

HISTORY OF THE PARALEGAL DIVISION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS

2008 - 2009

The 2007-2008 Outgoing Board of Directors met June 26, 2008 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Houston, Texas. President Giuliano reported that in addition to being able to monitor one's CLE hours on line, this past year a section was added which allows members to track their pro bono hours. In addition, it was announced that the *Profiling the Paralegal Profession* marketing video has been finalized. This video features Lisa Sprinkle, Pat Hammer, Rhonda Brashears, and Javan Johnson. It was also reported that the PD Ambassadors program continues to be a success and there were numerous presentations across the state during the past year. Lastly, the 2008 PD trip to Ireland had 33 travelers, and there were stops in Killarney, Blarney, and Dublin, and there was also a CLE event at the Four Courts in Dublin

2007-2008 Board of Directors

Officers:	President:	Patricia J. Giuliano
	President-Elect:	Rhonda Brashears
	Secretary:	Clara Buckland
	Treasurer:	Stephanie Hawkes
	Parliamentarian:	Robert W. Soliz
Directors:	District 1:	Chari Turner
	District 2:	Stephanie Hawkes
	District 3:	Michelle Rayburn
	District 4:	Billy Hart/Michelle Flowers Brooks*
	District 5:	Kristy Ritchie/Susan Wilen**
	District 6:	Deirdre Trotter
	District 7:	Misti Janes
	District 8:	Robert W. Soliz
	District 10:	Cheryl Bryan
	District 11:	Vacant
	District 12:	Debbie Oakes Guerra
	District 13:	Deborah Hathaway/Resigned***
	District 14:	Mona Hart Chandler
	District 15:	Open
	District 16:	Clara Buckland

*Director Hart resigned in the Winter 2007. Michelle Flowers Brooks of Austin was appointed to fill his position for the remainder of his term.

**Director Ritchie resigned in the Fall. Susan Wilen of San Antonio was appointed to fill her position for the remainder of her term.

***Director Hathaway resigned in the Fall leaving District 13 without representation.

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Paralegal Division was held at the George Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas on June 26, 2008. The PD held a luncheon in the Convention Center with Richard "Race Horse" Haynes as the keynote speaker.

The following awards were presented:

Exceptional Pro Bono Award: Constance Nims

Outstanding Committee Chairs: Jodye Kasher and Carolyn Goff

Award of Excellence: Ellen Lockwood

Special Award: Roy Wilson and Copy Solutions, Dallas, Texas

Outgoing Director Plaques: Deirdre Trotter, Robert Soliz, Mona Hart Chandler

Other general PD business was conducted and the annual report of the President was given, followed by the installation of the 2008-2009 Officers and Board of Directors.

2008-2009

The Incoming Board of Directors met on June 27-28, 2008 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Houston, Texas.

2008-2009 Board of Directors

Officers:	President:	Rhonda Brashears
	President-Elect:	Stephanie Hawkes
	Secretary:	Clara Buckland
	Treasurer:	Cheryl Bryan
	Parliamentarian:	Michelle Rayburn
Directors:	District 1:	Charie Turner, CP
	District 2:	Constance Nims
	District 3:	Michele Rayburn
	District 4:	Michele Flowers Brooks
	District 5:	Susan Wilen
	District 6:	Sheila Veach
	District 7:	Misti Janes
	District 8:	Carol Trevino
	District 10:	Cheryl Bryan
	District 11:	Kim Hennessy
	District 12:	Debbie Oaks Guerra/Gloria Porter*
	District 13:	Cynthia Powell
	District 14:	Cynthia Williamson/Shannon Watts**
	District 15:	Vacant
	District 16:	Clara Buckland

*Debbie Oaks Guerra resigned after being elected President-Elect. Gloria Porter was appointed to fill her remaining term.

**Cynthia Williamson resigned her position and Shannon Watts was subsequently appointed.

Committee Chairs/Board Advisors appointed were:

Annual Meeting:	Debbie Spencer and Lori Winters Board Advisor: Constance Nims
Continuing Education:	Open
District CLE	Board Advisor: Michele Rayburn
Continuing Education:	Gloria Porter
Online CLE	Board Advisor: Debbie Guerra
Elections:	Melanie Langford Board Advisor: Cynthia Williamson/Susan Wilen*
Membership:	Open/Erica Anderson** Board Advisor: Michele Flowers Brooks
Professional Development:	Jodye Kasher Board Advisor: Kim Hennessy
Professional Ethics:	Ellen Lockwood, RP, ACP Board Advisor: Clara Buckland
Public Relations:	Joncilee Davis Board Advisor: Misti Janes

Publications:	Heidi Beginski Board Advisor: Stephanie Hawkes
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*Director Williamson resigned and Director Wilen was appointed.

