

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

## 2012 - 2013

### 2012 Incoming Board Meeting

The Incoming Board Meeting was held on June 12, 2012 in Houston, Texas. President Davis discussed her goals for the year and that her theme for the year was TEAMWORK.

### 2012-2013 Board of Directors

Officers:	President	Joncilee Davis, ACP
	President-Elect	Misti Janes, TBLS
	Secretary	Linda Gonzales, CP
	Treasurer	Erica Anderson, ACP
	Parliamentarian	Allen Mihecoby, CLAS, RP
Directors:	District 1	Cindy Powell
	District 2	Mariela Cawthon, CP
	District 3	Allen Mihecoby, CLAS, RP*/ Megan Goor, TBLS
	District 4	Kristina Kennedy, ACP, TBLS
	District 5	Kristy Ritchie
	District 6	Deirdre Trotter, ACP
	District 7	Erica Anderson, ACP
	District 8	Laura Rogers, PLS
	District 10	Sharon Wornick, CP
	District 11	Lydia McBrayer, CP
	District 12	Pamela Snavelly, CP
	District 13	VACANT
	District 14	Mona Hart Tucker, ACP
	District 15	Cindy Curry, ACP, TBLS
	District 16	Linda Gonzales, CP

\*Director Mihecoby resigned in 2012. Megan Goor was appointed to fill his position for the remainder of the term.

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

### Committee Chairs/Board Advisors appointed:

Committee	Chair	Advisor
Annual Meeting	Jay Williams	Mariela Cawthon, CP
	Kelli Smith, CRP	
District CLE	Sheila Milbrandt	Cindy Curry, ACP, TBLS
Online CLE	Rhonda Brashears, CP	Sharon Wornick, CP
Elections	Gloria Porter	Pamela Snavelly, CP
Membership	Clara Buckland, CP	Erica Anderson, ACP
Professional Development	Christine Cook	Kristina Kennedy, ACP, TBLS
Professional Ethics	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP	Pamela Snavelly, CP

Public Relations	Mary LaRue, CP	Mona Tucker, ACP
Publications	Heidi Beginski, TBLS	Linda Gonzales, CP

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

Committee	Chair	Advisor
Ambassador Program	Patti Giuliano	Kristy Ritchie
E-Group Policy	Heidi Beginski, TBLS	Sharon Wornick
Ethics Handbook	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP	Pamela Snavely, CP
Felony Membership Applications	Jena Parker	Cindy Powell
Membership Renewals/Spot Audit	Lori Winter, CP	Mariela Cawthon, CP
Paralegal Programs and Education	Lisa Sprinkle, TBLS	Linda Gonzalez, CP
PD Members' Local and National Awards/Recognition	Debbie Spencer	Cindy Curry, ACP, TBLS
Pro Bono	Lyla Elk	Erica Anderson, ACP
Pro Bono Definition	Susan Wilen, RN	Kristie Ritchie
Procedures Manual	Misti Janes, TBLS	
Standing Rules and Bylaws	Allen Mihecoby, CLAS, RP	
State Bar College Membership Application Review	Michele Flowers Brooks, CP	Mona Hart Tucker, ACP
TAPS 2012 Planning Committee	Susan Wilen, RN	Joncilee Davis, ACP
TAPS 2013 Planning Committee	Joncilee Davis, ACP	Misti Janes, TBLS
Vendor Liaison	Debbie Oaks	Laura Rogers, PLS

**Liaison appointments were as follows:**

Organization	Liaison
American Alliance of Paralegals	Laura Rogers, PLS
American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants	Kristina Kennedy, ACP, TBLS
American Association for Paralegal Education	Cindy Powell
American Bar Association/Paralegal	Allen Mihecoby, CLAS, RP
Association of Legal Administrators	Sharon Wornick, CP
International Paralegal Management Association	Deirdre Trotter, ACP
National Association of Legal Assistants	Deirdre Trotter, ACP
National Federation of Paralegal Associations	Allen Mihecoby, CLAS, RP
Paralegal Committee of the State Bar	Joncilee Davis, ACP
Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations	Joncilee Davis, ACP
Texas Association of Legal Professionals	Cindy Curry, ACP, TBLS
Texas Board of Legal Specialization	Cindy Curry, ACP, TBLS
Texas Young Lawyers Association	Laura Rogers, PLS

**2012 Fall Board Meeting**

The Fall Board of Directors meeting was held in Dallas, Texas, on October 26-27, 2012.

