



DCAP Volunteers Knocked Pins at Thank You Party

Story by Michelle Houston and Chris Ventura

On June 25, 2009 at the Main Event in Lewisville, DCAP hosted its annual Thank You party for all the DCAP volunteers and their families. The DCAP attorneys generously donated their time to mediate low income cases which reduce court costs and case loads. Over eighty people enjoyed four hours of food, drinks, and games including bowling, laser tag, arcade games, billiards, and glow golf.

Of course, the highlight of the evening was the award presentation! Drum roll please.

Batman/Batgirl Awards

These superheroes saved the day when the scheduled mediator was unable to assist on the day of the mediation due to unforeseen circumstances. Along with a framed certificate, these individuals received a cape with a



sparkly *M* (for Mediator) on the back and a red mask. Seen running down the awards catwalk with their cape flowing behind were: Amie Peace, Dan Coffey, and Tiffany Haertling. (Unfortunately Dan and Tiffany were not present, so Amie had to represent for them, which she did swimmingly!)

Robin Awards

These caped crusaders were called into action within 48 hours of a set mediation. They also received a certificate, cape, and a mask—however, their mask was green. These awards went to Julia Kerestine, Elizabeth Nielsen, Jeff Shore, and Karen Alexander.

Most DCAP Mediations

Barbara Evans gave back to her community every time her DCAP Mediation phone rang.

Most Interesting Case

Don White, Jr. won this category for bringing DCAP the feline case. A special thanks goes to Judge Barnes for referring the this case to DCAP.

Shortest Resolved Mediations

We presented awards for the shortest resolved mediations in three categories—Civil, Family, and Feline.

- Ted Ogilvie resolved his Civil case in two hours and twenty five minutes.
- Stephen Dubner resolved his Family Law case in three hours and twenty five minutes.
- Duane L. Coker resolved his Feline case in four hours.

I truly thank all our award winners and the attorneys who continue to make DCAP such a success. Rumor has it that we are the best low income ADR program in the state! In addition, we want to recognize the DCAP Board Members who continue to drive the DCAP program towards perfection. Those members are: David S. Bouschor, II, President, Don White, Jr., Treasurer, Directors: Darcy Loveless, Duane L. Coker, and Tiffany Haertling.

Sooo... you want to get in on the fun? Join us for the DCAP Sign Up party on Thursday, August 20th at the Master Grill in Denton. Good things come to those that give!

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From the President

Wow! What a trip to the water park! It was great to see many of you there and have the opportunity to meet so many of your families. Our final event for the summer is just around the corner—the DCAP Sign Up Party is August 20 at Master Grill in Denton. Bring your calendars and come sign up to be a DCAP volunteer for the 2009-10 year. The hours you spend as a volunteer mediator are hours that can be reported to the State Bar as your pro bono hours, which is a great extra incentive to come and mediate.

As summer comes to a close, your DCBA and GDCYLA leaders begin focusing on how our groups can help others in our community. Two upcoming projects give everyone a great chance to be involved. First, the GDCYLA, in partnership with CASA and CPS will again hold their annual Kinship Fair on October 24 (*Make a Difference Day*). This event is a fall carnival held for children who have been removed from their families by CPS and placed with relatives. Unlike non-familial foster placements, these relatives do not receive stipends from

the state, and often have to stretch their budgets unmercifully to handle the unexpected additions to their families.

At the fall carnival, the children get to play games and visit the petting zoo, while also receiving haircuts, winter coats, diapers, and other necessities. You can participate in the Kinship Fair in a variety of ways. Contact JP LeCompte or John Rentz for details. Volunteer to work the event now, as a DPS background check is required for all event volunteers. The Kinship Fair is a unique opportunity to see kinship families enjoying time together.

Since the kinship families frequently have little surplus money and are very underserved by the state, the DCBA decided to participate in National Adoption Day. Adoption Day is November 20, 2009. Following up the Kinship Fair, the DCBA will partner with CASA and CPS to bring kinship families who are ready to adopt to the courthouse and finalize their adoptions.

We need your help! You do not have to worry about whether you normally file adoptions or not—we will provide you necessary forms,



Darcy Loveless, President

training, and experienced mentors. The only eligible adoptees are children whose parents have had their rights terminated, and CPS arranges the necessary home studies of the adoptive families. The adoption will be finalized on Adoption Day, so there is no issue with further work remaining for you after the event is over.

