



Professionals Attend Denton's Ad Litem Training

This work is not for the *faint-hearted*. You must have great determination, extreme patience, and a kind and loving spirit. You must be willing to work against the odds, at times against the system, and sometimes against your own desires.

Jane Malpass, MA and Jane Thompson, JD

On Friday, April 4, 2008 almost 170 professionals participated in Denton County's biannual Attorney Ad Litem Training in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases at the Oakmont Country Club. This well-attended and enlightening training was cosponsored by the Denton County Bar Association (DCBA) and CASA of Denton County, Inc. (CASA) who represents children in Denton County as Guardians Ad Litem.

Keynote speakers, Jane Thompson, JD and Assistant Attorney General from North Carolina and Jane Malpass, MA a child welfare consultant, introduced practical tools and philosophies to

help professionals mitigate the damage that the child welfare system can do to children while moving them through the system to permanency in as short a time as possible. During the monthly DCBA luncheon, The Honorable Justice Dale Wainwright of the Texas Supreme Court spoke about the court's work with children and families. The training was a great opportunity to foster collaboration among attorneys representing children and families along with child welfare professionals in the community.

The training emphasized that working with abused and neglected children takes a community effort to ensure the children's best interest is kept at the forefront throughout these often complex and emotional cases. The speakers helped attorneys, CPS caseworkers, and CASA volunteers representing children gain an understanding of the core values necessary to move children to finding a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible by maintaining our

focus on the child's sense of time. Information about what a child needs to thrive including preserving families, attachment and separation, and grief and loss were covered. All served as reminders of how delays in the system negatively impact a child's well-being now and in the future as well as how all professionals can work together to alleviate these delays and provide long-term benefits to children and families.

This training was made possible by the efforts of Brenda Sweeten, Michelle Houston, and Ted Ogilvie along with generous donations from Kolache Depot in Highland Village and Subway on University Drive in Denton, who provided afternoon refreshments. As usual, Oakmont Country Club served as a wonderful and helpful host. Special thanks to our speakers who have reminded us all that we want every child to be "somebody's child" and that to advocate for children who are caught up in a system filled with turmoil we must all have a "fire in the belly kind of belief in the worth of every child."



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From the President

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Pro Bono, *Dena Reecer*

Photography, *Hugh Coleman*

Membership, *Cynthia Burkett*

Awards, *Amie Peace*

DCBA Membership

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

It's been quite a year for me serving as the Denton County Bar President ... and I've enjoyed (almost) every minute of it. We made great progress this year and instituted new projects for the future, such as the Denton Adoption Day coming up in November. This project will be a rewarding way to make a lasting impact on the community. As President, I wanted to have unique and fun social events, and we accomplished that goal with our UNT Tailgate Party and our bus trip to the Winstar Casino. Our CLE events were very well attended, and we were honored to have Justice Wainwright speak at our April luncheon to a crowd of over 200 attendees!

As my tenure comes to a close, I want to thank a few people who stepped up and went above and beyond to help keep our Bar Association moving forward for their contributions over the past year. Both Andrew Passons and Travis Biggs have been invaluable to me. Whatever the need, they made themselves available to help and made significant contributions. My dear friend, Don White, did a great job as treasurer, and I suspect I would have been overwhelmed without his support. Thank you gentlemen!!

And, of course, my special thanks to Michelle Houston for her tireless attention to Bar business. As my staff can attest, it is no easy job keeping me organized and on track, but Michelle took care of me with her usual smile and upbeat demeanor. We are extremely fortunate to have such a special person to run the day to day operation of the Bar and DCAP.

I hope everyone enjoyed this year as much as I have. I truly appreciate having had the honor to serve as your



Tiffany L. Haertling, President

Bar President and look forward to the Bar's bright future. I wish Hugh Coleman the same great experience I've had!

DCBA/DCAP Summer Office Closings

The DCBA/DCAP offices will be closed on the following dates in observance of holidays.

- **Memorial Day, May 26**
- **Independence Day, July 4**
- **Labor Day, September 1**



Members Honored by CASA

On March 25, 2008 CASA of Denton County, Inc. (CASA) had the pleasure of not only recognizing their outstanding volunteer child advocates and community supporters but also two very dedicated members of the Denton County Bar Association (DCBA). Judge Carmen Rivera-Worley (*top right*) of the 16th District Court was awarded the 2007 CASA Judge of the Year award for the second year in a row, and Amie Peace (*bottom right*) was given the 2007 Attorney Ad Litem Award.

