



Denton County Lawyer

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www.dentonbar.com

Welcome Aboard, Angie Rhoades!

The Denton County Bar Association (DCBA) is excited to have Angie Rhoades as our new Executive Director replacement. If you haven't had the privilege of meeting Angie yet, here's just a snippet about her and what she hopes to bring to the DCBA.

Angie has lived in Denton for the last thirteen years with her husband, Mark, and her three children: Lance, Ashley, and Ashlynn. They are originally from Florida, and Mark was stationed as a Marine there for eight years. When they decided to start a family, Mark left the Corps to become a Federal Agent, and he was promptly relocated to the Dallas area.

When they moved to Texas, Angie's first job was with North Dallas Bank, but her husband urged her to get a job with the government. After a year, she became a supervisor over a unit with Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) that was responsible for overseeing the applications process for immigrants seeking permanent residence status. She left INS shortly before she had her twin daughters.

Angie remained a stay-at-home mom during the tremendously stressful time during which her husband traveled constantly, Ashlynn fought meningitis, and her father suddenly passed from colon cancer. She returned to work in 2008 as Administrative Assistant with DCBA/DCAP, and later became the Assistant Office Manager for Hayes,

Berry, White and Vanzant.

"Working at Hayes, Berry, White and Vanzant prepared me for the Executive Director position because they are so structured," Angie said. "I was fortunate enough to be a part of their firm and learn the ins and outs of running an office."

When Angie worked with DCAP during her stint as Michelle's administrative assistant, she got to know several of the attorneys in Denton County. When the Executive Director position popped up, Angie said that this helped make her decision to apply. "A majority of the bar members already knew me, and I felt confident I could make a smooth transition," she reflected. Since she started on July 2nd, she's definitely felt like the transition has been smooth. At least, it's as smooth as managing over 300 attorneys can be.

"The most challenging part of my job is having two Boards of Directors," Angie said. "But I really enjoy working with all of the different personalities from the members and both Boards."

Angie especially enjoys knowing that what she does helps others, be it attorneys, mediators, or clients going through DCAP mediation. "I know how important it is for DCAP to exist and run smoothly," she said. "It's exciting to be a part of that."



When Angie isn't tirelessly running the helm, she spends as much time as she can with her family. With three kids, she definitely does not have much free time outside of their activities, but when she can, she likes to spend her time outdoors. She enjoys gardening and boating, and she said that she and her husband frequently visit firing ranges. The two of them also have a Camaro that they like to enter into car shows that raise money for awareness and veterans' benefits.

Welcome aboard, Angie! The Denton County Bar Association is happy to have you!

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From the President

With the recent television coverage of major cycling events like the Tour de France, the USA Pro cycling challenge, and the—at times seemingly inexhaustible—coverage of the Olympic Games, I’ve noticed a lot more cyclists and runners on the road and people at the gym.

Those of you who know me well have probably heard me say that I “work to live” and do not “live to work.” While I enjoy practicing law, I have many other passions in life, including working out and staying fit.

My current hobby in this regard is participating in triathlons. However, I’ve found since I started practicing law that I feel better and do a better job for clients when I’m staying active. It doesn’t matter whether it’s training for a triathlon, cycling, or just going to the gym and working out, staying active seems to equate to staying more in balance. I remember when I first came to Denton, one of

our members gave a presentation at the monthly bar luncheon (way back when it was being held at the Art Center) about staying well-rounded in life. I think it might’ve been Larry Collister, though that’s been many years, cases, clients, and drinks ago, so forgive me if I’m wrong.

I really took that message to heart, and I think it serves me well over the years. Most lawyers, myself included, are competitive, so finding a way to stay active and exhaust some of my competitive nature also seems to make things go more smoothly in my day-to-day practice of law. I think that’s why triathlons are my current obsession.

This is all to say that I think fitness should be a priority for lawyers—not just fitness in their practice (continuing legal education, self-study, and so on), but also fitness in life. I encourage everyone to not only stay active, but also to stay well-rounded and avoid allowing your practice to



Duane L. Coker, President

become the all-consuming monster that it can. We’ve all seen colleagues destroyed by that monster.

I’m currently working with other directors to set up a friendly way to encourage fitness amongst our members. Many bar associations and legal communities are doing this and the feedback that I’ve seen has been very positive. If there’s anyone out there you would be willing to help me implement such a program in our bar, please feel free to contact me and let me know. The more the merrier! Now, that you’re done reading this, put on your running shoes, open the door, and hit the road!

