



Key Note



Volume 71

Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals, Inc.
An Affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.
Editor, Mona Hart Tucker, ACP

November 2010

President's Greeting



The end of 2010 is has come fast and steady, Thanksgiving will be here in a blink of the eye and, Christmas is literally right around the corner. Where has the time gone? The installation ceremony still seems as if it is not too long ago and here it is already time to pass the torch. This has been a very busy but fun and interesting year and I honestly cannot wait to see what 2011 has to offer.

There were several goals set at the beginning of the year; some have been met while others have not quite made it. I really hope all of our members have enjoyed the speakers and the ideas given this year, and I certainly hope that I have been the president that NTAP has needed me to be. We have only two more meetings together in 2010, and I wish that you all can be present as we need all of our members' input for the 2011 year.

I hope everyone enjoys their holidays with great friends and family. This year has been busy and swift, but just keep living and see how much more there is to come!

Nadriette Hardeman, CP
President



2010 Executive Committee

- President - Nadriette Hardeman, CP
- 1st Vice President - Gloria Gibbons, CP
- 2nd Vice President - Lori Campbell, CP
- Secretary - Shannon Watts, CP
- Treasurer - Lida Vega, PP
- NALA Liaison - Javan Johnson, ACP



Charity Focus

Thank You!

Due to your very generous cash donations of \$57.00, I was able to purchase several blankets of various sizes, as well as more baby wipes and rash ointment to deliver to the Rainbow Room. Thank you so much for participating in this very worthy cause. Also thanks to Ranita and her friend Shannon who brought sacks of those same items for donation.

Javan Johnson



November Birthdays

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|
| 1 | - | Andrea Brunson |
| 4 | - | David Depoma |
| 12 | - | Shelley Cujko |
| 19 | - | Crystal Stewart |
| 30 | - | Chastity Long |



Cookbooks are Here!

We will have them available at the November meeting, but please go ahead and start talking them up and taking orders. The price is \$10 each, and if they have to be shipped, add another \$5 to the cost.





Obituary

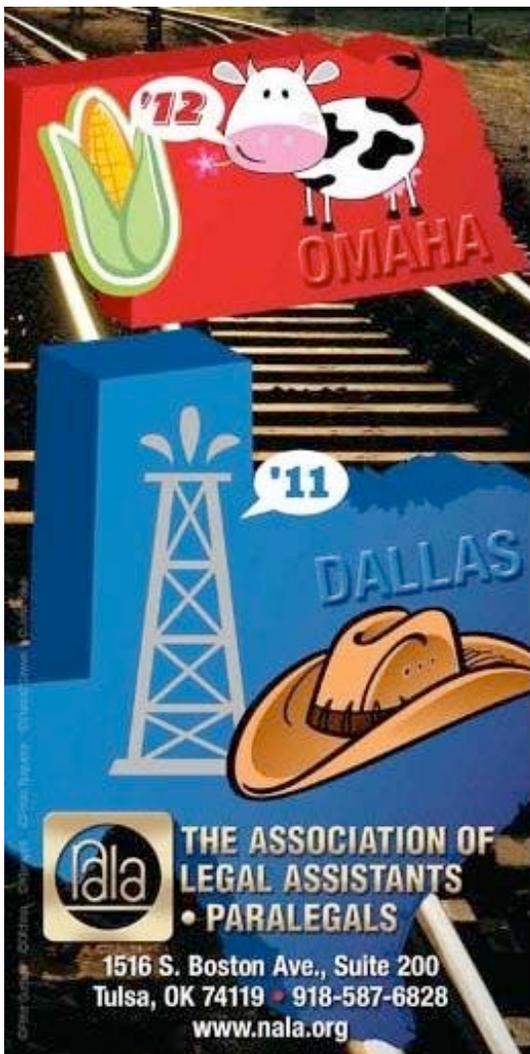
Jimmy L. White

Jimmy L. White, judge of the Texas 76th District Court, 65, died late Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010, in Tyler. He graduated from East Texas State University in 1966 and graduated from Baylor Law School in 1969, where he served on the Law Review. He was a practicing attorney of law for 25 years.

On June 7, 1995, he was appointed by then-Governor George W. Bush as state district judge to the 76th judicial district court, replacing Judge B.D. Moye to the court which includes Titus, Camp and Morris Counties.



NALA Updates



NALA 2011 Convention Moves!

The destination for NALA's 36th Annual Convention & Summer Institutes, July 27-30, 2011, will be held in DALLAS instead of OMAHA. The Omaha Hilton recently announced a construction project conflicting with our July convention dates. The hotel worked with NALA to change the location for this year and to make Omaha our destination in 2012. The site for the 2011 NALA Annual Convention will be:

Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center!
Please make this change in your
NALA Meetings Calendar!

