



THE BRIEF

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CAPITAL AREA
PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

MAY 2023

PRESIDENT MESSAGE



Hopefully all of the April showers will bring more May flowers..

CAPA recently held its all day CLE seminar, which was a huge success! If you have any additional feedback that you would like to provide, whether it be good, bad or ugly, please email springcle@capatx.org. We want to know what was good and what we can improve upon next year.

Our next CLE luncheon on May 31st will also be our annual membership meeting and election of officers. All proxy votes must be received by May 26th at 5:00PM. Our speaker is Elizabeth Larrick who will be presenting on "Navigating and Understand Client Grief". Most

people don't call a lawyer if they're having a good day, so this is a great opportunity to learn how to better help your clients through whatever process they are a part of. We have NALA approval and TBLS credit approved for four areas: civil trial, personal injury, family law and estate planning & probate.

Our next board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11th at 12:00PM on zoom. Please join us! You can sign up on the website.

The social committee and incoming 2023-2024 Board are hard at working planning our annual Meet the Board and Vendor Parade to be held in early August. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

Pilgrims

See y'all soon!
Laura Grove, TBLS-BCP
CAPA President 2022-2023

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- CAPA Spring CLE - Par for the CLE Course Recap
- May CLE & Annual Membership Meeting & Elections
- Announcements and News
- Sustaining Members

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT-ELECT

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PROGRAMS-RSVP & DOOR PRIZES

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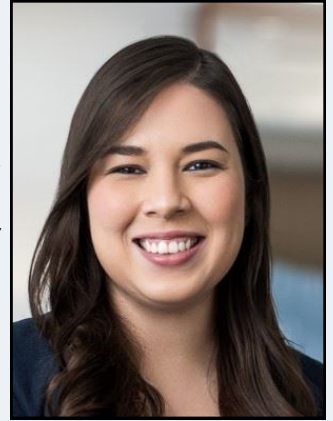
WEB TEAM

Carli Collins, TBLS-BCP
Jennifer B. Rogers, CP
webteam@capatx.org

BOARD SPOTLIGHT

PRESIDENT-ELECT, KELLIE BALLI

Hello everyone! I'm Kellie Balli, your President-Elect. I'm a paralegal/case manager, working primarily in our Civil Litigation and Government and Regulatory practice group. My husband Chris and I spend our free time with our almost 2 year old daughter, Madelyn, exploring the city, and looking for the next best food truck in town.



I was so happy to meet a lot of you at the CAPA Spring CLE a few weeks ago. I wasn't expecting to have to speak in front of a big crowd, but it's good practice, and you folks took it easy on me. I hope you had fun and thank you for braving the storm with us!

I joined CAPA many moons ago, but have become more and more involved in the last few years. I've made many friends along the way and I'm super grateful for this organization. I'm also Publications Chair, so this brief is brought to you in part by my attempt at being creative, and the wonderful submissions created by our committee chairs. If you didn't already know, CAPA is run entirely by volunteers. We could always use more help, and with a new board coming in, it's an excellent time to get in on all the fun. If you want to find out more, please feel free to email me at pres-elect@capatx.org.

I look forward to being President this next term, which begins in July. In the meantime, if you have any questions/suggestions or want to learn a little more about CAPA, feel free to reach out.

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

WEB/TEAM, CARLI COLLINS, TBLS-BCP & JENNIFER ROGERS, MHRM, CP



CAPA's Web Team manages and updates the CAPA website and events listings. The Web Team assists all of the CAPA committees with making sure that event information is updated and sent to the membership, links are active and available within emails or on site pages, and registrations and payments run smoothly.



We also work to keep our CAPA website relevant with new options for our membership. We have recently updated our [CAPA Scholarships & Awards](#) page which makes it easy to submit applications for the various awards and scholarships CAPA offers.

The Web Team welcomes you to join us in our monthly coffee catch up. CAPA members interested in learning more about the Web Team or joining the committee are welcome to attend. This is also an opportunity for committee chairs to ask questions and get a quick "live" tutorial. Our next meeting is scheduled for [May 30 at 10:00 A.M.](#) If you're interested, we could always use your help. Maybe you have a great picture we should use, maybe you have a special skill with copy writing. Come join the Web Team and play with us!

UPCOMING EVENTS & BIRTHDAYS

May 11	<u>May Board Meeting</u>
May 30	<u>Web Team Monthly Coffee Catch-Up Meeting</u>
May 31	<u>May CLE, Annual Membership Meeting, Election of Officers</u>
June 2	<u>Deadline for Nominations—Nancy McLaughlin Scholarship</u>
June 8	<u>June Board Meeting</u>
August	Meet the Board & Vendor Expo Event

May Birthdays

HANNAH BALLOU

ARYA MONSON

ETHAN BOWMAN

MARIANNE ROSS

LAURA GARDEA

WILLIAM TEMPLETON

AMY KASSENBRICK

IRENE TONG

ANGELA MENGEL

JUDY YHU

Did we miss your birthday?

