



# GDCYLA Host Second Annual Kinship Fair

On Saturday, October 27, the Greater Denton County Young Lawyers (GDCYLA), along with CASA of Denton and the Local CPS office put on the second annual Kinship Fair. The fair targeted children that are in the CPS system that have been placed with family or friends rather than being placed through foster care. These families do not receive the same state funding that is provided to foster parents. John Rentz, President of GDCYLA, expressed his belief in the importance of the Kinship placements, “Keeping the children in their communities with their friends, church, and support network is vital to helping them make a healthy transition through the CPS process.”

Taking over the green space in front

of Hubbard Hall on Texas Woman’s University, more than sixty volunteers manned carnival games and bounce houses, held cupcake walks, and gave out food and drinks to over a hundred Kinship children. A petting zoo and balloon artist were also there for the children, as well as a masseuse for the parents and a professional photographer for family photos.

GDCYLA organized the event and collected donations from many local law firms and corporations to buy clothes, diapers, furniture, and toys that the Kinship children wanted and needed. Walmart of Denton agreed to provide a substantial discount for the items purchased for the children. Tricia Perry, GDCYLA’s Vice President, commented, “when we

were done, we had enough clothes, bikes, toys, and other needed items to fill six SUVs.” All of these items were provided to the Kinship children at the fair.

The increase in size of the fair from last year and the efforts of the GDCYLA and the volunteers did not go without notice. Both the City of Denton and the Denton County Commissioner’s Court recognized the events with proclamations recognizing the Fair and the work that was done for these Kinship families. John Rentz summed up GDCYLA’s opinion of the event, “we are really pleased with how things went and now we are looking forward to next year to see what we can do to make it even better. These families really deserve it.”

The Denton County Young Lawyers would like to thank the individuals and companies that helped to make our Kinship fair a success. For a complete list of supporters, please go to [www.dentonbar.com](http://www.dentonbar.com).



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# From the President



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

You can still remember saying it back in August, “Surely we can get this thing tried before the end of the year.” Then there was the distraught client in early September who said, “I simply can’t face going into another year with this thing looming over my head.” And then the clincher ... the call from the Court saying, “you either get this done before January or it will be dismissed.”

So now here you are in early December facing multiple trial settings, with more calls pouring in, when your spouse calls to tell you how many of your relatives will be visiting for the... what!?!... THE HOLIDAYS! Suddenly the tinkle of sleigh bells and a few ho, ho, ho’s don’t hold quite the same attraction as they used to as you look at your calendar, think about Christmas shopping and wonder how you will entertain Uncle Herbert (who’s been telling the same stories for the past twenty years) for three whole days.

Perhaps it’s a good time to take a deep breath and think about our priorities as we hurtle toward the holidays. It’s very easy for all of us to become mired in what we think is important throughout the year. Winning the case, pleasing the client, making our numbers for the month—these are all important for attorneys. But as we consider the holidays, none of that applies. All too often we find ourselves too busy at the office to catch that pageant at our child’s school or pay a visit to an aging relative.

Now, more than ever, is the time for balance between our professional and personal selves. While our children may not agree (but as the Grinch so poetically discovered), the holidays

aren’t about ribbons and presents. The work will still be there in January and we can all make our resolutions to be more efficient, return our calls faster, and improve our monthly numbers then. Right now is the time to celebrate all of those things we hold most dear—our families, our friends, all of our goofy family traditions, and even Grandma’s egg nog.

Go home early and sing Christmas carols with the kids or help them make snowman cookies for their school parties. Call an old friend or volunteer some time to the less fortunate. Take a quiet walk as the evenings turn crisp and cool, and give thanks for all you have been blessed with.

So here are just a few little reminders for all of us in this most beautiful of seasons...

- Your children will only be this age this one time... you shouldn’t miss it.
- Your relatives (warts, quirks, and all) will only be here for a few days, and before you know it, they may not be here at all.
- In this season of giving, the most valuable gift of all is the gift of your time, attention and affection for family and friends.
- And finally, God respects me when I work, but He loves me when I sing!

So to all of my fellow lawyers, to your friends, and to your families, I wish you the warmest and brightest holiday season ever and thank you for all of the support you have given me over the past several months. Remember, don’t be the last one home for Christmas!

Happy Holidays to All!

## Training Raises the Bar at DCAP

Story by Dave S. Bouschor

It is no surprise to the attorneys that practice family law in the Denton County area to know that 90% of the mediations performed by the DCAP are family law cases that need fast resolution and to be done on a budget.

All Suit Affecting Parent Child Relationship (SAPCR) cases have a need, if not a downright necessity, to preserve a future working relationship between the parties for the best interest of the children. One of the best ways of facilitating that future relationship is to end the marriage with an agreement. (The agreement is not by any means the only piece of the puzzle but a very important one.) That's where mediation can be and is being a big help.

