

# HISTORY OF THE PARALEGAL DIVISION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS

## 2009 - 2010

### 2009 Incoming Board Meeting

The Incoming Board Meeting was held on June 26, 2009 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Dallas, Texas. President Hawkes discussed her goals for the year, with a focus on membership.

### 2009-2010 Board of Directors

Officers:	President	Stephanie Hawkes, RP, CIPP
	President-Elect	Debbie Oaks Guerra
	Secretary	Michele Rayburn, CP, PLS
	Treasurer	Cheryl Bryan, CP
	Parliamentarian	Clara L. Buckland, CP
Directors:	District 1	Nan Gibson
	District 2	Connie Nims
	District 3	Michele Rayburn, CP, TBLS
	District 4	Michele Flowers Brooks
	District 5	Susan Wilen, RN
	District 6	Sheila Veach, CP
	District 7	Misti Janes
	District 8	Carol Trevino
	District 10	Cheryl Bryan, CP
	District 11	Kim Hennessy, CP
	District 12	Gloria Porter
	District 13	Cindy Powell
	District 14	Shannon Watts, CP
	District 15	Vacant
	District 16	Clara L. Buckland, CP

The following committee chairs, advisors, and liaisons were appointed.

### Committee Chairs/Board Advisors appointed:

Committee	Chair	Advisor
Annual Meeting	Linda Burkes	Michele Rayburn, CP, TBLS
Continuing Education District CLE	Lou Bugarin	Shannon Watts, CP
Continuing Education Online CLE	Gloria Porter	Debbie Oaks Guerra
Elections	Melanie Langford, ACP	Susan Wilen, RN
Membership	Erica Anderson, CP	Misti Janes
Professional Development	Jodye Kasher, CP	Kim Hennessy, CP
Professional Ethics	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP	Clara Buckland, CP
Public Relations	Lisa Pittman	Cindy Powell
Publications	Heidi Beginski, TBLS	Nan Gibson

**Ad Hoc Committee/Board Advisors were appointed as follows:**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
Ambassador Program	Wendy Rogers, CP, TBLS	Cheryl Bryan, CP
E-Group Policy	Heidi Beginski, TBLS	Sheila Veach, CP
Ethics Handbook	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP	Cindy Curry
Membership Renewals/Spot Audit	Lori Winter, CP	Michele Flowers Brooks
Online CLE/Webinars	Rhonda Brashears, CP	Gloria Porter
PD Blog	Stephanie Hawkes, RP, CIPP	
Pro Bono Ad Hoc Committee	Patti Giuliano	Stephanie Hawkes, RP
Procedures Manual: State Bar College Membership	Debbie Oaks Guerra	
Application Review	Jena Parker, CP	Gloria Porter
TAPS 2009 Planning Committee	Rhonda Brashears, CP	Stephanie Hawkes, RP
TAPS 2010 Planning Committee	Stephanie Hawkes, RP	Debbie Oaks Guerra
Vendor Liaison Ad Hoc Committee	Debbie Oaks Guerra	

**Liaison appointments were as follows:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Liaison</b>
American Alliance of Paralegals (AAPI)	Carol Trevino
American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants (AALNC)	Susan Wilen, RN
American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE)	Kim Hennessy, CP
American Bar Association/Paralegal	Cindy Powell
Association of Legal Administrators	Sheila Veach, CP
International Paralegal Management Association (IMPA)	Cindy Curry
National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA)	Clara Buckland, CP
National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA)	Connie Nims
Paralegal Committee of the State Bar (PC)	Stephanie Hawkes, RP, CIPP
Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations	Stephanie Hawkes, RP, CIPP
Texas Association of Legal Professionals (TALP/NALS)	Michele Rayburn, CP, TBLS
Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS)	Cheryl Bryan, CP
Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA)	Misti Janes
Center for American and International Law	Connie Nims

**2009 Fall Board Meeting**

The Fall Board of Directors meeting was held at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo, Texas, on September 25-26, 2009.

President Hawkes discussed the Profiling the Paralegal Profession Video, which is geared toward educating attorneys to help them learn how to utilize paralegals. It was discussed that this video would eventually be available online.

President Hawkes discussed the fact that Judge Linda Thomas, former Chair of the State Bar of Texas Paralegal Committee, was retiring. She explained that Judge Thomas wrote the Gill Savings case, which allowed paralegal fees to be recovered and she was instrumental in the creation of the TBLS certification examination for paralegals. She was presented with a plaque and the presentation was videotaped at an upcoming event in Dallas, Texas.

