



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

If you missed the Wills for Heroes event, you really missed out on a blessing. We prepared wills, powers of attorney, and directives for 58 people, all veterans and spouses.



One of our guys was a WWII veteran, and one young woman had served in Afghanistan, but most of them served in Vietnam. It was amazing to see the patience and gratitude these guys displayed. I got more hugs that day than I can ever remember.

We had ten attorneys show up to help, and we're so very grateful - Mark Boon, Ebb Mobley, Kris King, Mitch Motley, Gillett Sheppard, Sandra Pinson, Kyle Nelson, Mandy Nelson, Sharon Jiral, and Bryan Jiral.

A very special thanks to Javan Johnson, Sandi Clarke, Andrea Brunson, and Cindy VanBlaricom, as well as Michelle Brunson and Lonnie Tucker, who did absolutely everything asked of them. We are also so thankful for Rick Winn from TLC Office Systems, Col. Randy Smith from the Gregg County Veterans Service office, and all the guys from the Marine Corps League.

We hope to do this again, and I encourage every one of you to be a part. You'll be glad you did.

Mona Hart Tucker, ACP
President

2011 Executive Committee

President - Mona H. Tucker, ACP
1st Vice President - Ginger D. Gage, ACP
2nd Vice President - Sandi Clarke, CP
Secretary - Sandi Clarke, CP
Treasurer - Elisha Calhoon, 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 Calhoon, CP
Publicity - Gail Love, CP
Hospitality - Ginger Gage, ACP; Sandi Clarke, CP; & Javan Johnson, ACP

Court e-Filing Hearing to Explore Scope, Method of Electronic Filing in Texas

The Texas Supreme Court will explore the feasibility of a statewide uniform system for electronic court filings in a hearing at 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8, 2011, in the Supreme Court Courtroom.

"We as a court need to determine whether the public and the bar would benefit from a statewide system to handle e-filing court documents, both from the standpoint of convenience, cost and access," said Justice Paul W. Green, the Court's liaison to the Judicial Committee on Information Technology. "On one hand, we know individual counties might prefer to implement their own systems. On the other we

have the federal PACER system as a model to allow access to federal court records."

PACER stands for Public Access to Court Electronic Records, an enrollment system that provides fee-based access to federal district, appellate and bankruptcy records.

According to the October 18 order that set the hearing: "... the method by which court documents are filed is not the end of the inquiry. The Court must also determine whether parties, the public, and practicing attorneys alike would benefit from a statewide PACER-type system, which would allow users to access court documents via a centralized service once they have been e-filed."

The chair of the Judicial Committee on Information Technology, Justice Rebecca Simmons of the San Antonio Court of Appeals, will address the Court with an overview.



December

We will be electing new officers and Paralegal of the Year at our December meeting. Please make every effort to be present for this important event in the life of our organization. We will also be celebrating Christmas and bringing stuffed animals for the Rainbow Room kids.

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2012, please remember to do that soon. Current memberships expire on December 31st.



Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals, Inc. Minutes of the Membership Meeting Wednesday, November 16, 2011

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

Those in attendance were Mona Tucker, Sandi Clarke, Gail Love, Lori Campbell, Lacy Miles, Cindy Van Blaricom, and Javan Johnson.

Guest in attendance was speaker Devin Huggins.

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

REPORTS:

Secretary - President Tucker announced that the minutes from the October membership meeting were printed in the *Key Note* and on the tables and asked the membership for approval of same. Sandi Clarke made a motion to approve the minutes; Lori Campbell seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as printed.

Membership - Sandi Clarke announced that she has not received any new or renewal applications for membership. President Tucker reminded the membership that the new and renewal applications are available on NTAP's website and encouraged the membership to get their renewal applications in for next year.

Treasurer - President Tucker discussed the Financial Report for October 2011, provided by Elisha Calhoun. After reviewing the report, Lori Campbell made a motion to accept the report; Javan Johnson seconded the motion and the report was approved, pending audit.

Employment - Job Bank Chair Andrea Linton-Brunson was not in attendance but President Tucker reported that there were no new jobs in the job bank. Sandi Clarke advised that David Griffith, in Gilmer, is looking for an experienced paralegal.

Education - President Tucker announced that there will be no CLE in December or January.

Old Business -

- **2012 Elections** - President Tucker announced that straw ballots for the 2012 elections are due today and requested that the membership provide them to Sandi Clarke as soon as possible, for forwarding to Pam Matthews.

- **Wills for Heroes** - President Tucker announced that the Wills for Heroes clinic was a huge success and that the veterans were extremely grateful for NTAP's help.

New Business - There was no new business.

Announcements -

- **Cookbooks** - President Tucker reminded the membership that NTAP has received the reordered *Taste of Justice* cookbooks and that there are plenty available and that they make wonderful Christmas gifts.

• **Deadlines** - President Tucker announced that the next board meeting will be on December 7th and the deadline to submit articles for the *Key Note* is December 9th.

• **Christmas Party** - President Tucker advised the membership that the annual Christmas party will be held in place of the December meeting and encouraged the membership to bring stuffed animals for the Rainbow Room.