[Log in and update your member profile](#), or [let us know](#).

Vernis

M c G i l l



How did you choose the paralegal field?

What did you do prior to this?

Prior to my paralegal career, I was worked with nonprofit organizations. I left that career because I didn't like the idea of my job being funded by grants that are here today and possibly gone tomorrow. From there, I became a realtor – the market crashed around 2008 and I had to rethink things. I moved to Kuwait to live with my husband (had a fabulous time) and came back with a plan to become a paralegal.

Where do you work and what field do you practice?

I've worked at a couple of State agencies as a paralegal and the main areas of practice have been environmental law, administrative law, and now I'm at a court.

Favorite / least favorite part of the job.

My least favorite part of the job is researching something that doesn't exist.

What are one or two personal achievements you're proudest of?

I will have been married 20 years (May 27, 2023) and I have a 10 year old daughter.

CAPA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

What are one or two business achievements you're proudest of?
I'm proud that I was an AmeriCorps volunteer with legal aid, while I was in undergrad. I'm also proud of my MA in Legal Studies and my mediation certificate from Texas State University.

Best piece of advice you've ever received – personal or professional.

The best advice I received is, "If want to reach a goal, give it your all and leave nothing in your reserve tank."

Life has taught me, things won't always go as planned – you have to be ready to pivot.

1-3 things that people might be surprised to learn about you.
I played rugby. I didn't know what it was until after I agreed to play. I just wanted to meet people in Kuwait.

I plant a fall and spring garden every year. Right now, I have peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, cilantro, celery, mint, basil, time, oregano, and onions. This year, my okra didn't take.

My family can make me laugh until I cry. I always feel good after a good laugh.

What has your biggest take-away/life lesson been due to Covid?
Covid was rough. My biggest life take-away due to covid is self care. You have to do what's best for you – Find what makes you happy & be kind to others.

CAPA SPRING CLE - PAR FOR THE (CLE) COURSE



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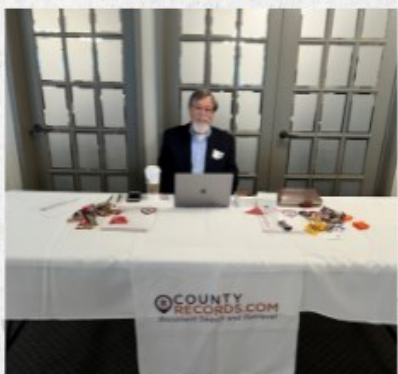
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CAPA SPRING CLE - PAR FOR THE (CLE) COURSE



Adam Loewy
Demands



Jackie Garcia
Policy Level Changes with Humanitarian &
Court Relief



Nikki Maples & Meagan Jones
Investigating Opposing Party's Discovery
Responses & IDing Claims

**BIG THANK
YOU TO
OUR CLE
SPEAKERS**



District Judge Dayna Blazey
The Judges Role in Disposition
of Criminal Cases



Anne Marie McComb
Courts Plenary Powers



Carmen Kyle
Ethical Considerations for a Contract Paralegal

Thank You!



THE HANEY LAW FIRM



Happy Hour Sponsors



We had so much fun!
We hope you did too!



CAPA SPRING CLE - PAR FOR THE (CLE) COURSE



See you next year!
In the meantime, stay tuned
for more CAPA events



Navigating and Understanding Client Grief

By: Elizabeth Larrick



NALA APPROVED!
TBLS APPROVED 4 AREAS:
civil trial, personal injury, family law,
estate planning & probate



We hope you will join us for this education-based CLE
designed to help lawyers & paralegals navigate
clients who are experiencing grief



- What is grief?
- Ways grief can impact clients (mentally & physically)
- How to communicate & better assist clients who are experiencing grief

Wednesday, May 31
CAPA Monthly meeting and CLE
Chez Zee Bistro 12-1 pm
\$40 members/\$45 guests
recording/water table options available

ANNOUNCEMENTS - ELECTIONS

NOMINEES

2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Kellie Balli

President-Elect

Morgan Rains-Walker

Secretary

Shama Hussain

Treasurer

Celeste Rodriguez

Parliamentarian/Historian

Vernis McGill

The election will take place during the Annual Membership Meeting and May CLE on Wednesday, May 31, 2023. Proxy voting will open May 5 and will close May 26 at 5:00 p.m. Voting members that are unable to attend the meeting should complete a proxy ballot and email it to elections@capatx.org before the close of voting.

