



Denton County Lawyer

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Introducing Candidates for 2012-13 Officers and Directors

Each May, Denton County Bar Association (DCBA) members have the opportunity to elect the officers and directors who will serve the following year. In accordance with the DCBA bylaws, Duane L. Coker will move into the office of President.

Officers



Duane L. Coker, President

Duane attended Baylor University for his undergraduate degree and for law school. He owns Duane L. Coker & Associates, P.C. where he focuses on family law and probate litigation, including guardianships. He is Board Certified in Family Law by the TBLS, a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas, and is a certified Ad Litem by the State Bar of Texas. He is a charter member of the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas and is a current member of the DCAP and DCCP Board of Directors.



Theodore D. Ogilvie, President-Elect

Ted received his B.A. in University Studies at the University of New Mexico, went on to receive his MBA from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and conducted his legal studies at the Texas Wesleyan School of Law. He

focuses on general civil litigation, dispute resolution, family, health, consumer, and employment law. He is a member of the College of the State Bar and DCCP.



Amie Peace, Vice- President

Amie received her B.A. degree from Texas Woman's University in 1993, and her law degree from the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law in 2000. She is a former Assistant District Attorney for Dallas County. Amie is a member of the State Bar of Texas and is licensed to practice in all Texas Courts. She also is a member of the College of the State Bar of Texas. Amie was the GDCYLA President in 2006-07.



Travis Biggs, Treasurer

W. Travis Biggs received his B.A.A.S from the UNT in 1996 and his JD from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2000, with a concentration in litigation. Travis received his law license in 2002 and was admitted to the U.S. Federal Court, Eastern District of Texas in 2003. He has been a Certified Guardian/Attorney Ad Litem since 2002. Travis is a past member of the Associated Right of Way Services, International Right of Way Association, prior

board member of Family Resource Center of North Texas and Legal Aid of Northwest Texas. He is a past President of Denton County Trial Lawyers Association and a member of Texas Trial Lawyers Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of a America. Travis has been a member of the State Bar of Texas Pro Bono College since 2007. Travis is a member the Denton County Salary Grievance Board, and he volunteers as a mediator with DCAP. He practices in the areas of Personal Injury, Real Estate, Family and Criminal Law.



Vicki Isaacks, Secretary

Vicki received her B.A. from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1979 and her law degree from St. Mary's University School of Law in 1982. Licensed in 1982, she has worked as an attorney in private practice, an assistant Public Defender in Dallas County, an assistant District Attorney in Dallas County, and as the Judge of the 393rd Judicial

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From the President

Wow. The year has flown by quickly. As my presidential year approached, I anxiously anticipated what it would entail, hoping that I could provide the leadership necessary to keep things moving forward. Not mess up a good thing, so to speak. Thankfully, there are many dedicated and capable members of the Bar, Board, and staff who make the President's job easy. We have had a few administrative challenges this year related to the growth of the Bar and the DCAP program, but we have been able to work together to address those issues. I am very appreciative of our Executive Director, Michelle Houston, who manages the very busy DCAP program and also handles all of our Bar business. She dedicates countless hours to assisting members and Committee chairs, as well as the Executive Board. She is bright, funny and energetic, and her positive approach is infectious. Thanks, Michelle.

I must also extend my gratitude to the Executive Board: Duane Coker, President-Elect; Ted Ogilvie, Vice

President; Amie Peace, Treasurer; and Travis Biggs, Secretary. We, together, have spent many hours working on budget and administration issues, and they have provided immeasurable leadership and support. I have also received tremendous assistance and support from our Board members in their various roles. Julia Kerestine has worked tirelessly to coordinate and manage our many CLE programs. Joe Zellmer and Andrew Lloyd have been busy all year providing editorial oversight to our newsletter and other communications, and Andrew has served as the Bar liaison to the Library Board. Cynthia Burkett and Vicki Isaacks have put in many hours coordinating our pro bono programs, such as Adoption Day, and working with member Kristen Pannell and Joe Zellmer on the *Wills for Heroes* and *Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans* programs, respectively. Brent Hill has done an outstanding job as our Social Chairman, having coordinated many successful social events this year, including hosting the ever-popular *Skeet and Meet*. Additionally, John Rentz has provided excellent leadership as chair of the



Dena A. Reecer, President

Fee Arbitration Committee. Although not on the Board, Kim Killebrew has been working all year to put together what we expect to be another hugely successful Bench Bar Conference. Thank you all.

