



## Kinship Fair 2012—A Success!

*By Leslie Stuntebeck; NAK Family Law Group, [www.northtexasdivorcelawyers.com](http://www.northtexasdivorcelawyers.com).*

On Saturday, October 20th, all around Pioneer Circle on Texas Woman’s University campus, volunteers hustled to prepare for Kinship Fair 2012. Jump-started with some caffeine and banana bread generously donated by Starbucks, they were airing up the bounce house, making cotton candy and popcorn, organizing books, and hanging coats. Games such as Twister, hula hoops, jump rope, limbo, bowling, wheel of fortune, sack race, cupcake walk, pumpkin toss, electro darts, hopscotch, and even a giant piñata sprang up around the Circle. And, along came a carriage ride (sponsored by Rustic Rides), a fire truck, a police car and the Iron Guardians to join the festivities!

When the families started to arrive, all of the effort was worth it. More than once, families (often relatives) who had taken in foster children stopped to thank volunteers. These families were genuinely grateful for the support that the community shows them.

But this annual event is not just about games and fun, it’s also about meeting a need. Department of Family and Protective Services volunteers, Patience Galindo and Laura Doty, went shopping for each specific family who had RSVPed for the event and purchased clothing, diapers, pillows, car seats, and items to meet any other immediate needs that these families have. The funds available to

thank you goes out to Jill Jester and her husband, Chris Rasmussen, Sarah Hoffman, and Mike Upshaw for helping set up the booth and volunteering time on your Saturday!

From 11:00 am until 2:00 pm, families enjoyed the fair. Wells Fargo supplied a liberal supply of hot dogs and chips while Crooked Crust Pizza provided tasty slices for lunch.

Thanks to Mike Upshaw, a sound system was provided for music and announcements throughout the event. Prize drawings took place mid-day, where games and toys were given away to the surprise and delight of the children present.

purchase these items were all donated by local law firms and businesses, and the appreciation from each family was very apparent. The Young Lawyers volunteers enjoy giving out these particular items to each of the families from our own special booth on Pioneer Circle. A special

Ric Rac the clown made balloon animals and the children could also get their faces painted. Children received coats for the winter and they took home their choice of books and craft bookmarks. All in all, it was a pretty perfect day for these children and their families.

*Kinship continued on page 5.*



### What’s Inside

<i>From the President</i> . . . . .	2
<i>From DCAP</i> . . . . .	3
<i>For Your Practice</i> . . . . .	4
<i>Community Outreach</i> . . . . .	5
<i>From Our Sponsors</i> . . . . .	8
<i>Announcements</i> . . . . .	9



# From the President

For those of you who attended our monthly bar luncheon, you already heard from “Hop Along Lloyd” a/k/a Andrew Lloyd, about our 2013 Bench Bar Conference, but I wanted to take a second and help get the word around.

At the end of our incredibly successful 2012 event, we surveyed attendees and most expressed a desire to change venue. Texoma’s been great, but, after three years in a row, most thought a change of scenery would be nice. A Western-themed event in the Texas Hill Country was at the top of the list. This year’s conference will take place in Bandera, Texas at the Mayan Dude Ranch ([www.mayanranch.com](http://www.mayanranch.com)).

Not wanting to disappoint, our ever-industrious Bench Bar Committee went to work and have put together a really great program—three all-inclusive days in the beautiful Hill Country! Bench Bar includes CLE, great

food and drink, lots of fun activities, and, if you’re interested, a golf tournament at a nearby course.

This year’s event is scheduled for April 26-28, about a month earlier than in past

years, and, because of the venue, we think it will fill up quickly. It’ll definitely be here before you know it! Accommodations include western style cabins and cabin “suites”, so it’s important to register early if you want the broadest choice of options.

Don’t miss this opportunity to get to know your fellow Denton lawyers and Judges!