The 2011 Summer Institutes program will feature SEVEN in-depth programs for advanced paralegals with classroom-like instruction. Subjects feature:

- Corporate
- Personal Injury*
- Essential Skills
- Real Estate
- Estate Planning & Administration
- Social Security Disability
- Technology for Litigation Paralegals

*Completion of this course meets the Core Course requirement of the APC Certification Board for APC Certification in Personal Injury specialty areas of practice.

**APC Board Releases New Course
"Land Use"**

This course provides an overview of zoning and land-use regulation. Zoning is a type of public control that places many limits on how land is used. Each city or county places all its properties into zones for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, or other uses. Land-use regulations vary widely from state to state, county to county, and city to city. The course features a look at zoning and land use regulation of 10 very diverse cities. A great course for all, particularly Real Estate paralegals seeking Advanced Certified Paralegal certification! Click the image above for more details!





Paralegal Compensation Survey

The Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas is once again conducting a salary survey. The information from this survey will be used to generate reports that will allow paralegals in Texas to see how their compensation packages compare to others in their geographic region. Each question can be answered by simply checking a response or filling in a blank. All responses will be kept anonymous.

To participate, go to <http://txpd.org>. Please complete the survey by December 15, 2010. The salary survey is open to both members and non-members of the Division.

This information will provide summary demographic information about paralegal work, compensation, benefits, and job satisfaction in Texas.



Ethics Corner

This is the sixth installment drawn from Javan Johnson's paper on paralegal ethics.

Demonstrate Loyalty to the Client by Recognizing Potential Conflicts of Interest.

Canon 7 of the Code imposes the duties regarding conflicts of interest.

- a. Be diligent in following your firm's practices for conflict checking.
- b. If you believe a conflict may arise in a case you are handling, speak to your supervising attorney immediately.
- c. It is better to address conflict issues at the earliest possible opportunity; waiting until later may result in unnecessary cost and embarrassment for you and for your employer.

- d. If changing jobs, if there is any chance of a conflict of interest for cases and clients that you may have been representing at your former job, create an ethical wall by immediately advising members of the new firm, and your attorneys, and follow or create procedures to wall off any chance of working on those matters at your new firm. No one should discuss the conflicting case in your presence; you should not be allowed any access to documents, even if it means keeping that file locked up; and above all, no one at the new firm should ever request you to discuss your work on the case at your prior firm.

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Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals, Inc. Minutes of the Membership Meeting Wednesday, October 20, 2010

The monthly meeting of the Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals was held at Olive Garden in Longview, Texas on Wednesday, October 20, 2010 in honor of our Paralegal Day Celebration.

The meeting was called to order by President Nadriette Hardeman at 12:15 p.m. Those in attendance were Mona Hart Tucker, Beverly Hayden, Donna Rountree, Lida Vega, Rose Teazell, Claudia Fuentes-Martinez, Brenda Reed, Shannon Brigmon, Ranita Shows, Gloria Gibbons, Nadriette Hardeman, Lori Campbell, Javan Johnson, Shannon Watts, Pat Aguilar-Urbina, Elisha Calhoon, Crystal Roberts and our speaker, John Sloan.

REPORTS:

Secretary: President Hardeman indicated that the minutes from the September membership meeting were printed in the October *Key Note*. President Hardeman asked if the membership had a chance to review same. Upon motion made by Lori Campbell and seconded by Shannon Watts, the minutes from the September 15, 2010 membership meeting were unanimously approved by the membership.

Membership: Lori Campbell reported that there were no new applications to approve or

members to introduce.

Treasurer: Treasurer, Lida Vega, presented the following Treasurer's Report for the month of September 2010 to the membership:

Beginning balance:	\$ 4,870.38
Incoming Activity:	\$ 0.00
Outgoing Activity:	\$ 144.65
Balance:	\$ 4,725.73

A Motion was made by Lida Vega and seconded by Javan Johnson to approve the treasurer's report as presented. The motion was approved by the membership.

Employment: It was reported that Craig Bass and Eric Albritton are both looking for support staff for their offices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Key Note: Articles for the *Key Note* are due to Mona Hart-Tucker by November 5, 2010.

Elections: It is time for straw ballots for next year's upcoming elections. Straw ballots will be going out soon. Please be thinking about and consider running for an office for next year. If you are interested, please contact Nadriette Hardeman for more information.

Education: Gloria Gibbons reported that Ray Hatcher will be the speaker for our November meeting. More information will be in the *Key Note* prior to the meeting.

Charity Focus: Javan Johnson took up a collection for the Rainbow Room for supplies to donate on our behalf. The focus for the November meeting will again be either cash donations, diapers or baby wipes, or blankets. In December, the charity focus will again be to bring a stuffed animal for the children of the Rainbow Room.