As a family lawyer who frequently must act to de-construct a family, being involved in constructing a family is a wonderfully rewarding experience. I hope to see all of you there with me. If you are not able to participate in the event, another way to help will be the donation of teddy bears, as a new teddy bear is given to each child at the event. More details will follow!

DCBA Officers

President, *Darcy Loveless*
Immediate Past President,
Hugh Coleman
President-Elect, *Don R. White, Jr.*
Vice President, *Dena A. Reecer*
Treasurer, *Duane L. Coker*
Secretary, *Theodore D. Ogilvie*
CLE Director, *Joe Zellmer*

DCBA Directors

*Travis Biggs, Cynthia Burkett,
Gina Hill, Theodore D. Ogilvie,
Amie Peace, John Rentz, Patricia
Ryan, Joe Zellmer*

DCBA Committee Chairs

Courts Committee, *Dena Reecer*
Library Board of Governors,
Gina Hill
Social Committee, *Travis Biggs*
CLE Committee, *Joe Zellmer*
Communications Committee,
*Patricia L. Ryan and
Amie Peace*
Fee Dispute, *John Rentz*
Pro Bono, *Cynthia Burkett*
Membership, *Amie Peace*
Awards, *Darcy Loveless*

Planning Committee, *Don R.
White, Jr.*
Local Rules, *Dena Reecer*

DCBA Membership Your DCBA Membership includes

- Free and discounted CLE programs
- Monthly luncheon & happy hour
- Networking opportunities
- Listing on the bar website, including photo, two practice areas, and a link to your website

Your DCBA Sections

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

For more information see our website: <http://dentonbar.com>

Communications/Public Relations Committee Update

Story by Patricia L. Ryan, *The Law Offices of Patricia L. Ryan*

One of the newly established DCBA committees is the Communications and Public Relations Committee. Working with Co-Chairs Patricia Ryan and Amie Peace are members Janette Baldwin, Michelle Houston, Julia Kerestine, Gerad Rosso, Jerome Stein, and Chris Ventura. This committee oversees

- recruitment of new members
- publication of the monthly newsletter
- coordination of the dissemination of newsworthy events among local newspapers, radio and television stations
- and correspondence with our website and database management team.

In keeping with the DCBA Mission Statement, we strive to promote positive relations among the judiciary, legal profession, and community while advancing the education of our members.

Our goals are to circulate a

publication and to maintain a website that are relevant, informative, and in keeping with our Mission Statement.

Another purpose is to set our sights on the annual Stars of Texas Bars Awards, which recognizes local bar associations for outstanding community involvement, commitment to increasing access to justice, and dedication to the profession. The Awards include the Award of Merit, Star of Achievement, Outstanding Partnership Program, Publication Awards, and the Judge Sam Williams Award. As you read in the July edition of the Denton County Lawyer, our newsletter won three Publication Awards for articles written by our members last year, in addition to the Outstanding Partnership Program Award for our Adoption Day.

We welcome the submission of articles that are informational and non-biased, as opposed to being solely for the purpose of advertising. The writings may be a feature or human

interest story, a news article, or a series of articles on substantive law or of general interest. The deadline for submission is the first Thursday of every month prior to the printing month, and may be forwarded for consideration to Patricia Ryan. You may wish to place those recurring dates on your calendar as a reminder; however, our committee will also be sending out email notices to jog your memory.

Your Bar Association is excited about changes being made to our website, www.dentonbar.com. One big change is that visitors will be able to place ads on a classified page for such things as office space to rent, job postings, or a job search. Please contact Michelle Houston at our DCBA office, or Co-Chairs Patricia Ryan at patricia@patricialryan.com, or Amie Peace at apeace@csplaw.net, for additional information about this exciting feature.

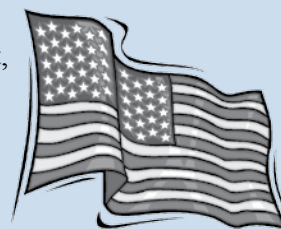
Constitution Day Celebration

On September 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they created—the United States Constitution. In honor of that auspicious event, celebrations are held around the Country.

