17—Diane M. Stanley, RP
- 21—Erika Zapata
- 22—Helene L. Wood, PP, PLS, TSC-RE
- 23—Cathy Ann Villalobos
- 24—Kayla Kelley
- 24—Jaci Roberts

## *May*



- 2—Jose Berruete
- 2—Daniela Martinez
- 5—Brittany Calderon

- 7—Michelle McDaniel
- 8—Michelle M. Silvas
- 9—Elizabeth L'Esperance, CP
- 10—Christina Mendoza
- 11—Barbara Sucsy, PLS
- 14—Miriam Garcia
- 16—Jonathan Gross
- 19—Sofia Hardin
- 21—Tony Calderon
- 27—Scotti Beam, PP

## *June*



- 3—Millie Weiss
- 3—Kya Wight
- 6—Barbara S. Akins, PLS
- 7—Alyssa Sylva
- 9—William J. Kesman
- 10—Joyce E. Look, PLS
- 12—Naomi D'anne Alexander
- 13—Patricia M. Nuhn, PLS
- 15—Emily Folsom
- 24—Nichole Price
- 30—Tina Hurley, PP, PLS



# The Bar

## Lemon Blueberry Daiquiri

Ingredients:

Lemon Blueberry Syrup:

½ cup sugar

½ cup water

1 cup fresh or frozen blueberries

Zest of 1 medium lemon



In a medium saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar and water and stir until sugar has dissolved. Add blueberries and bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until blueberries have burst (about 5 minutes). Remove from heat, stir in lemon zest and let cool 10 minutes. Strain mixture into a clear jar and let cool to room temperature (about 20 minutes) There will be enough syrup for at least 4 drinks.

Ice

2 oz. light rum

1 oz. freshly squeezed lemon juice

¾ oz. prepared simple syrup

Garnish with fresh blueberries and lemon peel

Fill a shaker with ice. Add rum, lemon juice, and simple syrup and shake until chilled. Strain into a chilled cup and serve garnished with blueberries and a lemon peel.

## Strawberry Daiquiri

Ingredients:

4 oz. light rum

½ cup fresh strawberries, chopped, plus more for garnish

1 10-oz. bag frozen strawberries, chopped

Juice of 1 lime

Sliced lime for garnish

Add to a blender, rum, fresh and frozen strawberries and lime juice. Blend until smooth. Pour into two glasses and garnish with lime and whole strawberries.

## Black Russian Cocktail

Ingredients:

Ice

2 oz. vodka

1 oz. Kahlua or coffee liqueur

Orange slices, Maraschino cherry and/or orange bitters

Fill a large measuring glass with ice. Add vodka and Kahlua and stir with a bar spoon or other long handled spoon until mixture is chilled, about 30 seconds. Strain into ice filled rocks glass. Garnish with an orange slice, cherry and /or bitters.



## Texas ALP Member Spotlight

Sylvia Juarez

### About Me

Things I enjoy doing is volunteering, hanging out with friends and/or family and going to church. I started my legal career in the late eighties, never realizing I would be here now. Back when I started working as a receptionist at a law firm, I just needed a job as a single parent. After a couple of years, I became the bookkeeper for the firm, and then climbed up to Secretary/Legal Assistant and worked for the firm for 17 years. Then I went to work for the 237<sup>th</sup> District Court and am currently at the City Attorney's Office. Reflecting back to when I started working in the legal field, I have learned, I have made many friendships, met many great people. I am totally satisfied with my career.

In my personal life, I am the mom of Andrea and grandma to Zak and Mia, and in my words "the best MIL to Eric." I love taking pictures as you can see if you are my friend on Facebook. Smile, cause I'm taking your picture! I have been a member of LLPA since about 1989 and active with TALP for approximately the last 20 years. I currently serve as the TALP Fundraising Chair. I am involved with various organizations and I am either a member or a Board Member. This past year I finally got to complete two more things on my bucket list: a cruise and Jamaica!

Finally, I love making new friends. If you need a listening ear, call me.