Judge Rivera-Worley was recognized for her strong commitment as a child advocate for the active and special interest she has taken in cases involving abused and neglected children. In the last year she has participated in a panel at the Texas CASA conference in Dallas, brought special training to Denton County

that was sponsored by the Texas Center for the Judiciary entitled "Beyond the Bench" which brought together Judges, Attorneys, Child Protective Services Staff, CASA, and other members of the community to collaborate on how we could serve Denton County's abused and neglected children more effectively. She also supports CASA by participating in training new advocates, conducting swearing in ceremonies, and waiting tables at the Grotto restaurant for CASA kids! Her outstanding commitment to the children certainly stands out.

Amie Peace was recognized for her special dedication to children in foster care for her role in bringing into fruition the now annual Denton County Kinship Fair which provides clothes, shoes, toys, and other needs to families who have children placed

in their homes who are in Child Protective Services custody. As past president of the Greater Denton County Young Lawyers Association (GDCYLA), Ms. Peace was instrumental in getting the Kinship Fair off the ground, resulting in recognition for the GDCYLA from both the Texas and American Bar Associations for the outstanding community service project. CASA especially appreciates Amie for her outstanding representation and advocacy efforts for the children she represents. CASA recognizes that it takes special people to represent children and we think Amie is one of them!



Pictures courtesy of Walter Eagleton

Judge Narsutis Honored For Years of Service to District Court

On February 11, 2008, retired Judge John Narsutis was honored for his twenty years of service by the DCBA in a short ceremony in the 16th District Court in the Denton County Courts Building. The reception was hosted by the current judge of the 16th District Court, the Honorable Carmen Rivera-Worley and her staff. Approximately eighty members of

the bar, court staff, bailiffs, friends, and family attended, wishing Judge Narsutis the best.

Judge Rivera-Worley welcomed guests and introduced James Ashmore, former bar president, who unveiled and presented the portrait for hanging. The portrait is the 20th hanging on the walls of the courtroom, each previous

judge of the Court being represented. Judge Narsutis was genuinely touched by the number of friends present and he graciously thanked all who participated.



From the Sections

DCBA Monthly Meetings

Collaborative Professionals

DCCP will meet at **12:00 PM** on Tuesday, **May 6** at Giuseppe's located at 821 N. Locust in Denton.

Family Law

The Family Law Section will meet at **5:00 PM** on Thursday, **May 22** for a membership drive at II Charlies located at 809 Sunset in Denton.

GDCYLA

GDCYLA will meet at **11:45 AM** on Thursday, **May 1** at PourHouse located at 3350 Unicorn Lake in Denton.

Paralegals

Paralegals will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **May 29** at Oakmont Country Club located at 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

REPTL

REPTL will meet at **12:00 PM** on Wednesday, **May 21** at Fuddrucker's located at 1732 S. Loop 288 in Denton.

GDCYLA Membership Drive

Date:

May 9, 5:00-8:00 PM

Location:

Coffey, Stout, & Peace
513 West Oak Street
Denton, Texas 76201

Program/Activities:

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



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

DCAP Annual Thank You Party

DCAP would like to thank DCAP mediators. We invite our mediators to join us for some bowling and games at the Main Event in Lewisville. Be sure to bring your families!

Date:

Thursday, June 19, 2008
5:30-9:00 PM

Location:

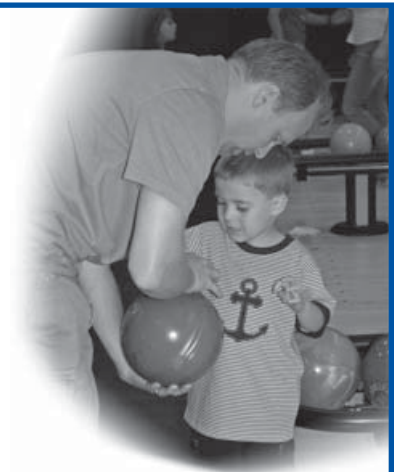
Main Event in Lewisville
2070 S. Stemmons Fwy.
Lewisville, TX 75067

Activities:

Fajita dinner, drinks, bowling, laser tag, glow bowling, video game cards, awards, and fun fun fun!

RSVP:

Please RSVP to Michelle Houston before Friday, June 13 by phone to 940-320-1500 or email to mhouston@dentonbar.com.



