

The Texas Docket

April - June 2025 Volume 22, Issue 4

"Dazzled Determination"



AUSTIN IN APRIL

April 4 and 5, 2025

Editor

Lola J. Smith-Gentry, ACP lgentry@hkwwlaw.com

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The Texas Docket is published electronically four times a year by the Texas Association of Legal Professionals. Publication dates are July, October, January, and April, with submission deadlines being June 1, September 1, December 1, and March 1. One copy of each issue is furnished to members as part of their membership dues.

The subscription rate for nonmembers is \$20 per year. Subscription requests should be directed to the Editor.

Send address corrections to:

Helene Wood, PP, PLS, TSC Communications Chair communications@talp.org

The Texas Docket

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow members. Hope you all are excited for the upcoming Annual Conference. As this calendar year concludes, I am looking back at a year of several new experiences for me. I think that we achieved some great things and got a lot taken care of. However, I also see several things that I wish we had done better or moved further.



This Association has a great past that has been a great foundation for us to grow upon. On the other hand there is a lot of room for growth in this Association. It is so great to see new members coming in and taking pride in this Association. To see that they are getting several things out of it as well as this Association getting new thing from them.

It is imperative that all members both old and new work together to ensure the foundation of this Association while helping it reach dazzling new heights. This collaboration is the best way to make this Association dazzle and shine in the future. This collaboration will require even more work and effort on behalf of our members, but I know that we will do it.

I cannot wait to see how Texas Association of Legal Professionals will show "Dazzling Determination" in the future while we work "Hand in Hand as One."

In conclusion, I would again like to thank all of you for your contributions and support of this Association during my Presidency. I will continue to strive to do my best for this Association and not to let any of you down. I am determined to make

this Association dazzle.

Gaura DeGeon

President 2024-2025



AUSTIN IN APRIL

We look forward to you joining us on April 4-5, 2025 in Austin for the 70th Annual TALP Annual Meeting and Educational Conference.

We are working on speakers on a variety of topics such as 501c3 Non-profit, State Office of Administrative Hearings, Healthcare, Insurance Defense and Trial Prep.

The Conference will be hosted at the Wyndham Garden Inn, 3401 South IH 35, a familiar venue for some members who attended the 2019 Fall Conference in Austin. This location is close to many popular Austin areas: South Congress District (SoCo) (South Congress) restaurants and shops, 2nd Street District (2nd Street) restaurants, and running/hiking on the trails around Lady Bird Lake. Parking can be a challenge, but all are just a quick Uber or Lyft ride away.







If you'd like to extend your stay, the 96th Annual Austin Kite Festival is on Sunday, April 6, in Zilker Park. This event is the nation's oldest kite festival and is a free event. Austin Kite Fest.

TEXAS ALP 70TH ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE Austin, Texas * April 4-5, 2025

"Hand in Hand WE Are One"

