



# Key Note



Volume 75

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

March 2011

## *From the Hart*

*Have you looked outside yourself lately?*



If you have ventured outside the area that is confined by tunnel vision, you have seen things that will amaze you. Some beautiful, some ugly, but a wide variety of opportunities and challenges exists out there, just waiting for you.

Have you ever attended a seminar where you were bored stiff? Seen a political forum that was more circus than professional? Yawned through a lecture, and thought, "I could do a better job than that"? Well, here's your chance to jump in and make a difference.

NTAP is making plans to sponsor a will clinic for veterans and their spouses on November 12<sup>th</sup>. We need your help to make it happen. I have spoken with the Veterans Services Officer in Longview, but still need to contact those in surrounding counties. There's a location to be secured, attorneys to be recruited, notaries and witnesses to be lined up, vendors to be solicited for donations of paper, and the list just goes on and on. Every one can help in some capacity.

Please contact one of the board members if you are interested in working on this project. Each of us has been touched by a service member, and this is our opportunity to give back to them.

Mona Hart Tucker, ACP  
President



### 2011 Executive Committee

President - Mona H. Tucker, ACP  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Ginger D. Gage, ACP

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Sandi Clarke, CP  
Secretary - Sandi Clarke, CP  
Treasurer - Elisha Calhoun, CP  
NALA Liaison - Javan Johnson, ACP

### 2011 Chairpersons

Parliamentarian - Javan Johnson, ACP  
Employment - Andrea Brunson, CP  
Auditor - Andrea Brunson, CP  
Scholarship - Javan Johnson, ACP  
Technology - Elisha Calhoun, CP  
Publicity - Gail Love, CP  
Hospitality - Ginger Gage, ACP; Sandi Clarke, CP; & Javan Johnson, ACP



## *What's Happening*



Mona Tucker helped the Daingerfield Chamber of Commerce put on their annual awards banquet on Feb. 26. Elvis came by to personally thank her.



### **Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals, Inc. Minutes of the Membership Meeting Wednesday, February 16, 2011**

The monthly membership meeting of the Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals was held at the Longview Community Center on Wednesday, February 16, 2011.

Those in attendance were Mona Tucker, Ginger Gage, Sandi Clarke, Elisha Calhoun, Javan Johnson, Nadriette Hardeman, and Lori Campbell.

Guest in attendance was the Hon. Vince Dulweber, judge of Gregg County Court at Law No. 2.

President Tucker welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**Reports:**

**Education** - Ginger Gage announced that Casey Goolsby will speak on business organizations at the March membership meeting.

**Treasurer** - Elisha Calhoon provided a Financial Report for January for 2011. Sandi Clarke made a motion to accept the report; Lori Campbell seconded the motion and the report was approved, pending audit. Javan Johnson reported that the cookbook fundraiser was a huge success and that there might be a few cookbooks left, if anybody needs them.

Javan Johnson suggested that the proposed amount budgeted for the scholarships should be raised to \$1,000. The membership reviewed the Standing Rules and it was agreed to change the yearly budgeted scholarship amount from \$750.00 to \$1,000. Elisha Calhoon suggested that we will most likely need to have another fundraiser this year. After review of the proposed budget for 2011, Ginger made a motion to approve the budget; Javan Johnson seconded the motion and the proposed budget for 2011 was approved, with the one change in scholarship amount, and pending audit.

**Secretary** - President Tucker announced that the minutes of the January meeting were printed in the *Key Note* and also provided on the tables and asked the membership to review. President Tucker announced two minor changes to the January 2011 meeting minutes which will be made by Secretary Sandi Clarke. Javan Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes with those changes; Elisha Calhoon seconded the motion and the minutes were approved pending the changes.

**Membership** - Sandi Clarke reported that we have received several renewal applications, but no new membership applications.

**Old Business** - Proposed changes to the Standing Rules were reviewed and discussion was had.

Javan Johnson made a motion to approve the Standing Rules; Ginger Gage seconded the motion and the Rules were adopted by the membership.

President Tucker reported to the membership that she spoke with Randy Smith of Veterans' Services regarding the upcoming will clinic and that Mr. Smith thought the clinic is a great idea. Discussion was had about the will clinic and possible dates.

**New Business** - There was no new business.

President Tucker announced that the deadline to submit articles for the *Key Note* is March 4, 2011.

