

DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas is celebrated on December 25 and is both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. For two millennia, people around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular in nature. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive. December 25—Christmas Day—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870.

WHO INVENTED SANTA CLAUS?

The legend of Santa Claus can be traced back to a monk named St. Nicholas who was born in Turkey around A. D. 280. St. Nicholas gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick, becoming known as the protector of children and sailors.

St. Nicholas first entered American popular culture in the late 18th century in New York, when Dutch families gathered to honor the anniversary of the death of “Sint Nikolaas” (Dutch for Saint Nicholas), or “Sinter Klaas” for short. “Santa Claus” draws his name from this abbreviation.

In 1822, Episcopal minister Clement Clarke Moore wrote a Christmas poem called “An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas,” more popularly known today by its first line: “’Twas The Night Before Christmas.” The poem depicted Santa Claus as a jolly man who flies from home to home on a sled driven by reindeer to deliver toys.

The iconic version of Santa Claus as a jolly man in red with a white beard and a sack of toys was immortalized in 1881, when political cartoonist Thomas Nast drew on Moore's poem to create the image of Old Saint Nick we know today.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR

SAN ANTONIO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION BOARD!!

Welcome to YOUR SAPA Sentinel: DECEMBER 2023



SAN ANTONIO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

An Affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.

The San Antonio Paralegal Association ("SAPA") is a non-profit association established to promote the paralegal profession by utilizing community networks, continuing legal education, and public service. SAPA strives to promote excellence and ethical standards for all members and supports voluntary national certification to recognize those members who have demonstrated competency in our beloved profession. SAPA is dedicated to the use of networking opportunities to support paralegals and legal professionals in their career growth.





Read the SAPA Newsletter and Win~!

Would you like to win a \$20 Amazon e-gift card?

Read this issue of the SAPA Sentinel and be the 10th person to correctly answer the question below and email the response to newsletter@saparalegal.org.

The monthly winner will receive a \$20 Amazon e-gift card to be mailed directly to them! Be sure you include the correct email address at which you would like to receive the e-gift card.

One winner per month.

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Terii Lopez!

November's Read and Win Question -

How many turkeys can you find throughout the Newsletter?

CORRECT ANSWER:

There were 23 turkeys.

READ and WIN QUESTION FOR DECEMBER:

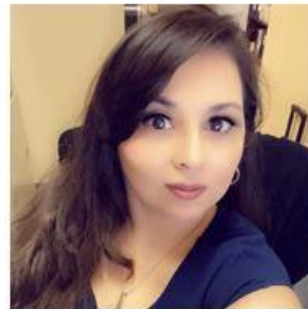
GOOD LUCK!

This newsletter is for our members and associates look forward for it to be more interactive and entertaining!

Please feel free to email me ideas and suggestions!

newsletter@saparalegal.org

President's Message



I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you who attended last month's Continuing Legal Education (CLE) luncheon on Social Security. Your engagement and participation made it a valuable and insightful event for our community.

The information shared during the CLE luncheon served as an important reminder of the intricacies of Social Security and the legal considerations associated with it. It was not only an educational experience but also a reminder to all of us about the significance of planning for the future. As we navigate the complexities of legal matters, let us approach the journey with knowledge and preparedness.

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce our upcoming members' holiday party on December 14, 2023, at 6 pm at Milano's. This festive occasion will provide an opportunity for us to come together, celebrate the season, and share in the joy of giving. Please remember to bring a donated Christmas present for our Adopt-a-Family initiative, supporting a deserving veteran family. Your contributions, along with those from your family, friends, coworkers, and employers, will undoubtedly make a positive impact.

In the spirit of the season, we invite you to contribute to our holiday newsletter by sharing your favorite holiday recipes and any resolutions you may have for the coming year. Your submissions can be sent to newsletter@SAParalegal.org.

As we approach the holidays, I want to wish each of you a joyous and memorable season. Enjoy the time spent with family and friends, and for those who may be traveling, please take every precaution to ensure a safe journey.

In closing, let me leave you with a quote from "Miracle on 34th Street": "Faith is believing in things when common sense tells you not to." May this sentiment inspire us all as we navigate both the legal complexities of our profession and the joyous festivities of the holiday season.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I look forward to celebrating with you at Milano's on December 14th.