Speaker - Javan Johnson introduced speaker Devin Huggins, attorney with Erskine-McMahon, who presented a very helpful and informative speech regarding the recent *Escobedo* opinion. Mr. Huggins also provided very useful forms for those in attendance.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Sandi Clarke, CP
NTAP Secretary

Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes, until the toffee is bubbling all over. Carefully remove the pan from the oven and allow to cool for one minute.

Sprinkle the chocolate chips on top of the hot toffee, and allow them to sit for one minute to soften and melt. Once softened, use an offset spatula or knife to spread the melted chocolate over the entire surface of the toffee in an even layer. While the chocolate is still sticky, sprinkle the top with the chopped nuts.

Refrigerate the pan to set the toffee and chocolate for about 30 minutes. Once set, break into pieces and enjoy!

Makes wonderful gifts. Pack in pretty tins for Christmas treats. May be stored in airtight containers for up to a week.



Now We're
Cookin'



Saltine Toffee

40 saltine crackers (1 sleeve)
1 stick butter
1 c. packed brown sugar
2 c. chocolate chips
chopped nuts

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and spray the foil with nonstick cooking spray.

Arrange the crackers in a single layer on the baking sheet so that there are no empty spaces in between them.

Place the butter and brown sugar in a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Stir while the butter melts, and bring the mixture to a rolling boil. Once boiling, carefully pour the sugar-butter mixture over the crackers on the baking sheet in an even layer, covering the crackers completely.

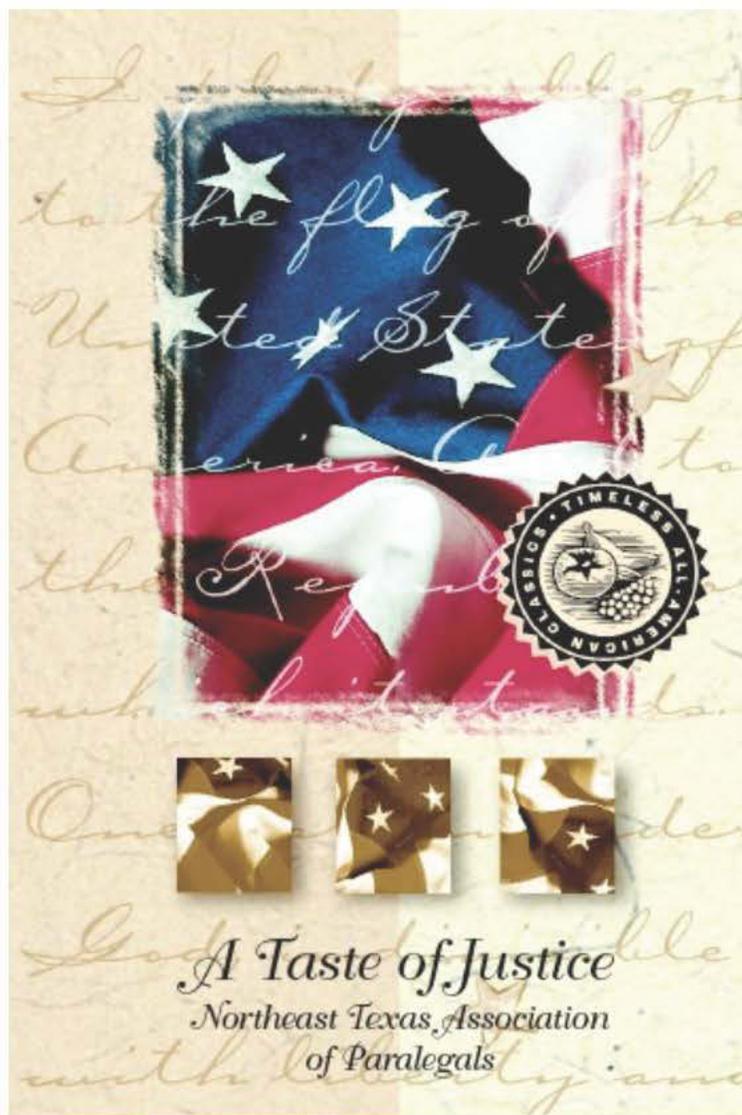


COOKBOOKS - \$10.00

RAISING MONEY FOR PARALEGAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



NORTHEAST TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF PARALEGALS, INC.



FANTASTIC HOLIDAY GIFTS!!

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.



SLOAN, BAGLEY, HATCHER & PERRY LAW FIRM

Longview office: 101 East Whaley Street
Longview, Texas 75601
903-757-7000
903-757-7574 fax

Houston office: 3000 Smith St., Ste 4
Houston, TX 77006
713-520-8833
713-520-9933 fax

800.730.0099 toll-free

www.sloanfirm.com

SBPS Siebman, Burg, Phillips & Smith, LLP

Marshall office: 113 East Austin, Marshall, Texas 75670

Tyler office: 110 North College, Suite 204, Tyler, Texas 75702

Sherman office: 300 N. Travis, Sherman, Texas 75090-0019

Plano office: 4949 Hedgcoxe Road, Suite 230, Plano, Texas 75204-3934

(903) 938-8900 (office)

michaelsmith@siebman.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

www.boonlaw.com

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

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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 "Identity Theft and Scams on the Elderly." 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! 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.

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

(Online) Free Webinars and CLE on Demand sponsored by Law.Com. For a full list of available courses, go to <http://www.law.com/jsp/law/webinars.jsp>.

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