*Duane L. Coker, President*

## Combined December Ethics Presentation

The REPTL and Transitions to Practice Program is cosponsoring an hour of Ethics CLE on Friday, December 14, 2012 (11:45-1:00) at Oakmont County Club. The speaker will be Jett Hanna, Sr. VP of the Texas Lawyers Insurance Exchange, speaking on “Legal Malpractice: Managing the Risk.” This Seminar is open to all DCBA members at no cost except for the cost of lunch at \$17.00 per person. Space is limited, however, and RSVP required for CLE credit to [vam@vamlawfirm.com](mailto:vam@vamlawfirm.com).

### DCBA Officers

**President,** *Duane L. Coker*  
**Immediate Past President,**  
*Dena A. Reecer*  
**President-Elect,**  
*Theodore D. Ogilvie*  
**Vice President,** *Amie Peace*  
**Treasurer,** *Travis Biggs*  
**Secretary,** *Vicki Isaacks*  
**CLE Director,** *Julia Kerestine*

### DCBA Directors

*Leah Harbour, Brent Hill, Fon Laughlin, Andrew M. Lloyd, Virginia Moore, Jill O’Connell*

### 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 Jill O’Connell*  
**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](http://www.dentonbar.com).*

## What's New at DCAP?

*By David S. Bouschor, III, Law Office of David S. Bouschor, II, PC; www.dsblegal.com*

The Denton County District Court Judges voted, on October 5th, to change the DCAP Mediation Order. The only significant change involved the timing on the delivery of information, provided by the parties, before the setting of a mediation day.

DCAP has had the policy of receiving the financial information, included in the Family Law Exhibit "A" to the Mediation Order, before the setting of a family law mediation. The previous Mediation Order stated "if Exhibit A has not been received from all parties by DCAP at least 5 days prior to the scheduled mediation date, the mediation shall be cancelled by DCAP and the parties shall be charged the \$150.00 cancellation fee." The policy was created to alleviate the situation where two attorneys and two parties

took a day for mediation only to find out that one or both of the sides had not sent in their Exhibit "A", thereby canceling the mediation and losing the mediation fees. Not a very happy event.

There was confusion by several attorneys between the "cancellation" provision of the Mediation Order and DCAP's "scheduling" policy. Attorneys wanted to schedule mediations before completing Exhibit "A", which set up the situation that the scheduling policy was made to address. DCAP's goal has always been to facilitate mediations and resolve disputes with as little conflict as possible.

The New DCAP Mediation Order removes the five day cancellation

provisions and adds scheduling provisions that mirror the DCAP policy:

"For all cases brought under the Texas Family Code, complete the Summary Inventory, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and the delivery of it to DCAP prior to, or concurrently with, the scheduling of the mediation."

I would like to thank all the attorneys who provided input for these changes to the current Order as well as any changes that have been made to previous Orders. The evolution of DCAP over the past eight years has been greatly enhanced by the suggestion, skills and downright hard work of Denton County attorneys.



**Be a part of  
our DCAP  
Program!**

**Contact**

**Angie Rhoades**  
([angie@dentonbar.com](mailto:angie@dentonbar.com))

**to schedule a  
time for your  
mediation!**

## Farewell, Jeanette Baldwin!

*William F. Neal, NAK Family Law Group; [www.northtexasdivorcelawyers.com](http://www.northtexasdivorcelawyers.com)*

Before Y2K was ever even a thought in my mind, I met Janette Baldwin. We were looking for an attorney to join our group, when a colleague and co-worker suggested I talk to this friend of hers from Dallas. Lunch was set up, and I have been involved, one way or another, with Janette since then—all to my lasting benefit.

Janette came to the law later in life having been born in San Antonio and raised in South Texas. She had careers with Burger King and within the Oil and Gas Industries, married the love of her life, Reg, and then ventured out to start a new career in the law by attending and graduating from Baylor Law School. Reg's job brought them to Dallas where she practiced before coming up to our neck of the woods in 1997.

Always a hard worker, Janette joined Hammerle Finley in Lewisville and sat for the Board Certification test in Family Law in 2000, earning her specialization that year. In 2005, she again spread her wings and hung out her shingle as a sole practitioner at the Colonial Savings Building in Lewisville, where she practiced until she and Reg decided to move full time to their "Ponderosa" in Crawford, Texas, and share tea time with former President George and Laura Bush (not really—just an old standing joke between us).