- Diana Olack

**Please support SAPA Sustaining Members.
Without their support we would be unable to
hold awesome CLE Seminars and monthly
CLE luncheons!**

- **Blend Document Technologies**
- **Capitol Services**
- **Compex Legal**
- **CountyRecords.com**

- **Hill Country Litigation Services**
- **Lexitas**
- **L.O.R.R. (Law & Order Record Retrieval)**
- **Magna Legal Services**
- **Preferred Counsel**
- **Scribe**
- **Texas File**
- **Texas Medical Legal Consultants, LLC**
- **The Legal Connection**
- **Unisource Discovery**
- **Veritext**



Spotlight Vendor:
CountyRecords.com

Our History

Launched in 2000, CountyRecords.com has been providing online access to documents filed with county clerks across Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma and is the flagship of the halFILE Systems Corporations Data Commerce business.

Our Experience

The CountyRecords.com team members have decades of experience in public records, title, and information technology. We leverage that experience to provide the most comprehensive online resource for the real estate, oil & gas, title research, mortgage lending, and investment industries.

Our Geographic Focus

We cover the wide-open spaces and unfamiliar places that others overlook as well as the major metropolitan counties. We cover more than 90% of the population and all of the natural resources in Texas as well as some parts of Oklahoma and New Mexico.

We cannot be successful without you! Thank you for all the donations and time spent!

*** * * Membership Renewal Time * * ***

We value our members and look forward to seeing everyone at our events in 2024!!

Be sure to tell anybody that would be interested in joining!

For more information about his upcoming event, please email membership@saparalegal.com.

JOIN US!!

JANUARY CLE LUNCHEON

January CLE Luncheon

Date/Time: Thursday, January 18, 2024

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Speaker: Heriberto "Eddie" Morales, Jr.

Langley & Banack, Inc.

Topic: "How the New Texas Courts
System Affects our Courts Today"

Location: Paesanos Lincoln Heights

555 E. Basse Road

San Antonio, TX 78209

Cost: Members: \$35 / Non-Members: \$40

Menu:

House Salad, Cheese Ravioli, Chicken Parmesan, Shrimp Paesano or

Special Salad with choice of grilled salmon or grilled chicken,

Tea or Water

Link for Registration: <https://saparalegal.org>

Please Register in Advance....Space Limited!

You have the option to pay online with credit card or to be invoiced.

If invoiced, you must pay by cash or check on the date of the event.

*****No Shows will be invoiced*****

*****Cancellations should be made no later than

5:00 pm, Monday, January 15, 2024*****

*****NO refunds for registrations will be available after that date
due to contractual obligations with venue*****

If you have any questions, please contact SAPA's Education
Director: education@saparalegal.org



Paralegal Division, State Bar of
Texas - District 5



SAVE THE DATE – ROUND UP YOUR CLE WITH D5

2nd Annual CLE Round Up will be held on **Friday, February 9, 2024**, from 9 am to 3:30 pm, at the San Antonio offices of Dykema Gossett PLLC (112 E. Pecan, Ste. 1800, San Antonio, 78205). The seminar will offer 6 hours of CLE, including 1 hour in Ethics, and the speaker topics include

- Artificial Intelligence Chat GPT (Ethics)
- Employment Laws Every Paralegal Should Know (Civil/Employment Law)
- Bank Fraud Typologies (Consumer Protection Laws)
- Preparing Your Client & Witnesses for Testimony (Civil/Family Law)
- Bexar County Do's & Don'ts (Civil/Criminal Law)
- 5th & 14th Amendments (Criminal Law)

Seating is limited to 60 attendees. So, be on the lookout for an email with more details on registration.

Pro-Rated Membership is happening now! This is a good time to join or rejoin the Paralegal Division. Members joining between December 1, 2023 - February 25, 2024, join at half price and membership runs through May 31, 2024. Active and Associate members will be required to obtain the mandatory 6 CLE hours for renewal (1 hour of which must be in ethics). So, that means you will have the opportunity to earn your CLE hours for renewal, including the 1 hour in ethics, at our 2nd Annual CLE Round Up on February 9, 2024.

As we prepare to bid farewell to 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our mission and members. We know that there are several choices when it comes to joining paralegal organizations. So, I want to personally thank you for being a part of the Paralegal Division – District 5. Each and every one of you have been and continue to be an intricate part in keeping District 5 on track and thriving. We could not have done it without you! As we head into 2024, one of my missions will be to provide you with key resources and support for your continuing education, professional development, and career goals. I am looking forward to seeing you in the new year at our upcoming CLE conferences, volunteer functions, and networking events. If there is anything that I can do better to serve you, please do not hesitate to let me know.

I wish you all a Blessed Holiday Season and Prosperous New Year!

