



# Denton County Lawyer

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[www.dentonbar.com](http://www.dentonbar.com)

## 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, Ted Ogilvie will move into the office of President.

### Officers



**Theodore (Ted) D. Ogilvie, President**

Ted received his B.A. in University Studies from the University of New Mexico, went on to receive his MBA from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and received his JD from Texas Wesleyan School of Law. He focuses mainly on alternative dispute resolution and mediating in the areas of civil litigation, family, health, consumer, and employment law. He is a member of the College of the State Bar, the Pro Bono College, and DCCP.



**Amie Peace, President-Elect**  
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, Vice President**

W. Travis Biggs received his B.A.A.S from 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, and a prior board member of 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, Treasurer**

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



**Andrew M. Lloyd, Secretary**

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, and civil litigation. He is a certified mediator, a member of the College of the State Bar, has been on the DCBA Board for several years, and was named a Texas Super Lawyer Rising Star for 2012 and 2013.



**Victor Rivera, CLE Director**

After being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, Victor received his Bachelor of Applied

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# From the President

Time flies. Seems like just yesterday that I started typing my first president's letter with the words, "Time to start over, again." I can't believe it's been a year.

This job has been a lot of work, a lot of fun, and, most of all, a great opportunity to work with and meet some great Denton Lawyers. Even though several past presidents tried to tell me how much time this job takes, I was still surprised. Most often, though, it was in a good way. It's easy, especially in our business, to put your head down for weeks, months (years?) at a time, and, all of a sudden, you look up and realize you don't know half the lawyers you see at the Courthouse. Being president has been a great opportunity to get out and meet some of these "new" lawyers, shake hands with colleagues I haven't talked to in a while, and just re-immense myself in the best local bar association in Texas.

I've had a lot of help this year and would be remiss if I didn't thank our great board of directors. My executive committee—Ted Ogilvie, Amie Peace, Travis Biggs, and Vicki Isaacks—won't know what to do without all my extra meetings on their schedules. The rest of the board, including our ex-officio members and our District and County administrative



*Duane L. Coker, President*

judges, have put hours of hard work into planning parties, charitable and pro bono events, and just keeping our ever growing association alive and kicking. Our Bench Bar Committee, headed by Kimberly Killebrew, likewise burned the midnight oil planning this year's event, which was our furthest foray from the cozy comfort of our humble county.

The DCBA's as strong as it's ever been. We're at an all-time membership high, we are continually offering bigger and better events, and have a list of member benefits unrivaled by other bar associations our size. We have an excellent executive director staff working to keep things firing on all cylinders. And, most importantly, after seeing the dedication of our officers and directors this year, I know I couldn't be leaving the bar in better hands. Can't wait to see what's next!

## **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).*

# 2013-14 Officers and Directors

*Slate continued from page 1.*

Arts and Sciences from Midwestern State University in 2003 where he dual-majored in Criminal Justice and Political Science. He then earned both his MBA and JD from Texas Tech in 2007. Victor is the Associate Judge for the Flower Mound Municipal Court. He is Board Certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization in Family Law and regularly handles large property settlements.

## Directors



### **Phillip Herr, Director**

Phillip graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the

University of Texas at Austin. Prior to his legal career, he served in the Texas Army National Guard from 1995 until 2001, including a nine month tour of duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He earned his law degree from South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. He is a member of the College of the State Bar, a certified mediator, and serves on the Flower Mound Rotary Club Board of Directors.



### **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.



### **Julia Kerestine, 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.



### **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 at the Law Office of Virginia A. Moore where she 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 Arizona, and the Lake Cities Chamber of Commerce. Jill is also Certified as an Ad Litem by the State Bar of Texas.



### **Brian K. Tackett, Director**

Brian graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelor of

business administration degree in 1994. In 1998, he earned his J.D. from the Texas Tech University School of Law. Brian is a partner with the law firm of Hayes, Berry, White & Vanzant, LLP and the supervising attorney for the family and criminal sections of the firm. Brian is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell, and the focus of his practice is on family law and defense of cases involving family violence.