**Speaker** - Ginger Gage announced Judge Dulweber, who presented a very informative speech on guardianships and probate matters.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Submitted by  
Sandi Clarke, CP, Secretary



## **Our Officers Speak Out**

*Our new officers have each been asked to write one column for the Key Note this year. This one is from Sandi Clarke.*

### **Membership Drive!**

I am especially excited about NTAP this year! We have a good board of directors that works well together and has a lot of creative ideas for helping increase membership and benefit the community. I have been a NTAP member since 1996 and truly believe that the networking and job bank have been more beneficial than anything else to my career. There's also the monthly CLE which is invaluable!! I was recently surprised to learn that there are actually law offices in our community that have never heard of NTAP! I guess it's such a big part of my life and career that I'm shocked that it's not the same with everyone else.

So, the board starting thinking maybe it's

time to get the word out. We had a membership drive several years ago and it generated some interest ... time to gear it up again! We're having a Membership Drive for the March meeting and the board is putting together little goody bags with fliers which we're going to distribute to the local law offices. Hopefully we will get the attention of those law firms that have paralegals who haven't heard of NTAP. I'd like to ask you each to bring a friend to this month's meeting. We're having a Mexican Fiesta, with a great speaker - my boss, Casey Goolsby. It's going to be a great meeting - one you won't want to miss!

I believe that personally knowing other paralegals is invaluable when you live and work in a small community like ours. Of course, you also get to know a lot of great ladies (and a couple of guys) and make some life long friends. Let's spread the word to those who need NTAP and don't even realize it!!

*Sandi Clarke, CP  
Second VP - Membership Chair*



**Texas Supreme Court  
Lays Out New e-Filing Rules**

Texas Lawyer's Tex Parte blog reported that the Texas Supreme Court has issued an order laying out new e-filing rules. The full blog post is below.

"While some state district courts in large urban areas such as Dallas and Houston embraced this concept long ago, the Texas Supreme Court will finally do the same on March 14 when it finally requires attorneys to file documents electronically. The Texas Supreme Court issued an order on March 1 laying out the new e-filing rules, which apply to petitions, responses to petitions, replies to responses to petitions; briefs on the merits, including respondents' briefs on the merits and petitioners' reply briefs on the merits, amicus briefs; post-submission briefs; and motions, responses to motions, and replies in

support of motions. 'Now they can file, pay their fees and serve their opposing counsel all from their computer,' says Blake Hawthorne, clerk of the Supreme Court. But the system is a bit different from e-filing in state district courts, he says. "They do still have to send us two paper copies when they e-file." Houston's 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Courts of Appeals recently instituted e-filing rules similar to the high court's that will also take effect on March 14, Hawthorne says."

Visit [www.ttla.com](http://www.ttla.com) to download the order.



**Applications for the May Certified Paralegal  
Exam are due April 1, 2011**

April 1 is the deadline date for applications for the Certified Paralegal examination, May 2011 testing! Application forms may be found on the NALA web site, [www.NALA.org](http://www.NALA.org).



**Woodson Takes the Bench as Judge of the  
76th District Court**



An investiture ceremony was held in Mount Pleasant on March 10, where Kerry "Dan" Woodson took the oath of office as judge of the 76th District Court of Morris, Camp and Titus Counties. Gov. Rick Perry appointed

Woodson for a term to expire at the next general election.



***March Meeting***

Casey Goolsby will be the speaker at our March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, and he will be talking about business entities.

The menu calls for Mexican food, so please RSVP to Sandi Clarke if you plan to attend: [sandi.clarke@boonlaw.com](mailto:sandi.clarke@boonlaw.com). The cost is \$5 per person.



# Quality Time

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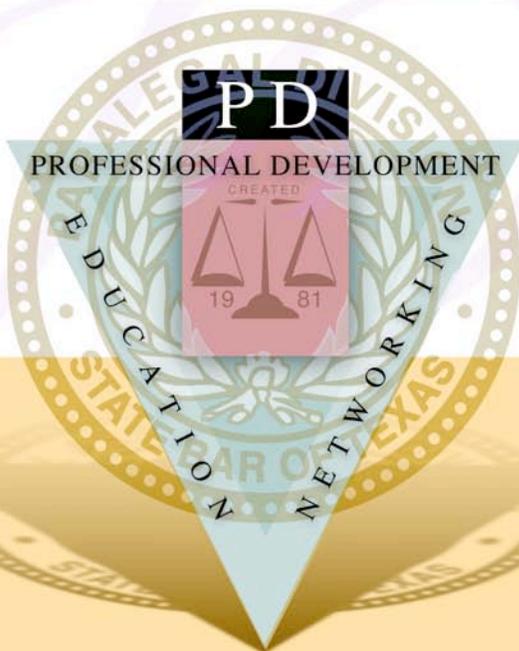
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# Hill & Calk