All the best,

Pearl Garza

District 5 Director

*** * * UP COMING EVENTS * * ***

SAPA Board of Director's Meeting

January 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Tessmer Law Firm, P.L.L.C.

7550 IH-10 West, Suite 1201

San Antonio, Texas 78229



IN THE COMMUNITY

A word from Priscilla Nash, Public Relations Director

Would you like to get more involved in the community? I volunteer with the following organization, Pearls and Eagles Court and it is very rewarding. You can be a

mentor or be a part of what they call the village. I started by being a part of the village and last year was able to be a mentor to one of the girls. The boys and girls are amazing individuals and so many of them have graduated and have move forward to college. This past graduating class was the biggest one that Pearls and Eagles Court have had. Throughout the year they learn many different skills from cooking class, how to change a tire and to learning about everyday life skills. They visit colleges and have career day.

Pearls and Eagles Court meet once a month and from time to time there are outings that you can volunteer and help with. I invite you to attend and learn more. If you are interested, please contact me at, Priscilla Nash, publicrelations@saparalegal.org.

PEARLS & EAGLES COURT

Our mission is to design, offer and maintain a comprehensive integrated curriculum of PEARLS (Preparation, Esteem, Achievement, Resiliency, Learning, Strength & Stamina) and EAGLES (Esteem, Achievement, Grit, Learning & Leadership, Empowerment, and Strength) is to establish a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated systems approach to help young youth in the foster care system between the ages of 12 and 18. This includes developing, supporting, and facilitating an evidence-based curriculum twice a month with a multi-team approach. Each youth is provided a mentor within the community as a role model. In addition to the court participation, the youth participate by giving back to the community in a day of service and by enhancing their own self-esteem and goal in a day of opportunity.

I am FOR HER....

On November 15th SAPA had the opportunity to host dinner and listen to their guest speaker, Jasmine Paul, Author & Speaker, as she talked about finances, how to get out of debt and set goals. I think we all learned a lot that night. I want to thank everyone that brought food, desserts, and drinks. If you missed out, no worries, there will be another chance to help out.

I am FOR HER is our charity for this board year and we are collecting items for their Hygiene Closet to help them restock for the women they serve. The women they serve have either been a domestic relationship, sexually assaulted or they have been trafficked. You are welcome to bring donated items to our CLE luncheons or you can donate monetary by going to the I am FOR HER website.

If you would like to volunteer or find out more information, go to their website that is listed on the flyer showing the list of items that can be donated.

My Blog: Serving and Giving Back

As I reflect on this holiday season, there are many things to be thankful for, my family, my job, having shelter, food, and the small items that we take for granted such as toilet paper, paper towels, soap, shampoo, etc. I know at times I can get caught up in what to get my children or grandchildren for Christmas, asking for their list and seeing electronics, the new shoes or the newest toy that is out. On Black Friday as my husband and I were out running errands, we stopped at Wal-Mart and noticed the Angel Tree. When our children were younger, they would each pick an angel from the tree to buy a gift for. It has been a while since I have done this but as I was reading the Angels, I noticed they had two Angels that were older, a female who was 72 and a male that was 69. My husband told me to take the two Angels so we could buy them gifts. The next day we went out and purchased their wish list. This past weekend we delivered their items to the drop off location which is a warehouse that was donated to Salvation Army. We did not feel comfortable leaving their items in the barrel that Wal-Mart has out, so we went directly to the drop off. The Emergency Services Manager, Amanda Garcia was kind enough to give us tour and tell us about what they do during this time of year. We took the tour with the volunteers who were there to help that day. The Salvation Army signed up 1000 elderly and veterans and that is not including the families that they signed which is over 1000. They sign up families whose parent or parents who are in prison so that they have a Christmas. The warehouse was filled with toys, bikes, clothes, etc. The items on their wish list are fulfilled because what is not brought, they have there in the warehouse. After the tour, I talked with Amanda and there are many different things they do through out the year where people can help volunteer.

I say all this because being able to help another family or person goes a long way and serving our community is so important because there are so many out there who need help. Showing kindness to someone goes along way whether it be a smile and asking them how you are doing or asking what can I help you with. I have a servant's heart and serving others makes me joyful. Pearls Court, foster children, I do that because my daughter was adopted through mass adoption with CPS and my youngest son was adopted, his mom fostered out of foster care. Volunteering with the Don't Bully Me Project hits close to home because our family has experienced with my son, granddaughter, and grandson. Volunteering with the Wills Clinic as a notary makes me happy to see individuals doing their estate planning because I have seen what happens when there is no Will or other documents in place.

