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PROFESSIONAL BULLETIN  
FOR THE  
BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
**PARALEGALS**



## TAPA REPORT AND PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Esther Stoneburner and I took a road trip to Texarkana, Texas for the annual conference of Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations. Esther and I enjoyed being on the road together and having a chance to get to know each other better. We had a blast just talking about things like our families, our interests, and the perils of being paralegals in Bell County.

Friday morning we enjoyed a nice breakfast after we checked in with Marilyn McCulloch, President of Texarkana Association of Legal Assistants (TALA). TALA sponsored the entire the conference. It was great to put a face to the person I had been emailing since January about the conference.

We heard from an array of speakers regarding Technology in the Law Office; Qualifying for Medicaid for Long Term Care; Being an Expert on Expert Witnesses; Nursing Home Litigation; The Role of the Paralegal in the Municipal System; Civil Procedure and Deadlines; and Getting Evidence Admitted with Affidavits.

My favorite speaker was Mr. Rick Lindsey who spoke on Being an Expert on Expert Witnesses. Mr. Lindsey was personable and informative. He pointed out that most experts that you contact and/or retain are not knowledgeable of our legalese. He suggested that either the attorney or the paralegal take the time to discuss with them the terms (i.e., curriculum vitae) and what is expected of them in regards to their work product. Communication was his biggest suggestion. He also stated that experts may not care who wins a case, but they are curious as to who does win and whether or not their testimony was beneficial to your case. Communicate with them at length.

Continued on page 3.

### STATISTICS:

- Membership - 74 Members
- Treasurer Report as of March 19, 2009 \$5803.01

[Minutes of General Membership Meeting...Page 7](#)

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### FEATURED ARTICLE:

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"Paralegal Conference rare for Texarkana"

[Front page article of the Texarkana Gazette about TAPA](#)

**BOARD MEETINGS** will be held at Fuddrucker's in Killeen from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:**

**MAY 14, 2009**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** are held in Judge Mischian's courtroom from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

**NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:**

**MAY 21, 2009**

## BCBA PARALEGALS

'08-'09 OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** – Brenda Colvin

**VICE PRESIDENT** – Sherry Gonzalez

**SECRETARY** – Cindi Evetts

**TREASURER** – Rene Murray

**PARLIAMENTARIAN** – Susie Ivy

**COMMITTEE LIAISON** – Billie Sue Scales

**HISTORIAN** – Pat Simecek

[bcba\\_lad@yahoo.com](mailto:bcba_lad@yahoo.com)

The Bell County Young Lawyers Association has scheduled Saturday, MAY 16 to work at a Habitat for Humanity home in Belton. All members of the Bell County Bar Association, Young Lawyers, and BCBA Paralegals are invited to come out and help on this project. If you can swing a hammer or slap on some paint, please make plans to come out & help!!! Please email John Gauntt, Jr., [john.gauntt@co.bell.tx.us](mailto:john.gauntt@co.bell.tx.us) or call him at 933-5375 or 933-5376 for more information on this project.



## MT. VERNON TEXAS BAR SUES BAPTIST CHURCH

In a small Texas town, (Mt. Vernon) Drummond's bar began construction on a new building to increase their business. The local Baptist church started a campaign to block the bar from opening with petitions and prayers. Work progressed right up till the week before opening when lightning struck the bar and it burned to the ground.

The church folks were rather smug in their outlook after that, until the bar owner sued the church on the grounds that the church was ultimately responsible for the demise of his building, either through direct or indirect actions or means. The church vehemently denied all responsibility or any connection to the building's demise in its reply to the court.

As the case made its way into court, the judge looked over the paperwork. At the hearing he commented, "I don't know how I'm going to decide this, but as it appears from the paperwork, we have a bar owner who believes in the power of prayer, and an entire church congregation that does not."

### INTERESTING AND USEFUL NEW WEBSITES

#### BUG ME NOT - [www.bugmenot.com](http://www.bugmenot.com)

Instantly get disposable login details for any popular website that forces you to register

#### DAILY LIT- [www.dailylit.com](http://www.dailylit.com)

Read favorite books by email (on your PC, Mobile, etc.)

