



A Legend Takes Flight

Reprinted courtesy of *Voices for the Defense* in memory of Hal Jackson. Story by Bill Trantham. Photos courtesy of Bailey Art and Publishing, Inc.

Any lawyer active in Denton County from 1952 through 2003 quickly became acquainted with and a friend of Hal Jackson. A legendary trial lawyer, state representative, war hero, and friend to all, he practiced law in Denton County primarily. Hal Jackson passed away on January 19, 2008, aged 87 years.

Hal Jackson was the lawyer's lawyer, always faithful to his beliefs and a natural leader. When a lawyer needed assistance in some manner, Hal Jackson was the first to come to help. Many young lawyers were mentored, comforted, inspired, and nurtured by Hal. He never seemed to lose patience or become exasperated by the sometimes struggle.

Hal Jackson was born in Denton, the son of a lawyer and former county judge, Brent Jackson. He loved to tell stories of his early childhood, including the Martin-Storey Gang shoot-out on Texas Street in Denton. His father was involved in the longest pending lawsuit in Denton County history. *First State Bank v. Stanfield Lodge* was on the docket of the 16th District Court from the fall of 1917 until spring 1964.

Hal graduated from Denton High School in 1937 and UNT in 1941. He left the University of Texas Law School to join the Navy Air Corps on

January 1, 1942, and served three tours of duty in the South Pacific with the U.S. Navy during World War II as a member of the Skull and Crossbones Squadron, VF-17. During that critical period, the Japanese swept across the Pacific defeating the Americans and British at every turn. The Navy was left to shoulder the burden of the war in the Pacific.

To turn the tide, American hopes rested on a new aircraft coming onto the line of battle. Those planes were as exotic and fanciful at the time as any of the modern aircraft of today. A select and special breed of aviators were trained to fly these aircraft and take on the formidable Japanese Navy pilots, who were recognized as the elite of pilots because of their training, skills, and bravery.

It was no surprise to anyone who knew Hal Jackson that he was one of the elite chosen to carry the fight to the enemy. Twenty-one-year-old Hal learned to fly the F4U Corsair, a



Hal Jackson, circa 1942 (left) 2004 (right)

gull-winged fighter the Japanese came to call *Whistling Death* due to the peculiar noise made by the air intakes on the aircraft's wings. As a member of the Jolly Rogers, Hal and his squadron became the highest-rated of

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**Bench Bar Conference
rescheduled to
May 2, 2008.**

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From the President

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Your DCBA Membership includes

- Free and discounted CLE programs
- Monthly lunch and happy hours
- Networking opportunities
- Listing on the bar website which includes a photo, two areas of practice, and a link to your own personal website

Your DCBA Membership offers

- Family Law Section
- Real Estate, Trust, and Probate Law Section
- Denton County Trial Lawyer's Assoc..
- Greater Denton County Young Lawyers Association

This month I would like to introduce one of the projects that is most dear to me and that I have wanted to do for a long time. November is National Adoption Month and this year, the Denton County Bar Association will be a part of the nationwide celebration transitioning children from foster care into their "forever families."

That is why I am particularly excited to announce that on November 7, 2008, the Denton County Bar Association will launch our first "Denton Adoption Day." It is our hope to help foster children and parents come together to form new families. Those of us who have practiced in the family law area know that adoptions are among the most joyous and uplifting experiences of our careers. It is truly special to see the joy that belonging to a family brings to these children and the fulfillment that comes to the adopting parents from opening their hearts and homes.

It is our plan to make this a very special day for all concerned. We will provide gifts for each child, decorations, and a very festive atmosphere. We have reserved the Central Jury room, Judge Isaacks' Courtroom and the Ceremonial Courtroom for this project. Just a few events we are planning are to have a photographer provide a new family picture, a book store for the children to choose their books, a gift of jewelry for each child engraved with their new name and date of adoption, and a jury box full of stuffed animals for the children to choose from.

To bring this project to fruition, we will be calling upon you to volunteer your time and efforts to participate in finalizing adoptions on Denton



Tiffany L. Haertling, President

Adoption Day. Mark Lewis has graciously agreed to conduct a training session for those who are unfamiliar with the adoption process, and other Denton County family lawyers will offer mentoring so that all who are interested can join in. If you are interested in helping to bring these adoptive families together, please contact me at 940-484-8200 or by email to thaertling@texfamlaw.com. Together we will make this a day to remember!

