



Welcome to YOUR SAPA Sentinel: September 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 15th *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.....

Yikes! We didn't have a winner last month! There were not enough responses, to get to the 20th correct answer.

AUGUST'S READ and WIN QUESTION:

What is the name of the app that is now available to you?

CORRECT ANSWER: WILD APRICOT

READ and WIN QUESTION FOR SEPTEMBER:

What is SAPA's chosen charity for the 2023–2024 term?

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 all of you for making our August Luncheon such a resounding success! Your enthusiastic participation for the topic and location truly made it a memorable event.

As we move forward, I'd like to remind everyone that if you ever need to update your email address or encounter any password-related issues, please refrain from creating a new profile. Instead, reach out to us at contact@saparalegal.org, and our dedicated team will assist you promptly.

Looking ahead, October promises to be an exciting month for SAPA. We have some significant events lined up, including the Red Mass on October 5th, our Fall Membership Social on October 12th, and the Paralegal Day Celebration on October 20th. We can't wait to see you all there!

In line with our commitment to community engagement, I'm thrilled to announce that "I Am For Her" is SAPA's chosen charity for the 2023–2024 term. Please take a moment to check out the flyer below, which lists the donation items we'll be collecting throughout the year. Additionally, you'll find a QR code that enables easy online donations.

Lastly, mark your calendars for November 15, when SAPA will host a special dinner for the "I Am For Her" community. Let's join hands to make a positive impact together.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to SAPA. Together, we can achieve great things!

***SAN ANTONIO PARALEGAL DAY
CELEBRATION!!!***

OCTOBER 20, 2023

OUR FUNDRAISER THIS YEAR WILL BE 3 BARRELS!!!

WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!!!

BARREL #1

FAMILY FUN

***Donation Ideas: Board Games, Gift Cards, Passes to Theme Parks,
Tickets to the Zoo***

BARREL #2

SPORTING FUN

***Donation Ideas: Tickets to UTSA Games, Tickets to Spurs Games,
Sports Equipment, Gift Cards***

BARREL #3

OUR FAMOUS BARREL OF BOOZE

***Donation Ideas: Beer, Liquor, Mixes, Gift Cards, Tickets to a Brewery,
Tickets to a Winery***

You may drop donations off at Tessmer Law Firm, P.L.L.C.

7550 IH-10 West, Suite 1201

San Antonio, Texas 78220

Elaine Simons, CP

elaine@tessmerlawfirm.com

Paralegal Day Planning Committee

2023 “PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR” CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

REQUIREMENTS

The “Paralegal of the Year” program was created to honor an outstanding paralegal from the San Antonio area based on the following requirements:

- 1. Paralegal **MUST** be a current voting member of SAPA or PD District 5;
- 2. Paralegal **MUST** have at least five (5) years of legal experience; and
- 3. Paralegal **MUST** be in good standing.

QUALIFICATIONS

Nominee should have a demonstrated ability of the following qualifications:

- 1. Legal community activities;
- 2. General paralegal work experience;
- 3. Involvement in legal professional organizations;
- 4. Professional and volunteer awards, appointments, offices, etc.; and
- 5. Any other applicable activity of honor.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Use attached Nomination Form, which can also be found at <https://saparalegal.org> and:

- 1. Nomination Form **MUST** include a letter of recommendation (two pages approx.) of why Nominee should be selected and describe their paralegal work experience, community activities, involvement in legal professional organizations, professional and volunteer awards, or any other qualifying information to be presented to the Selection Panel; and
- 2. Submit a completed Nomination Form with Letter of Recommendation by close of business on **Friday, September 15, 2023** to: poy@saparalegal.org

Selection Panel - A committee comprised of a three (3) person panel will consider the requirements and qualifications in making its determination for selection of "Paralegal of the Year" on a point value system.

The "Paralegal of the Year" recipient will be announced at the San Antonio Paralegal Day Celebration Luncheon on **Friday, October 20, 2023**.

Several of our Sustaining Members are set up to assist the legal community electronically. Please reach out to them with your needs.