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—MARCH 21, 2025

REGISTRATION FORM	FULL REGISTRATION FEES	
Name	□NALS Member* \$150	
Address	☐Texas ALP Officer	
City/ST/ZIP	☐Texas ALP Chair \$125	
Daytime Phone	□ Nonmember \$175	
Mobile Phone	☐ Student \$100	
E-mail		
	*Per Standing Rule No. 22, members are required to pay the	
Certifications	full registration fee.	
□ ALP □ PLS/CLP □ PP	NINWANA AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND	
□ CLA/CP □ ACP □ TSC	INDIVIDUAL EVENT REGISTRATION FEES	
□ RP □ SC □ Other	☐ Education Only – Nonmember (no meals)	
	☐ Education Only – Student (no meals)	
	☐ Recognition Luncheon – Student/Nonmember	
Local Chapter	☐ Professional Development Luncheon-Student/Nonmember \$30	
	☐ Presidents' Banquet (Saturday)	
Current Texas ALP Position Held		
Current Local Position Held	MEMBER'S GUEST REGISTRATION	
Current NALS Position Held	□ Recognition Luncheon\$30	
	☐ Professional Development Luncheon	
□ NALS Life Member	☐ Presidents' Banquet (Saturday)	
☐ Texas ALP Past President (Year:)		
☐ This is my first Texas ALP meeting	GUEST NAME:	
☐ I want to be a Texas ALP PAL		
☐ Special dietary request (notify Conference Chair)		
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Please mark each event you will attend)	PAYMENT INFORMATION	
Friday, April 4, 2025		
Filday, April 4, 2023	Total Amount Due: \$	
☐ 9:00 am − 10:00 am Travis County District Clerk		
☐ 10:15 am – 11:15 am 501c3 Nonprofit	Please make check payable to:	
☐ 11:30 am − 1:00 pm Professional Development Luncheon-The Grady Group	Austin LPA Special Meeting Account	
☐ 1:15 pm − 1:45 pm President-elect's Forum & Mtg. of 2025-26 Chairs	(Federal Tax ID No. 75-3006562)	
☐ 1:45 pm — 2:15 pm Open Forum	Notices: (1) A \$30 fee will be assessed for returned checks.	
☐ 1:45 pm — 2:15 pm Open Forum	(2) Refunds requested and confirmed in writing (less	
☐ 2:30 pm — 3:30 pm State Office of Administrative Hearings	a \$25 processing fee) will be made until March 28, 2025.	
☐ 4:00 pm – 4:15 pm Credentials Check-in	C. C. Cl. D. C. N. L. DIG	
☐ 4:15 pm — 6:00 pm Texas ALP Annual Board Meeting	Conference Chair: Patricia Nuhn, PLS 512.370.2904 • pnuhn@winstead.com	
Saturday, April 5, 2025	512.570.2904 phumidownstead.com	
☐ 9:00 am − 10:00 am Health Care		
□ 10:15 am – 11:15 am Litigation – Insurance Defense	Mail registration form and payment to:	
☐ 11:30 am – 12:30 pm Recognition Luncheon	Patti Heaney, PLS, Registration Chair	
☐ 12:30 pm — 1:00 pm Appreciation of 2024-25 TALP President	c/o Cain & Skarnulis PLLC	
☐ 1:00 pm − 2:00 pm Medicare 101	303 Colorado Street, Suite 2850 Austin, TX 78701	
☐ 2:30 pm — 3:30 pm Trial Preparation	512.477.5000 pheaney@cstrial.com	
☐ 6:30 pm − 7:00 pm President's Toast		
☐ 7:00 pm − 9:00 pm Presidents' Banquet		
_		
☐ Hotel Reservations should be made directly with Wyndham (737.304.0630). To receive the discounted room rate of \$154 do	Garden Austin, 3401 S 1-35 Frontage Rd., Austin, TX 78741	
	outle king (plus 10/0 tax). The booking code is. 0403231AA.	
Quoted room rates are available until March 21, 2025.		

Contributions or gifts to the Texas Association of Legal Professionals are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

TEXAS ALP 70TH ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE



Austin, Texas, April 4-5, 2025

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 4, 2025

8:30 am - 10:00 am 8:30 am - 4:00 pm 9:00 am - 10:00 am 10:00 am - 10:15 am 10:15 am - 11:15 am 11:30 am - 1:00 pm 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm 1:45 pm - 2:15 pm 2:15 pm - 2:30 pm 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Registration Vendors Travis County District Clerk Break 501c3 Nonprofit Professional Development Luncheon – The Grady Group President-elect's Forum & Meeting of 2025-2026 Chairs Open Forum Break State Office of Administrative Hearings
1	

Saturday, April 5, 2025

9:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration
8:30 am – 4:00 pm	Vendors
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Health Care
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am – 11:15 am	Litigation – Insurance Defense
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Recognition Luncheon
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	Appreciation of 2024-2025 Texas ALP President
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Medicare 101
2:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Trial Preparation
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Texas ALP Fundraising Raffle
6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	President's Toast
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Presidents' Banquet





INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES WWW.GRADYGROUPINC.COM

Come meet Todd Ingier,
Founder & President of the
Grady Group of Texas
at 11:30 am on
Friday, April 4, 2025 at the
Texas ALP Professional
Development
Luncheon



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT FINANCIAL STABILITY?