These "needs" are some of the reasons that DCAP assisted in sponsoring its volunteer mediation attorneys to a 30-hour advanced family law mediation training. The volunteer mediators spent their time and some of their money to participate in this advanced training. DCAP was fortunate to have many mediators who already had their advanced family mediation training when DCAP started. Now DCAP will add these new trainees to their ranks. This new dedicated bunch was the first group of DCAP mediators to take the training. They blazed the trail for future classes. Because of the unique nature of the DCAP mediators (all being licensed attorneys) the class was not taught in the same manner as other family law mediation trainings. Hours that were normally spent on the Texas

Family Code were better spent teaching other skills.

The training was given through Texas Women's University by attorney and Texas Wesleyan law School Professor Kay Elliott, J.D. Professor Elliott's team held a 40-hour general mediation training with great success in May. The advanced family law training, held on November 8-11, was nothing less. All participants left with new ideas and tools to use when they mediate. Many talked of how they could use these ideas and tools to help their own clients reach a better resolution in their family law cases. Professor Elliott said this was the most interesting family law mediation training she has ever taught because it was all lawyers.

The Family Law training stressed goal-based mediation rather than the more natural positional-based type of mediation. Goal-based mediation helps the parties determine their mid- and long-term goals—such as child and economic goals and how best to meet them given each party's situation.

The advanced family law mediation training gave DCAP mediators tools for exploring options and determining goals that could result in a better solution for the parties. These solutions may even be unique to the parties and hopefully be used in the future to facilitate successful co-parenting and future problem solving.



The legal training that these DCAP mediators already have makes sure, to the extent possible, that the solutions reached by the parties do not run afoul of "public policy" or the Texas Family Code. There is nothing more frustrating, from the point of a family law attorney, than trying to explain to a client why his Decree (the product of a mediated settlement) is never going to work.

Denton County is fortunate to have TWU and Professor Elliott in our backyard to train and educate the present and future DCAP mediators and to make sure they have the tools necessary to maintain DCAP's standing as a premier mediation program. "These new tools, or the sharpening of old tools, along with the years of education, background, and experience that this group of DCAP mediators now bring to the mediation room, has produced a highly motivated, highly educated, and highly skilled team that is not found anywhere in Texas, and maybe not anywhere else in the United States," Professor Elliott, a nationally known mediator, said.

## Tidings From Toronto

### Denton County Collaborative Lawyers Go International, Ay!

Mark Lewis, Dave Bouschor, and Camille Milner, three of Denton County's collaborative lawyers, were invited to present their article, *Collaborative Law in 100 Years: Historic Relic or Cultural Icon?*, at The 8th Annual International Academy of Collaborative Professionals (IACP) Networking and Educational Forum in Toronto, Ontario in October. Over 560 attendees from all corners of the globe enjoyed over thirty workshops and presentations and gained global insight into the Collaborative Process in Family and Civil Law.

The Denton team's presentation explored how the collaborative law movement is at the critical crossroads of its future. The question was whether, in 100 years, collaborative law will find itself in the halls of history as a novelty or relic or as a cultural icon that is as much a part of the world's cultural mosaic, as say, the McDonald's restaurant franchises.

The success or failure of this global movement depends on how it is

handled by its current guardians, the professionals now in the role of promoting it to the world. The team explained that historically successful innovations or inventions met four criteria:

- 1. Affordability to the masses:** examples include the invention of the assembly line so that automobiles became affordable to the masses.
- 2. A consistent experience that has value to the customer:** like McDonald's; you may not particularly like the food, but you know when you go there you are going to have a consistent experience, whether in Toronto or Denton, Texas.
- 3. Availability to the masses:** such as the invention of the printing press, which enabled the world to become literate and ultimately resulting in movements such as the United States and French Revolutions.
- 4. Marketing:** historically, great unveilings of innovations or inventions took place at World

Expositions, like the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 (such as the electric light bulb and the telephone) or by word of mouth. In the modern world, mass media is the forum for the great unveilings, and the new word of mouth—the Internet.

The Denton collaborative professionals posed such questions as why, when Beta and MacIntosh were superior products, did VHS and IBM clones win the market share? The answer is that Beta and Mac were proprietary in nature and failed to share their technology, so technology evolved in a different direction that met the four criteria set out above leaving Beta and Mac behind, and the rest, as they say, is history. When the floor was opened up to dialogue, the forum participants did not fail to take note that Apple eventually caught on to their earlier oversight and is now promoting the iPod and iPhone with a very different approach!

In addition to sharing their expertise with the world, the team completed the new IACP Collaborative Practice Training Curriculum. Camille will make her debut as an official CLITX trainer at the Texas Model Basic Training to be held in January here in Denton (full details on facing page). Hope to see you there!



## Texas Model Collaborative Law Basic Training

### Program

The Texas Model Basic Training is co-sponsored by The Denton County Collaborative Professionals and The Collaborative Law Institute Of Texas, Inc. It is a basic training for family attorneys, mental health professionals, and financial professionals conducted by Donald R. Royall, Norma Levine Trusch and Camille Milner. The course offers an invaluable foundation for professionals working in the attorney-only or attorney-referral model and for professionals who have taken or intend to take the CLI-TX Interdisciplinary Collaborative Law Training in the future. CLE for attorneys is 12.0 hours participatory and 3.00 hours ethics. Approved for Mental Health CEUs. Registration is limited to 40 attendees.