- **Kim Tindall & Associates, A Magna Legal Service Company**
- **Texas Medical Legal Consultants, LLC**
- **Lexitas**
- **Preferred Counsel**
- **Veritext**
- **Blend Document Technologies**
- **Hill Country Litigation Services**
- **L.O.R.R. (Law & Order Record Retrieval)**
- **Capitol Services**
- **County Records.com**
- **The Legal Connection**
- **Texas File**

Please support SAPA Sustaining Members.

Without their support we would be unable to hold awesome CLE Seminars and monthly

CLE luncheons!

SAPA is proud to Spotlight

Blend Litigation Support



Drawing on *decades of experience*, *Blend Litigation Support* is committed to exceeding the standards in litigation support. The consistency of our exceptional service and quality control affords you, our customer, an important sense of confidence and reliability, no matter what your requirements are. Blend has been partnering with law firms throughout Texas since 2000.

Blend Record Retrieval understands that the hassles and minutiae of the records retrieval process distracts from your primary goal of seeking justice for your clients. Our promise is to provide you and your staff an outstanding service, fair pricing, and fast record retrieval.

Nationwide service is available.

Document Scanning/Digital Printing/Copy. Your document imaging specialists. We scan, label and save your documents to searchable pdfs. Have any old files you need archived? Blend can help for 1/2 the cost with their archiving services. Trial Boards, binding, rush jobs and most important, great customer service. Blend Litigation Support also offers high quality digital printing. Have a flash drive with random file extensions? Our E-Discovery software can convert, label and ocr to a more manageable format for your team to review.

Hosted Review will save your team time and money reviewing your documents. Cloud-based technology allows you to effectively review your case faster, easier, securely and saves you money! Cull, search, and tag your documents with one click from anywhere you have access to an internet connection.

E-discovery Blend Litigation Support offers complete Electronic Discovery services from loading and analyzing to production sets.

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 throughout 2023.

We will be hosting a Membership Social on October 12, 2023, and new memberships will be 1/2 price! (Excluding Student Members)

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!!
SEPTEMBER
CLE LUNCHEON

Ryan Cox

Managing Attorney

SALSA - Board of Directors

Ryan joined SALSA full-time in 2022 after serving on its Board of Directors since shortly after its creation in 2019. Immediately prior to joining SALSA, Ryan was a Senior Attorney with the Texas Civil Rights Project, leading its San Antonio office and handling significant impact litigation in state and federal courts across Texas. He was previously in private practice in San Antonio and clerked at the United States District Court in San Antonio and at the Texas Thirteenth Court of Appeals.

Ryan is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and St. Mary's University School of Law. He has been recognized for his service to the community and to the bar, including receiving the President's Award of Merit from the Texas Young Lawyers Association in 2019 and 2020, the 2021 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the San Antonio Young Lawyers Association, and was named to both the American Bar Association's Top 40 Lawyers "On the Rise" and St. Mary's University's Top 10 Graduates of the last decade in 2018. He is a Life Fellow of the Texas and San Antonio Bar Foundations and has held numerous leadership positions in the bar.

September CLE Luncheon

Date/Time: Thursday, September 21, 2023

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

Speaker: Ryan Cox, Managing Attorney

San Antonio Legal Services Association

Topic: David's Law -
Cyberbullying, How it Affects our Community.

Location: Chris Madrids

1900 Blanco Road

San Antonio, TX 78212

(Gathering Place North)

Cost: Members: \$30 / Non-Members: \$35

Menu:

Burgers, Fries, Drinks

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, September 18, 2023*****

*******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



Paralegal Division – District 5

SAN ANTONIO PARALEGAL DAY CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for the San Antonio Paralegal Day luncheon to be held on Friday, October 20, 2023, at the Norris Conference Center. We will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary! Registration details and form available at: <https://saparalegal.org/>.