## **Certified Proposed Slate of DCBA Officers & Directors**

President: Theodore D. Ogilvie

President-Elect: Amie Peace

Vice-President: Travis Biggs

Treasurer: Vicki Isaacks

Secretary: Andrew Lloyd

CLE Director: Victor Rivera

Director: Leah Harbour

Director: Phillip Herr

Director: Brent Hill

Director: Julia Kerestine

Director: Fon Laughlin

Director: Virginia Moore

Director: Jill O'Connell

Director: Brian K. Tackett

*Members may nominate other candidates at the May 3, 2013 election.*



## How to Get Your Veteran into Veterans Court

*Forrest Beadle, Assistant District Attorney for Denton County*

### Step 1: Initial case review by DA's Office

Step 1 actually begins after the veteran defendant is identified either by law enforcement, the District Attorney's (DA) Office, veteran's organizations, or defense counsel. During Step 1, the prosecutor verifies that veteran is charged with a crime eligible for Veterans Court and begins the investigation into the causal connection between the alleged crime and the veteran's post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The veteran's defense counsel should schedule a meeting with the prosecutor and bring a copy of the veteran's DD-214 for the DA's file and any medical documentation that verifies the veteran's PTSD diagnosis. If the veteran has not been diagnosed, he is not barred from Veterans Court, but he may need to be referred to the VA for a PTSD screening before continuing. If the veteran passes the DA's Office initial screening, the defense counsel will receive the Veterans Treatment Court Program (VTCP) Booklet and instructions to contact Denton County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) to be screened for Veterans Court.

#### Documents needed

- A copy of veteran's DD-214
- PTSD medical records

#### Document received

- Defense counsel will receive a copy of VTCP Booklet

### Step 2A: Veterans Court Screening Report

### prepared by the Denton County CSCD and initial recommendation to the DA's Office

Your veteran will need to contact the Veterans Court Screening Officer at the Denton County CSCD and schedule an interview. Prior to arriving for that interview, the veteran will need to fill out the forms contained in the VTCP Booklet and turn them into the CSCD in order for the screening officer to have time to review those documents along with the DA's case file. This documentation includes a waiver allowing the Veterans Screening Report to be released to defense counsel, third party doctors, and eventually the Court and the State in accordance with the process described. The veteran will then attend an interview at the supervision department.

#### Documents needed

- A copy of veteran's DD-214
- PTSD medical records
- All forms contained in the VTCP Booklet, including the waiver signed copy by both the veteran and the veteran's counsel of record that allows the release of the Veterans Screening Report.

#### Documents received

- Referral form for Dr. Overstreet (Center for Therapeutic Change)

The screening officer will prepare a Veterans Court Screening Report after the interview. The screening officer

will not make this report available to the State at this time; however, the defense attorney will receive a copy of the report in order to advise their client. After the screening officer's evaluation is complete, the officer will contact the DA's Office and either recommend or not recommend that the veteran continue in the process. If the screening officer recommends that the veteran continue, the veteran and their attorney will be informed and instructed to contact Dr. Overstreet or another third-party doctor for further evaluation.

#### Reports prepared

- Veterans Court Screening Report (Defense counsel only)

### Step 2B: Screen and diagnosis by Dr. Overstreet (Third-party Therapist)

The veteran will contact Dr. Overstreet at the Center for Therapeutic Change in Tarrant County and schedule an interview. Dr. Overstreet is an independent contractor and does charge approximately \$250-\$350 for this evaluation. The veteran will need to pay for this expense, but if you have an indigent client, contact the DA's Office for possible assistance. Dr. Overstreet will prepare a report that evaluates the veteran's fitness for the court. This report will be returned to the screening officer who will make the final report available to both the State and defense counsel.

*Note: Dr. Overstreet is currently the Veterans Court's only third-party doctor.*

# Veterans Court

## Reports prepared

- Dr. Overstreet's Mental Health Assessment (Both parties receive)

## Step 3: Veterans Court Screening Officer's Final recommendation to DA's Office

The screening officer reviews Dr. Overstreet's report and makes his final recommendation to the DA's Office.

## Step 4: DA's Office review of Dr. Overstreet's Report

After the DA's Office reviews Dr. Overstreet's report, the CSCD's recommendation, and the case file, and they will make their decision to continue the veteran or not in the process.

## Step 5: Treatment Plan developed by the VTCP Supervision Officer and the VA VJO

At this stage, since the DA's Office and CSCD have recommended that the veteran proceed into Veterans Court, it is time to develop their individualized treatment plan. The Veterans Court Probation Officer in conjunction with the Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Officer from the VA will prepare the veteran's treatment plan. This will include a Family Study. When completed, the Veterans Court supervision officer will forward the plan to both the State and defense counsel. Defense counsel will review the treatment plan with their veteran client.

