



# Key Note



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

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## *From the Hart*

Has this summer flown by, or what?! Some schools have already started back up, and the rest will begin next week.



I'm sure all of you have had busy summers, and those of you with school-aged children are probably glad to see school starting again.

Because everyone has been so busy and attendance had dropped so much, the NTAP Board decided to forego membership meetings this summer. Just the same, we've been busy planning for the months ahead.

- We now have a new supply of the NTAP cookbooks, so be sure to pick up a few. Christmas will be here before you know it!
- Our membership meetings will start with a bang on September 21, so be sure to mark your calendar. We're planning something really special for you.
- Texas Paralegal Day is October 23. That falls on a Sunday this year, but we'll still be celebrating – just on a different day.
- Plans are underway for a pro bono veterans estate-planning clinic on November 12. We are currently trying to come up with a location, copier, and printers. If you can help in any of those areas, please let us know. We're also going to need plenty of willing hands to help prepare the documents, notarize, witness, keep traffic flowing, and be sure refreshments are handy. Details will be forwarded once we can get a location nailed down.

If you missed NTAP's annual seminar on August 6, you really missed a good one. Top-notch speakers who really knew their stuff, great food, great networking opportunities, and I believe every single attendee won a door prize! The six hours of CLE were well worth giving up a Saturday!

Mona Hart Tucker, ACP  
President



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### The Freedom of Naked

*By John Grubbs*

As a parent of two boys, I have a perspective that does not include that of a father of little girls. And while the same behavior may be normal, I have no experience from which to make the same judgment. What is it about little boys and dancing naked? This supposedly common behavior that some may consider unspeakable is

not limited to my own two little human examples, is it? There is something revealing about this behavior and the pun is definitely intended. This lack of restriction and confinement must be somewhat liberating to the normal single digit age human boy. The common after bath ritual must promote some feeling of euphoria that I have long forgotten but should probably try to remember. Is it the product of encapsulated energy? Is it a latent sense of escape? And what in the name of Sam Hill (whoever that is) does this have to do with the point of this article?

Consider this behavior and the implication for all of us as humans. As we grow older, society begins to restrict and confine us all. We cannot speak openly. How many times have you heard a child ask the question we were all thinking but would not dare ask? We cannot reveal our true emotion. We cannot even decide to wear two different color socks. We can no longer be the police officer, train conductor, baseball player and pilot all at the same time. The older we get, the more (figurative) clothes we have to wear. We cannot freely think and act because we have been infected with OPD (Older People Disease). No longer can we be the super hero nor do we ask a friend which super hero he wants to be. Our constriction starts when we get embarrassed. Some may refer to this as enlightenment, while others may see the opposite.

The acknowledgement of how we are viewed (and worse, judged) by others can be very limiting for us in the workplace as well. How many times have we had a great idea only to withhold it because of the pending judgment that might accompany revealing our thoughts? Over time, we start to doubt the greatness of our idea only to rationalize it away. Sometimes we may even think that if it were such a good idea, someone would have already recommended it.

We also confine ourselves by restricting our own potential in life. "I am just a"...you fill in the blank. Or "I could never do that". Or "that is not my place". These may be words most have thought and even uttered in the past. Yet, when we are children, we are told we can be and do anything. And in the mind of a five year old, anything is possible. We can learn to fly just like Superman. Dad is our greatest hero and Mom is the prettiest girl on the planet. What happened

to us?

Getting naked means deliberately shedding some of the restrictions placed upon us by society. In his book of the same name, Patrick Lencioni unveils a revolutionary approach to client service that yields uncommon levels of trust and loyalty. In *Getting Naked*, Pat challenges service providers to be completely transparent and vulnerable with clients in order to overcome the three fears that ultimately sabotage client allegiance.