### Contact Info

Here are all the ways you can contact me:

- [syl\\_juarez@hotmail.com](mailto:syl_juarez@hotmail.com)
- (806) 777-5149
- <https://www.facebook.com/syl.juarez>

### My favorites

Color:	Purple
Animal:	Hippo
Hobby:	Singing/Crafting
Food:	Pizza
Drink:	Beer/Chilton





## Texas ALP Member Spotlight

### Laura L. Powers, CLP, CP

Dallas Association of Legal Professionals, President  
TALP Professional Development Chair  
NALS New Member Welcoming Committee

### About Me

Laura is a native Texan. She has lived and worked in D.C. (where she met her husband of 37 years), MD, ME, CO & TN. She and her 3 sisters grew up in the childcare industry in Amarillo. She began her career as a legal secretary in Amarillo. Laura was an active member and officer of NALS of Amarillo for many years before moving to TN.

She has over 30 years of transactional law experience focusing on real estate, corporate, business acquisitions, banking, estate planning and probate. Laura is always willing to share information and help others. She has a cheerful attitude and greets each new day with a smile.

From 2009 to 2018, she and her husband, Terry, owned a country store in TN. She believes that this experience gives her a greater understanding of the business clients that she serves.

Laura received her CLP/PLS from NALS in 2002 and her CP from NALA 2003. She is a member of the Texas Bar Paralegal Division, NALS, TALP, and DALP. She loves being a real estate paralegal at Bellinger & Suberg in North Dallas.

Laura loves Jesus and attends First Baptist Church in Plano. They have 1 daughter and 3 teenage grandchildren who reside in Denton. Laura is also proud to be a Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultant representing the #1 Direct Selling brand of skin care and color cosmetics in the world.

### Contact Info

Here are all the ways you can contact me:

- [Laurapowers2465@gmail.com](mailto:Laurapowers2465@gmail.com)
- (931) 637-8521
- [facebook.com/laura.l.powers.1](https://facebook.com/laura.l.powers.1)
- Instagram @laurapowers2465
- [Marykay.com/laurapowers](https://Marykay.com/laurapowers)

### My favorites

- Color: Pink
- Animal: No favorite; but we have 2 fun-loving dachshunds
- Hobby: Used to be Camping;  
Now it is time with family
- Food: Broccoli
- Drink: Water

# FOOTPRINTS LEFT IN THE SAND!

**Individuals  
Local Associations  
TALP  
NALS**

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



**Share your local association news!  
Just send your stories and brags to  
[lgentry@hkwwlaw.com](mailto:lgentry@hkwwlaw.com)**

# AUSTIN LLPA

## FILING FEES CHANGE


A professional tip from Theresa Ann Alba, PLS is to always check with the Clerks for filing fees. They are subject to change and many District/County Clerks have changed fees. For example, see the page from Travis County.

### TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK FILING FEES/COURT COSTS EFFECTIVE 01/01/2024\*

<u>CIVIL SUITS:</u>		<u>FAMILY SUITS:</u>	
<u>FILING FEES</u>	<u>Civil</u>	<u>FILING FEES</u>	<u>Family</u>
Clerk's Basic Filing Fee	\$50.00	Clerk's Basic Filing Fee	\$50.00
Law Library Fee	\$35.00	Law Library Fee	\$35.00
Records Preservation/Management Fee	\$30.00	Records Preservation/Management Fee	\$30.00
General Court Reporter Fee	\$25.00	General Court Reporter Fee	\$25.00
Courthouse Security fund	\$20.00	Courthouse Security fund	\$20.00
Court Facility fund	\$20.00	Court Facility fund	\$20.00
Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Fee	\$15.00	Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Fee	\$15.00
County Jury Fund	\$10.00	County Jury Fund	\$10.00
Appellate Judicial System Fee	\$ 5.00	Appellate Judicial System Fee	\$ 5.00
Language Access Fund	\$ 3.00	Language Access Fund	\$ 3.00
Local Consolidated Fee	\$213.00	Local Consolidated Fee	\$213.00
State Consolidated Fee	\$137.00	State Consolidated Fee	\$137.00
<b>TOTAL BASE FEE</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>	<b>TOTAL BASE FEE</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>
 <b><u>EXPUNCTION</u></b>		 <b><u>DIVORCE/ANNULMENT/VOID MARRIAGE</u></b>	
Base Filing Fee	\$350.00	Base Filing Fee (with/without children)	\$350.00
Notices (charge per agency)	\$12.00	DRO Operation Fund (with children only)	\$15.00
<i>No fee assessed on a petition filed within 30 days of an acquittal Code of Criminal Procedure Chapter 55</i>			
 <b><u>ESSENTIAL NEEDS DRIVERS LICENSE (Occupational)</u></b>		 <b><u>PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP (SAPCR'S)</u></b>	
Base filing Fee	\$350.00	Base Filing Fee	\$350.00
		DRO Operational Fund	\$15.00
 <b><u>PETITION FOR NON-DISCLOSURE</u></b>		 <b><u>ADOPTIONS &amp; TERMINATIONS</u></b>	
Base Filing Fee	\$350.00	Base Filing Fee	\$350.00
Criminal Order (Automatic MISD)	\$28.00	DRO Operational Fund	\$15.00
 <b><u>TAX SUITS</u></b>		 <b><u>PROTECTIVE ORDERS-Paid by Respondent</u></b>	
Base Filing Fee	\$350.00	Base Filing Fee	\$350.00
 <b><u>JUDGMENT NISI</u></b>		 <b><u>CPS CASE-No fees charged to state agency</u></b>	
Base Filing Fee	\$350.00	Base Filing Fee	\$350.00
<i>See AG OP GA-0486</i>			
 <b><u>FRAUDULENT LIEN</u></b>		 <b><u>UIFSA/NAME CHANGE/REMOVAL OF DISABILITIES</u></b>	
Base Filing Fee	\$350.00	Base Filing Fee	\$350.00