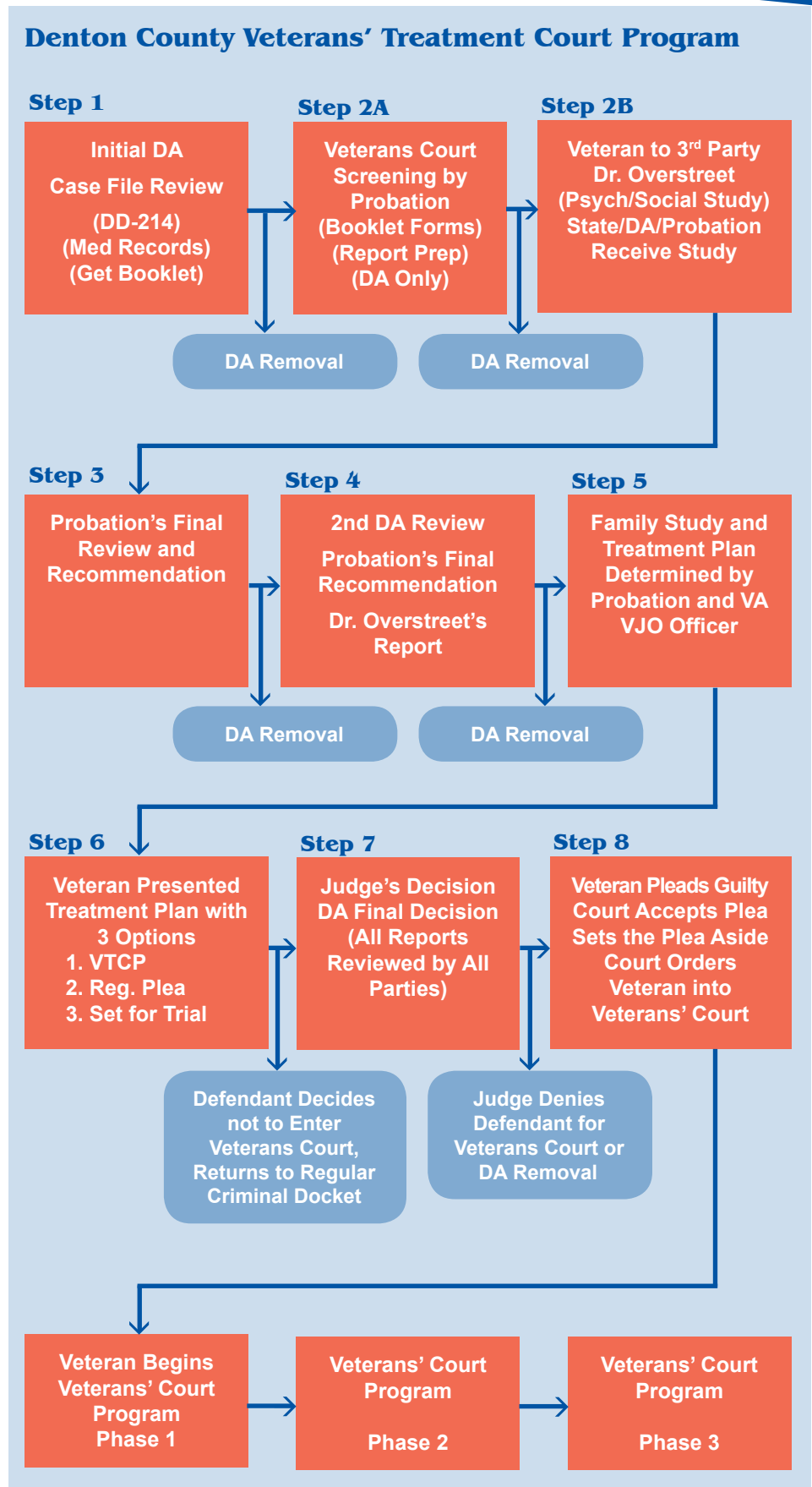
## Reports prepared

- Veteran's Integrated Treatment Plan (Both sides receive)

## Step 6: Veteran's Decision

Defense counsel will have three options to present to their veteran. The

*Veterans continued on page 7.*



## The Purpose of Veterans Court

By Joe Zellmer, Joseph A. Zellmer, Attorney at Law, [www.zellmerlaw.com](http://www.zellmerlaw.com).