Janette is, in my opinion, the epitome of the present day family lawyer. She is always calm, always thoughtful, and always sees between the lines both as



to her client's plight and the judicial conundrum we all find ourselves facing on a daily basis. Always engaging, always with a smile on her face, never intimidated, she handled her cases with an eye first on problem solving.

This innate personal attribute of Janette is what also made her one of Denton County's best mediators. Even while she and Reg were going through treatment for his cancer, Janette never forgot who she was and never used her personal struggles in the handling of her cases.

With Reg now cancer free, they are living their dream of retirement for Reg, and semi-retirement for Janette, on their land just outside Waco. She will start anew by doing mediation in and around Waco. Knowing her as I do, I suspect she will succumb to a few clients that have a heartfelt story, the need for a caring and tenacious attorney, and who will succeed in twisting her arm to represent them. She has also shared with me that

she will return to Denton for any mediation that requires her special brand of understanding, knowledge, and insight into working a settlement. I know for one I plan on taking her up on that offer.

Years ago and I don't remember where, I heard a sage old lawyer say that all of his friends are lawyers, and his best friends are family lawyers. When I heard it I was much younger and slightly more cynical than I am today, and over the years I have never forgotten that adage and have come to embrace the truth in what is the meaning of what was told to me.

Janette Baldwin, to me and I think a majority of us in Denton County who have had her as a mediator or an adversary on the other side of a case, is the epitome of that saying. On behalf of all my fellow lawyers, Judges, court personnel and your clients, thanks for the memories, the hard work, and most importantly, the friendship.



# Community Outreach

*Kinship continued from page 1.*

Over 122 attended this year; and the event would not have been possible without the help of the volunteer support of the following groups

- Texas Woman's University
- TWU Practice III Group
- Volunteers from TWU
- CASA of Denton County
- The Department of Family and Protective Services
- Denton County CSCD
- Cumberland Presbyterian Children's Home
- Jumping Fun
- Kohl's
- Community Partners of Denton County
- TWU Student Life
- Child Abuse Prevention Society
- Springbok Academy
- Texas Academy of Math and Science

The Greater Denton County Young Lawyers greatly appreciates the

monetary donations of the following businesses and individuals:

- Loveless & Loveless
- Wood, Thacker & Weatherly
- Lewis & Passons, PC
- The Maldonado Law Office, P.C
- Roger Yale, Attorney at Law
- Craig Fowler
- Law Office of Byron D. Brown
- Elsey & Elsey, PLLC
- Shipman Steppick, PC
- Neal, Ashmore, Evans & Stuntebeck
- Coffee & Peace, PC
- Minor & Jester, PC
- Duane L. Coker & Associates, PC
- KoonsFuller, PC.

A special thank you goes to Andrew Passons for helping with the T-shirts to acknowledge each of the sponsors and for helping with fundraising, again, this year!

After Pioneer Circle was all cleaned up, and the games were put away, the

bounce house deflated and the piñata smashed, smiling children, with some much needed items and exhausted with fun, had enjoyed their day. Kinship Fair 2012 was most definitely a success!

Denton County Young Lawyers Association partnered with The Department of Family and Protective Services, C.A.S.A. of Denton County and Texas Women's University to create the Kinship Fair in order to provide assistance and encouragement to extended family members who have taken in children unable to live with their parents for whatever reason. Because these foster parents are extended family, they are unable to receive the governmental assistance given to other foster families. With the Kinship Fair, we let these people know that the sacrifices they are making are appreciated and are making a difference. Their responses of gratitude were overwhelming.

DCYLA would like to thank all of the sponsors and volunteers for making a difference in our community. We will have a fundraiser in the spring to raise money for Kinship Fair in 2013 and we hope you can help us assist more deserving families next year!



