

PARALEGAL DIVISION

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



Prepared by:
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Texas Board of Legal
Specialization Board Certified
Paralegal – Civil Trial Law
President, 2018-2019
Historian, 2019-2020
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Historian Report 2018- 2019

2018 Incoming Board Meeting

The Incoming Board Meeting was held on June 23, 2018 in Austin, Texas. President Sterling discussed her goals for the year.

2018-2019 Board of Directors

2018-2019 Executive Committee & Officers	
President	Stephanie R. Sterling, TBLS-BCP
President-Elect	Megan Goor, TBLS-BCP
Treasurer	Javan Johnson, ACP, TBLS-BCP ¹ Erica Anderson, ACP
Secretary	Sherylyne “Sherie” Hollinger, RP
Parliamentarian	Edna W. Garza, TBLS-BCP
2018-2019 District Directors	
<i>District 1 Director</i> Sherylyne "Sherie" Hollinger	<i>District 10 Director</i> Jennafer Persinger, ACP ² Shannon Shaw
<i>District 2 Director</i> Eugene Alcala	<i>District 11 Director</i> Sandra Seutter, CP ³ Janet McDaniel, CP
<i>District 3 Director</i> Mary R. Wintermote	<i>District 12 Director</i> Lisa Pittman
<i>District 4 Director</i> Francesca Romans, ACP ⁴	<i>District 14 Director</i> Javan Johnson, TBLS-BCP, ACP ⁵

¹ Ms. Johnson resigned in October 2019, and Ms. Anderson was appointed to complete the year as Treasurer.

² Ms. Persinger resigned in August 2019, and Mr. Shaw was appointed to complete the term as District 10 Director.

³ Ms. Seutter resigned in October 2019, and Ms. McDaniel was appointed to finish her term as District 11 Director.

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	Shannon Happney, CP, TBLS-BCP
<i>District 5 Director</i> Susi Boss	<i>District 15 Director</i> Edna W. Garza, TBLS-BCP
<i>District 7 Director</i> Sharla Fowler, CP ⁶ Erica Anderson, ACP	<i>District 16 Director</i> Rebecca Lopez

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

Standing Committee Chairs/Board Advisors:

Committee	Chair	Board Advisor
2019 Annual Meeting Committee	TAPS 2019 Committee	Stephanie Sterling
Continuing Education Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o District CLE o Online CLE 	Jennifer Hutchinson Kara O'Shaughnessy	Sherie Hollinger
Elections Committee	Martha Ramirez	Mary Wintermote
Membership Committee	Alice Lineberry	Francesca Romans
Professional Development Committee	Carli Collins	Francesca Romans
Professional Ethics Committee	Ellen Lockwood	Jennafer Persinger
Public Relations	Erica Anderson	Rebecca Lopez
Publications	Megan Goor	Edna Garza

Ad Hoc Committee/Board Advisors:

Committee	Chair	Board Advisor
Ambassadors Program	Joncilee Davis	Sandra Seutter
E-Group Policy	Kimberly McDonald	Lisa Pittman
eNewsletter – <i>Paralegal Pulse</i>	Brenda Colvin Gabby Warner	Javan Johnson
Membership Renewal Spot Audit	Deb Pointer	Mary Wintermote
Mentor Program	Deb Pointer	Eugene Alcala
Paralegal Ethics Handbook	Ellen Lockwood	Jennafer Persinger
Pro Bono	Shanna Mello	Sandra Seutter
TAPS 2018 Planning Committee	Mona Tucker	Stephanie Sterling
TAPS 2019 Planning Committee [default President]	Stephanie Sterling	Megan Goor
TBLS Examination Helpful Hints	Javan Johnson	Javan Johnson
Texas Bar College Membership Application Review	Jena Parker	Rebecca Lopez
Vendor Liaison	Susan Davis	Sharla Fowler
Website Development	Pam Etie	Francesca Romans

⁴ Ms. Romans resigned in May 2019, and at the conclusion of the 2018-2019 term, the District 4 Director position remained vacant.

⁵ Ms. Johnson resigned in October 2019, and Ms. Happney was appointed to finish her term as District 14 Director.

⁶ Ms. Fowler resigned in July 2018, and Ms. Anderson was appointed to finish her term as District 7 Director.

Liaison appointments:

Committee	Liaison
American Alliance of Paralegals (AAPI)	Jennafer Persinger
American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE)	Sharla Fowler
American Bar Association (ABA)	Sherie Hollinger
Office of Court Administration	Javan Johnson
National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA)	Sandra Seutter
National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA)	Eugene Alcala
Texas Alliance of Paralegal Associations (TAPA)	Stephanie Sterling
Texas Association of Legal Professionals (TALP/NALS)	Sharla Fowler
Texas Board of Legal Specialization (TBLS)	Edna Garza
Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans (TLTV)	Lisa Pittman
Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA)	Mary Wintermote

Other appointments were as follows:

Representative to State Bar [default President]	Stephanie Sterling, TBLS-BCP
Representative to State Bar College (2017-2020)	Jena Parker, CP
State Bar of Texas Pro Bono Workgroup	Stephanie Sterling, TBLS-BCP
State Bar of Texas Child Protection Section	Susi Boss
State Bar Legal Services to the Poor in Civil Matters	Megan Goor, TBLS-BCP
State Bar UPL Committee – Dallas Division	Eugene Alcala

TAPS 2018

TAPS 2018 was held in Addison, Texas at the Crowne Plaza Dallas Near Galleria, on September 26-28, 2018. The theme was "*Just in Time for CLE – The Magic of TAPS 2018*". This year's charity was the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation. The three-day seminar had 65 speakers who spoke on various areas of law to 194 TAPS attendees which provided a total of 14 hours of CLE. The keynote speaker at the Friday luncheon was Terry Bentley Hill speaking on "Hope and Healing and a Few More Gifts Along the Way." The total amount collected for the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation was \$1,807.50.