DCBA Officers

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DCBA Committee Chairs

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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.

From the Social Committee



Outdoor Adventures

Get your nature fix!

3rd Annual Skeet & Meet

Host:

The Denton County Bar Association
940-320-1500

When:

Saturday, September 15 at 4:00 PM

Where:

DCBA Skeet & Meet
8821 Pecan Valley
Pilot Point, TX 76258

Come join the fun!! We will be swimming, shooting skeet, eating BBQ, listening to good music and sitting around a campfire making s'mores. Bring your family, staff, swimsuits, towels, sun screen, chairs, shotguns and shells. Extra shotguns and shells will be made available if you forget yours!! Children and non-shooters are welcome to come out and shoot with us.

Supervised Visitation— Expectations and Outcomes...

By Aaron Robb M.Ed., NCC, LPC-S; www.texascounseling.org.

Stephen Covey, in his oft-quoted book, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, wrote that the first two habits to cultivate are “Be Proactive” and “Begin With The End In Mind.” Both of these habits are seen in well-run supervised visitation programs, where parents, children, and providers benefit from clearly articulated expectations in order to achieve good outcomes. While no one can guarantee they will be able to prevent an impaired parent from acting inappropriately, by proactively providing parents information on how to successfully navigate supervised visits, we can end up with a visit that goes as smoothly as possible (for both parent and child) for parents willing to put forth the effort.

Being proactive starts well before a provider accepts a case. A supervised visitation provider should have clearly defined policies and procedures that parents can be advised of prior to ever initiating services. This is not just a professional standard of care, but also a tool to clarify at the outset the limitations imposed by supervised visitation. Clearly supervised visitation, like any type of security-oriented intervention, will result in some limitations for parents, and these limitations have real-world impacts on what can be arranged for visitation sessions. Is the supervisor insured to transport children and/or parents, or will the family have to meet at a prescribed location? Is the

supervisor even willing to do “off site” visits, or are visits limited to a specific office? Will other adults or children be permitted to participate in the visits, and if so, under what circumstances? Is payment handled on a session-by-session basis, or is a retainer required (and just what are the fees for service)?

The list goes on and on, but particularly important for attorneys at the onset of services is the question of how does the provider view their role? Will the supervisor simply report back after the fact if one parent is badmouthing the other to the children, or will they intervene directly during the visit? Does the supervisor even consider issues beyond physical safety as part of their role?

Being proactive does not end at good paperwork, however. My experience has been that many parents either do not attentively read guidelines for services, or, if they do, they may not fully understand how such guidelines apply to them. Additionally, there is often significant information relevant to properly supervising parent-child contact (such as each parent’s understanding of why supervision has been ordered) that the provider will need to know prior to starting to supervise. This is solved through an orientation session, also known as an intake interview.

“An intake interview is the basis of

service excellence and safety. The intake interview sets the tone for all future interaction. It is an opportunity to give and receive information about the family and the circumstances leading to supervised visitation. It is also a time to learn about the service provider such as their policies and procedures, their experience and qualifications for meeting the needs of your particular case.”

As parents are provided concrete examples of how service guidelines apply to them and their particular situation (certainly a parent meeting with a single child at the mall and a parent visiting with several children at their home will involve different logistics), they are better able to prepare themselves for maintaining expected behavior during the visits.

There are also issues universal to all cases. The generic ideal of positive interaction between parents and children is all well and good, but many parents lack a basic understanding of the boundaries of what constitutes inappropriate adult information. A classic example I use with parents is that any time conversation starts with “the court...” or “my attorney...” whatever follows is inherently not a child-friendly conversation. Unfortunately, the instinct for many parents is to use supervised visitation as a time to re-try their case to their children, rather than trying to make the sessions about demonstrating empathy

and support for the children (which is what the kids involved usually need). Likewise for the custodial parent, sending the child off with “I miss you” (which focuses on the parent’s sense of loss when the child is away from them) instead of “I love you” (focusing on the parent’s support of the child) may start the visit off on a negative tone for the child, as they worry about what is going on with that parent. Refocusing parents at the beginning, prior to the first visit, sets them on the path of helping the children involved have the best experience possible during an unfortunately difficult time for them. When we begin with this end in mind, and proactively work to achieve it, we can be much more effective at minimizing the emotional hardship that children frequently have to endure as a result of custody litigation, while allowing them to maintain safe and positive contact with parents and other significant relatives.