I would also like to recognize Judge McFarling for his invaluable insight and guidance from the judiciary's perspective, Mike Upshaw and the Young lawyers for their hard work and boundless energy, and Dave Bouschor and the DCAP

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DCBA Officers

President, Dena A. Reecer
Immediate Past President,

Don R. White, Jr.
President-Elect, Duane L. Coker
Vice President,

Theodore D. Ogilvie
Treasurer, Amie Peace
Secretary, Travis Biggs
CLE Director, Julia Kerestine

DCBA Directors

Cynthia Burkett, Brent Hill, Vicki Isaacks, Andrew M. Lloyd, John Rentz, Joe Zellmer

DCBA Committee Chairs

Courts Committee,
Theodore D. Ogilvie

Library Board of Governors,
Andrew M. Lloyd

Social Committee, Brent Hill
CLE Committee, Julia Kerestine

Communications Committee,
Andrew M. Lloyd and Joe Zellmer

Fee Dispute, John Rentz

Pro Bono, Cynthia Burkett and Vicki Isaacks

Membership, Travis Biggs

Awards, Dena A. Reecer

Planning Committee,

Duane L. Coker
Local Rules, Theodore D. Ogilvie

DCBA Sections

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

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.

For more information see our website: www.dentonbar.com.

Slate of Officers and Directors

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District Court in Denton from 2000 through 2008. She currently focuses her practice on work as a mediator, arbitrator, and special judge.



Julia Kerestine, CLE Director

Julia earned her B.F.A. from the University of North Texas when it was North Texas State University in 1979. She earned her JD from the University of Georgia in 1984. She is licensed to practice in Colorado and Georgia as well as Texas. Julia is active in family law and mediation with the Denton County Bar Association, has been a member of the boards of directors of the Denton County Collaborative Professionals and the Tarrant County Association of Mediators, and is a Distinguished Accredited Mediator with the Texas Mediation Credentialing Association.

Directors



Leah Harbour, Director

Leah grew up in Lewisville, Texas and graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in Criminal Justice. She received her JD from Texas Wesleyan School of Law. She was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in November of 2004. She was recently named as a Rising Star in Family Law by Texas Monthly magazine and has practiced as both a former prosecutor as well as a private attorney. She currently practices at Hayes, Berry, White and Vanzant, L.L.P. in the areas of family law, CPS cases, and criminal law, and she is pursuing her Masters in

Criminal Justice.



Brent Hill, Director

Brent received his B.A. from Southwest Texas State University in 1995. In May 1998, he graduated from the Texas Tech School of Law. He was licensed to practice law in 1998 and practices family and criminal law along with his wife Gina at The Law Office of Hill and Hill.



Fon Laughlin, Director

Licensed to practice law in 1992, Fon received her JD from Texas Tech School of Law. She first served as general counsel of a mortgage corporation and then opened her law practice in 1993. She and her husband operate Laughlin Law and Title in Corinth. A frequent speaker at Realtor and Lender meetings, Fon volunteers her time to many civic organizations. She was the President of the Lake Cities Chamber from 2003 to 2005; she is on the Board of Directors for the Lake Cities Education Foundation, The Denton Chamber of Commerce and the Denton Family Resource Center. Fon is also a volunteer Mediator for DCAP, and her primary focus continues to be title, real estate, wills, corporations, and mortgage law.



Andrew M. Lloyd, Director

Andrew graduated summa cum laude from UT-Arlington. He was the class-nominated graduating speaker at Texas Tech University School of Law in 2002. A former Assistant District Attorney in Denton, he now owns Lloyd Law Firm, PLLC, where primary practices include

family, criminal, juvenile, probate, and debt collections defense. He is a certified mediator, Vice-President of the Family Law Section of the DCBA, Vice-President of the Denton County Criminal Defense Lawyer's Association, and member of the College of the State Bar.