Roll the Dice  with LLPA

Lubbock Legal Professionals Association  
2023-2024 Bosses' Night!



Friday, April 12, 2023

MCM Elegante Hotel & Suites  
801 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Texas 79401  
5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.

Game play from 7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Presentation of Boss of the Year  
Legal Professional of the Year, and  
other Awards

R.S.V.P. with registration form and payment by: March 29, 2023

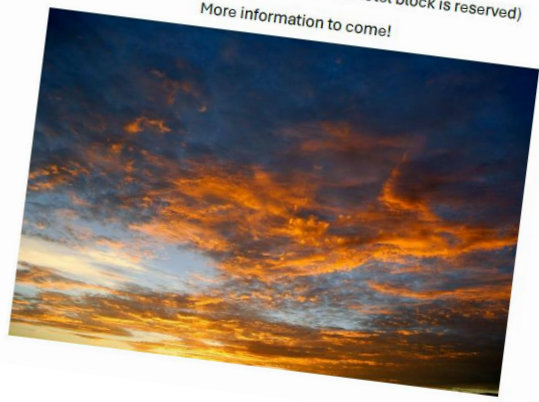
Social Hour 5:30 p.m.      Buffet Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Cash Bar and Casino Games all evening

**LOTS OF  
PLANNING  
GOING ON!**

**LET LUBBOCK DAZZLE YOU!  
SAVE THE DATE  
TALP FALL CONFERENCE**

September 21, 2024  
Lubbock, Texas  
Five Hours CLE  
via Zoom (or in person if you want—no hotel block is reserved)  
More information to come!



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Jerri Locknane  
on being elected  
TALP 2024-2025  
Treasurer**



**TEXAS ALP 69<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
EDUCATION  
CONFERENCE**  
*“Dazzled Determination”*  
**Waco, Texas, April 5-6, 2024**

TEXAS ALP 69<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Waco, Texas \* April 5-6, 2024

"Dazzled Determination"

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—MARCH 20, 2024

REGISTRATION FORM

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

Certifications

- ALP, CLA/CP, RP, PLS/CLP, ACP, SC, PP, TSC, Other

Local Chapter
Current Texas ALP Position Held
Current Local Position Held
Current NALS Position Held

- NALS Life Member, Texas ALP Past President, This is my first Texas ALP meeting, I want to be a Texas ALP PAL, Special dietary request

FULL REGISTRATION FEES

- NALS Member\* \$150, Texas ALP Chair \$100, Nonmember \$175, Student \$100

\*Per Standing Rule No. 22, members are required to pay the full registration fee.

