



THE SUMMONS

SAN ANTONIO LEGAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION
Chartered in 1957

June 2011

OUR ADDRESS:

SALSA
P.O. BOX 367
SAN ANTONIO, TX
78292

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President's Message

Wine Fun Fact: Cork vs. Screw

Move over cork and make way for screw caps. Today, screw caps are replacing corks on more than just inexpensive bottles. Currently, screw caps seal 75 percent of Australian wines, and they're gaining popularity in all countries, including here in the U.S.



As the heat scorches and further water restrictions are enforced on the community, we attempt to find ways to stay cool. Kick-back outdoors, or on your very own patio, and enjoy various grilled meat or seafood recipes with your favorite grilled vegetables. While you're at it, grab a cool glass of your favorite wine that would compliment your meal, beautifully.

Save water, drink wine!



Speaking of perfect pairings, we are still looking for members willing to work on committees. Please contact one of the officers, if you are able to chair, co-chair, or even help out. We especially need volunteers to work on the Texas ALP Annual Conference Committee and Day-In-Court Committee.

Any amount of help is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Barbara Perez, PLS & Christy Coats, PLS
Co-Presidents, San Antonio LSA 2011-2012

2011 — 2012 Leadership Roster

Office	Name	Email Address
Co-President	Christy Coats, PLS	ccoats@coxsmith.com
Co-President	Barbara Perez, PLS	bperez@coxsmith.com
Recording Secretary	Kim Busch	kbusch@coxsmith.com
Corresponding Secretary	Jane Harrison, PLS	janeharrison30@yahoo.com
Treasurer/Roster	Aurora R. Cavazos, PLS, CLA,CPS	rorycavazos@ymail.com
Director	Janet Brown, PLS	jbrown@kjlawpc.com
Parliamentarian	Cheryl Wenzel, PP, PLS	cwenzel@coxsmith.com
Committee	Chairperson	Email Address
Attendance/Reception/ Reservations	Michele Harmon	mrharmon@satx.rr.com
Bylaws and Standing Rules/Certification/ Legal Education/ Historian	Cheryl A. Wenzel, PP, PLS	cwenzel@coxsmith.com
Employment	Sharon Todd, PLS	stodd@ccn-law.com
Membership	Bette Tower, PLS	btower@mdtlaw.com
Speakers/ Ways and Means	Barbara Perez, PLS	bperez@coxsmith.com
Summons/Website	Janet Brown, PLS	jbrown@kjlawpc.com

**SAN ANTONIO LEGAL SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION
2011-2012 COMMITTEE PREFERENCE FORM**

One of the best ways to learn about San Antonio Legal Secretaries Association is to work with the various committees sponsored by our organization. The committees below are those that are essential to our organization and are currently open. We welcome your ideas and encourage your participation. Only through teamwork will we be able to reach this organization's full potential and accomplish its goals.

Auditor

Responsible for auditing the books of the previous year

Award of Excellence

Responsible for obtaining nominations, preparing voting information, presenting award (formerly known as Boss of the Year and Legal Secretary of the Year) at Day-in-Court luncheon, and submitting Chapter's nomination for State LSY to State Committee Chair

Community Service

Responsible for making arrangements for various community service projects

Day-In-Court

Responsible for vendors, publicity, arrangements, etc. for annual Day-in-Court luncheon

Marketing/Public Relations

Responsible for all PR of Association (meetings, special events, press releases, etc.)

SALSA History

Responsible for keeping running history of events, special recognitions, etc. of San Antonio LSA

Scholarship

Responsible for forwarding information to schools, collecting applications, presenting applications to membership for vote, contacting students about scholarship, and submitting of chapter winner to state association for state scholarship award

Vendor-of-the-Month

Responsible for obtaining one vendor for each evening meeting to make a marketing presentation during the membership meeting

Please contact Christy Coats or Barbara Perez, Co-Presidents of SALSA for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, if you are willing to serve on any of these committees. Our contact information is as follows:

Christy Coats or Barbara Perez
San Antonio Legal Secretaries Association
c/o Cox Smith Matthews Incorporated
112 East Pecan Street, Suite 1800
San Antonio, Texas 78205
(210) 554-5536 or (210) 554-5397
(210) 226-8395 Fax
Email: ccoats@coxsmith.com or bperez@coxsmith.com



SAN ANTONIO LSA JUNE 2011 CLE DINNER

Speaker: Michael T. Lennane
Topic: Employment & Employer Rights

Location: Matamoros Restaurant
12844 IH 10 West
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Free parking available onsite
<http://matamorostx.com/>



Date: Wednesday – June 22, 2011

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$18

Menu Choices:

- Cheese Enchilada Plate
- Chicken Flautas Plate
- Carne Guisada Plate
- Matamoros Salad w/Grilled Chicken

RSVP: Please email **MICHELE HARMON** at mrharmon@satx.rr.com or call her at 829-1938

*Cancellations must be made no later than **FRIDAY** prior to the meeting for you and/or your guests or you will be billed for the meal.*





Texas Association of Legal Professionals

Texas ALP Certification Committee

★ NALS Online Study Group ★ www.nals.org ★

**Deadline to Register
For September 2011 Exams**

Postmarked by August 1

**Sessions are held at 8:00pm
August 2-30, 2011**

August 2: Written Communication
August 9: Office Procedures & Legal Knowledge
August 16: Ethics, Human Relations
August 23: Legal Knowledge & Skills
August 30: PP Substantive Law Review

**Sessions are held at 8:00pm
September 6-21, 2011**

September 6: ALS Review
September 13: PLS Review
September 20: PP Review
September 21: Test Taking Tips

LEGAL "ED"



By Edward M. Lavin, Attorney
June 2011

Defending or Prosecuting Tort Claims **Part II - Proportionate Responsibility/Joint Tortfeasors**

Tort claims frequently involve two or more defendants, known as joint tortfeasors. Additionally, there may be claims by defendants that the plaintiff is at fault, in whole or in part, for his or her injuries or damages.