## Hill & Calk, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

1511 Judson Road,

Suite B

Longview, Texas 75601

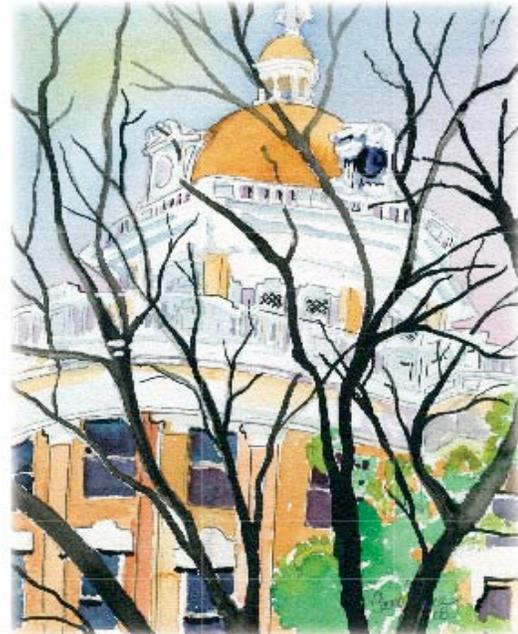
903-242-9000

903-242-9009 fax

Jerry W. Hill

James I. Calk\*

\*Board certified by the Texas Board of  
Legal Specialization in commercial real  
estate law and residential real estate law.



## Siebman, Reynolds, Burg, Phillips & Smith, LLP

713 South Washington Avenue  
Marshall, Texas 75670  
(903) 938-8900

Michael C. Smith  
Attorney at Law

[michaelsmith@siebman.com](mailto:michaelsmith@siebman.com)

[www.EDTexweblog.com](http://www.EDTexweblog.com)



## SLOAN, BAGLEY, HATCHER & PERRY

LAW FIRM

101 East Whaley Street  
Longview, Texas 75601

903.757.7000

800.730.0099 toll-free

903.757.7574 fax

[www.sloanfirm.com](http://www.sloanfirm.com)

## BSEC&G

### BOON SHAVER ECHOLS COLEMAN & GOOLSBY, PLLC

Attorneys at Law

MARK L. BOON\*  
GARY H. SHAVER  
BRADLEY R. ECHOLS  
DARREN K. COLEMAN  
CASEY GOOLSBY

1800 NW LOOP 281, SUITE 303  
(GILMER ROAD AT LOOP 281)  
LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75604  
TELEPHONE: (903) 759-2200  
FAX: (903) 759-3306

[www.boonlaw.com](http://www.boonlaw.com)

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# CLE Calendar

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

**(Online) e-Discovery Case Law Update, April 6, 2011, 12:00 noon.** This quarterly case law update explores recent court decisions related to e-discovery, the impact these cases may have and are already having, and tactics and strategies organizations should consider to help control their e-discovery costs and risks. **Free.** To register, go to [www.fiosinc.com/e-discovery-knowledge-center/electronic-discovery-webcast-seminar.aspx](http://www.fiosinc.com/e-discovery-knowledge-center/electronic-discovery-webcast-seminar.aspx).

**(Galveston) HPA Eighth Annual Spring CLE Seminar, May 13, 2011, Hotel Galvez.** Earn six hours of CLE, including one hour of ethics. Non-HPA-members \$100 until April 22, later \$115. Arrive on Thursday May 12<sup>th</sup> for Casino Night Social. For additional information go to [www.hpatx.org](http://www.hpatx.org).

**(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 "Unforeseen Consequences of Criminal Convictions." [www.texasbarcle.com](http://www.texasbarcle.com).

Check out the **Ten Minute Mentor** on [www.texasbar.com](http://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!** has many topics to choose from, and the Texas Board of Legal Specialization has approved certain programs for certification and re-certification. More information is available at [www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org).

**(Online) Free Webinars** sponsored by Litigation Solution, Inc. Contact Todd Kelly at KTS Litigation Support, [mtkelly@ktslitigationsupport.com](mailto:mtkelly@ktslitigationsupport.com), for a schedule and to register.

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:

Andrea Brunson, CP  
AndreaB@NixLawFirm.com  
NTAP, P.O. Box 2284, Longview, Texas 75601