Please mark your calendars for

this event hosted by the UNT Legal Eagles/Department of Political Science, the 3rd Annual Constitution Day on September 18, 2009, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM at the Abbey Inn, located on 101 W. Hickory St. in Denton. More details will follow, or you may contact Brian White, Director

of Development, UNT College of Arts and Sciences, 940-369-5217. Join us for the celebration!



From the Sections

Monthly Meetings

Collaborative Professionals

DCCP will not meet in August. Regularly scheduled meetings will resume on Tuesday, **September 1**.

Family Law

Family Law will meet at **5:30 PM** on Monday, **August 31** at Giuseppe's located at 821 N. Locust St. in Denton.

GDCYLA

GDCYLA will meet at **11:45 AM** on Thursday, **August 6** at Fuddrucker's located at 1732 S. Loop 288 in Denton.

GDCYLA will meet for happy hour at **5:00 PM** on Thursday, **August 13** at The Loophole located at 119 W. Hickory St. in Denton, sponsored by Tackett Legal, P.C.

Paralegals

DCPA will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **August 27** at Oakmont Country Club located at 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

REPTL

REPTL will not meet in August. Regularly scheduled meetings will resume on Wednesday, **September 16**.



*Gettin'
Jazzed up
for DCAP*

Date:

August 20, 2009
6:00–10:00PM

Location:

Master Grill
1800 S SL-288, Ste. 300,
Denton, Texas

Activities:

Come join us for an elegant evening including dinner, awards, prizes, and a return appearance of the incredible jazz band from last year! All attorneys who attend are expected to sign up to volunteer for DCAP mediations. RSVP with Michelle Houston at 940-320-1500 or by email at mhouston@dentonbar.com.

The How-To Attorney Adoption Day Training for Attorneys

Date:

September 11, 2009, 9:00–11:30 AM

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Registration:

To RSVP please contact Michelle Houston at 940-320-1500 or mhouston@dentonbar.com.



Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar

Date:

October 14–16, 2009

Location:

South Shore Harbor Resort,
League City, TX

Registration:

For registration, please go to www.txpd.org.



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2008-09 Bar Poll

The 2008-09 bar poll was conducted online using the services of www.ballotbox.com.

Contributing to increased participation, this type of poll ensures the confidentiality of the participants. The format in which the poll is conducted prevents even the

moderator of the poll to determine how any particular individual voted.

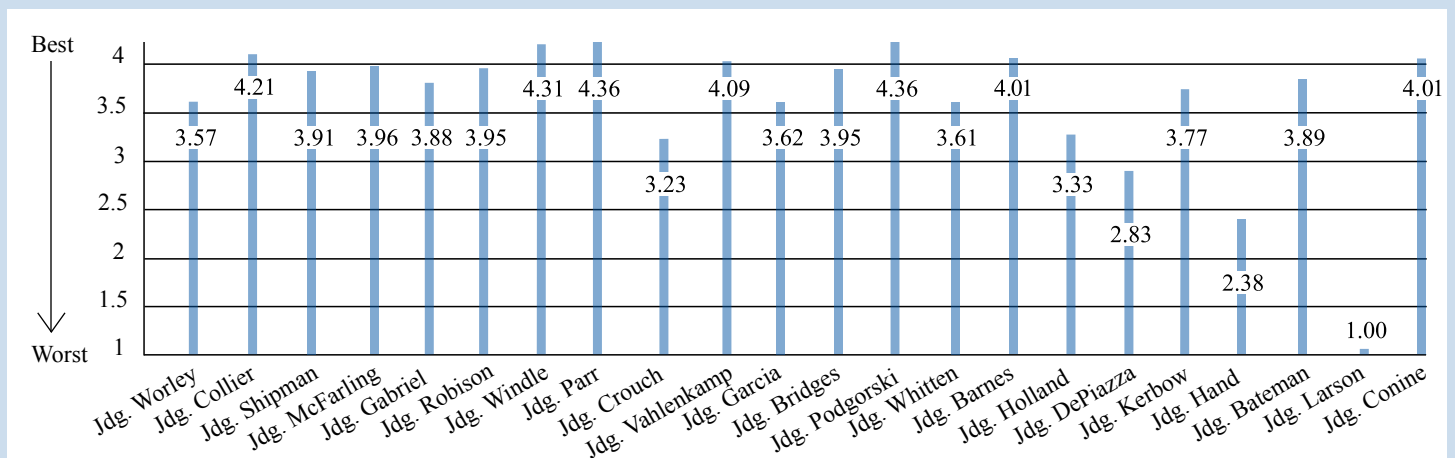
The poll asked questions pertaining to several areas of each court, including how courteous a particular judge is to litigants, witnesses, and attorneys; whether the judge understands and correctly

applies the law; and overall judicial temperament.