There was discussion regarding sending a questionnaire to members inquiring about the Mentor Program. It was decided that the Board of Directors would ask the Chair, Lisa Pittman, to put together a questionnaire to put out at TAPS. There was a consensus that the Board of Directors would like to have the Mentor program continue.

It was discussed and recommended that Susan Wilen, RN, Board Advisor to the Elections Committee, review the District Director Elections calendar to ensure the dates are correct. The Elections calendar will be approved by electronic vote at a later date.

A social was held on Friday night for the members in District 7 (Amarillo) to meet the Board of Directors. There were approximately 40 people in attendance and the members enjoyed meeting their Board of Directors.

### TAPS 2009

TAPS 2009 was held in League City at the South Shore Harbour Resort on October 14-16, 2009 with the theme "TAPS 2009 - Chart Your Course- Sharpen Your Mind." The Wednesday night social, Lounging by the Bay, was a fun event where attendees were encouraged to wear appropriate pajamas and visit with old and new friends alike. For the Thursday evening social, the attendees enjoyed dinner aboard a beautiful yacht. The keynote speaker at the Friday luncheon was Judge Ken Wise presenting the topic "Order in the Court ...Or Not." Mandi Martin of Webster, Texas and Nicole Pratt of Spring, Texas were awarded the TAPS 2009 educational scholarships.

### Winter 2010 Board Meeting

The Winter 2010 Board of Directors meeting was held in Corpus Christi, Texas on February 20-21, 2010.

President Hawkes introduced Rachel Strong Mahler, the Paralegal Division Member Services Coordinator, to the Board of Directors. Ms. Mahler created all of the Paralegal Division electronic newsletters, which were sent to both members and non-members within the past few months. She has also taken over membership process.

There was discussion regarding allowing members to pay dues online and how to accomplish that when a signature of the supervising attorney is needed. It was voted to investigate the process of renewing membership online via the State Bar of Texas website or the Paralegal Division website.

There was discussion about getting MCLE approval accreditation for Profiling the Paralegal Profession video.

There was discussion regarding the Procedures Manual, and recommended that it be cleaned up with the final format to be approved at the outgoing June Board Meeting.

### Texas Forum

The Texas Forum XXVII was held on April 30, 2010 in Dallas, Texas. The theme was Embracing this New Economy with a Different Set of Skills.....a new challenge for lawyers and paralegals.

### 2009-2010 Outgoing Board Meeting

The outgoing Board of Directors meeting was held June 10, 2010 in Ft. Worth, Texas.

President Hawkes gave a brief overview of the year. She announced that she attended the Paralegal Committee meeting on April 30, 2010 and that Texas Forum 2011 would be in Dallas in February 2011. President Hawkes also discussed the 2009 trip to Spain, TAPA 2010, and TAPS 2010 in Austin at the Doubletree.

It was reported that there were approximately 150 webinar attendees at each of the free webinars during 2009-2010. Profiling the Legal Profession video is now online and has been accredited with 0.50 MCLE hours for attorneys.

### 2010 Annual Meeting

The 2010 Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Paralegal Division was held in Ft. Worth, Texas on June 11, 2010. President Hawkes reported on the State of the Division which included discussing the cost Texas Paralegal Journal, webinars, 2009 Spain trip, 2009 TAPS in League City, the Division providing a combined total of over 60 hours of CLE, SBOT Council of Chairs Meetings, State Bar College, and Pro Bono services.

The luncheon CLE was a roundtable discussion regarding trends and technology in the paralegal profession.

The following awards were presented:

Award	Recipient
Exceptional Pro Bono Service Award	Lyla Malolepszy
Chair of the Year Award(s)	Sheila Milbrandt, Chair, District CLE Committee Wendi Rogers, Chair, Ambassador Ad Hoc
Special Awards	Rhonda Brashears, Chair, TAPS 2009 Planning Committee and Online CLE Committee Lori Winter and Debbie Spencer, Co-Chairs, 2009 Annual Meeting

Outgoing Director Plaques	Gloria Porter, District 12
	Connie Nims, District 2
	Clara Buckland, CP, District 16

Other general PD business was conducted and the annual report of the President was given, followed by the installation of the 2011-2012 Officers and Board of Directors.