2008 Bench Bar Conference

May 2, 2008 Oakmont Country Club

CLE: Conference 3.75 hrs

Agenda

- 9:00 AM** Registration, Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 AM** County Criminal Courts Panel
- 10:30 AM** Break
- 10:45 AM** District Court Panel
- 11:45 AM** DCBA Luncheon
Business Meeting
- 1:15 PM** Probate, Juvenile, and County
Court at Law #1 Panel
- 2:15 PM** Playing Your Political Hand: How to get on
the Bench, Judge McFarling
- 3:00 PM** Texas Hold 'Em Tournament & Happy Hour

Register for the Bench Bar Conference with Michelle Houston at mhouston@dentonbar.com, 940-320-1500, or 512 W. Hickory Street, Suite 202, Denton, TX 76201. Please make checks payable to DCBA. Contact Duane Coker at attorney@cokerlegal.com to reserve your chips.

Fees

Conference: \$75.00/\$100.00
 \$100.00 at door
 Free for administration staff
 (\$15 for non-members lunch)

Name: _____				
Address: _____				
Street	City	State	Zip	
Phone: _____	Fax: _____			
Email: _____				
<input type="checkbox"/> My check for \$75.00/\$100.00 made out to The DCBA I am a(n) <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Assistant <input type="checkbox"/> Other				

SHOOT OUT AT THE OAKMONT CORRAL

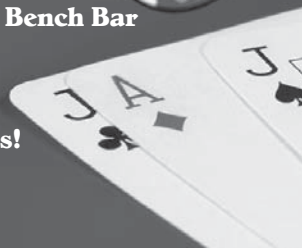
4th Annual Texas Hold 'Em Shoot Out

sponsored by DCBA

Friday, May 2, Oakmont Country Club
**3:00 PM: Immediately following the Bench Bar
 Conference and Bar Luncheon**

No experience necessary...
Free Entry, Food, Drinks, and Prizes!

RSVP: attorney@cokerlegal.com
 We're expecting a full house!



North Texas Conflict Resolution Conference

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Southern Methodist University - Plano Campus

Brain Science Of War & Peace

- 8:00 AM** Registration and Networking
- 8:45 AM** Introduction and Announcements
- 9:00 AM** Brain Science of War
- 9:45 AM** The Many Faces of Emotion in
Mediation
- 10:30 AM** Break
- 10:45 AM** From Private Arbitrator to Full Firm
- 11:30 AM** Keynote Address: The Reality of
Conflict
- 12:15 PM** Lunch (Door Prizes Announced)
- 1:00 PM** Intercultural Conflict Styles and their
Roles in War and Peace
- 2:45 PM** Break
- 3:00 PM** The Little Train That Can: The Power of
the Positive Mediator
- 3:45 PM** Brain Science of Peace
- 4:15 PM** Closing Remarks
- 4:30 PM** Adjourn

To register please visit www.NTCRC.org

CLE:

MCLE For Attorneys (Pending)
 CE For TAM, TMCA & Mental Health Professionals

Fees:

Early Bird: \$99.00 (Until May 1) \$120.00 After
 Student: \$50.00 (Until 50 spots)
 Questions, call (214) 546-3338 or (214) 450-3742

Upcoming CLE Opportunities

Advanced Family Law Seminar

August 11-14, 2008
 Marriott River Center, San Antonio, Texas
www.sbotfam.org

Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar

September 17-19, 2008
 Omni Hotel, San Antonio, Texas
www.txpd.org

From our Sponsors



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Kathy Jester – President
Celebrating 30 Years of Commitment to Denton

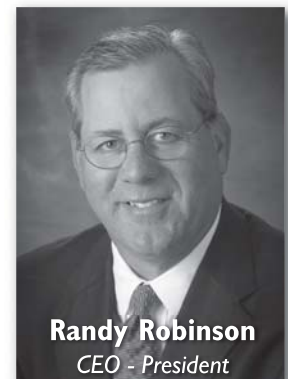


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DCBA in 2007-08

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

June Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, June 6, Noon
Meal included

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Program:

To be announced

Speaker:

To be announced

Condolences

DCBA would like to express our condolences to the following members and their families:

- Annette Ezzell on the passing of her mother-in-law, Jo Ezzell, on February 12.
- Michelle Houston on the passing of her father-in-law, Robert Law Houston, on March 15.
- Jim Ashmore on the passing of his father-in-law, Marcel J. Roy, on March 27.
- Dan Coffey on the passing of his father, Cleo Coffey, on April 7.
- Joe Zellmer on the passing of his sister, Geraldine Hutchinson, on April 10.