Quick resources:

In addition to the Supervised Visitation Network, Florida State University’s Clearinghouse on Supervised Visitation provides a number of resources for attorneys and providers, including training manuals and tool kits: <http://dev.familyvio.csw.fsu.edu/clearinghouse>.

A review of one conceptual typology of supervised visits: http://www.casaforchildren.org/site/c.mtJSJ7MPIsE/b.5525099/k.305/Supervised_Visits_When_Are_They_Needed.htm.

E-filing for Attorneys and Litigants Began August 6, 2012

The Court of Appeals for the Second District of Texas began accepting electronically-filed documents in appeals and original proceedings through the [texas.gov](http://www.texas.gov) portal, on a voluntary basis, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 6, 2012.

The Court previously amended its local rules, effective June 1, 2012, to accommodate e-filing and has been accepting e-filed clerk’s and reporter’s records in some appeals since that date on a voluntary basis.

The amended local rules and more information about e-filing can be found on the Court’s website at www.2ndcoa.courts.state.tx.us. You can also find them on the DCBA website at http://dentonbar.com/local_rules.shtml.

Denton County Law Library Serves All

The Denton County Law Library is available to help fellow civil servants along with attorneys and the public. Be sure to check out the library and take advantage of their services

DIY Office Services

- \$0.25/pg B/W copies
- \$0.25/pg printing from computers
- \$0.25/pg incoming faxes to 940-349-2131
- \$1.00/pg color copies & printing
- \$2.00/8 pgs for local faxes (\$0.25/pg thereafter)
- \$2.50/8 pgs for long distance faxes (\$0.25/pg thereafter)
- FREE scan to email in pdf format

Research Online Services

- 2 computers with Lexis/Nexis
- 3 computers with Westlaw
- A list of resources and the library catalog online at www.dentoncounty.com/lawlib

Community Outreach



Volunteers, Attorneys, Paralegals, & Notaries Needed

Wills for Heroes
October 13, 2012
9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Denton Police Department
601 E. Hickory St.
Denton, TX 76205



Wills for Heroes is a pro bono legal services program which offers free Wills and other ancillary documents to the heroes of Denton County. For the 2nd annual DCBA Wills for Heroes event, we are honored to recognize the officers of the Denton and Lewisville Police Departments. The event will take place on Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM. During that time, in addition to providing the executed documents, we also like to show our appreciation to our heroes (and volunteers) by providing food and beverages as well as decorations for the event. Following are some items that we need YOUR assistance to acquire:

- Breakfast Foods for approximately 80 people (donuts, fruit trays, breakfast tacos, pastries, etc.)
- Snacks for approximately 200 people (baked goods, cheese and crackers, candy, nuts, chips and dips, popcorn, etc.)
- Cake or Cupcakes
- Coffee for up to 150 people (We will also need carafes in which to brew or store coffee – we will ensure their return!)
- Bottled Water (150 bottles)
- Soda (120 cans)
- Juice pouches (yes, some people will bring the entire family!)
- Paper Towels/Napkins
- Paper Plates
- Disposable Cups
- Ice
- Coolers (We will be sure to get coolers back to their owners)
- Large envelopes in which to place executed documents
- Avery or similar type labels for the envelopes
- Blue Helium Balloons to decorate the room
- Cards, coupons, or any other items to give to our heroes with their documents (roughly 175)
- Anything else to decorate the room and create a festive event!

Help the Denton Bar Association make this a special event for our local heroes. Please reach out to all of your friends, family, and contacts as well.. No donation is too small (or too large)! Any person or business that donates items is free to “advertise” by placing a sign in the room so that the officers (and volunteers) are all aware of what local person or business to thank. We are happy to work with you to pick up donated goods prior to the event.

Remember, these are the men and women who often give up time with their own families to protect ours! If you would like to help, please contact Kristen Pannell at KPannell@efaprocessing.com.

Community Outreach

2012 Adoption Day

Friday, Nov. 9 Denton County Court House, 2nd Floor



- We are accepting donations, sponsors, and volunteers.
- Attorney training on September 13 and September 20.
- Visit www.facebook.com/DentonCountyAdoptionDay for more information and to donate via PayPal.

Have you liked us yet?



To show your support and change a child's life, please contact Tiffany Haertling at thaertling@mac.com or 940-391-9141.



TEXAS LAWYERS FOR TEXAS VETERANS VETERAN LEGAL CLINICS

3rd Thursday of Every Other Month
Starting September 20, 2012
9 A.M. -- 11 A.M.