We believe in the importance of educating people. That way, they'll be able to make the best personal choices for their own situation.

A concern amongst many Americans is the possibility of running out of money in retirement. Thankfully, there are strategies to earn a reasonable rate of return to ensure your money won't run out. Furthermore, you can do this while also keeping your money safe from risk. These two things are, in our opinion, the keys to a successful retirement strategy.



AUSTIN LPA, INC.

CHARTERED OCTOBER 28, 1960







AUSTIN LPA, INC. IS EXCITED TO HOST THE

TEXAS ALP 70TH ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

ON

APRIL 4-5, 2025

AT THE WYNDHAM GARDEN AUSTIN

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN YOUR BOOTS & BLING TO WELCOME
THERESA ANN ALBA AS INCOMING PRESIDENT AT THE PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION/BANQUET ON SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2025 AT 6:30 PM



Texas ALP's 2025 Annual Conference CHARITY



Any Baby Can helps children meet milestones, parents achieve stability, and families improve health and well-being.

6207 Sheridan Ave. Austin, TX 78723 | (512) 454-3743 | info@anybabycan.org

Designer BAG Raffle





Tickets will be sold from now through April 5, 2025, at the Annual Conference in Austin. The winning ticket will be drawn on April 5, 2025.

TICKETS - \$2.00 each or 25 for \$20

To purchase tickets, please contact Patricia Nuhn at pnuhn@winstead.com

O

Theresa Ann Alba at talba@shackelford.law

All proceeds will go directly to Any Baby Can!



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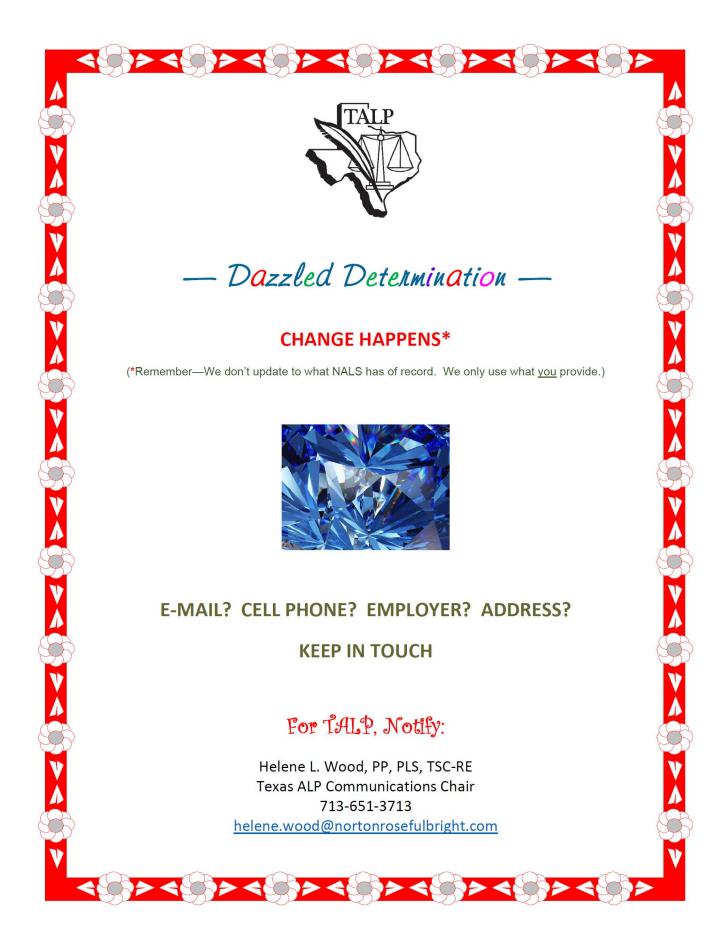
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A message from TALP Hugs Chair Tina Hurley, PP, PLS (Dallas ALP)

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you need a "virtual hug" or someone to just listen. As part of the TALP family, we are here to support each other in times of need.

I'll be there for you. Blessings and prayers for each and every one of you.