INDIVIDUAL EVENT REGISTRATION FEES

- Education Only - Nonmember (no meals) \$100, Education Only - Student (no meals) \$75, Recognition Luncheon - Student/Nonmember \$25, Professional Development Luncheon-Student/Nonmember \$25, Presidents' Banquet (Saturday) \$50

MEMBER'S GUEST REGISTRATION

- Recognition Luncheon \$25, Professional Development Luncheon \$25, Presidents' Banquet (Saturday) \$50

GUEST NAME:

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Please mark each event you will attend)

Friday, April 5, 2024

- 9:00 am - 10:00 am Ethics (1.0 CLE), 10:15 am - 11:15 am Long-Term Care Planning (1.0 CLE), 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Professional Development Luncheon, 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm President-elect's Forum, 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm Open Forum, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Texas Rangers-Past and Present (1.0 CLE), 4:00 pm - 4:15 pm Credential Check-in, 4:15 pm - 6:00 pm Texas ALP Annual Board Meeting

Saturday, April 6, 2023

- 9:00 am - 10:00 am Patent Court & Procedures (1.0 CLE), 10:15 am - 11:15 am Storytelling of Jury Trials (1.0 CLE), 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Recognition Luncheon, 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm Appreciation of 2023-2024 TALP President, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm PI w/ Non-Visible Injuries (1.0 CLE), 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Special Needs Trust & ABLE Accts., 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm President's Reception, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Presidents' Banquet

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Total Amount Due: \$

Please make check payable to:

Waco LPA Special Meeting Account (Federal Tax ID No. 74-)

Notices: (1) A \$30 fee will be assessed for returned checks. (2) Refunds requested and confirmed in writing (less a \$25 processing fee) will be made until April 1, 2024.

Conference Chairs:

Emily Folsom 254.297.7300 • emf@pakislaw.com, Donna K. Dendy, PP, CLP 254.716.2632 • dkd@pakislaw.com

Mail registration form and payment to:

Mary Bullard, ACP Registration Chair 5 Lake Stone Court Woodway, Texas 76712 254.214.1128 • marybtalp@gmail.com

Hotel Reservations should be made directly with Holiday Inn Express & Suites Waco South, 5701 Legends Lake Parkway, Waco, TX 76712 (254.732.1028). To receive the discounted room rate of \$169 double/king (plus 17% tax). Quoted room rates are available until March 22, 2024.

**TEXAS ALP 69<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**  
**“Dazzled Determination”**  
**Waco, Texas, April 5-6, 2024**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday, April 5, 2024**

---

8:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Vendors
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Ethics – Pete Rusek, Esq., Sheehy, Lovelace & Mayfield (1.0 CLE)
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Long-Term Care Planning – Garrett Beach, Esq., The Zimmerman Law Firm (1.0 CLE)
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Professional Development Luncheon – TBD (1.0 PD)
1:15 pm – 1:45 pm	President-elect’s Forum (plus meeting of 2024-2025 Chairs)
1:45 pm – 2:15 pm	<i>Open Forum</i>
2:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Texas Rangers – Past and Present – Travis Dendy, Texas Ranger, Company B (1.0 CLE)
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Credentials Check-in
4:15 pm – 6:00 pm	Texas ALP Annual Board Meeting

**Saturday, April 6, 2024**

---

9:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Vendors
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Patent Court and Procedures – David N. Deaconson, Esq., Pakis, Giotes, Burleson & Deaconson, P.C. (1.0)
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Storytelling of Jury Trials – Elizabeth Fraley, Esq., Professor, Baylor Law School (1.0 CLE)
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Recognition Luncheon
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	Appreciation of 2023-2024 TALP President
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Personal Injury with Non-Visible Injuries – Jim Hering, Esq., Pakis, Giotes, Burleson & Deaconson, P.C. (1.0 CLE)
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Special Needs Trust and ABLE Accounts – Carlie C. Gause, Esq., Pakis, Giotes, Burleson & Deaconson, P.C. (1.0 CLE)
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	TALP Fundraising Raffle
5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	President’s Reception
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Presidents’ Banquet

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS**  
**69<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**  
**APRIL 5-6, 2024**

Waco LPA has been busy preparing for the TALP Annual Education Conference. Attached are the registration form and schedule of events.

The deadline for booking rooms at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites is **March 22**. Because Waco is in the path of the solar eclipse, hotel rooms are very rare. So, make your reservations ASAP.