Snow Day!



The March 2008 blizzard caused us to reschedule the DCBA Bench Bar Conference on May 2, 2008. We hope everybody enjoyed the unexpected snow day. Above, David Bouschor is scraping snow off cars in the parking lot at the DCAP office.

Legend continued from page 1.

the Navy squadrons, and Hal became an ace and a legendary Navy pilot.

Hal's most famous exploit came with the sinking of the largest battleship ever built. As a member of VBF-10, he was stationed on the carrier *Intrepid* and took part in the sinking of Japan's largest battleship, the *Yamato*, for which he received the Silver Star (painted illustration by Robert Bailey on bottom left). The Japanese had constructed the *Yamato* and *Musashi*, the largest battleships the world had seen, with 18-inch main guns. By accident, Hal came across the *Yamato* making a suicide run in the East China Sea, headed for Okinawa. His was the first plane to spot and hit the ship.

Hal returned home to Denton a hero, and was elected to the Texas House by a grateful citizenry. He served two terms as representative in the Texas Legislature, and finished his law education at Baylor University and SMU, receiving his law license in 1952. He became the dean of the

Robert Bailey's painting, Imperial Sacrifice.



Hal Jackson (center right) poses with his fellow pilots.

Denton County Criminal Defense Lawyers, remaining active and practicing until his retirement.

Hal was a member of the Denton County Bar Association, the Denton County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and a founding member of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (TCDLA).

Hal was famous for selecting juries, recalling each person's name and personal details after only a few minutes studying the juror information cards. This feat of memory so intimidated prosecutors that they were at a disadvantage from the beginning of trial. His courtroom skills were second to none, and his theatrics became known locally as "Hal Jackson Stories" amongst the Bar members.

For lawyers practicing in Denton County, Hal was the original Lawyer's Assistance Program. An active AA member and supporter for 43 years, he helped any and all lawyers down on their luck to get back on their feet. He was always there to lend a hand.

During his career, Hal Jackson had as partners Jerry Garrett, retired state administrative judge; Alan Levy, chief prosecutor for the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office; George Preston, deceased; and Rick Hagen, TCDLA president-elect. Hal is survived by his wife of 65 years, Barbara Jackson.

From the Sections

DCBA Monthly Meetings

Collaborative Professionals

DCCP will meet at **12:00 PM** on Tuesday, **April 1** at Giuseppe's located at 821 N. Locust in Denton.

Family Law

The Family Law Section will meet at **5:30 PM** on Monday, **April 28** at Giuseppe's located at 821 N. Locust in Denton.

GDCYLA

GDCYLA will meet at **11:45 AM** on Thursday, **April 3** at Abbey Inn located at 101 W. Hickory in Denton.

Paralegals

Paralegals will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **April 24** at Oakmont Country Club located at 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

REPTL

REPTL will meet at **12:00 PM** on Wednesday, **April 16** at Fuddrucker's located at 1732 S. Loop 288 in Denton.

GDCYLA Membership Drive

When:

April 10, 5:00-8:00 PM

Where:

Hayes, Berry, White, and Vanzant Building
512 W. Hickory, Suite 100,
Denton, Texas 76201

What:

Bring your family and join us for great music, burgers, and hot dogs. The kids will love the bouncehouse.

Denton County Paralegal Association Seeking Members

The DCPA is accepting new members from the Denton County legal community. More than 40 Denton law offices are presently represented in this active association. Offering CLE once a month (free with paid lunch) and plenty of networking opportunities with other legal professionals, this is a great time to join. Our mission is to increase our own knowledge and professionalism and to promote a positive image of the local legal community. Membership is \$25.00 annually. For more information contact Terry Parsons at tparsons712@hotmail.com

FRCNT Director Receives Award from Practical Parent Education

Fran Moore, Executive Director of the Family Resource Center of North Texas, was recognized as the Linda Johnston Parent Education Administrator of the Year by the Practical Parent Education

organization. Fran, who is described as a "tireless advocate for families who has worked diligently to improve the lives of families in crisis involved in our justice system," was nominated by Vicki Isaacks, Judge of the 393rd Judicial District Court.