If any of you like to volunteer with one of the organizations, reach out to me so I can give you more information or if you like to volunteer for somewhere in particular and you want our members to get involved, contact me and let's make it happen, get involved with SAPA and help organize a group. Your ideas or how we can do something better is always greatly appreciated.

May each of you have a blessed holiday season and make memories with your families.

Priscilla Nash

Public Relations Director

Priscilla J. Nash

Pro Bono Opportunity



I am Priscilla Nash the Public Relations Director for SAPA and Pro-Bono Sub Chair for District 5 Paralegal Division. I volunteer with SALSA in the intake process with the “Don’t Bully Me Project” and I partner with Elaine Simons, *Newsletter Director with SAPA, on the weeks we monitor the emails coming in.* I also volunteer as a notary when I am able to for the Wills Clinic along with Gricelda Gonzalez, Membership Director with SAPA, as well as other SAPA members.

There are several ways to volunteer and I encourage you to click on the link and learn more about how to volunteer: <https://www.sa-lsa.org/volunteer/non-attorney-volunteer-opportunities>

There are Wills Clinic where you can volunteer as a Spanish Translator or notary on the following dates: January 22, 2024; March 11, 2024; and April 29, 2024; The clinics are at the Center for Legal and Social Justice at St. Mary’s School of Law located at 2507 NW 36th Street, San Antonio, Texas 78228. If you want to help, you will need to fill out the volunteer form online at www.sa-lsa.org/events/category/attorney.

If you have any questions, please contact me at publicrelations@saparalegal.org

EVENTS THIS MONTH

in and around town.....



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Raquel Alonso - December 1

Jennifer Pugh - December 7

Mallory Cribbs - December 11

Amanda Fee - December 12

George Rahm - December 16

Denise Fisher - December 17

Laura Pollard - December 18

Jessica Spain - December 18

Victoria Heindel - December 19

Teresa Espinoza - December 21

Kathleen Shipley - December 23

Angela Rendon - December 25

Luz Ma F. Cummings - December 27

Diana Tellez-Smith - December 28

Amelia Wright - December 28

**PLEASE BE SURE TO UPDATE YOUR PROFILE TO
INCLUDE YOUR BIRTHDAY!!**

*** * Paralegal Positions * * ***

If you are looking to make a move or just want to checkout new opportunities, see our
JOB BOARD.

San Antonio Paralegal Association

[View More Jobs](#)





**STUDY GROUP
COMING SOON FOR**



DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATION: TBD

EXAM

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT NALA LIAISON,
SUSI BOSS, AT nalaliaison@saparalegal.org**



MENTOR PROGRAM

BE A MENTOR | HAVE A MENTOR

Protégés:

- Receive guidance/direction/support on topics such as ethics, career advancement, & professionalism.
- Access to valuable networking opportunities with other paralegals and the legal community through your mentors and others at state-wide and district PD events.
- Opportunities to learn more about the PD and PD activities & opportunities to get more involved.

Mentors:

- Opportunity to share your guidance/direction/support on topics such as ethics, career advancement, & professionalism.
- Encourage and promote the Division, and opportunities to participate in the Division.
- Invite Protégés to attend Division functions, and introduce Protégés to Division leadership, as well as some of the members.

*Voting, active members in good standing, with at least seven (7) years of experience as a paralegal, are qualified to serve as Mentors. Mentors must complete the requisite application acknowledging Mentor has read and agrees to follow the Mentor Program Guidelines.

SIGN UP TODAY

For more information contact:
mentorprogram@tspd.org



The State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division is accepting Membership Applications on-line.

Online applications can be processed with payment options by check or money order (made payable to the Paralegal Division) or by credit card using an American Express, Visa, or Master Card. If paying by check, mail your check along with a copy of your membership application to Paralegal Division, P. O. Box 19163, Amarillo, TX 79114. **Application payments are non-refundable.**

- **Important** - Active and Associate members must provide your supervising attorney's bar number when asked for during the application process, so please have it available before beginning.
- We strongly suggest you apply via a computer that has print capability so you can print your application for your records.

Once you start the application process, be aware that periods of inactivity greater than 20 minutes will cause your online session to time out and require that you start over, so be sure to have any required information available

before you begin.
[Click to Apply Online](#)

LET'S SEE YOUR PET PICS!

We love pets and want to see yours! Please send me your pet pics at

newsletter@saparalegal.org

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