President Davis presented a report for the vacant districts, District 11, 13, and 3, and reported that President Davis and President-Elect Janes send emails to the vacant districts with information regarding the Paralegal Division, along with notification of the director vacancies.

President Davis appointed an ad hoc committee to research the dissolution/absorption of District 13 and appointed the Leadership Development Ad Hoc Committee.

**TAPS 2012**

TAPS 2012 was held in San Antonio, Texas Crown Plaza Hotel in Addison, Texas on October 3-5, 2012 with the theme, "A Direct Flight to First Class CLE." There were 229 registrants in attendance. The Wednesday night social, The Aviator's Lounge, was held at the hotel. For the Thursday evening social, Navigate Your Way into History, the attendees visited the Cavanaugh Air Museum. Teams gathered to assemble 40 bikes for the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children's Bike Rodeo. The keynote speaker at the Friday luncheon was Robin Pou presenting the topic The Thinking Advantage: The Thoughtful Secret to the Success You Want."

### Winter 2013 Board Meeting

The Winter 2013 Board of Directors meeting was held in Dallas, Texas on February 22-23, 2013.

A report was presented by Lisa Sprinkle, chair of the Paralegal Programs and Education Ad Hoc Committee. This Committee was asked to gather information on paralegal educational programs in Texas. Several motions were discussed and passed in order to ensure that the applications were in accordance with the standards of being a member of the Paralegal Division based on education.

A report was presented by Debbie Oaks, Chair of the Leadership Development Ad Hoc Committee. The Paralegal Division would be hosting the Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations (TAPA) conference in 2013 and would be holding a leadership conference.

A report was presented by Javan Johnson, chair of the TBLS Helpful Hints Guide Ad Hoc Committee. This committee was formed to prepare a guide for paralegals considering taking the TBLS exam.

### Texas Forum 2013

The 31st Annual Texas Forum was held on February 22, 2013 at the City Place Conference Center, Dallas, Texas.

### 2012-2013 Outgoing Board Meeting

The outgoing Board of Directors meeting was held June 20, 2013 in Dallas, Texas.

President Davis reported that the Paralegal Division's social media traffic had increased.

The Board of Directors approved a Felony Application presented by the Felony Application Ad Hoc Committee. The intent of the committee was to develop an application for applicants that had been convicted of a felony NOT involving moral turpitude. After discussion and revisions, the application was approved.

The report of the Pro Bono Definition Ad Hoc Committee was presented and a motion was discussed and passed to adopt the definition.

The report of Ad Hoc Committee on District 13 was presented and a motion was discussed and passed to merge District 13 and District 1.

### 2013 Annual Meeting

The 2013 Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Paralegal Division was held at Belo Mansion in Dallas, Texas on June 21, 2013 Paralegals Evolve Into Success. The keynote speaker was Judge Linda Thomas of the Fifth District Court of Appeals.

The following awards were presented:

Award	Recipient
Exceptional Pro Bono Service Award	Julie Sherman, TBLS
Outstanding Committee Chairs Award	Clara Buckland, CP, Membership
Outstanding Ad Hoc Committee Chair Award	Lisa Sprinkle, TBLS, Paralegal Education Programs
Special Awards	Gloria Porter, Elections Committee
	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP, Professional
	Ethics Committee and the Paralegal Ethics
	Handbook Ad Hoc Committee
	Debra Crosby, Ambassadors Program

Outgoing Director Plaques	Cindy Powell, District 1
	Kristy Ritchie, District 5
	Cindy Curry, ACP, TBLS, District 15
	Joncilee Davis, ACP, President

Other general PD business was conducted and the annual report of the President was given, followed by the installation of the 2013-2014 Officers and Board of Directors.