HISTORY OF THE OLD BLANCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE





While visiting Blanco, Texas, I came across some interesting history of the Old Blanco County Courthouse given by the Courthouse Curator, Victoria Smith. She is with the Old Blanco County Courthouse Preservation Society. I hope you enjoy the history below, I sure did! Be on the lookout in the coming months for more interesting facts of the Blanco Courthouse.

The Old Blanco County Courthouse is located at 300 Main Street in Blanco, Texas. It was built during 1885-1886 by Philip Case and C.P. Boon at a cost of \$25,970. Designed by well-known Austin architect Frederick Ernst Ruffini. The building was accepted for use by Blanco County on January 29, 1886. The grand new courthouse in Blanco was only used as the official county courthouse for scant four years. An election in 1890 moved the county seat to Johnson City.

The abandoned Courthouse continued to serve the community well in a multitude of ways for the next eighty years. It was mainly used as a hospital which saw the birth of over 800 Blanco citizens. The Grand Old Building eventually fell into a state of disrepair and was for sale for a number of years. An ardent admirer who envisioned the faded beauty restored to her former grandeur as his private residence, bought the building in 1986. His plan included dismantling the old building and moving her stone by stone to his ranch.

What ordinarily would have been an inconspicuous notice in the Blanco County News in June of 1986 proved to be the first trickle of a tidal wave voicing public indignation. Within days local citizens gathered to plot their strategy. Thus, the Old Blanco County Courthouse Preservation Society was born, and a formal petition was drawn up opposing the owner's plan to remove the Old Courthouse from her home on the square.

In July, U.S. Representative Jake Pickle added his name to those of over twelve hundred other petitioners — a large percentage of the population of the entire county. In August of 1986, Courthouse advocates crowded into a City Council meeting determined that an Historical District ordinance to prevent the loss of additional buildings would be passed. The successful outcome spoke out clearly on behalf of preserving Blanco's cultural heritage.

Now the courthouse is used as Blanco's visitors center, Chamber of Commerce and other offices. It also was used as a movie set as seen in the remake of the move Ture Grit.

Welcome, New Members!

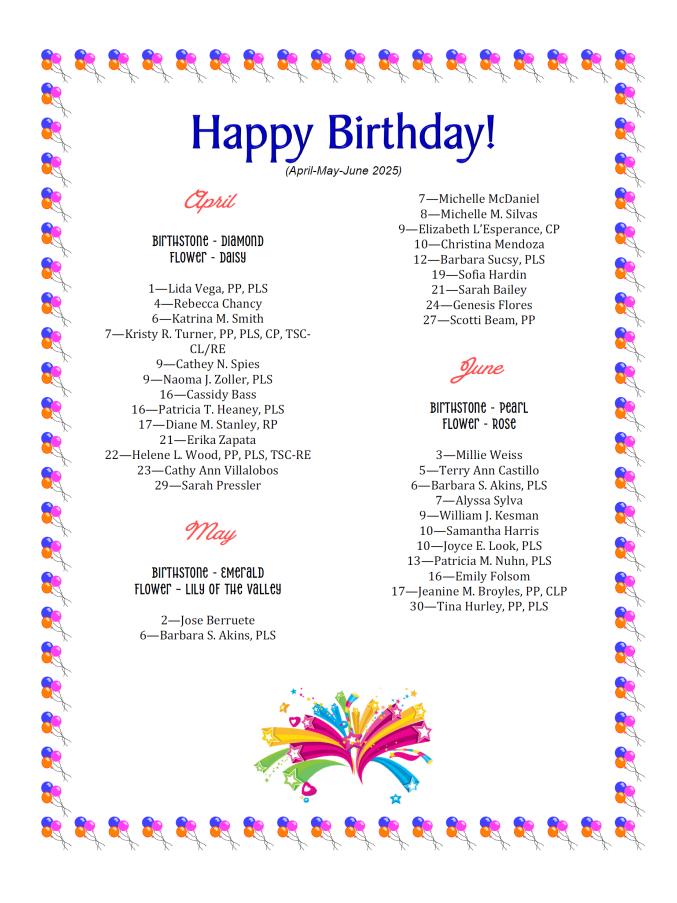
(November-December-January)

Jennifer Jeanette Flores

Member of Corpus Christi ALP Joined November 7, 2024



— Dazzled Determination —





Individuals Local Associations

(aka "It Ain't Braggin' If It's True!")