Have you planned your "Great Gatsby" outfit for the Saturday night banquet? We can't wait to see all the different Gatsby attire for the evening. Hope you will join the fun!

If you have any questions concerning the upcoming conference, please contact me ([dkd@pakislaw.com](mailto:dkd@pakislaw.com)) or Emily Folsom ([cmf@pakislaw.com](mailto:cmf@pakislaw.com)).

The charity Waco LPA will be supporting is the 100 Club of Heart of Texas. See below. We hope you will participate in supporting this charity.

Donna K. Dendy, PP, CLP  
Emily Folsom  
Committee Co-Chairs

**CHARITY FOR THE 2024 ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**



Established in 2012, the 100 Club in the Heart of Texas is a citizen-based, non-profit organization that raises funds to help pay funeral expenses, relieve mortgage or other debt, and cover educational expenses for the family of first responders killed in the line of duty. The Club receives no government support, is non-political, and is entirely volunteer-driven. Surviving spouses and dependents of all paid, certified federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, firefighters, jailers and emergency medical responders working in McLennan County may receive benefits from the club. The 100 Club of Heart of Texas is part of a network of 100 Clubs established by citizens across the country to support our public servants. The idea of the 100 Club began in Detroit, Michigan, in 1952 after a local businessman was moved to action when a police officer was killed in the line of duty. The businessman wrote to 100 of his friends encouraging them to donate to a fund for the fallen officer's family to get them through this emotionally and financially trying time. The response was 100 percent.

The 100 Club Heart of Texas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your contribution may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.



Texas ALP  
Professional Development  
Luncheon  
Friday, April 5, 2024  
11:30 - 1:00

Do It

Courage

Resolve

Perseverance

---

I believe that success is  
achieved by ordinary  
people with extraordinary  
determination.

-Zig Ziglar-

Focus

Goals

**Texas ALP 2024**  
**69<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference**  
**FUNdraising Annual/Spring Raffle**  
**“DAZZLED DETERMINATION”**

*Support Texas ALP by donating any themed item for the raffle.*



**LET'S BE DETERMINED TO BE DAZZLED!**

**Jewelry – Cosmetics - Wine**  
**Cash - Gift Cards - Lottery Tickets**  
**Fun Spirits – Art – Any donation appreciated**

**Tickets may be purchased at the conference for \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.**

**All proceeds are for Texas ALP to support future conferences/educational opportunities.**  
**Nothing is possible without YOUR participation!**

Business Card Holder  
~~\$12~~ \$6



Price Reduced!

Logo Pin  
~~\$5~~ \$3  
Price Reduced!



Cell Phone Holder  
~~\$10~~ \$5  
Price Reduced!



Polo  
(Royal Blue)  
\$30



Tumbler  
(Navy)  
\$28



TALP LOGO items for sale!  
Prices Reduced for Quick Sale!!!  
FUNdrasing Committee

Sylvia Juarez  
[syl\\_juarez@hotmail.com](mailto:syl_juarez@hotmail.com)  
806-777-5149





## TALP FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Sylvia Juarez  
 c/o Lubbock LPA  
 PO Box 65434  
 Lubbock, Texas 79464

(806) 777-5149  
[svf\\_juarez@hotmail.com](mailto:svf_juarez@hotmail.com)

### ORDER FORM

Submitted by	
Phone	
Email	
Address	
City / State / Zip	

Checks payable to: **Texas ALP**

Item	Description	Size	Color	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
TALP Tumbler	Insulated Hot/Cold Tumbler	17 oz.	Navy		\$28.00	
Logo Pins	TALP Logo <b>Reduced Price</b>		Blue/Gold		\$3.00	
Business Card Holder	TALP Card Holder <b>Reduced Price</b>		Silver		\$6.00	
Cell Phone Holder	Cell Phone Holder <b>Reduced Price</b>		Silver		\$5.00	
Polo	TALP Logo Polo (S, M, L)		Royal Blue		\$30.00	
Polo	TALP Logo Polo (XL, 2x, 3x)		Royal Blue		\$30.00	
Shipping	Flat Rate			1	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>Grand Total:</b>						\$