### The Trainers



**Donald R. Royall, JD**—Don Royall has been included in the list of The Best Lawyers in America continuously since 1983. A frequent speaker on family law topics in Texas and throughout the nation, Don is Vice-President and Trustee of the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas and past member of the Board of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals.



**Norma Levine Trusch, J.D.**—Norma Levine Trusch is director of training for the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas, a Trustee of the Institute and Past President of the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals. She is an Adjunct Professor at South Texas College of Law where she teaches Texas Marital Property Law and Collaborative Law, and is a frequent lecturer on collaborative law statewide and nationally.



**Camille Milner, J.D.**—Camille Milner has been named in SuperLawyers for the years 2005-2007. She has served as the co-presiding officer of the Denton County Collaborative Professionals, as co-course director of the first annual Denton County Collaborative Professionals' Retreat in 2007, and she will serve as assistant course director for the Collaborative Law Institute/State Bar of Texas Spring Conference 2008 in Austin, Texas.

### Fees

Tuition for the training is \$350.00 for CLI-TX members/\$400.00 for non-members. Please fill in the reservation form below and mail to Ronda Robinson, Collaborative Law Institute of Texas, Inc., Two Lincoln Centre, Suite 626, 5420 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75240 or if paying by credit card, you can fax it to: Ronda Robinson at (469) 374-9699. For questions, contact Mike Gregory at (940) 387-1600.

### Dates and Times

January 10, 2008,  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
January 11, 2008,  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

### Location

Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Type of certification (i.e., Ph.D., MSW, CPA, CDFA)  
I  am  am not a member of the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas, Inc.

# From the Sections

## DCBA/GDCYLA Christmas Party

### Date and Time:

Friday, December 7, 2007, 6:30 PM-10:30 PM

### Location:

3610 Windsor Parkway  
Corinth, Texas 769210 (Home of Amie Peace)

### Activities:

Food, beverages, beer, and cocktails will be provided by DCBA and GDCYLA. All are invited. Please support the GDCYLA toy drive and bring an unwrapped toy for a child in the CPS system.

To RSVP and for more information, please contact Andrew Passons at [andrew@dentonmediator.com](mailto:andrew@dentonmediator.com).

## DCBA Monthly Meetings

### Collaborative Professionals

Collaborative Professionals will meet at **12:00 PM** on Tuesday, **December 4** at Giuseppe's on 821 N. Locust, in Denton.

### Family Law

Family Law Section will not meet in December due to the Holidays, regularly scheduled meetings will resume at **5:30 PM** on Monday, **January 28**. The location will be announced.

### GDCYLA

GDCYLA will meet at **11:30 AM** on Thursday, **December 6** at Master Grill in Denton.

GDCYLA will hold their happy hour at **5:00 PM** on Thursday, **December 13** at the Loophole in Denton.

### Paralegals

Paralegals will not meet in December, regularly scheduled meetings will resume at **12:00 PM** on Thursday **January 31** at noon at Oakmont Country Club located at 1901 Oakmont Dr., Corinth.

### REPTL

REPTL will meet at **12:00 PM** on Wednesday, **December 19** at Luby's Cafeteria located at 2440 South Interstate 35 in Denton.



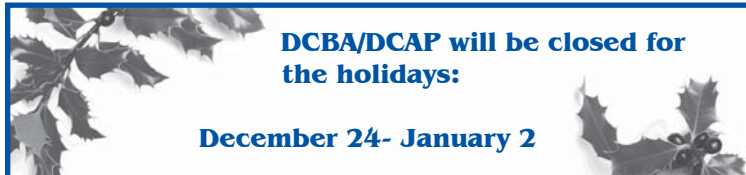
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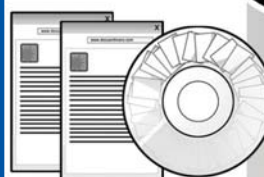
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## DCBA in 2007-08

### December Bar Luncheon

**Date:**

Friday, December 7, Noon  
Meal included

**Location:**

Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210

**Program:**

*Update from the 2nd Court of  
Appeals*

**Speaker:**

*Justices Sue Walker, Bob McCoy,  
and Terrie Livingston*

### January Bar Luncheon

**Date:**

Friday, January 4, Noon  
Meal included

**Location:**

Oakmont Country Club  
1901 Oakmont Drive  
Corinth, Texas 76210

**Program:**

*To be announced*

**Speaker:**

*To be announced*

### Bench Bar Conference

DCBA's annual Bench Bar Conference will be held on Friday, March 7, 2008 featuring Supreme Court Justice Wainwright. For more information, please contact Heidi Bidstrup at [hbidstrup@dentonbar.com](mailto:hbidstrup@dentonbar.com).

### Condolences

DCBA would like to express our condolences to Robert Eames on the passing of his mother, Helen Eames, on November 8, 2007.