**Erica Anderson was appointed subsequent to the initial 2008 Board meeting.

Liaison appointments were as follows:

American Alliance of Paralegals:	Cynthia Williamson/Carol Trevino*
American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants:	Susan Wilen
American Association for Paralegal Education:	Kim Hennessy
American Bar Association/Paralegals:	Constance Nims
Association of Legal Administrators:	Sheila Veach
College of the State Bar of Texas:	Charie Turner
International Paralegal Management Association:	Michele Rayburn
National Association of Legal Assistants:	Clara Buckland
National Federation of Paralegal Associations:	Debbie Guerra
Paralegal Committee of the SBOT:	Rhonda Brashears
Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations:	Rhonda Brashears
Texas Association of Legal Professionals:	Michele Rayburn
Texas Board of Legal Specialization:	Cheryl Bryan
Texas Young Lawyers Association:	Misti Janes

*Director Williamson resigned and position reappointed to Director Trevino

Ad Hoc Committees were appointed as follows:

Ambassador Program:	Wendy Rogers, Chair
Attorney Marketing:	Open
CLE Carry Over:	Michele Flowers Brooks, Chair
E-Group Policy:	Heidi Beginski, Chair
Ethics Handbook:	Ellen Lockwood, Chair
Membership Renewals/Spot Audit:	Jeanette Ybarra, Co-Chairs
State Bar College Membership Application:	Jena Parker, Chair
TAPS 2008:	Patricia Giuliano, Chair
TAPS 2009:	Rhonda Brashears, Chair
Vendor Liaison:	Debbie Oaks Guerra, Chair
Webinar CLE:	Rhonda Brashears, Chair
Member Services:	Open
Website Maintenance:	Open
Renewal Delinquency:	Open

TAPS 2008

TAPS 2008 was held in San Antonio at the Omni Hotel on September 17-19, 2008 with the theme "*Celebrating Paralegals Across the Lone Star State, TAPS Turns 10 in 2008.*" Despite Hurricane Ike, that had just blown through east Texas cities the week prior, we had good attendance and only a few weather-related cancellations. The offsite social was held at Rio Cibolo Ranch, and the keynote speaker at the Friday luncheon was Michael Maslanka, a Partner in the Dallas office of Ford & Harrison.

2008 Fall Board Meeting

The Fall Board of Directors meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas, November 7-8, 2008.

Texas Forum was moved from the usual November date to February 27, 2009 in Irving, Texas. However, prior to the November meeting President Brashears and President-Elect Hawkes attended Council of Chairs and were able to meet with SBOT

President, Harper Estes, to discuss various PD matters.

Gloria Porter reported on the status of the PD on-line CLE and advised that the top selling presentation is Ethics for Attorney and Paralegals.

2009 Winter 2009 Board Meeting

The Winter 2009 Board of Directors meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas on February 27-28, 2009

Numerous votes were held to approve various electronic versions of the past minutes which will greatly assist future members of the Board in searching the history when a question arises.

It was reported that Ellen Lockwood is working on the 3rd Edition of the *Paralegal Ethics Handbook*. It was also reported that several webinars are being planned to assist members in their CLE endeavors.

A new Journal Entry Procedural Processes Ad Hoc Committee was established to address some issues with journal entries identified by the auditors.

President Brashears announced that there are 22 people registered to travel with the PD to Greece in April 2009. She also gave an update on the TAPS 2009 planning which will be held in League City.

The Directors present at the meeting gave reports on the events taking place in each of their districts.

Lori Winter, Annual Meeting 2009, gave a report on the status of planning for the event to be held in Dallas.

Lastly, nominations were taken for the Award of Excellence, Outstanding Committee Chair, and any other special awards to be given. Further, the Board took nominations and voted in the 2009-2010 Executive Committee.

2008-2009 Outgoing Board Meeting

The outgoing Board of Directors meeting was held Thursday June 25, 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Market Center in Dallas, Texas.

President Brashears gave a brief overview of the year, including a report on the Greece trip. She also reported that the PD has offered three webinar CLEs and all were well received.

President-Elect Hawkes gave a report on the 2009 TAPA meeting which was held April 2-3, 2009 in Texarkana.

The newly formed Journal Entry Process for Audit Financial Ad Hoc Committee Report was given by President-Elect Hawkes who presented the committee's recommendation to appoint the SBOT Accounting Office at the official reviewer of journal entries over \$5,000.