To receive a copy of the full bar poll results, please email Don White, Jr. at dwhite@hbwvlaw.com.

The graph represents the overall ranking of each Judge. Judges were ranked on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being worst, 5 being best.

2008-2009 Denton County Bar Poll Results Graph



Local Judges Receive State Recognition

Judges Virgil Vahlenkamp and David Garcia received Presidential Commendations from the State Bar of Texas during the 2009 Annual Meeting of the State Bar in Dallas. They were honored at the Bench Bar Breakfast on Friday, June 26. The Commendations stated, "For individual leadership in improving justice in Texas by meeting the standards of Certificate of Special Competence at the Texas College for Judicial Studies." Harper Estes the outgoing President of the State bar

made the presentation.

The Texas College for Judicial Studies is an award-winning, multi-year program, designed to provide advanced educational opportunities to judges who desire to improve their adjudication skills and acquire more knowledge in their jurisdictional specialization. In order to attend any part of the program, judges must apply and be accepted for admission. To be eligible, a judge must be an active judge of a Texas county court

at law, district, or appellate court with four years of judicial experience in one of those courts. There are five specialty tracks—civil, criminal, family/juvenile, appellate, or general jurisdiction. The program consists of a core curriculum of 16 hours and a specialty curriculum of 27 hours, all of which must be completed in five years.

Congratulations to Judge Vahlenkamp and Judge Garcia, for their dedication to excelling in judicial knowledge, expertise, and skill.

From our Sponsors



Accepting Donations and Volunteers for Kinship Fair

Please help us raise money and gather volunteers for the 2009 Kinship Fair being held at Texas Woman's University on October 24. If you are interested in donating or volunteering, please contact J.P. LeCompte at 940-387-3518 or at jplecompte@hbwvlaw.com or John Rentz at 940-349-2631 or at john.rentz@dentoncounty.com. Donations of any amount are welcome. We are seeking \$50/ Kinship child, and donations of \$250 or more received prior to August 15 places the donor's name on the 2009 Kinship Fair T-shirt.

Request for Mentors

We are looking for attorneys to mentor pre-law students. Any attorney interested in being a mentor, please contact J.P. LeCompte at 940-387-3518 or by email at jplecompte@hbwvlaw.com.



Denton County Property Records at Your Fingertips

Attention ATTORNEYS:

Title Resources of North Texas is opening its abstract plant to attorneys for non-insured, informational-purposes-only property research. Choose full service, assisted service or do-it-yourself research. Searches are available for current owner, names, deed, foreclosures, liens, historical title, mineral rights, document retrievals and more.

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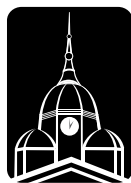
Vicki Isaacks

Former State District Judge

620 W. Hickory
Denton, Texas 76201

Phone: 940-243-2010
Fax: 940-382-7174

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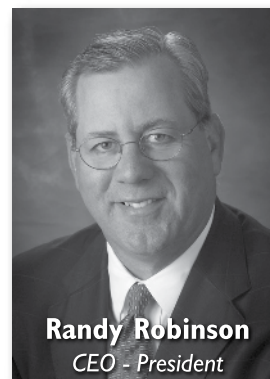


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DCBA in 2009-10

August Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, August 7, Noon
Meal included
0.5 CLE included

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Program:

How Can Fraud Affect Your Law Firm?

Speaker:

Cheryl Isbel and Jacqueline Childress

September Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, September 11, Noon
Meal included
0.5 CLE included

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Program:

Intellectual Property

Speaker:

David Moore

Announcing

Congratulations to Don White on the birth of his daughter Lauren R. White on July 15, 2009.

Thank you for your Prayers

Thank you to all of our members who prayed for Howie Watt through his open heart surgery. He is out of the hospital and is recovering nicely.

To view last month's Business Meeting minutes, please visit www.dentonbar.com.