



Key Note



Volume 101

Northeast Texas Association of Paralegals, Inc.
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Editor, Mona Hart Tucker, ACP

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President's Message



I recently watched (for about the 20th time) the movie *Erin Brockovich*. When I get tired and feel overworked (and overwhelmed) and need inspiration, that's generally the movie I turn to. It revives my sense of purpose and helps me remember why I chose the legal field—you know, fighting for the underdog and all that? The movie tells the story of how an unemployed, single mother of three children who lost a personal injury lawsuit against a wealthy doctor lost all hope. In order to compensate her for her loss, her lawyer employs her as a file clerk in his office until soon, she single-handedly brings down a huge gas and electric company, a company accused of polluting the water supply and adversely affecting the health of the citizens.

The story goes on to tell how, with no law degree and barely a penny to her name, the hard-working, single mother cracked one of the most controversial legal cases of her time. (It didn't hurt that she also got a big 2-million dollar paycheck afterwards.) Years later, Erin Brokovich earned her law degree and opened several firms of her own.

I always find inspiration in this story and it helps me remember why we work as hard as we do (although many times our efforts go unrecognized). For me, it's all about the justice—whether it's a personal injury case or a civil litigation matter where the parties are fighting, not over a lot of money, but over a principal. I am inspired to continue to work hard and fight for justice – like Erin.

Sandi Clarke, CP
NTAP President, 2013



2013 Executive Committee

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Scholarship – Javan Johnson, ACP
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NTAP's 25th Anniversary

On May 15th, NTAP members and guests celebrated the 25th anniversary of our association. Our very special guest speaker was Ruth Conley, ACP, who is the NALA Region IV Director (Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana).

The meeting was held at noon at the Summit Club in Longview, where attendees enjoyed an excellent buffet.

Highlights of the meeting included a wonderful trip down memory lane as we watched a slide show (prepared by Andrea Brunson) of great pictures from NTAP's 25-year history.

Javan Johnson, our Scholarship Chair, presented Ashley West, a Kilgore College legal assistant

student, with a check for \$250 to help cover her educational expenses.

Sandi Clarke and Andrea Brunson read letters from friends who recalled their memories of our charter member, Javan Johnson.

Sandi and Andrea presented door prizes to the following lucky winners: Pam Matthews, Shannon Bjork, Andrea Brunson, Javan Johnson, Devon Whatley, Cindy VanBlaricom, Mona Tucker, and Ashley West.

Our thanks go to these wonderful supporters for supplying the door prizes:

- Cheryl L. Schwarzer, LexisNexis rep - three \$25 Target gift cards
- Pure Nail Bar - \$40 gift certificate
- Subway - \$25 gift card
- Gretchen Shore, CSR - \$25 Target gift card
- Ben Henderson, LexisNexis rep - two \$25 VISA gift cards

We also appreciate NALA for furnishing the nice tote bags for everyone.

Mona Tucker introduced our special guest, Ruth Conley, NALA's Region IV Director, who gave a very informative talk on the changes to the CP exam and the reasoning behind those changes.

Sandi Clarke presented Javan Johnson with a nice bottle of wine in honor of her 25 years of service to NTAP. Sandi then also presented a second bottle of wine to Andrea Brunson, who had worked so very hard to put together this celebration, from the slide show to the vendors to the menu.

As the saying goes, "a good time was had by all!"



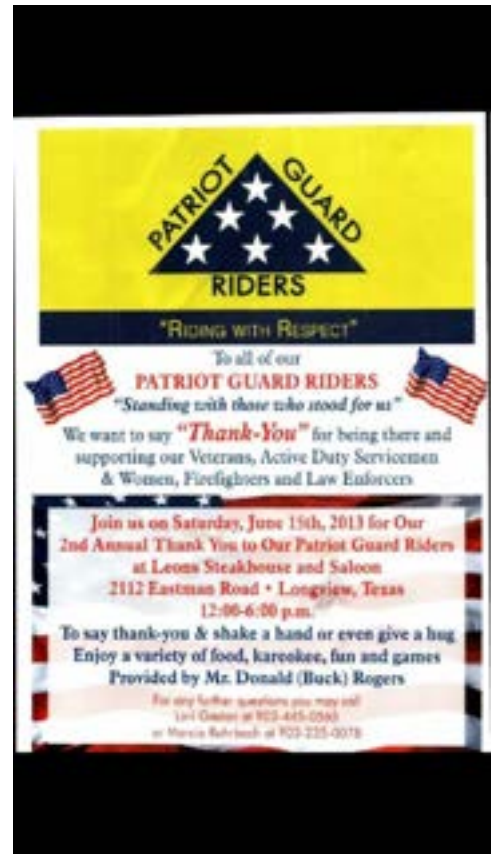
New Rules of Civil Procedure and Appellate Rules

Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (Including Amendments Effective March 1, 2013)
<http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/rules/trcphome.asp>

and
http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/rules/TRCP/RCP_all.pdf
and Texas Rules of Appellate Procedure

(updated with amendments effective December 1, 2012)

<http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/rules/trcphome.asp> and
<http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/rules/TRAP/TRAP.pdf>



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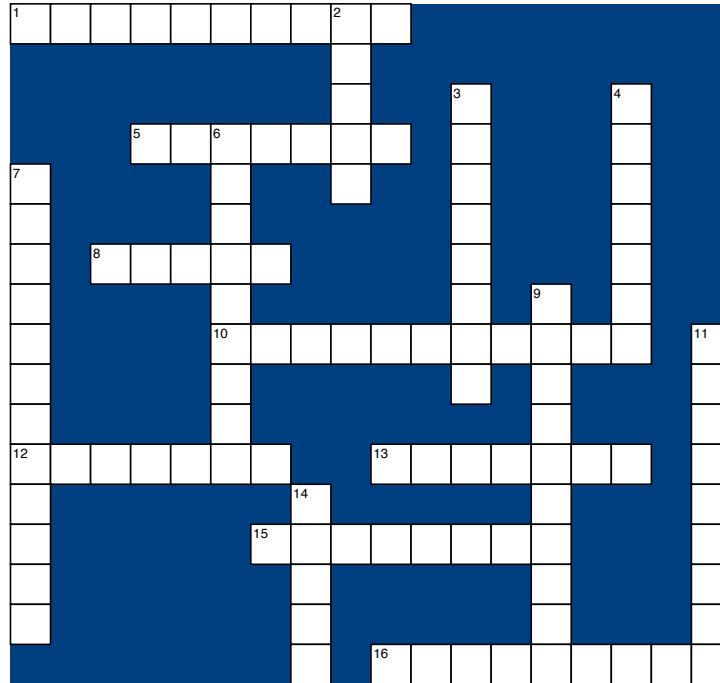
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Legal Terminology

For legal students



Created by Suzanne Mathews, paralegal

ACROSS

- 1 The purpose of enforcing a right or to seek a remedy in a court of law.
- 5 Another name for personal property
- 8 A written argument of counsel related to one or more legal issues in a case.
- 10 Professional negligence or misconduct .
- 12 Forgiveness of past acts.
- 13 The findings of fact by a jury in a civil or criminal trial.
- 15 A writ commanding the named individual to appear at a specific time and place.
- 16 Sworn statement in writing taken before a notary public or other authorized officer.

DOWN

- 2 A promise or commitment to do or refrain from doing a one or more specific acts.
- 3 When competent parties enter into an agreement to do or refrain from doing something.
- 4 Legislative enactment by Congress or a state legislature.
- 6 Meeting of the minds.
- 7 A judgment or decision of a court.
- 9 The process of converting property or claim to its cash equivalent.
- 11 A right to reap the financial benefits of literary property
- 14 To suppress, stop, cease and abate .

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) Protecting Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Children, Part II 2010, Obtaining Safe Custody/Visitation Orders, On-Demand, May 7 - May 30, 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Free webcast, sponsored by the Practising Law Institute. Provides 3.0 CLE hours. Click [here](#).

(Online) Texas Veterans Legal Assistance Project Webinar, Mondays 11:45 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. The Texas Legal Services Center offers a free webinar each Monday on topics related to veterans. All courses have been approved by the State Bar for one hour of participatory credit (no ethics). For upcoming topics, go to www.tlsc.org.

(Online) Texas Bar CLE free online seminars. TexasBarCLE offers a complimentary half hour of participatory MCLE credit. You will find a new topic available every other month. The current topic is "How to Communicate Effectively in Legal Writing: Summaries". www.texasbarcle.com. Please note: NALA will not accept courses under 50 minutes in length, but the Paralegal Division does accept these 30-minute online classes.

(Online) Ethics. If you need ethics CLE hours check out www.lexvid.com. All the courses are free.

(Online) NALA Campus Live! has many topics to choose from, and the Texas Board of Legal Specialization has approved certain courses for certification and re-certification. The spring program runs through May 10th. More information is available at www.nala.org.

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

