

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

## 2013 - 2014

### 2013 Incoming Board Meeting

The Incoming Board Meeting was held on June 22, 2013 in Dallas, Texas. President Janes discussed her goals for the year.

### 2013-2014 Board of Directors

Officers:	President:	Misti Janes, TBLS-BCP
	President-Elect:	Clara Buckland, CP
	Secretary	Linda Gonzales, CP
	Treasurer	Erica Anderson, ACP
	Parliamentarian	Deirdre Trotter, ACP
Directors:	District 1	Christine Cook, PHP
	District 2	Mariela Cawthon, CP, TBLS-BCP
	District 3	Megan Goor, TBLS-BCP
	District 4	Kristina Kennedy, ACP, TBLS-BCP
	District 5	Allison Seifert
	District 6	Deirdre Trotter, ACP
	District 7	Erica Anderson, ACP
	District 8	VACANT
	District 10	Sharon Wornick, CP
	District 11	Lydia McBrayer, CP
	District 12	Pamela Snavelly
	District 14	Mona Hart Tucker, ACP
	District 15	Martha Ramirez, TBLS-BCP
	District 16	Linda Gonzales, CP

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

### Committee Chairs/Board Advisors appointed:

Standing Committee	Chair	Advisor
Annual Meeting	Julie Sherman, TBLS-BCP	Megan Goor, TBLS-BCP
District CLE	Sheila Milbrandt	Mariela Cawthon, CP, TBLS-BCP
Online CLE	Rhonda Brashears, CP	Megan Goor, TBLS-BCP
Elections	Shandi Farkas, CP	Pamela Snavelly, CP
Membership	Tonya M. Brothers	Erica Anderson, ACP
Professional Development	Jay Williams	Christine Cook, PHP
Professional Ethics	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP	Pamela Snavelly, CP
Public Relations	Joncilee Davis, CP	Kristina Kennedy, ACP, TBLS-BCP
Publications	Heidi Beginski, TBLS	Mona Hart Tucker, ACP

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

<b>Ad Hoc Committee</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Advisor</b>
Ambassador Program	Patti Giuliano	Allison C. Seifert
E-Group Policy	Heidi Beginski, TBLS	Mona Hart Tucker, ACP
Ethics Handbook	Ellen Lockwood, ACP, RP	Pamela Snavelly, CP
Membership Renewals/Spot Audit	Lori Winter, CP	Mariela Cawthon, CP, TBLS-BCP
Paralegal Programs and Education	Lisa Sprinkle, TBLS-BCP	Linda Gonzalez, CP
NFPA Paralegal Core Competency Exam	Mariela Cawthon, CP, TBLS-BCP	
Pro Bono	Lyla Elk	Erica Anderson, ACP
Procedures Manual		Clara Buckland, CP
Standing Rules and Bylaws	Deirdre Trotter, ACP	
TAPS 2013 Planning Committee	Susan Wilen, RN	Misti Janes, TBLS-BCP
TAPS 2014 Planning Committee	Misti Janes, TBLS-BCP	Clara Buckland, CP
Vendor Liaison	Debbie Oaks	Megan Goor, TBLS – BCP

**Liaison appointments were as follows:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Liaison</b>
American Alliance of Paralegals	Allison C. Seifert
American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants	Christine Cook, PHP
American Association for Paralegal Education	Lydia P. McBrayer, CP
American Bar Association/Paralegal	Megan Goor, TBLS-BCP
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	Mariela Cawthon, CP, TBLS-BCP
Paralegal Committee of the State Bar	Misti Janes, TBLS-BCP
Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations	Misti Janes, TBLS-BCP
Texas Association of Legal Professionals	Martha C. Ramirez, TBLS-BCP
Texas Board of Legal Specialization	Kristina Kennedy, ACP, TBLS
Texas Young Lawyers Association	Lydia P. McBrayer, CP

**2013 Fall Board Meeting**

The Fall Board of Directors meeting was held in Dallas, Texas, on October 25-26, 2013.

