

Candidate for President-Elect, Andrea D. Griffin, PP, PLS



I first joined this association when a previous employer asked me if I wanted to get involved. Little did I know at that time, just what that would actually mean to me. I started off going to a meeting and got involved on the local level. It was my second state level meeting that I began to actively get involved. Again, little did I know at that time just where it would lead me. With each new meeting, I have grown in who I am as a person and as a member of our association. I look forward to each day being a part of Texas ALP.

Andrea is a mother to Christal and Dakota, and Mimzy to soon to be born Eva Kai'Lea. Andrea currently works for McWhorter, Cobb & Johnson, L.L.P., under the supervision of her boss, Gwynn P. Martin, who is the only female partner in the firm. Andrea started her legal field career in 2001.

Andrea is involved in several organizations such as Lubbock LPA, West Texas Paralegals Association, and is Chair for the NALS Manuals Task Force. Outside of the legal world, she is a volunteer firefighter/public relations for New Deal's Fire Department and President of the New Deal Economic Development Board. Andrea currently serves as Lubbock LPA as chair of several committees. Andrea's biggest focus is on education. She actively serves on all three levels of our tri-level association.

Offices/Committees

2017-2018 – TALP Secretary

2016-2017 – LLPA Vice President and Director; Committees: Day in Court and others

2015-2016 – LLPA Treasurer, Historian, Director; Committees: Day in Court, *Legal Eagle*

2014- 2015 – LLPA President, Committees: Day in Court, Bosses' Night, Legal Eagle; TALP Editor for *The Docket*

2013-2015 – LLPA other offices

Awards/Recognitions

2012 - 2013 - LLPA's Legal Professional of the Year

2013 - Legal Aid of Northwest Texas – Volunteer Lay Advocate

2015 – West Texas Paralegal Association – Paralegal of the Year

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES:

1. **Membership:** Do you have a vision for sustaining and growing the TALP membership in the coming year? If so, please describe.

My plan is to reach out to every member of the association over the next several months to see what their ideas are. I would like to connect with members that have not been attending functions, primarily, to see what we can do to encourage attendance and also to find out why they are not attending.

2. **Participation:** Do you have a plan to encourage membership participation at the local, state and national conferences and events? If so, please describe.

By reaching out to the membership, I would like to encourage those that have never attended a conference on any level to attend. There are so many valuable tools obtained by attendance, either networking with people in similar areas of the law to meeting ones in different areas that you may need a connection someday. One of the biggest tools (if that is the right word to describe it) is the friends you make through the conferences. Several of my closest friends are members that I have met at these conferences.

3. **Commitment:** Describe your commitment to the association and fellow officers and board for the continued success of Texas ALP in the coming year.

After serving a year and a half as an officer for the board, I have learned several valuable lessons and those are lessons that I would like to share with other members who would like to one day serve on the board. When a person is nominated, they have to take into consideration the four year commitment to serving. I have never had a single moment's regret in following this path of commitment. We all work together, through our commitment and dedication, to making Texas ALP successful.

4. **Education:** What suggestions do you have in making the continuing legal education offered by Texas ALP entertaining as well as educational?

The beauty of having a state the size of Texas that we do, is that it offers our members a wide variety of speakers and topics. I would like for our members to tell us if there is a particular topic that they want to know about so that we can locate a person willing and able to provide us that information through a webinar or in person at a conference. I would like to see the speakers more engaging with the attendees to help them stay focused on the particular topic.