Virginia Moore, Director

Virginia graduated from the University of Houston (U of H) with an undergraduate degree in Education. She returned to U of H to earn her law degree cum laude in December 1978. Virginia is Board Certified in Oil, Gas and Mineral Law by the State Bar of Texas. She is rated AV® Preeminent™ (5.0 out of 5.0), by Martindale-Hubbell® Peer Review Ratings™. She is a member of the College of the State Bar. Virginia is the principal in the firm of Virginia A. Moore & Associates where she offers practices in the areas of oil and gas law, commercial real estate, general business and estate planning.



Jill O'Connell, Director

Jill graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and received her JD from the James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. Jill owns O'Connell Law Firm and focuses on family law, including divorce (both collaborative law and traditional litigation), guardianship and adoption. She is admitted to practice law in Texas, Arizona, and the United States Supreme Court. Jill is a member of the Collaborative Law Institute of Texas, DCBA, the College of the State Bar, State Bar of

Slate continued on page 5.

One of Our Own: The Honorable David D. Garcia

By Andrew M. Lloyd, Lloyd Law Firm, PLLC; www.lloydfirm.com.

It should not come as a shock for those who know him, but our very own Judge David D. Garcia has served our judiciary in ways no other Denton County Judge ever has! Beginning in 2009 throughout most of 2010, he served as Chair for both the Texas Center for the Judiciary and the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas.

Formed in 1928, the Judicial Section is comprised of about 1,500 active and retired Texas judges who carry out the objectives of the State Bar. As the Section Chair, Judge Garcia presided at all Section and Board of Directors meetings and led the formulation and presentation of the Section's work at the State Bar of Texas' annual meeting. The Texas Center for the Judiciary was established in 1973 to provide continuing judicial education programs for the state's judiciary and supportive personnel. As the Texas Center Chair, Judge Garcia also presided at all Center and Board of Directors meetings and lead the Texas Center to pursue its mission of Judicial Excellence through Education.

Leading up to these appointments, Judge Garcia received his JD from the University of Texas School of Law in 1984 and a BA from Texas Tech University in 1981. Prior to taking the bench as the judge of Denton County Criminal Court Number Three in September 1997, he was in private practice. He has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Texas Center for the Judiciary since 2005

and served as the judicial liaison to the State Bar Board of Directors. He is also a former Dean of the Texas Judicial College for the Study of Alcohol and other Drugs, a Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, Judicial liaison to the Texas Bar Foundation Board of Directors, Member of the Court of Criminal Appeals Judicial Education Committee, and member of the Judicial Advisory Board for the Texas Association for Court Administration.

Judge Garcia is also a member of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Association of County Court at Law Judges, the Denton County Bar Association, the Judicial Section of the American Bar Association and the American Judge's Association. He has served as a faculty member and has lectured at multiple judicial and legal education conferences. He has also served on several judicial legislative and curriculum committees and other state-wide committees affecting the judiciary. Having previously served on the Board of Directors for CASA and Denton County Friends of the Family, he also coached youth baseball and basketball and served as the Director of the Special Needs Ministry at Denton Bible Church. He has lived in Denton County since 1985 and been very active in many local Republican organizations.

While prominently serving as Chairs over these two governing organizations, Judge Garcia managed a 10-month nationwide search for the



The Honorable David D. Garcia.

Executive Director of the Texas Center for Judiciary while leading the efforts in the development, coordination, and management of continuing judicial education. Another highlighted issue during this time period dealt with judicial compensation. Judge Garcia coordinated the efforts to provide the Judicial Compensation Commission with testimony from current and former members of the state's judiciary on how judicial pay has affected their career decisions. Judge Garcia's direction engaged the heavy hitters of the judiciary in response to Ethics Advisory Opinion No. 484. Specifically the opinion prohibited judges/elected officials from being reimbursed for their out of pocket expenses by corporations (profit or non-profit) or entities when attending mandated legal educational seminars.

One of Our Own continued on page 5.

Around the County

One of Our Own continued from page 4.