2018 Fall Board Meeting

The Fall meeting of the Board of Directors was held in San Antonio, Texas, on October 12 and 13, 2018.

President Sterling introduced and welcomed Erica Anderson back to the board as the new District 7 Director. The board voted to appoint Shannon Shaw as the new District 10 Director.

President Sterling announced the appointment of the Chair of the 2019-2020 President-Elect Nominations Committee and the Chair of the Nominations Committee for the 2019-2020 Executive Committee.

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President Sterling informed the Board that she had been invited and had willingly accepted to be a member on the Texas Forum Planning Committee for 2019.

The Board of Directors brainstormed ideas and decided on details for a Membership Drive to begin on May 1, 2019 and run through June 30, 2019.

Other general PD business was conducted, and President Sterling gave her quarterly report.

Winter 2019 Board Meeting

The Winter meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Austin, Texas, on February 1-2, 2019.

The Board of Directors received and approved the annual audit report with a presentation given by Shannon Andre' of Brown, Graham & Company, P.C.

President Sterling introduced and welcomed Shannon Shaw as the new District 10 Director. She also welcomed Erica Anderson as the new PD Treasurer. President Sterling introduced and welcomed Jan McDaniel back to the board as the new District 11 Director. She also introduced and welcomed Shannon Happney as the new District 14 Director.

President Sterling discussed the future creation of a Long-Term Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee to assist the PD in planning for the future, increasing membership, adding membership benefits and streamlining procedures.

The report from the Nominations Committee Chair for President-Elect was given. President Sterling congratulated Edna Garza-Guerra, TBLs-BCP on her election as 2019-2020 President-Elect. Next, the election for the 2019-2020 Executive Committee was conducted and the Nomination Committee Chair for the Executive Committee announced the results. President Sterling congratulated the 2019-2020 Executive Committee on their election.

Other general PD business was conducted, and President Sterling gave her quarterly report.

PD Trip 2019

The Paralegal Division sponsored its annual trip to Europe "*Paralegals Return to London*" on April 12-20, 2019. It was an exciting trip in which it felt like the travelers took a step back in time observing all of the historic monuments in London and surrounding areas in England. There were 20 travelers to London. The 2020 Europe Trip will be to Bratislava and Budapest.

2018-2019 Outgoing Board Meeting

The outgoing meeting of the Board of Directors was held June 7, 2019, in Dallas, Texas.

Other general PD business was conducted, and President Sterling gave her annual report.

Shortly after the outgoing meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned the Installation of New Officers for 2019-2020 was conducted by President Sterling. President Sterling handed over the gavel to incoming President Goor.

2019 Annual Meeting and TAPS 2019

TAPS was held on September 18-20, 2019 at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin, Texas with the theme “*There’s No Place Like TAPS – 20 years of CLE Excellence.*” It was the 20th anniversary of TAPS, so the committee wanted to reflect back on all 20 years of of quality CLE.

The seminar had 63 speakers who spoke on a wide variety of legal topics. The Wednesday social event was “*Regally Legally Networking Socially in the Land of “Oz”-tin*” and a grand time was had by all networking with colleagues and vendors. Many attendees came dressed in the best Wizard of Oz costume and we ended the night with a costume contest. The Thursday social was “*The Emerald Gala – Celebrating 20 years of TAPS*”. A brief history of TAPS was provided, and we reminisced while viewing previous TAPS photos. The special Friday morning presentation was a panel of seasoned TBLS board certified paralegals who discussed tips and provided information to assist other paralegals in preparing for and taking the TBLS exam.

In lieu of speaker and volunteer gifts for TAPS 2019, the planning committee donated \$890 to the Austin Bar Foundation who has provided many contributions to the local legal community over many years.

A first for this year was that the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Paralegal Division was held in conjunction with the Friday luncheon at TAPS, on September 20, 2019. It was our “*TAPS Finale and Your Annual Meeting too!*”

Our Friday luncheon keynote speaker was the Honorable Darlene Byrne, Judge of the 126th Judicial District Court in Travis County. She spoke on ethics and the importance of paralegals to the legal profession.

The following awards for 2018-2019 were presented during the Friday Annual Meeting TAPS luncheon:

Award	Recipient
Exceptional Pro Bono Service Award	Amber Haney
Outstanding Committee Chairs Award	Kara O’Shaughnessy, Online CLE Committee
Award of Excellence	Michele Boerder, TBLS-BCP
Special Awards	Innovative Legal Solutions Kim Tindell and Associates Express Records Service
Outgoing Director Plaques	Sherylyne Hollinger, RP, District 1 Director Mary Wintermote, District 3 Director Stephanie Sterling, TBLS-BCP, President

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Annual Meeting PD business was conducted, and the state of the Division was given by President Goor. This was followed by a brief synopsis of highlights from the 2018-2019 term given by Immediate Past President Sterling.

The outgoing 2018-2019 Officers and Board of Directors were recognized for their hard work over the last year as well as the 2018-2019 Committee Chairs were recognized. Finally, the 2019-2020 Officers and Board of Directors were introduced to the attendees and congratulated on their election. The luncheon was then concluded with a few brief announcements.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie R. Sterling, TBLS-BCP
President, 2018-2019
Historian, 2019-2020