[THE PROXY BALLOT CAN BE ACCESSED BY CLICKING HERE](#)



VOLUNTEER
LEGAL SERVICES
of Central Texas

THANK YOU!

CAPA members donated a total of \$198.25 at the Spring CLE for our Flower Pot Fund! THANK YOU!

Volunteer Legal Services of Central Texas (VLS) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization which exists to help low-income clients access the civil justice system by providing volunteer attorneys who donate free legal advice and representation, and by supporting and training those attorneys.

[CLICK HERE IF YOU WISH TO DONATE](#)

*Congratulations,
Carli Collins!*

CAPA MEMBER CARLI COLLINS WAS
ALREADY TBLS CERTIFIED IN PERSONAL
INJURY TRIAL LAW, AND IS NOW TBLS
CERTIFIED FOR CIVIL TRIAL AS WELL!

WAY TO GO, CARLI!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



DID YOU KNOW?

THE TRAVIS COUNTY CIVIL DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE HAS POSTED
UPDATED STANDING ORDERS AND AMENDED LOCAL RULES!
THEY CAN BE ACCESSED BY CLICKING HERE.

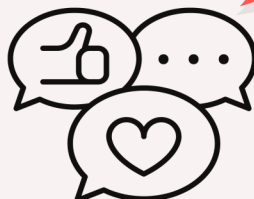
- [Amended Local Rules of Civil Procedure and Rules of Decorum](#) – Effective May 2, 2023
- [Standing Pretrial Scheduling Order for Civil and Family Jury Trials](#) – Effective May 2, 2023
- [Standing Order for Remote Civil Court Proceedings](#) – Effective May 2, 2023



WE WANT

YOUR

FEEDBACK



CLICK HERE TO EMAIL THE SPRING CLE
COMMITTEE FOR ANY FEEDBACK/SUGGESTIONS

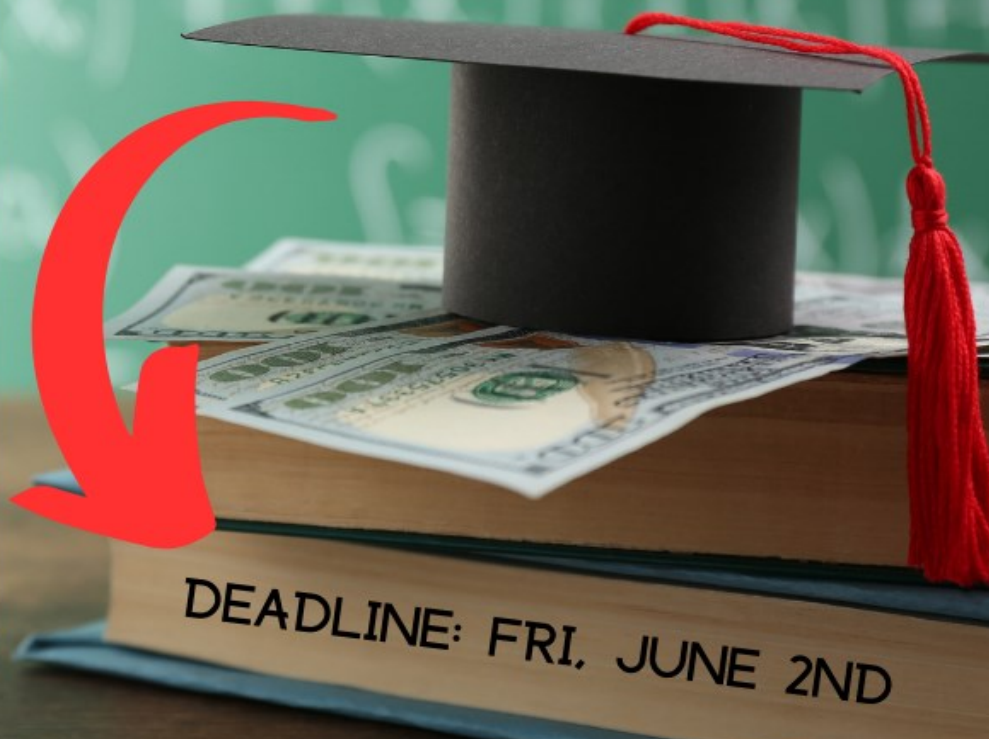
ANNOUNCEMENTS

NANCY CARMEN MCLAUGHLIN, CLAS, TPS, WAS A LEGAL ASSISTANT AT THE LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM SCHMIDT FOR 12 YEARS PRIOR TO HER SUDDEN DEATH ON FRIDAY, DEC. 8, 2000.