For most people, being vulnerable means we are taking a risk. We are afraid to shed the many perceptions imposed upon us by society. We are actually limited by our own interpretation of how society sees us. We can sadly become a self-fulfilling prophecy. In other words, we can become only what we see in ourselves. When this happens, we have developed a full-blown case of OPD. The disease has matured and our potential in life has almost disappeared.

Think about the dreams and aspirations that have been placed in the cedar chest of our lives. Each of these contains energy that is slowly transformed over time. Once upon a time... what once was a bright halogen bulb may now only be a spark in that chest. It may be dormant but it never loses that energy. Remember, Albert Einstein taught us that energy can neither be created nor be destroyed: it can only be transformed from one state to another.

What is the state of your energy? Have you locked it in the cedar chest? I encourage you to find that "little boy" in all of us. Open the dialogue in your organization. Know that people may be slowly dying of OPD because of the restrictions provided by life as well as the workplace. Foster an environment that encourages the same freedom and lack of confinement we had when we were small. Develop your people to "think and act" like the little children we once were. Create an "anything is possible" culture that counteracts the OPD at every opportunity. Shed the clothing that covers our potential as individuals and organizations.

Peter Drucker stated, "The only two things that matter in any organization are innovation and marketing." How can we be innovative while suffering from OPD? How can we see potential where others see nothing? How can we dance

naked when we are worried about the perception of others? The ability to improve has been given to all of us. We need only to shed the clothes that society has provided so that we can rekindle that “child energy”. We can all learn from the purity and innocence of youth!

John Grubbs, Speaker and Author of *Surviving the Talent Exodus: Navigate the Perfect Storm for Generational Change in the Workplace*” [www.talentexodus.com](http://www.talentexodus.com)



## No Meeting In August

Everyone seems so busy this summer and attendance has been so low, that the Board has decided to suspend monthly membership meetings until September.



## **OUR VETERANS NEED YOU!**

We are planning to have a pro bono estate-planning clinic for area veterans. The date is Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, so please clear your calendar and participate with us.

Col. Randy Smith, the Gregg County Veterans Service Officer, is working with us on securing a location for the event, but we need all of you who possibly can to help out.

We have some attorneys lined up, but will need more, so please ask whether your attorney will give up a Saturday for our veterans.

There are so many ways you can help. This list is just the beginning...

- Attorneys to consult with veterans
- Paralegals to prepare documents
- Notaries
- Tables and chairs
- Computer printers
- Copy machines
- Reams of copy paper
- Simple refreshments, paper goods
- Advertising
- Extra hands (to witness documents, help mobility-impaired persons, be sure refreshments are replenished, etc.)









***Attendees enjoyed the lunch provided by LexisNexis***



***Lori Quinn gave an excellent presentation on Adobe and PowerPoint***



***Karen Adams won the Kindle provided by Hill & Calk, P.C.***



## **TEXAS ADVANCED PARALEGAL SEMINAR**

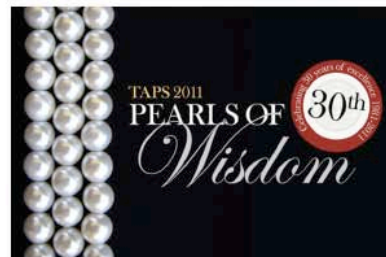
*Sponsored by the Paralegal Division, State Bar of Texas*

**October 5–7, 2011**

**Marriott Hotel & Golf Club  
Fort Worth, TX**

**TAPS is a 3-day multi-track CLE seminar providing:**

- ▶ Networking opportunities with other Texas Paralegals
- ▶ Opportunity to earn up to 14 CLE hours
- ▶ Career advancement through education
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- ▶ Exhibit Hall and Door Prizes
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*See [www.txpd.org](http://www.txpd.org) in June 2011 for complete registration packet.*



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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.

**(Fort Worth) Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar (TAPS) Oct. 5-7, 2011, Marriott Hotel & Golf Club.** Scholarships available. Details at [www.txpd.org](http://www.txpd.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 "The Future of Law Practice." [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:

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