In 2009, the Texas state legislature authorized the establishment of Veterans Courts (Chapter 617 of the Health and Safety Code). In 2012, Denton County Veterans Court (DCVC) was established, with Judge David Garcia presiding over the Denton County Veterans Treatment Court Program.

Section 617.002 states that “a defendant is eligible to participate in a veterans court program established under this chapter only if the attorney representing the state consents to the defendant’s participation in the program and if the court in which the criminal case is pending finds that the defendant:

1. is a veteran or current member of the United States armed forces, including a member of the reserves, national guard, or state guard; and
2. suffers from brain injury, mental illness, or mental disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder, that:
  - a. resulted from the defendant’s military service in a combat zone or other similar hazardous duty area;
  - b. materially affected the defendant’s criminal conduct at issue in the case.” As can be seen, eligibility is more limited than just being a veteran.

The general purpose of the Veterans Court is to assist veterans in receiving alcohol, controlled substance, mental health, and other related treatment and rehabilitative services. It is not a “get out of jail free” card nor is it easier than probation. It is a comprehensive and coordinated program to assist the veteran in getting help for the issues that led to the criminal activity. The DCVC consists of the

judge, an assistant district attorney, representatives from the defense bar, Denton County Probation office, Veterans Administration, Denton County Veterans Office, MHMR, and a private licensed counselor. This group works as a team to make such determinations as:

- whether the veteran is a good fit for the program;
- what treatment options are available;
- what the treatment plan should be;
- how to monitor the veteran’s progress;
- whether the veteran has successfully completed a phase of the program; and many more.

In addition to this, the members of the defense bar that are part of this team are there to ensure that the participants’ rights are protected while in the program.

From a defense perspective, the veteran is represented by his or her own attorney whether the attorney is privately retained or court appointed. The veteran’s attorney will represent the veteran from the beginning of the case through the plea before Judge Garcia. At the time of the plea, the court will accept the plea, set it aside, and then order the veteran into DCVC. Please note that “being ordered into DCVC” is mostly ministerial in that by this time, the veteran has already asked for, qualified for, and has chosen to be a part of the DCVC. At the time of the plea, there is no finding of guilt. If the veteran successfully completes the Veterans Court Treatment Program and the Court determines that a dismissal is in the best interest of justice, the court in which the criminal case is pending will dismiss the criminal action against the veteran.

## Congratulations, Elizabeth!

The Denton County Bar Association is proud to announce some very exciting news—one of our own, Elizabeth Frost, office assistant for both the DCBA and DCAP, has been accepted (early) to the SMU Dedman School of Law. We tried to talk her out of lawyerin’, but Elizabeth sent in her application to SMU anyway. She received an impressive recommendation letter from Senator Hutchinson, with whom Elizabeth had interned from January 2012 to May 2012, and she was accepted within a month! She will begin her exciting journey this coming Fall! When you’re at the offices, please stop by and offer your congratulations to her. We’re all proud of you, Elizabeth!



## DCBA is now Social on Facebook

It's official; the Denton County Bar Association has taken root in Facebook! We now have a Facebook Page and a Group, and we invite all bar members to join both.

Why do we need both? Pages and Groups on Facebook offer different functions and services. With the Facebook Page, we can have a stronger social media presence to publicly announce all of the great things we, as a Bar, are doing for and around Denton County. We can use the Page to post photos from events, announce the number of community service events we host throughout the year, such as Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans and the Kinship Fair, and publicly praise our lawyers' proud accomplishments outside the

courtroom. Anyone outside of the Bar can "like" the page and keep up with all the great things we do. In other words, it can be fantastic PR for us.

A Facebook Group, on the other hand, is more of a forum for members to discuss the Group's topic. For us, our Group will be completely private, so only Bar members can see posts and join the Group. All members will have to be approved by a Group administrator, so we can ensure only active Bar members can participate in our discussions.

The Group will be a great benefit for all members, because it will provide a centralized location for all discussions regarding the Bar. Here we can converse about upcoming events,



propose future events, vote on issues outside of our monthly meetings, and discuss anything that pertains to the Bar at any time.