Old and New Business: There was none to report.

Speaker: Our guest speaker was John Sloan who gave a wonderful presentation on "Legal Ethics".

Lunch: Lunch was provided by NTAP in honor of Paralegal Day. Shannon Watts, Director for District 14 of the Texas Paralegal Division, gave a brief history on how October 23 had been proclaimed Paralegal Day for the State of Texas every year from now on and presented each paralegal in attendance with a commemorative Texas Paralegal Day pin from the State Bar

Paralegal Division.

Adjournment: There being no further business and our lunch celebration being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Watts, CP, TBLS
NTAP Secretary



November meeting

Ray Hatcher will be the speaker at our November 17th meeting. The lunch menu calls for soup and sandwiches. Please RSVP to nhardeman@sloanfirm.com. The cost is \$5.00.



Now We're
Cookin'



From our new cookbook!

White Chili

1 rotisserie chicken, shredded/torn into small pieces (or 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cooked and cut up)

Chopped onion

1 c. chicken broth

2 cans northern beans

2 cans shoepeg corn

2 cans cream of mushroom soup

1 can Rotel tomatoes

1 lb. Velveeta (plain or Mexican)

1 T. cumin

Salt & pepper

Saute onion in butter or oil until tender. Add chicken. Combine remaining ingredients and chicken/onion in LARGE pot and simmer until cheese is melted.

Susan Whatley, Esq.
Nix, Patterson & Roach, LLP



Quality Time

Sometimes the best way to spend time is to invest it in yourself.

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- DATA CULLING



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- CLEARWELL
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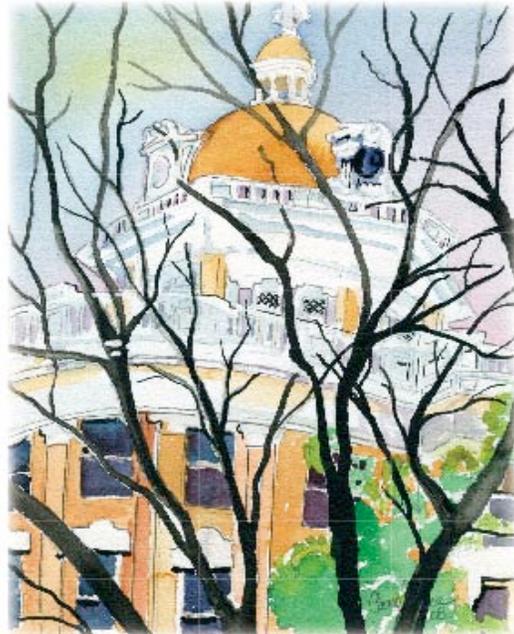
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- CASE/EDD
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CLE Calendar

For additional information about CLE across the State see the SBOT - PD web site at www.txpd.org. Also, don't forget that the PD and NALA both offer on-line CLE.

(Online) Texas Bar CLE free online seminar. TexasBarCLE offers a complimentary half hour of participatory MCLE credit. You will find a new topic available every other month. The current topic is "Legal Writing for the Rewired Brain". www.texasbarcle.com.

Check out the **Ten Minute Mentor** on www.texasbar.com. These instructional video presentations are from leading lawyers in their areas of expertise. Each presentation is typically short (around 10 minutes or less), practical, and free. Viewing presentations qualifies for MCLE self-study credit only. Topics available include Daubert challenges, petitions for review, bankruptcy issues, and many more.

(Online) NALA Campus Live! Fall Program, through Dec. 10, 2010: Courses range from practice tips and CLA/CP review courses to advanced presentations on substantive law topics. Courses last from 90 minutes to 2 hours. The Texas Board of Legal Specialization has approved certain programs for certification and re-certification. www.nala.org/onlineed.aspx

(Online) Free Webinars sponsored by Litigation Solution, Inc. Contact Todd Kelly at KTS Litigation Support, mtkelly@ktslitigationsupport.com, to register.

(Online) Free Webinars sponsored by Fios Inc. Go to www.fiosinc.com/e-discovery-knowledge-center to see what they have coming up in September.

Articles published herein do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals. Calendar listings and seminars should not be considered as endorsement of any such program or seminar.

NTAP EMPLOYMENT REFERRALS

One of the benefits of your membership is NTAP's employment referral service. We receive calls from firms offering employment opportunities. If you are seeking a position or considering a change, we encourage you to use NTAP's employment referral service. If your firm is searching for qualified paralegals, ask your attorney or firm administrator to let us know about current openings.

If you are interested in being listed with the service, mail a current resume and contact information to:

Lori Campbell, CP
Sloan, Bagley, Hatcher & Perry Law Firm, P.O. Drawer 2909, Longview, Texas 75606