

HISTORY OF THE PARALEGAL DIVISION OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS

2011 - 2012

2011-2012 Incoming Board Meeting

The Incoming Board of Directors met on June 25, 2011 at the Valencia Hotel in San Antonio, Texas.

2011-2012 Board of Directors

Officers:	President	Susan Wilen, R.N.
	President-Elect	Joncilee Miller Davis, ACP
	Secretary	Linda Gonzales, CP
	Treasurer	Cheryl Bryan, CP
	Parliamentarian	Kristy Ritchie
Directors:	District 1	Cindy Powell
	District 2	Toya Walker
	District 3	Allen Mihecoby, CLAS, RP
	District 4	Michele Flowers Brooks
	District 5	Kristy Ritchie
	District 6	Sheila Veach, CP
	District 7	Erica Anderson, ACP
	District 8	Laura Rogers
	District 10	Cheryl Bryan, CP
	District 11	Darla Fisher/*Bronna Sanders
	District 12	Sunnie Palmer
	District 13	Sonya Peres**
	District 14	Shannon Watts, CP
	District 15	Cindy Curry, ACP
	District 16	Linda Gonzales, CP

*Director Fisher resigned in February 2012. Bronna Sanders was appointed to fill her position for the remainder of her term.

**Director Peres resigned in 2012 leaving District 13 without representation.

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

Committee Chairs/Board Advisors appointed:

Committee	Chair	Advisor
Annual Meeting	Rhonda Harshbarger	Cindy Powell
Continuing Education District CLE	Sheila Milbrandt	Cheryl Bryan, CP
Continuing Education Online CLE	Rhonda Brashears, CP	Cindy Curry, ACP
Elections	Gloria Porter	Shannon Watts, CP
Membership	Jennifer Washington	Erica Anderson, CP
Professional Development	Kristina Kennedy	Allen Mihecoby, CP, RP
Professional Ethics	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP	Darla Fisher
Public Relations	Mary LaRue	Linda Gonzales, CP

Publications	Heidi Beginski, TBLS	Sunnie Palmer
--------------	----------------------	---------------

Ad Hoc Committee/Board Advisors were appointed as follows:

Committee	Chair	Advisor
Ambassador Program	Patti Giuliano	Kristy Ritchie
E-Group Policy	Heidi Beginski, TBLS	Sheila Veach, CP
Ethics Handbook	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP	Darla Fisher
Membership Renewals/Spot Audit	Lori Winter, CP	Michele Flowers Brooks
Online CLE/Webinars	Rhonda Brashears, CP	Cindy Curry, ACP
Pro Bono	Lyla Elk	Erica Anderson
Procedures Manual State Bar College Membership	Joncilee Miller Davis, ACP	
Application Review	Mary Morman	Michele Flowers Brooks
TAPS 2011 Planning Committee	Debbie Oaks Guerra	Susan Wilen, R.N.
TAPS 2012 Planning Committee	Susan Wilen, R.N.	Joncilee Davis, ACP
Vendor Liaison	Debbie Oaks Guerra	Laura Rogers

Liaison appointments were as follows:

Organization	Liaison
American Alliance of Paralegals	Sheila Veach, CP
American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants	Sonya Peres
American Association for Paralegal Education	Cindy Powell
American Bar Association/Paralegal	Shannon Watts, CP
Association of Legal Administrators	Laura Rogers
International Paralegal Management Association	Toya Walker
National Association of Legal Assistants	Toya Walker
National Federation of Paralegal Associations	Allen Mihecoby, CP, RP
Paralegal Committee of the State Bar	Susan Wilen, R.N.
Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations	Susan Wilen, R.N.
Texas Association of Legal Professionals	Cindy Curry, ACP
Texas Board of Legal Specialization	Cheryl Bryan, CP
Texas Young Lawyers Association	Sunnie Palmer