You can find our Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/DentonBar](http://www.facebook.com/DentonBar) and you can request to join our Group at [www.facebook.com/groups/dentonbar](http://www.facebook.com/groups/dentonbar). We hope each of you with a Facebook account will take a like and join us!

### *Veterans continued from page 5.*

veteran can proceed into the Veterans Court, accept the State's original plea offer, or reject both and set the case for trial.

#### **Documents received**

- VTCP Participant Agreement and Performance Contract.
- VTCP Program Fees Agreement
- VTCP Integrated Treatment Plan

#### **Step 7: Final Decision by the DA's Office and Presiding Judge**

If the veteran accepts the treatment plan and volunteers to participate in the Veterans Court, a final meeting is held to determine whether or not the veteran will be admitted into the program. At this time, the Court, the State, the defense, the VA, and adult

probation will review all of the forms and reports including the Veterans Court Screening Report and make their final decision. Even at this stage, the DA's Office has the right to deny a veteran entrance into Veterans Court. If the State does not object, the Presiding Judge will make the final determination to accept the veteran's application and admit them into Veterans Court.

#### **Documents received**

- Both DA's Office and Presiding Judge receive all reports including the Veterans Court Screening Report

#### **Step 8: Plea of Guilty and Court Order placing veteran into Veterans Court**

Once accepted, the veteran will appear

in court on their scheduled date, sign the required regular plea paperwork, and plead guilty to their offense(s). The Presiding Judge of Veterans Court or of the court of jurisdiction of a felony case will accept their plea, make no finding of guilt, and order them to participate in Veterans Court. The veteran will begin Phase One of treatment immediately.

#### **Documents signed**

- VTCP Participant Agreement and Performance Contract
- VTCP Program Fees Agreement
- VTCP Integrated Treatment Plan
- Appropriate plea paperwork for the crime charged.

*Note: Your Veteran is not excused from any court appearances or bond directives while the screening process is pending.*



## Practicing Law in Denton is a Wonderful Life

*Part of a member perspectives series. By Camille Milner, S. Camille Milner, PC, [www.milner-law.com](http://www.milner-law.com).*

Recently, a dear friend died at the age of 59 as a result of a freak accident, and another friend said she is “winding down” her career. Both those situations caused me to reflect on my life and practice here in Denton for the past nearly 30 years. There is a book that came out at Christmas called *52 Life Lessons from ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’*. I recommend it to you, because it is filled with stories that remind me of why living in and practicing law in Denton with all of you is a wonderful life.

First, I love lawyers, but especially you, Denton County lawyers. I think to fully appreciate being a lawyer in Denton, you have to understand how rare it is to find the camaraderie that Denton County lawyers have. Growing up, I never really had any other ambition than to be a lawyer, so this fraternity/sorority with all of you has made my career even better than I would have imagined—you are my family. My husband, Tim Crouch, has always said that the reason I ended up in family law is because it particularly enabled me to have an amicable relationship with lawyers on the opposite sides of cases. In family law in Denton in the early 1980s, there were not nearly as many lawyers here as there are today, and you couldn’t very comfortably be enemies with the other side’s lawyer, because you were going to have to face that other

lawyer again on another case, sooner rather than later. Now that I am doing collaborative work, this component of having an amicable relationship with the “other side” is even more important. In collaborative cases, both lawyers are advocates for their clients, but the clients, their lawyers and the other professionals in the case are all also working toward an out-of-court resolution for the family, so the ability to work with the other lawyer is critical for the success of these cases.

Second, practicing law in the city of Denton is unique. I guess it is my version of Mayberry or Bedford Falls. I have lived here since 1963 and watched a lot change, but while Denton has changed for the better in many ways, it has found a way to keep the “good stuff” that we wouldn’t want to ever change. My husband also says that, even though Denton has grown a lot, the number of people who live and work here is still a pretty small and tightly woven group. I love that most of my clients somehow find their way to me from either being or knowing someone I grew up with.