Orders will be filled and shipped based on **first come first serve basis.**

**Polo shirts are limited in sizes:** Small, Medium, Large, XL, 2X and 3X – If you want to **order and pay ahead to reserve** your polo, you may do so by completing the form with payment by 3/29/2024. I will pull your order and will bring it to the conference at Waco, TX. **No shipping charge if order is paid and received by 3/29/2024, and delivered to you at Waco.**



# The Texas Docket

## Advertising Rates

*The Texas Docket* is the official publication of the Texas Association of Legal Professionals and is published quarterly each year as a service to the legal profession. Publication dates are July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1, with submission deadlines being May 1, August 1, November 1, and February 1. *The Texas Docket* is distributed electronically to its statewide network of members, subscribers, and others. Vendors who work in the legal field are welcome and encouraged to advertise in *The Texas Docket*.

<u>Ad Options</u>	<u>Ad Rates</u>	
Full page (9" h x 7" w)	<u>Annual</u>	<u>One Issue</u>
Half Page Horizontal (4.5" h x 7" w)	Full = \$100	Full = \$50
Quarter Page Vertical (4.5" h x 3.25" w)	Half = \$75	Half = \$35
	Quarter = \$50	Quarter = \$20

## ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

_____ Company Name	_____ Ad Selection	
_____ Billing Address	_____ Signature	_____ Date
_____ Phone	_____ Printed Name	

**Send order form, camera-ready advertisement, and payment to:**

Lola Smith-Gentry, ACP  
PO Box 94074  
Lubbock, Texas 79493

*Your advertisement can be e-mailed in a graphic format to [lgentry@hkwwlaw.com](mailto:lgentry@hkwwlaw.com).*

**For more information, contact:**

Lola Smith-Gentry, ACP  
806.632.7464 • [lgentry@hkwwlaw.com](mailto:lgentry@hkwwlaw.com)

# TEXAS ALP **2023-2024** ROSTER OF OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Chartered July 27, 1956



---

## Executive Committee

---

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Michelle McDaniel (Corpus Christi ALP)
<b>PRESIDENT-ELECT</b>	Laura DeLeon (Waco LPA)
<b>TREASURER</b>	Theresa Ann Alba, PLS (Austin LPA)
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Jerri Locknane, CLP (Lubbock LPA)
<b>PARLIAMENTARIAN</b>	Andrea D. Griffin, PP, PLS (Member at Large)

---

## Standing Committees

---

<b>ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Cochairs)</b>	Donna K. Dendy, PP, CLP, TSC-RE (Waco LPA) Emily Folsom (Waco LPA)
<b>AWARDS</b>	Sharon Heinaman (Corpus Christi ALP)
<b>BYLAWS/STANDING RULES</b>	Patricia M. Nuhn, PLS (Austin LPA)
<b>CERTIFICATION</b>	Carol R. Gutierrez, PLS (El Paso ALP)
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	Helene L. Wood, PP, PLS, TSC-RE (Houston ALP)
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Marty S. Olson, PP, PLS, TSC-RE (Houston ALP)
<b>FALL EDUCATION CONFERENCE</b>	Cheryl A. Wenzel, PP, PLS (San Antonio LSA)
<b>FINANCIAL REVIEW</b>	Aurora (Rory) Cavazos, PLS, CLA, CPS (San Antonio LSA)
<b>FUNDRAISING</b>	Sylvia Juarez (Lubbock LPA)
<b>MARKETING</b>	Rachel Scott (El Paso ALP)
<b>MEETINGS COORDINATOR</b>	Donna K. Dendy, PP, CLP, TSC-RE (Waco LPA)
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	Diana (Dee) Martinez (Corpus Christi ALP)
<b>NOMINATIONS &amp; ELECTIONS</b>	Emily Folsom (Waco LPA)
<b>PLANNING</b>	Faynell Poe, PP, PLS (El Paso ALP)
<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	Laura L. Powers, CP (Dallas ALP)
<b>THE TEXAS DOCKET</b>	Lola J. Smith-Gentry, ACP (Lubbock LPA)
<b>WEBMASTER</b>	Rachel Scott (El Paso ALP)

---

## Special Committee

---

<b>TALP HUGS</b>	Tina D. Hurley, PP, CLP (Dallas ALP)
------------------	--------------------------------------

---