#### RETAIL ME NOT - [www.retailmenot.com](http://www.retailmenot.com)

Locate fresh discount coupons for thousands of web merchants and services from your browser toolbar

#### JOTT - [www.jott.com](http://www.jott.com)

Simple and convenient services for leaving yourself notes and To Do reminders using your mobile

#### LISTEN TO A MOVIE-[www.listentoamovie.com](http://www.listentoamovie.com)

Lets you "listen to a movie" i.e. stream the audio part of various movies and some TV shows

(Courtesy of Cynthia Champion)

### WHY SHOULD THE WEDDING RING BE WORN ON THE FOURTH FINGER?

There is a beautiful and convincing explanation given by the Chinese Legend...

Thumb represents your parents, second (Index) finger represents your siblings, middle finger represents yourself, fourth (Ring) finger represents your life partner & the last (Little) finger represents your children.

First, open your palms (face to face), bend the middle fingers and hold them together - back to back. Second, open and hold the remaining three fingers and the thumb - tip to tip. Now, try to separate your thumbs (representing the parents), they will open, because your parents are not destined to live with you lifelong, and have to leave you sooner or later. Please join your thumbs as before and separate your Index fingers (representing siblings), they will also open, because your brothers and sisters will have their own families and will have to lead their own separate lives. Now join the Index fingers and separate your Little fingers (representing your children), they will open too, because the children also will get married and settle down on their own some day. Finally, join your Little fingers, and try to separate your Ring fingers (representing your spouse). You will be surprised to see that you just CANNOT separate these two fingers. That is because husband & wife are supposed to remain together all their lives.



From left to right:  
Brenda Colvin, Judge Sherry Jackson and Esther Stoneburner

(Continued from page 1)

Judge Sherry Jackson was another favorite with the attendees. She was friendly and made us laugh quite a bit. She pointed out that you should always follow up a verbal conversation with a short letter. She recounted numerous times when she would run into attorneys around town or pro se defendants even, whereby they would discuss a matter that was coming up in her court. She stated that she sees hundreds of people a week and that it would be a miracle to remember each conversation she has. However, if a paralegal or attorney were to contact her clerk with a gist of their conversation, it would be noted in the records and avoid any troubles when it came time to recalling what was discussed.

Friday night there was a social hour at the hotel. We all sat around and talked. It is fun to get to know people from around the state. Esther and I went to dinner with some paralegals from Tyler, Fort Worth and Sherman. We were primarily family law paralegals with a couple of personal injury paralegals thrown in for good measure. It seems we all share the same client behavior. It was a great chance to blow off steam!

Saturday was the round table discussion. Each association gave a report. Most reports covered the same subjects: membership, CLE, community service, and fund raising. It seems all associations have the same troubles when it comes to membership: keeping members and getting members INVOLVED.

No matter how big or little the membership numbers were (Houston Metropolitan Paralegal Association boasts over 600 members while TALA has 20) there seems to be the issue of the same members serving as officers, directors and committee chairs over and over.

The issue of CLEs proved to Esther and I that Bell County has one of the best set-ups going. It seems that most associations charge for their monthly CLEs. Most of them hold them in restaurants where the attendees have to pay for their lunch, the CLE and, in quite a few cases, parking. We are lucky in that our CLEs are all free, including the spring and fall bench bars.

Another issue that was discussed was the matter of By-laws. We are not the only association that is operating more on what we *think* the bylaws say as opposed to what they actually say. One association doesn't even know where their bylaws are.

Bell County Bar Association Paralegals impressed the group with our website costs. We (BCBAP members) thought \$1500 was a lot for our website. However, most of the other associations have paid in the area of \$4000 or more for their websites. One association asked that we not go to their website as theirs was created in 1999...and hasn't been changed since!!

I would just like to say that BCBAP seems to be right up there with the big cities when it comes to the QUALITY of membership. We may not have the extraordinary membership numbers or the long list of sustaining/associate members supporting us, but we do have the support of our attorneys, the treasury of a larger association and the respect of other associations around the state.

As I come to the end of my term as President, I would just like to say that I have enjoyed the job. It has been a pleasure serving you and I know that Cindi Evetts will do a wonderful job in her capacity as President for 2009-2010. Thank you to those of you who led me through the thicket of duties associated with the title. Thank you, also, to everyone that told me I could do it.