President Janes presented a report for the vacant districts, and reported that President Janes send emails to the district with information regarding the Paralegal Division, along with information regarding the director vacancies.

The report for the TBLS Helpful Hints Guide Ad Hoc Committee was presented. A motion was discussed and approved the TBLS Helpful Hints Guide.

The Board of Directors voted to amend the Bylaws to merge District 13 and District 1. The amendments would be sent to the State Bar of Texas for approval.

The report for the TAPA 2014-Dallas Ad Hoc Committee was presented by Chair Debbie Oaks. The Paralegal Division will be hosting the event on April 4 and 5, 2014.

**TAPS 2013**

TAPS 2013 was held in San Antonio, Texas at the Omni Colonnade Hotel in San Antonio, Texas on October 2-4, 2013 with the theme, "TAPS 2013: Spectacular CLE." There were 250 registrants in attendance. The Wednesday night social, Opening Night Happy Hour, was held at the hotel. Buses were then available to transport attendees to the San Antonio Riverwalk. For the Thursday night social, The VIP Production, the attendees were treated to 1 hour of Ethics credit with the presentation of "Ethics Follies: The Age of Rock". Many attendees dressed up to match the 80's theme. The keynote speakers at the Friday luncheon were Allan K. DuBois and Thomas Keyser presenting the topic "Practicing Law and Wellness: Modern Strategies for the Paralegal Dealing with Anxiety, Addiction, and Depression."

**Winter 2014 Board Meeting**

The Winter 2013 Board of Directors meeting was held in Dallas, Texas on February 28-29, 2014.

It was reported that the Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS) would be celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2014. They are working on their website, and interviewing paralegals in the Austin area. They will be a gold sponsor at TAPS 2014. Information regarding the TBLS exam was submitted for publication in the Spring TPJ and the PD website.

There was a proposal submitted to the Board of Directors to develop a PD app and was approved.

A presentation was presented by Elliott Fontenot from the Texas Legal Services Center. Texas

Law Help provide legal assistance to those in need.

It was announced that the PD would start sending out a monthly Newsletter.

**Texas Forum 2014**

The 32nd Annual Texas Forum was held on February 28, 2014 at the City Place Conference Center, Dallas, Texas with the theme "Back to the Future: The Foundation of the Legal Profession".

### 2013-2014 Outgoing Board Meeting

The outgoing Board of Directors meeting was held June 26, 2014 in Ft. Worth, Texas.

It was reported that the latest edition of the Ethics Handbook is the 7th Edition and will be published in August 2014. New revisions are being started for the 8th edition.

President Janes reported that there were 35 travelers to PD annual trip to Vienna and Prague in April 2014.

President Janes reported that the PD monthly e-Newsletter was recently launched. There was a contest held on the name of the e- Newsletter and the winner would be announced at the Annual Meeting luncheon.

President Janes reported that the PD app would be ready to launch soon. She also reported that TAPS 2014 would also have an app.

### 2014 Annual Meeting

The 2014 Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Paralegal Division was held at Ft. Worth Club in Ft. Worth, Texas on June 27, 2014 "The Paralegal Express: Your Train to Success." The keynote speaker was Lyn Robbins, Senior General Attorney with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad.

The following awards were presented:

Award	Recipient
Exceptional Pro Bono Service Award	Susan Wilen, RN
Outstanding Committee Chairs Award	Susan Wilen, RN, TAPS 2013 Planning Committee
Special Awards	Javan Johnson, TBLS Helpful Hints Guide
Outgoing Director Plaques	Mariela Cawthon, CP, TBLS-BCP, District 2 Kristina Kennedy, ACP, TBLS-BCP, District 4 Pam Snavelly, ACP, District 12 Linda Gonzales, CP, District 16 Misti Janes, TBLS-BCP, President

Other general PD business was conducted and the annual report of the President was given, followed by the installation of the 2014-2015 Officers and Board of Directors.