# Community Outreach

## Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans Hold First Veterans Clinic

Joshua Kowert, Law Offices of Virginia Moore and Associates; [www.vamlaw.com](http://www.vamlaw.com)

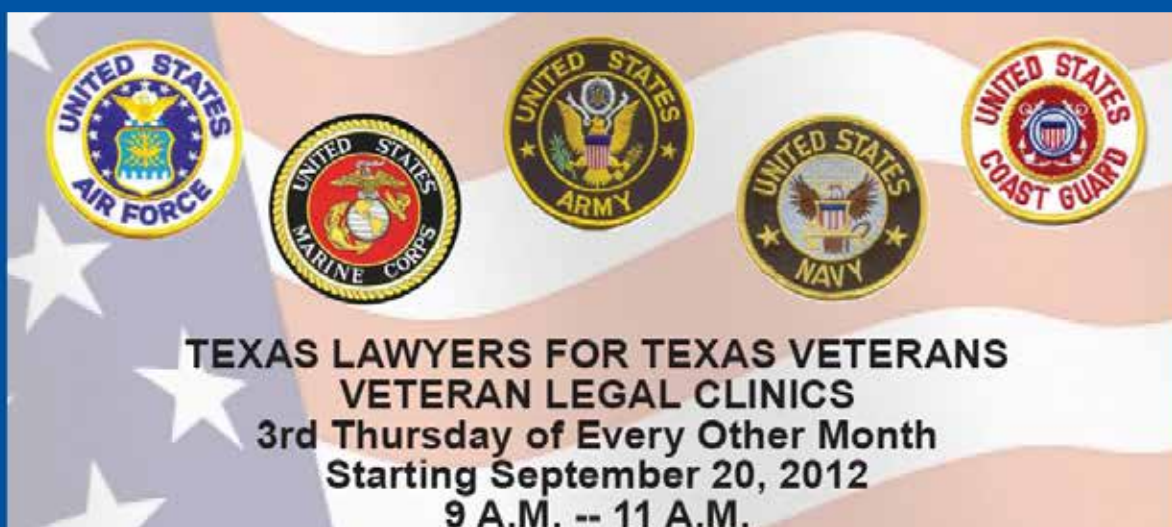
The Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans Committee held its first Veterans Legal Clinic on September 20, 2012 at the Texas Workforce Commission in Denton. Several attorney and non-attorney volunteers donated their time to help provide legal advice on issues ranging from divorce and child custody issues, to bankruptcy options for individuals and small businesses, to simple probate and will questions. Over a dozen veterans were assisted during the two hour clinic, which amounted to a very large showing for the first clinic—greatly surpassing Collin County’s attendance for their first

clinic and rivaling Tarrant County’s first clinic attendance. Legal Aid of Northwest Texas was also on hand to streamline the intake process as well as provide malpractice coverage for the volunteers. Several Denton county veteran organizations were present as well to assist with any of the veterans’ non-legal needs.

The next Denton clinic will be held on November 15, 2012 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Denton Texas Workforce Commission building. The November clinic will be the last Denton County Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans Legal Clinic until

February 2013. However, Collin County will hold a clinic on January 24, 2013 at the Texas Workforce Commission building off El Dorado in McKinney. All attorney and non-attorney volunteers who wish to help are welcome and appreciated, as well as any donations for food and refreshments for the attorneys and veterans.

With such a large veteran turnout for the first clinic, we expect a greater need for volunteers for the future clinics. If you wish to volunteer or make a donation, please contact Joshua Kowert at [Joshua@vamlawfirm.com](mailto:Joshua@vamlawfirm.com).



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.



## Wills for Heroes

### DCBA's Pro Bono Legal Document Services Program Benefitted Denton County's First Responders

*By Kristen Pannell; Think Finance, [www.thinkfinance.com](http://www.thinkfinance.com) and Dawnelle Thompson, Law Office of David S. Bouschor, II, PC, [www.dsblegal.com](http://www.dsblegal.com)*

On Saturday, October 13th, volunteer attorneys, paralegals and notaries gathered in the Denton Police Department training room to deliver approximately seventy simple wills packages for various members and spouses of the Denton and Lewisville police departments.