Mrs. Moore has led the FRCNT to becoming the premier program in the county for parent education and her

perseverance resulted in having *For Kids' Sake* mandated by the courts of Denton County. The organization leads initiatives that prevent child abuse, child injury, and early infant deaths.

The center has served approximately 2000 people in family-strengthening programs through prenatal programs, parent education, and public awareness outreach. Please join the DCBA in congratulating Fran for her continued commitment to strengthening families in her community.



Fran Moore (left) and Judge Isaacks, hold the Linda Johnston Parent Education Administrator of the Year Award.

perseverance resulted in having For Kids' Sake

Ad Litem Seminar Breaks Records

Ad litem Day (officially, the 2008 DCBA Probate, Guardianship, & Ad Litem Law Seminar) played February 1, 2008 at Oakmont Country Club to a packed house. Record-breaking attendance marked the return, after a one-year hiatus, of the popular and profitable annual presentation.

Thanks in large part to the yeoman service rendered by Ted Ogilvie and DCBA's Michelle Houston, the seminar's speakers, led by Judge Don Windle and including Associate Judge Jerry Parr, Probate Court staff Jean Manion and Missy Rainey,

guardianship expert Vickie McMurry, and local luminaries Dick Kelsey, Angela Miller, Stephen Dubner, Robert Ramirez, Lori Talbot, and Mark Sutherland spoke in an elegant banquet room overflowing with attorneys, paralegals, and a noticeable contingent of social workers and caregivers.

Themed on the Bill Murray comedy *Groundhog Day*, the seminar proved not only entertaining but informative; delivering, as promised in the Top Ten list which opened the seminar, specialized CLE at a very reasonable



price and "something you can use today."

DCBA gives a special thanks to Chuck Beachley for his amazing efforts for coordinating this event.



Attorney Ad Litem Training for Child Abuse and Neglect Cases

Friday April 4, 2008

Oakmost Country Club
1901 Oakmont Dr.
Corinth, TX 76205

Fees

- \$100 for attorneys
- \$25 for CASA members
- \$50 for administration staff
- (Lunch included)

Please make checks payable to CASA of Denton County.

Agenda

8:30 AM	Registration	11:45 AM	DCBA Luncheon
9:00 AM	Jane Thompson, JD, North Carolina Assistant Attorney General and Jane Malpass, MA, Child Protective Services Consultant: The Myth of Best Interest		Justice Dale Wainwright, Texas Supreme Court
		1:15 PM	Thompson and Malpass, cont.
10:30 AM	Break	2:30 PM	Break
10:45 AM	Thompson and Malpass, cont.	2:45 PM	Thompson and Malpass, cont.
		4:00 PM	Evaluation and Adjourn

Register with Brenda Sweeten at 940-243-2272 x104

From our Sponsors



Walk for Foster Care

5K Walk, May 3, 2008
Gateway Park, 1750 Beach Street,
at the corner of Beach and I-30
Fort Worth, Texas

Join in the 5K walk to support over 513,000
Children in foster care.

If you raise a minimum of \$30, you will receive
a free Walk Me Home t-shirt to wear during
the walk.

To register or get more information about the
event, please go to www.WalkMeHome.org.



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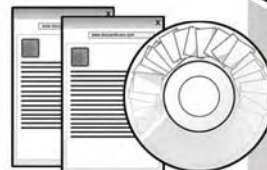
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DCBA in 2007-08

April Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, April 4, Noon
Meal included

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Program:

New Case Law in Abuse and Neglect

Speaker:

Justice Dale Wainwright

May Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, May 2, Noon
Meal included

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Program:

Business Meeting

Speaker:

President, Tiffany Haertling

Condolences

DCBA would like to express our condolences to Scott Alagood and his family on the passing of his grandfather, J.L. (Lowell) Penton, on March 9, 2008.

Announces

- **The Bench Bar has been rescheduled for May 2, 2008.** Texas Supreme Court Justice Johnson, luncheon speaker, to be rescheduled.
- Paralegal recipes due by April 30 to Debbie Oaks Guerra at dguerra@dw-partners.com.