Texas Workforce Commission
1300 Teasley Ln., Denton, TX 76205

This is an advice only clinic open to all honorably discharged veterans, regardless of their income status. The clinic works closely with Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, who is providing support staff to help with intake as well as malpractice coverage to the volunteers while participating at the clinic. We are always looking for volunteer attorneys to help advise clients, non-attorney volunteers to help with intake, as well as donations for coffee and light snacks for those volunteering. Legal primers will be available for attorneys to help answer general questions on areas of law they might not regularly practice in. This is a great opportunity to help give back to those who have served our country, and we hope you can volunteer and support our veterans.

From Our Sponsors

Texas Advanced Paralegal Seminar | A Three Day Multi-Track CLE Seminar sponsored by the Paralegal Division State Bar of Texas

**TAPS
2012**

A Direct Flight to

**First
Class
CLE**

October 3 - 5

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Addison, TX



Join us for three days of CLE, networking and entertainment!

- Network with paralegals across the State
- Earn up to 14 CLE Hours
- Career Advancement through education
- Professional development opportunities
- Visit the Exhibit Hall
- Wednesday Welcome Social, Thursday Networking Social, and Friday luncheon

Register Early and Save!

Early registration deadline is Friday, August 24, 2012. Register at www.txpd.org/taps in June 2012.

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2012 Denton County Probate & Guardianship Ad Litem Seminar

Join us for **6.75 hours of CLE**, including **1 hour of Ethics**:

- Fulfill the requirements for Ad Litem Certification to be appointed as Ad Litem in Texas Probate Courts
- Enjoy the best speakers from the 2011 seminar with updated information
- Learn from new speakers about new topics
- Conveniently located at Oakmont Country Club
- Continental Breakfast and Lunch
- Course materials in digital format
- Networking opportunities

**Friday
Oct. 5**

**Register today at
www.DentonBar.com!**

34th Annual

Advanced Real Estate Law COURSE

Limited to the first 30 to register!

Only \$360.00

Highlights

- The Ebb and Flow of Texas Water Law and Rights 2012
- Internet Contracting Issues: Jurisdiction, Terms of Use, and Formation of eContracts
- Pipeline Easements: Protecting the Landowner in Negotiations with Common Carriers and Producers
- What Title Companies Won't Insure
- Stuck in the Middle: The Upside and Downside of Being a Sublandlord
- Hydraulic Fracturing Panel

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Denton County Bar Association

Hosted by
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September 12-14

Sessions begin at 8:30 am daily.

**MCLE Credit: 19.25 Hours
Ethics Credit: 3.25 Hours
DVD CLE Course #: 901246851**

*Mail payment (payable to "Law Office of Ruth Brock")
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*Please provide your email address for future correspondence and
your preference of USB Drive or Hard-Copy (2 notebooks).*

*Lunch Box Sandwiches available
for \$15 additional/day.*

*We'll contact you via email before
Aug. 22 with choices for your order.*

Announcements and Events

September Bar Luncheon October Bar Luncheon

Date:

Friday, September 7

Location:

Oakmont Country Club

Program:

Texas Foreclosures: Facts or Fallacies

0.75 hours CLE, TBLS approved
for 0.75 hours in Real Estate Law

Speaker:

Tommy Bastian
www.bdfgroup.com

Date:

Friday, October 5

Location:

Oakmont Country Club

Program:

*Effective Advocacy, Case Studies
in Guardianship and Family Law
Cases*

Speakers:

Dick Kelsey
www.dentontexaslawyers.com

Mike Gregory
www.dentonfamilylaw.com

Monthly Meetings

Collaborative Professionals

DCCP will meet at **12:00 PM** on Tuesday, **September 4**, at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

Family Law

Family Law will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **September 20**, in the Central Jury Room, 1450 E. McKinney St. in Denton.

Paralegals

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

GDCYL

GDCYLA will gather for their monthly:

- Meeting at **11:45 AM** on Thursday, **September 6**, at Greenhouse, 600 N. Locust St., in Denton.
- Happy Hour at **5:00 PM** on Thursday, **September 13**, location to be determined in Denton.

REPTL

- Meeting from Noon to 1 pm on Wednesday, **September 26** at the Oakmont Country Club.
- Topic: The Quiet Before the Storm-A Guide to the Upcoming Dodd Frank Revolution and Loan Documentation by Barry D. Johnson.
- Credit: 1 hour general and 1 hour specialty residential real estate.