Catalyzed by Judge Garcia's efforts, The Texas Ethics Commission finally withdrew their advisory opinion. It was a serious debate and is too detailed to discuss in this article, but I invite you to get with Judge Garcia and chat about it. You will ultimately learn of his experience and commitment to the integrity of our legal profession.

Needless to say, Judge Garcia is busy and dedicated. These recent management roles necessitated his travel throughout the State, and he hob-knobbed with all of the major players of the Texas State Bar and got to know many, if not most, of the judicial community personally.

He happily reports that our State Bar took special care to accommodate him—read fancy hotels and delectable dishes! It was well-deserved, too. His leadership influenced the education and training of our judiciary to ensure we have qualified and knowledgeable judges who may administer justice with fairness, efficiency, and integrity.

Throughout this time period, he never missed a court setting and was still able to have the second highest number of disposed cases. We thank Judge Garcia for his continued service. His efforts and leadership promoted our Denton County Bar Association throughout the entire state of Texas, and we are proud to say he is one of our own!

His leadership influenced the education and training of our judiciary to ensure we have qualified and knowledgeable judges who may administer justice with fairness, efficiency, and integrity.

Slate continued from page 3.

Arizona, Women Business Owners of Denton County and the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce. Jill is also Certified as an Ad Litem by the State Bar of Texas.

Certified Proposed Slate of DCBA Officers and Directors

President-Elect: Theodore D. Ogilvie

Vice-President: Amie Peace

Treasurer: Travis Biggs

Secretary: Vicki Isaacks

CLE Director: Julia Kerestine

Director: Leah Harbour

Director: Brent Hill

Director: Fon Laughlin

Director: Andrew M. Lloyd

Director: Virginia Moore

Director: Jill O'Connell

Members may nominate other candidates at the May 4, 2012 election.

President's Letter continued from page 2.

Board for their constructive and collegial assistance in addressing and solving some of the growth issues we experienced this year. Our Bar membership has grown to almost 330 members, and the number of mediations conducted by and requested of DCAP has soared.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank all of our members who volunteer and participate in our many programs and functions. I am proud to be a member of a group of lawyers who exhibit our mission: to preserve high standards of integrity, honor, and courtesy within the legal profession; promote positive relations among the judiciary, legal profession, and community; advance the professional interests and education of its members; and facilitate the effective administration of justice, while maintaining the historic collegiality of the association and its members.

Thank you, and much success to Duane.

"Marty Leewright Appointed to Supreme Court Task Force" Correction

In the March 2012 Denton County Lawyer, Marty Leewright was attributed as the author of Marty Leewright Appointed to Supreme Court Task Force in error.

The article was in fact written by Sydney Leonard, Law Manager, Bob Leonard Law Group, PLLC.

We regret the error.

Around the County

Save the Date

Children and Family Law Ad Litem Seminar Sponsored by CASA

Date:

April 13, 2012

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location:

Oakmont Country Club

1902 Oakmont Drive, Corinth

Registration:

For more information and to register for the Children and Family Law Ad Litem Seminar contact Debbie Martin at CASA at 940-243-2272.

Agenda:

8:30–9:00 AM: Registration

9:00–10:30 AM: Session 1: The Effects of Trauma on the Typical Child in Care, by Jim Harlow, M.A., LPC-Intern and Henry Milton both from the Texas Christian University's Institute of Child Development

10:30–10:45 AM: Break

10:45–11:45 AM: Session 2: Stress Points in our Current System of Care, by Jim Harlow and Henry Milton

11:45 am–12:15 PM: Lunch Break / DCBA Monthly Luncheon Meeting

12:15–1:00 PM: What's Going on with Texas CPS? by Jane Burstain, Ph.D., Senior Policy Analyst from the Center for Public Policy Priorities

1:00–1:30 PM: Questions and Networking Opportunity

1:30–2:45 PM: Session 3: System Change in the Best Interest of the Child, by Jim Harlow and Henry Milton

2:45–3:00 PM: Break

3:00–4:00 PM: Session 4: Practical Strategies to Connect with and Support the At-Risk Child, by Jim Harlow and Henry Milton

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Carol Christian, Vice President



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PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN BENCH/BAR III