I loved having my first office at 207 W. Hickory, on the southwest corner of Denton’s square, with my window looking out on the Old Courthouse; that office building had once been the Old Russell’s store, where I shopped as a child—it was kind of Denton’s



version of Neiman Marcus. While that building was being renovated into offices in the summer of 1982, I was clerking for Kelsey, Wood, Gregory, Duncan and Holt, in what is now the Wells Fargo tower, and I looked over at that old Russell’s store building and dreamed of one day being a sole practitioner there. It tickled me that my office was later located in what had once been the china and crystal department of that store. I love now working at 620 W. Hickory, in the historic district of Denton, looking out my office window onto the historic homes on Oak Street. I wrote history papers about those houses (and their ghosts) when I was a student at Congress Junior High (now Calhoun Middle School) and took tours of them, including a walking tour with one of the original residents of the Evers Mansion on West Oak Street. I loved watching each of my sons walk “home” to my office at the end of their school days at Calhoun Middle School, just two blocks away.

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

**Contact  
Erin Manley**

**([emanley@dentonbar.com](mailto:emanley@dentonbar.com))**



## As a Young Lawyer

*Part of a member perspectives series. By Eric Navarette, Koons Fuller, PC, [www.koonsfuller.com](http://www.koonsfuller.com).*

As a young attorney, my practice has grown from practicing in West Texas to practicing all over the Metroplex as well as the state of Texas. I have called Denton County “home” since January 2010. When I came to Denton County, I was welcomed with open arms. Since moving here, my practice has thrived as both a collaborative and litigation family law attorney.

When I moved my practice here from Lubbock, Texas, I found that the Denton County Bar Association maintains a collegial and professional presence that is appealing to young attorneys. It was a seamless transition to get involved with the Denton

County Young Lawyers and DCBA. Everywhere I turned and everywhere I continue to look, people were and are willing to help when they are needed.

When I am at the courthouse, the Denton County judges remind me of my professors at St. Mary’s University and Texas Tech School of Law. These judges are approachable and generally tend to have what seems to be an “open door policy.” They maintain the integrity of the bench and teach without knowing it.

Denton County is a place where young attorneys can make a name for themselves. Young attorneys can



learn how things were done in the past all while exploring innovative approaches to doing things. Knowing what I have experienced in the short time I have been here, I am confident that my practice will continue to grow alongside the professional and personal relationships I have made in Denton County.

## Transitions to Practice Mentoring Group

*By Virginia A. Moore, Law Offices of Virginia A. Moore, [www.vamlawfirm.com](http://www.vamlawfirm.com).*

This spring was a busy time for the Transitions to Practice Mentoring group. Mentees provided input on what types of topics and experiences would best help them begin or transition their practices in Denton County.

In March, the Transitions Group was fortunate to be able to participate, with the client’s consent, in an actual probate case study involving both a Muniment of Title and an Independent Administration.

Dena Reecer, Denton Board

Certified Estate and Probate Attorney and immediate past President of the Denton County Bar Association, is facilitating notices, filings, and hearings in an educational format for the mentee attorneys interested in practicing in the Statutory Probate Court of Denton County.

April offered an opportunity for Mentees and their Mentor Attorneys to meet on a “one-on-one” basis.

Our final meeting in May will feature a discussion of planning for

Board Certification opportunities, participation in leadership options with the Denton County Bar Association, and the possibility of starting a “Solo and Small Firm” group in Denton County.

Registration opportunities for next year’s Transitions class will be available over the summer with the program starting its second season in September 2013. Attorneys licensed for less than five years and practicing in Denton County will be eligible to participate.

# Announcements & Events

## May Bar Luncheon

**Date:**

Friday, May 3 at Noon

**Location:**

Oakmont Country Club

**Program:**

*Win, Lose, or Arbitrate*

*Annual Business Meeting*

**Speaker:**

*Fon Laughlin, Laughlin Law & Title, [www.supertitle.com](http://www.supertitle.com)*

## June Bar Luncheon

**Date:**

To be announced

**Location:**

To be announced

**Program:**

*Like our Facebook Page and check your inbox for details about the 2013-14 Kick-Off activity as they become available.*

**Speakers:**

*To be announced*

## Monthly Meetings

### Collaborative Professionals

DCCP will meet at **12:00 PM** on Tuesday, **May 7**, at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

### Family Law

The Family Law Section will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **May 16**, in the Central Jury Room, 1450 E. McKinney St. in Denton.

### Paralegals

DCPA will meet at **12:00 PM** on Thursday, **May 23**, at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.

### DCYLA

DCYLA 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

The REPTL Section will meet at **12:00 PM** on Wednesday, **May 22**, at Oakmont Country Club, 1901 Oakmont Dr. in Corinth.