Share your local association news!
Just send your stories and brags to
lgentry@hkwwlaw.com



BRAGS FROM THE 806 Lubbock LPA

By: Sylvia Juarez





The Mission of *Lubbock Impact***:** To empower the working poor by providing enrichment programs and resources to meet physical, spiritual and emotional needs. They provide hope and tools to break generational poverty and build a stronger future.

On January 17, 2025, the Lubbock Legal Professionals Association volunteered by serving the Community Meal for Lubbock Impact. It was our first community service for the year. It was very rewarding giving back to the community. The people who come to eat are the poor and/or the homeless of Lubbock. As we sat in for the training prior to serving the meal, we were told to work as waiters at a restaurant. Attending these Community Meals can be like experiencing dining out at a restaurant, possibly for the first time. The tables are set with a centerpiece, a box of scriptures, and pieces of paper to jot down a prayer request or a thought for the attendees. The

Community Meal was opened by Becky Robertson, Director, by welcoming everyone and a prayer. Then we got to work by serving each table. It was such a rewarding experience for those of us that served for the first time or even some of us that have served various times.

This program not only serves the Community Meal, but also has programs like the Clothing and Shoe Closet, Food & Hygiene Pantry, Health & Wellness Ministries, and Spiritual Ministries. TTUHSC collaborates with Lubbock Impact to provide a Free Clinic.



Thanks to Joyce Ashabranner, Crystal Duenez-Ortiz (non-members), Beatrice Duenez, Lola Smith-Gentry and Katrina Smith for your volunteer services.

WACO LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

Waco LPA held their annual Holiday Social at Crickets Draft House & Grill in the month of December that also served as a membership drive. Our local president, Kirsten Kindle chose "Keep Waco Beautiful" as her charity of choice, and over \$165 was collected by the attendees to go to that program.

Waco LPA continues to be proud of our local members who were recipients of NALS awards. The most recent issue of the @Law had several articles that mentioned our local members who were recognized at the NALS Annual Meeting last October in Portland, Oregon.

As we wind up this fiscal year, our members are planning to attend the Texas ALP Annual Meeting in Austin in early April. Registrations forms are being prepared and sent in, sponsorships are being processed, and advertisements prepared and submitted for inclusion in the Annual Meeting program.

The new anniversary date renewal process that NALS has implemented may be a saving grace for both NALS and our local chapter in assisting us with retention of members and gaining new members. As Waco LPA's director, I believe this is a great step forward that the NALS Board has implemented and hope it all goes smoothly.

We are all looking forward to connecting with our Texas ALP friends in Austin.



San Antonio LSA received its Charter on June 7, 1957

The Texas Docket

Advertising Rates

The Texas Docket is the official publication of the Texas Association of Legal Professionals and is published quarterly each year as a service to the legal profession. Publication dates are July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1, with submission deadlines being May 1, August 1, November 1, and February 1. The Texas Docket is distributed electronically to its statewide network of members, subscribers, and others. Vendors who work in the legal field are welcome and encouraged to advertise in The Texas Docket.

Ad Options

Full page (9" h x 7" w) Half Page Horizontal (4.5" h x 7" w) Quarter Page Vertical (4.5" h x 3.25" w)

Ad Rates

Annual	One Issue
Full = \$100	Full = \$50
Half = \$75	Half = \$35
Quarter $=$ \$50	Quarter = $$20$

ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

Company Name	Ad Selection	
Billing Address	Signature	Date
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Phone	Printed Name	

Send order form, camera-ready advertisement, and payment to:

Lola Smith-Gentry, ACP PO Box 94074 Lubbock, Texas 79493

Your advertisement can be e-mailed in a graphic format to lgentry@hkwwlaw.com.

For more information, contact:

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TEXAS ALP 2024-2025 ROSTER OF OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

Chartered July 27, 1956



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