TAPS 2011

TAPS 2011 was held in Fort Worth at the DFW Marriott Hotel & Golf Resort at Championship Circle on October 5-7, 2011 with the theme "TAPS 2011 - Pearls of Wisdom." We had 250 registered attendees. The offsite social was held in the grand ballroom of the Speedway Club at the Texas Motor Speedway, where we kicked off the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Paralegal Division. The keynote speaker at the Friday luncheon was Roland Johnson, Immediate Past President of the State Bar of Texas, who presented a historical look back on the past 30 years of the Paralegal Division, entitled "Where You Are Now, Is Nowhere Compared To Where You Can Go". New to TAPS 2011 was a Career Symposium that was held Wednesday morning, prior to the commencement of the CLE presentations. The Symposium had a dual tract, one for Paralegal Educators and the other for Paralegals, and both offered free of charge to all Texas paralegal educators, current students, recent graduates, and seasoned professionals.

2011 Fall Board Meeting

The Fall Board of Directors meeting was held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas, October 28-29, 2011.

President Wilen announced that Texas Forum is scheduled for February 24, 2012 in Irving, Texas, the PD Annual Trip to Italy is planned for April 21-28, 2012 and TAPA is scheduled to be in El Paso April 13-14, 2012.

The Board discussed and agreed that the Paralegal Division would hold its 2012 Annual Meeting and Luncheon separately from the State Bar of Texas and that one (1) hour of CLE would be offered.

The Board discussed and approved the development of an on-line membership application process. In addition, it was discussed and agreed that the PD Board of Directors would begin considering membership applications for those with felony conviction on a case by case basis, providing that the offenses were not those of moral turpitude.

Winter 2012 Board Meeting

The Winter 2012 Board of Directors meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Dallas, Texas on February 24-25, 2012.

It was reported that the new member on-line application process was nearing completion. Coordinator Norma Hackler has also been working closely with the SBOT Membership Department to insure a smooth transition of the on-line renewal registration process. The online renewal process is scheduled to begin during the 2013-2014 renewal year. President Wilen announced that there was 21 people registered to travel with the PD to Italy in April 2012. She also gave an update on the TAPS 2012 planning which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas.

The Directors present at the meeting gave reports on the events taking place in each of their districts. In addition, it was noted that the Ambassador Program currently had 22 programs scheduled.

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 on the 2012-2013 Executive Committee.

2011-2012 Outgoing Board Meeting

The outgoing Board of Directors meeting was held Thursday June 14, 2012 at the Magnolia Hotel in Houston, Texas.

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

President Wilen and President-Elect Davis gave a report on the 2012 TAPA meeting which was held on April 13-14, 2012 in El Paso, Texas. She also provided specifics regarding the Annual Meeting and Luncheon scheduled for the following day at The Houston Club in downtown Houston.

2012 Annual Meeting

The 2012 Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Paralegal Division was held at the Houston Club in Houston, Texas on June 15, 2012. The keynote speakers were Phillip N. Sanov and Kelley Smith, attorneys at the Lanier Law Firm in Houston, who presented "The Evolving Role of the Paralegal."

The following awards were presented:

Award	Recipient
Exceptional Pro Bono Service Award	Elma Moreno
Outstanding Committee Chairs Awards	Lori Winter, CP, CLE Spot Audit Ad Hoc Committee Patti Giuliano, Ambassador Ad Hoc Committee
Special President's Award	Cheryl Bryan, CP, Treasurer Rhonda Harshbarger -2012 Annual Meeting Joncilee Miller Davis, ACP, Procedures Manual Committee Debbie Oaks-Vendor Liaison and TAPS 2011 Planning Committee
Outgoing Director Plaques	Toya Walker – District 2 Michele Flowers Brooks – District 4 Sheila Veach, CP – District 6 Cheryl Bryan, CP – District 10 Sunnie Palmer – District 12 Shannon Watts, CP – District 14

Other general PD business was conducted and the annual report of the President was given, followed by the installation of the

2012-2013 Officers and Board of Directors.