Texas regulates the proportionate responsibility of multiple defendants in Chapter 33, Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code by determining percentages of responsibility. For starters, if a claimant is found to be more than 50% responsible he or she may not recover damages.

Determining percentage of responsibility is not limited to just the active parties in the case, either. The court or jury is required to determine the percentage of responsibility of previous parties who have settled and of "responsible third parties," which essentially means someone who is alleged to have been partly at fault but for whatever reason is not and never has been made a party to the case.

To get a fault percentage finding as to a responsible third party the provisions of Section 33.004 must be satisfied. The person must be designated by motion not later than 60 days prior to trial.

The motion must be granted unless another party objects within 15 days, in which event the objecting party must establish that the designation did not plead sufficient facts concerning the alleged responsibility of the person to satisfy the pleading requirement of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure. After adequate time for discovery, a party may move to strike the designation of a responsible third party on the ground that there is no evidence that the designated person is responsible for any portion of the claimant's alleged injury or damage.

If a claimant is not barred from recovery due to the "more than 50% at fault" rule, the court is required to reduce the amount of damages to be recovered by the claimant with respect to a cause of action by a percentage equal to the claimant's percentage of responsibility. If the claimant has settled with one or more persons, the court shall further reduce the amount of damages to be recovered by the claimant with respect to a cause of action by the sum of the dollar amounts of all settlements.

A liable defendant is liable to a claimant only for the percentage of the damages found by the trier of fact equal to that defendant's percentage of responsibility with respect to the personal injury, property damage, death, or other harm for which the damages are allowed. However, if a liable defendant is found to be more than 50% of the total fault or committed certain specified serious crimes, he or she is then on the hook for 100% of the damages.

Chapter 33 also regulates contribution among joint tortfeasors. If a liable defendant pays a percentage of the damages greater than his or her percentage of responsibility, that defendant has a right of contribution for the overpayment against each other liable defendant to the extent that the other liable defendant has not paid the percentage of the damages found by the trier of fact equal to that other defendant's percentage of responsibility.

This rule only applies to active defendant parties at the time of trial, however. It does not apply to settling persons nor to responsible third parties, as to whom only their respective determined percentages of responsibility are applied to reduce the claimant's recovery against the liable defendant, if any.

From NALS Nominations and Elections Committee:

This year is an exciting year for NALS and all NALS members are all part of the excitement. As announced in Tulsa, this is the inaugural year for Electronic Ballots for the NALS 2012-13 officers.

In order to receive a ballot, you **must, Must, MUST** have a valid e-mail address registered with NALS. Each NALS member should log into the Members Only section of the NALS website and review and update your contact information.

If you have never logged into the Members Only section, the instructions for doing so are right there on the login page. Those members who do not have e-mail or a computer can visit their local library or community center and use available free computers.

There are several companies that offer free e-mail such as Gmail with Google or Yahoo. Sign up for a free e-mail account and calendar a reminder to check your e-mail account after September 19 to find your electronic ballot in your InBox.

But it is very, very important that every member has a valid e-mail address registered with NALS. No paper ballots will be mailed.

The NALS Nominations and Elections Committee is relying upon all state association and local chapter presidents and membership chairs to reach out and make direct contact with your members to advise them of this exciting news.

Corporate Members of San Antonio LSA

San Antonio LSA appreciates all of its corporate sponsors and the support they provide our Association. There are times when our corporate sponsors go beyond expectations and we would like to give all of our sponsors a big **THANK YOU**.

Alpha & Omega Records Retrieval
14080 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 281
San Antonio, Texas 78247
(830) 714-7575; (210) 797-6254
Contact: Cheryl Calaway
cheryl@aorr.net

Dependable Express LLP
5975 Babcock Road
San Antonio, Texas 78240
(210) 877-6161 or 837-8771
Contact: Shelly Miller
Shelly@DependableExpress.com

DEPOTEXAS – San Antonio
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Contact: Rani Spaulding or Jessica
Hernandez (214) 871-0202
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(210) 697-3400
Contact: Kim Tindall
ktindall@ktanda.com



THANK YOU

Calendar



July

- 6..... SALSA Board Meeting –6:15 pm
Cox Smith Matthews, 18th Floor**
- 15 – 17 2011 NALS Region 6 Annual Meeting
and Educational Conference –
Amarillo, Texas**
- 20 NALS Online Learning Center –
8 PM – Recertification (1 Hr. CLE)**
- 27..... SALSA CLE Luncheon**
- 27..... NALS Online Learning Center—
8 PM – Benefits of Volunteering at a
National Level (1 Hr. CLE)**



August

- 2 NALS Online Study Group Begins (8 PM)**
- 3 SALSA Board Meeting – 6:15 pm
Cox Smith Matthews, 18th Floor**
- 3 NALS Online Learning Center –
8 PM – NALS Foundation (1 Hr. CLE)**
- 17 NALS Online Learning Center –
8 PM – Corporate CLE (1 Hr. CLE)**
- 24 SALSA CLE Luncheon**