EDUCATIONAL ScholarshipS

For the upcoming 2023 San Antonio Paralegal Day Celebration, District 5 and San Antonio Paralegal Association will award (2) educational scholarships up to \$500 per recipient. The purpose of the scholarship is to make the pursuit of taking the

paralegal certification exam (NALA, TBLS), or attending a CLE seminar (NALA, TAPS), affordable and attainable to members of District 5 and SAPA. **Scholarship Application Deadline is September 15, 2023!** If you are interested in completing a scholarship application, please visit SAPA's website for the application form and more information at: <https://saparalegal.org/>.

PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Each year a paralegal from the San Antonio area is recognized for their significant contributions to the paralegal community, involvement in activities, and exemplary dedication and skill in the paralegal profession. Submit a nomination today! The Paralegal of the Year will be announced at the San Antonio Paralegal Day Celebration on October 20, 2023. For more information on the nomination process, visit <https://saparalegal.org/>. **Nominations for the 2023 Paralegal of the Year are Due September 15, 2023!**

pd board of directors meeting

The Paralegal Division Board of Directors will be **meeting on September 29-30, 2023, in Frisco**. If you have any questions or suggestions that you would like for me to take to the Board, please send them to me at District5@txpd.org.

TAPS – LATE FEE WAIVED

Come “Spy” some great CLE with us! Register today for **TAPS in Frisco, September 27 – 29, 2023**. Link to register is available at: <https://txpd.org/taps-home/>.

If you are attending TAPS this year, please send me a text at (210) 803-3089 for the D5 group photo location and time. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Don't know about you ... but I'm so ready to say goodbye to this 3-digit hot weather and hello to cooler weather. The first day of Fall is September 23 - a welcomed change indeed. HAPPY FALL Y'ALL!

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

SAPA Board of Director's Meeting

October 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Lyons & Lyons

237 W. Travis Street

San Antonio, Texas 78205

State Bar of Texas

Paralegal Division

2023 TAPS Registration is now open.

This year's theme: I Spy CLE - TAPS 2023

September 27 – 29, 2023

Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center, Frisco, Texas

SHOUT OUTS

WELCOME HERE!

**EMAIL ME THE NAME OF A PARALEGAL
THAT DESERVES A SHOUT OUT!**

newsletter@saparalegal.org

I want to give a big shout-out to Heidi Helstrom for her mentorship and encouragement! - Elaine Simons



IN THE COMMUNITY

EVENTS THIS MONTH

774 new Texas laws went into effect September 1st-

Here are some that might affect you.

A \$321.3 billion budget: The General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, directs the spending of state and federal tax dollars for the next two years, including \$144 billion in state general revenue taxes. It spends more than half of a historic \$32.7 billion surplus that was available to lawmakers this cycle, and it leaves more than \$12 billion unspent in Texas coffers. It fills the state's emergency and highway funds and makes payments toward stabilizing the state's retirement investment fund. It includes pay raises for employees of state agencies and for retired teachers. Voters will be asked to approve several measures, including \$12 billion in property tax cuts and a \$1.5 billion effort to expand broadband internet access.

— *Karen Brooks Harper*

New school safety requirements: House Bill 3 requires an armed officer at every school campus in Texas and mental health training for school staff that interact with children. The armed person can be either a peace officer, a school resource officer, a school marshal or a school district employee, according to the law. School districts that can't meet this requirement can claim a "good cause exception" but must find an alternative plan. The law, passed in the first legislative session after the school shooting in Uvalde, also gives the Texas Education Agency more authority over school districts to establish robust active-shooter protocols. Those that fail to meet the agency's standards could be put under the state's supervision. The state will give each school district \$15,000 per campus and \$10 per student, a figure that many school officials say isn't enough. In addition, lawmakers have

allocated \$1.1 billion to the TEA to administer school safety grants to the state's more than 1,000 school districts. — *Brian Lopez*

Redefining fentanyl deaths: House Bill 6 classifies overdoses from fentanyl as "poisonings," which means any Texan who provides someone with a fatal overdose of the opioid could face a murder charge. The measure is part of a series of new laws aimed at the opioid crisis in the state, many of which seek to get tough on people who are selling or illegally importing fentanyl.

— *Stephen Simpson*