This year, several attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants donated their time and talent to draft documents for these local heroes prior to the event. The documents provided included a simple Will, Durable Power of Attorney, Medical Power of Attorney, HIPPA form, and Directive to Physicians. Denton County volunteer attorneys reviewed and revised these documents with our first responders so that they were finalized prior to the event. Teams of volunteer attorneys, paralegals, and notaries administered the required legal formalities to execute these documents at the event on Saturday.

The response from the officers on signing day was a resounding, "Thank you!" Many of them were clear to say to us how much they appreciated the local bar association for taking the time to care about this need.

Several officers indicated that they didn't know where to begin in taking care of this essential paperwork. So, all of our signing-day attorneys spent quite a bit of time educating our heroes on the importance of their

documents and when to update their paperwork.

Upon arrival at their scheduled appointment times, officers and spouses were welcomed into a room decorated with blue balloons and a buffet of assorted foods and beverages from a multitude of local corporate sponsors: Hannah's Off the Square, Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant, Bagheri's Pizza, Lucy's Mom's on Main, Teasley Donuts, Denton Walmart on Loop 288, and several DCBA volunteers and donors.

This was the second year that the Denton County Bar Association participated in the Wills for Heroes program. The Wills for Heroes program began as a response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Since that time, many local bar associations around the country, as well as the American Bar Association, have implemented this program. Based on the number of participants each year, it is clear that there is a great need for this program in our community.



Not only does this event benefit the local heroes, but it also presents an opportunity for the legal community to give back. For many of our volunteers, the program also provided them with a unique learning opportunity in either drafting and/or executing probate documents.



# From Our Sponsors

## Report your PRO BONO Hours!

DCBA is known for its active volunteers in the legal community—YOU.

Tracking Pro Bono hours shows lawyers' good deeds; provides testimony for legislative sessions; and improves our reputation.

Log your hours at [www.texasbar.com/mybarpage](http://www.texasbar.com/mybarpage).

Let's make DCBA the best local bar in the State!

**First State Bank's Trust Services**  
*can help provide the security  
our future generations need.*

**Wills & Trusts | Guardianships  
Investment Management & Custodial Services  
Estate Administration | Retirement Accounts**

Carol Christian, Vice President



*Three Denton Locations:*  
400 W. Oak St.  
2430 W. University Dr.  
3190 Teasley Ln.

(940) 349-5444 • [www.F-S-B.com](http://www.F-S-B.com)

Denton | Gainesville | Lake Kiowa | Muenster | Saint Jo | Valley View

**First in Texas. First in Security.**

Member FDIC

## Tree Lighting

Join us for pre-lighting  
festivities at Gerhard's  
222 W. Hickory, Denton

November 30  
5:00 - 8:00 pm



# Announcements & Events

## December Bar Luncheon

**Date:**

Friday, December 7 at Noon

**Location:**

Oakmont Country Club

**Program:**

*Update on the Second Court of Appeals*

**Speakers:**

*Distinguished Panel of Second Court of Appeals Judges*

**MCLE:**

*0.75 hours CLE*

*0.75 TBLS hours in Civil Trial, Criminal*

*Trial, and Civil Appeals*

## January Bar Luncheon

**Date:**

Friday, January 4 at Noon

**Location:**

Oakmont Country Club

**Program:**

*TBA*

**Speakers:**

*TBA*

## Announcing

### Welcome Back Mike Gregory!

Mike Gregory's recovery from a bone marrow transplant has improved sufficiently that he has now returned to full time mediation. We're delighted to have Mike back!

## Monthly Meetings

### Collaborative Professionals

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

### Family Law

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

### Paralegals

D CPA will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **November 22**, at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

### GDCYL

GDCYLA will gather for their monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month. Contact Brook Stuntebeck at [lbs@nakfamilylaw.com](mailto:lbs@nakfamilylaw.com) for meeting times and location.

### REPTL

- Meeting from 11:45 am to 1 pm on Wednesday, **November 28** at the Oakmont Country Club.
- Topic: Changes in Texas Indemnity and Mechanics' Lien Law by Michael F. Albers; Hunton & Williams, LLP.
- Credit: .75 hour in Commercial and Residential Real Estate Law.