8.75 MCLE hours including 1 hour of ethics

BENCH/BAR III AGENDA

FRIDAY AFTERNOON:

12:30–1:30 PM Cheryl Isbell and Bryan Rice—X Marks the Spot; Reimbursement Claims & S-Corps—Possible Hidden Treasure? (Family Law)

1:30–2:15 PM 2nd Court of Appeals Panel—Appellate Case Update: Know how the Court of Appeals is ruling so you don't sink your ship in court (Civil Trial, Civil Appellate)

2:15–3:00 PM Charles Kramer—What every non-Real Estate lawyer needs to know about title companies and pirates (aka underwriters) (Real Estate, Family Law, Estate Planning/Probate)

3:00–3:15 PM Break

3:15–4:00 PM Mark Bennett—The Color Code: How to Use Personality Types in Dealing with Clients and Opposing Counsel (.25 in ethics)

4:00–4:45 PM Melinda Eitzen and Lisa Duffee—Civil Case Law Update and Family Law Case Update (Civil Trial and Family Law)

BENCH/BAR III

DATES:

May 18–20, 2012

LOCATION:

Tanglewood Resort
Pottsboro, Texas

DETAILS:

Come join us for Pirates of the Caribbean on Sundance Isle, The Search for the Lost Fountain of Law. Register online at www.dentonbar.com.

REGISTER ONLINE OR CONTACT MICHELLE HOUSTON

Download the registration form and pay online at www.dentonbar.com.

5:30–6:00 PM Duane Coker—Yo Ho Ho and A Bathtub of Rum: Understanding alcohol and maritime laws in the State of Texas (Administrative Law)

SATURDAY MORNING:

8:00–8:30 AM Julia Kerestine—Interest Based Negotiation (Civil Trial)

8:30–9:00 AM Kirk Pittard—Collateral source rule regarding evidentiary issues (Civil Trial, Civil Appellate, Personal Injury)

9:00–10:00 PM Rick Hagan—Voor Dire Demonstration: Learn to conduct voir dire on a Pirate Jury Pool (Criminal Law, Civil Trial)

10:00–10:15 AM Break

10:15–11:00 AM Chad Baruch—Marbury vs. Madison (Civil Appellate)

11:00–11:45 AM Jay Freeman—The Texas Safety Responsibility Law and the Ethical Treatment of Your Client (.75 ethics) (Criminal Law)

11:45 AM–12:30 PM Jim Turnage—Drug Testing tips for Pirates and Attorneys (Family Law, Criminal Law, Personal Injury Trial Law, Juvenile Law)

Announcements and Events

DCBA in 2011-12

April Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, April 13, Noon
Meal included

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Program:

*Legislative Updates Affecting
Child Advocates*

Speaker:

Jane Burstain from the Center
for Public Policy

May Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, May 4, Noon
Meal included

Location:

Oakmont Country Club
1901 Oakmont Drive
Corinth, Texas 76210

Program:

Annual Business Meeting

Speaker:

Annual Business Meeting

Announcing

DCAP will now be charging for DCAP Mediation re-schedulings or cancellations that fall within 10 days of the scheduled date of mediation, starting immediately.

Congratulations to Gilland and Wendy Chenault on the birth of their daughter, Harper Ann Chenault, born on March 5, 2012 at 8 lbs and 4 oz.

Monthly Meetings

Collaborative Professionals

DCCP will meet at **12:00 PM** on Tuesday, **April 3**, at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

Family Law

Family Law will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **April 19**, in the Central Jury Room, 1450 E. McKinney St. in Denton.

Paralegals

DCPA will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **April 26**, at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

GDCYLA

GDCYLA will gather for their:

- Monthly Meeting at **11:45 AM** on Thursday, **April 5**, at Greenhouse, 600 N. Locust St., in Denton.
- Kinship Fair Benefit Concert at **6:30 PM** on Thursday, **April 12**, at Guiseppe's Restaurant, 821 N. Locust St., in Denton. Tickets are available from Mike Upshaw, 940-239-7610.

REPTL

REPTL will meet at **11:45 AM** on Wednesday, **April 25**, at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.