Brenda

# Paralegal conference rare for Texarkana

BY SHARAYAH SHERROD  
Texarkana Gazette

The Texarkana Association of Legal Assistants hosted the annual Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations over the weekend—something they haven't done and won't get to do again for quite a while, organizers said.

"It's been probably 15 years ago and (we probably won't host it) again until 2030," said Marilyn McCulloch, TALA president.

More than three dozen representatives from across Texas met at the Hampton Inn & Suites to share ideas, successes and reports on what is new with their respective chapters.

"We've had an absolutely wonderful turnout. We've had 34 from 24 organizations show up. (They talked about) how to increase their membership, how to network between different firms and organizations," McCulloch said.



Staff Photo by Sharayah Sherrod  
Angela Ellison and Mary Morman, both with the North Texas Paralegal Association, look over materials at the Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations' annual conference. The meeting was hosted by the Texarkana Association of Legal Assistants.

She said sharing updates and talking about what is working well and what is not is helpful to each group.

"It benefits all the chapters because they get together and exchange ideas on legal matters, just like they're talking about the college students (and offering them internships) and how they're going to increase their (membership) numbers," McCulloch said.

Members who attended the meeting received six hours of continuing legal education for

the state of Texas and eight for the National Association of Legal Assistants from training conducted by local legal professionals on Friday. Among the trainers were Steve Carpisi, Jennifer Jordan, Chad Trammell, Texarkana-side Municipal Judge Sherry Jackson, Rick Lindsey, Cyndia Hammond and Jason Horton.

By midmorning Saturday, McCulloch said the weekend had gone well so far.

"It's just a good bouncing around of ideas," she said.



# L A W D A Y

Law Day in the United States of American (USA) is celebrated on May 1 each year.

## WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?

Law Day is a special day aimed to help people appreciate their liberties and to affirm their loyalty to the United States, especially with regard to equality and justice. It also aims to cultivate respect for the law, which is vital to the democratic way of life.

Supported by organizations such as the American Bar Association, this day is an opportunity for people to recognize and discuss the role of courts in the United States. To celebrate Law Day, some local bar associations may hold a luncheon with guest speakers on various legal topics relevant to modern society.

Law Day activities include: fundraising events and tasks; community outreach activities linked with talking points about the law; poster and essay contests; and interactive school lessons and role plays on legal topics such as the concept of separation of powers and the United States Constitution. In Florida the week of May 1 is Law Week, coinciding with Law Day.

## PUBLIC LIFE

Law Day is not a public holiday and public life is not affected. Schools, post offices, stores and other businesses and organizations are open as usual. Public transport services run to their usual schedules and no extra congestion on highways is to be expected.

## BACKGROUND

Law Day originated in 1957 when American Bar Association President Charles Rhyne envisioned a special day for celebrating the US legal system. On February 3, 1958, President Dwight Eisenhower established Law Day by issuing a proclamation. Every president since then has issued an annual Law Day proclamation. In 1961, May 1 was designated by joint resolution of Congress as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

According to the Legal Information Institute, the President is requested to issue a proclamation, calling on all public officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on Law

Day; and inviting the people of the United States to observe Law Day, with appropriate ceremonies and in other appropriate ways, through public entities and private organizations and in schools and other suitable places. Previous Law Day themes included “Justice for All”, “Foundations of Freedom”, and “Struggle for Justice”.

## SYMBOLS

Symbols and images describing Law Day may feature the scales of justice, which represent the legal profession and justice. Representations of the mythological Lady of Justice are also associated with the law and the legal profession. She usually carries a sword and scales may sometimes wear a blindfold. Almost always draped in flowing robes, she symbolizes the fair and equal administration of the law, without corruption, avarice, prejudice or favor.

Article retrieved from [www.timeanddate.com](http://www.timeanddate.com)

Eleanor Bosl a/k/a "Grammy" announces the birth of her 4th precious grandson. Bennett Vail Johnson arrived Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 3:20 a.m. He weighed 9lbs 1oz and was 20 inches long. Baby Johnson joins Matt (Daddy), Jennifer (Mommy) and big brother, Fen.



**THE MOMENT A CHILD IS BORN, THE MOTHER IS ALSO BORN.**

**SHE NEVER EXISTED BEFORE.**

**THE WOMAN EXISTED,  
BUT THE MOTHER, NEVER.**

**A MOTHER IS  
SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY NEW.**

Jina and Gary Boydston (a/k/a MeMe & "G" welcomed their first grandbaby Friday, April 17th. Jack Cooper Douglas weighed 6 lbs 12 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Jack is the son of Jina's daughter, Macy and her husband, John.