MANY REMEMBER NANCY AS A VERY ACTIVE MEMBER OF CAPA AND THE PARALEGAL DIVISION. SHE SERVED IN MANY CAPACITIES, MOST NOTABLY AS PROGRAMS CHAIR AND PRESIDENT OF CAPA, AND AS EDITOR OF THE TEXAS PARALEGAL JOURNAL.

NANCY TOUCHED THE LIVES OF MANY PEOPLE, THEY THOUGHT OF HER AS FAMILY. SHE WAS AN ANIMAL LOVER AND A KIND AND GENEROUS FRIEND WHO DEVOTED HER FREE TIME TO ANIMAL CAUSES, MEALS ON WHEELS, AND THOSE IN NEED. SHE IS STILL MISSED SORELY BY HER MANY FRIENDS.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW EASY APPLICATION PROCESS



PET OF THE MONTH



Meet Louie

Louie is a 10ish year-old shih tzu mix who I adopted about 5 years ago. Here he is soaking up the sun, posing for a Christmas photo, and keeping warm during the February ice storm. Louie loves: snacks, belly rubs, laying in the sunshine. Louie does not love: baths, car rides, other dogs. Nicknames include Lou, Lewis, LouLou, Woowie, and Lou-cifer.

Submitted by: Carli Collins

CAPA Members! Submit a pet photo to publications@capatx.org.

If your pet is featured, we'll send you some CAPA swag!

PARALEGAL BOARD CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION

Paralegal Board Certification Program TBLS-BCP



Board Certified Paralegal

Established by TBLS in 1994, the paralegal certification program recognizes the quality of services of paralegals who have achieved a level of special knowledge in a particular area of law. The program is the only state organization authorized to certify paralegals as specialist in specialty areas of law.

Request this year's certification application forms via email at www.tbls-bcp.org

Examination for Paralegal Board Certification will be early November.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARALEGAL CERTIFICATION



minimum of 5 years of paralegal work experience under the direct supervision of a licensed Texas attorney



an assessment of the paralegal's experience and duties showing 50% of their time is devoted to the practice area



30 hours of CLE in the specialty area



completion of a Baccalaureate or higher degree or completion of an accredited paralegal program; OR 2 additional years of paralegal work experience

PARALEGAL SPECIALTY AREAS

Bankruptcy Law • Civil Trial Law • Criminal Law • Estate Planning & Probate Law
Family Law • Oil, Gas & Mineral Law • Personal Injury Trial Law • Real Estate Law

ABOUT TBLS

Texas Board of Legal Specialization, authorized by the Supreme Court of Texas, is the nation's largest and most successful legal board certification program. It certifies attorneys in 27 specialty areas. TBLS serves as a resource by listing all certified attorneys and paralegals online. TBLS works to ensure that the citizens of Texas receive the highest quality legal services.

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CAPA FUN CORNER



DON'T FORGET TO
WORK HARD,
BUT ALSO
PLAY HARD.
CLICK HERE FOR
SOME FUN THINGS
TO DO IN AUSTIN,
TX.



litigation_god
@GodLitigation

Me, once I get to the second page of Westlaw
search results



Zoom meetings are just modern seances



"There's someone who wants to join us."
"Elizabeth, are you there?"
"We can't hear you."
"Can you hear us?"

Me: I'm so done with law, I'm going to move to Costa Rica
Me to me: Apply to 20 more law firms



BOSS : WHY DO YOU NEED TO
LEAVE WORK EARLY?

ME : I'M JUST NOT HAVING A
GOOD TIME



MEMBER BENEFITS

EXCLUSIVELY FOR MEMBERS



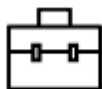
CLE

CAPA offers several hours of CLE throughout the year at monthly luncheons, CLE Seminars, and Lunch & Learns. Many are complimentary or offered at a discounted rate.



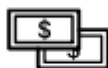
DISCUSSION FORUM

CAPA members have exclusive access to CAPA's online discussion forum. Ask questions, share information, and discuss all things paralegal.



JOB BANK

Exclusively for Members, CAPA's Job Bank is updated several times per month with job postings in the Austin area.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships can be used for paralegal certification exam fees, membership dues, CLE seminars, and other approved paralegal study materials.



MENTOR PROGRAM

Ask for guidance from seasoned paralegals, or share your wisdom and experience with a student or new paralegal.



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CAPITAL AREA PARALEGAL
ASSOCIATION



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