## MOTHER'S DAY TRIVIA

The youngest mother whose history is authenticated is Lina Medina, who delivered a 6 1/2 pound baby boy by cesarean section in Lima, Peru in 1939, at an age of 5 years and 7 months. The child was raised as her brother and only discovered that Lina was the mother when he was 10.

On April 9, 2003, Satyabhama Mahapatra, a 65-year-old retired school teacher in India, became the world's oldest mother when she gave birth to a baby boy. Satyabhama and her husband had been married 50 years, but this is their first child. The baby was conceived through artificial insemination using eggs from the woman's 26-year-old niece, Veenarani Mahapatra, and the sperm of Veenarani's husband.

Bobbie McCaughey is the mother who holds the record for the most surviving children from a single birth. She gave birth to the first set of surviving septuplets - four boys and three girls on November 19, 1997, at the University Hospital, Iowa, US. Conceived by in vitro fertilization, the babies were delivered after 31 weeks by cesarean in the space of 16 minutes. The babies are named Kenneth, Nathaniel, Brandon, Joel, Kelsey, Natalie and Alexis.

Elizabeth Ann Buttle is the mother who holds the record for the longest interval between the birth of two children. She gave birth to Belinda on May 19, 1956, and Joseph on November 20, 1997. The babies were born 41 years 185 days apart. The mother was 60 years old when her son Joseph was born.

Jayne Bleackley is the mother who holds the record for the shortest interval between two children born in separate confinements. She gave birth to Joseph Robert on September 3, 1999, and Annie Jessica Joyce on March 30, 2000. The babies were born 208 days apart.

The modern world record for giving birth is held by Leontina Albina from San Antonio, Chile. Leontina claims to be the mother of 64 children, of which only 55 of them are documented. She is listed in the 1999 Guinness World Records by dropped from later editions.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

**SHERRY KAY JANKE - 12TH**

**MARIA DIEGUEZ - 16TH**

**SUSIE STERMER - 25TH**

**SARI BRIDGE - 26TH**

## Born in May

Pleasing and attractive personality.  
 Good looking. You adapt well to  
 new situations. Joyful attitude to-  
 wards life. Independent. Secretive.  
 Intelligent mind. You get easily  
 angry. Very stubborn at times. You  
 love attention. More logical than  
 emotional. You dream big.  
 Dynamic and active. Quick to re-  
 turn favors. Honest.

WishAFriend.com

### SAVE THE DATE

**2009 TEXAS ADVANCED PARALEGAL SEMINAR  
 (TAPS)**

**OCTOBER 14-16, 2009  
 SOUTH SHORE HARBOUR RESORT  
 LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS**

SCHEDULE OF CLE TOPICS, EVENTS AND  
 REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE BEGINNING  
 JUNE 2009 ON THE TEXAS PARALEGAL  
 DIVISION'S WEBSITE,

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

## A SATISFIED TAXPAYER

Dear Internal Revenue Service:

On this April 15th tax return due date you will find enclosed my 2008 tax return showing that I owe \$3,407.00 in taxes.

Please note the attached article from the USA Today Newspaper, dated 12 November, wherein you will see the Pentagon (Department of Defense) is paying \$171.50 per hammer and NASA has paid \$600.00 per toilet seat.

I am enclosing four (4) toilet seats (valued @ \$2,400) and six (6) hammers (valued @ \$1,029), which I secured at Home Depot, bringing my total remittance to \$3,429.00 Please apply the overpayment of \$22.00 to the "Presidential Election Fund", as noted on my return.

You can do this inexpensively by sending them one (1) 1.5 inch Phillips Head screw (see aforementioned article from USA Today newspaper detailing how H.U.D. pays \$22.00 each for 1.5 inch Phillips Head Screws). Once screw is enclosed for your convenience.

To recap my enclosures:

Four toilet seats

Six hammers

And

One Screw

It has been a pleasure to pay my tax bill this year, and I look forward to paying it again next year.

Sincerely,

A Satisfied Taxpayer

(Courtesy of Cynthia Champion)

BELL COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PARALEGALS

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