

Certification Matters

Keep it Going and Growing

Growing Renewal

Recertification is a crucial component of being Board Certified as it requires a continued commitment to the specialty area.

We're proud to announce that almost 1500 of our members will successfully complete the recertification process this year to remain certified for another 5-year period. The 2016 recertification class consisted of 69 members of the judiciary; 150 members age 70 and older; 400 members 65 and older; and 69 members younger than 40, among others. Congratulations to your continued success and dedication.

In 2011, TBLS proudly designated Criminal Appellate as our 21st specialty area and this year, the Criminal Appellate inaugural class is completing its first recertification period. Originally there were 117 applicants, 84 of them became Board Certified and this year 80 of those members (see 27 of them posing in the photo below) continue their Board Certification.



Criminal Appellate's first class included four Judges of Texas Court of Criminal Appeals — Judge Elsa Alcala, Judge Lawrence E. Meyers, Judge Cheryl Johnson, and former Judge Cathy Cochran (all featured in the photo to the right) — and all are currently Board Certified.



The More the Merrier

We are excited to report that 470 applicants across all specialty areas have signed up to take this year's exam — the largest group in over 20 years.

TBLS' newest specialty area, Construction Law, is our largest applicant group for an inaugural specialty and will be the majority of the examinees this year. The TBLS Exam is Oct. 17, 2016, and we wish everyone the best of luck!

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Paralegal Day Celebrations 35th Anniversary

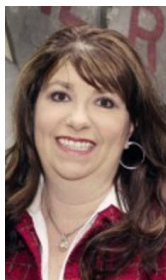
Oct. 23rd is National Paralegal Day! Here is a list of the events sponsored by the State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division to celebrate the occasion:

- **Oct. 12, from noon–1:15 pm:** A luncheon at Reata Restaurant in Fort Worth; Dr. Barbara Kirby, of Texas Wesleyan University will speak.
- **Oct. 14, from 6:30–8:30 pm:** The 2nd Annual Member Appreciation Social, at Russo's New York Pizzeria in McAllen.
- **Oct. 19, at noon:** The 13th Annual San Antonio Paralegal Day Celebration at the Norris Conference Center in San Antonio; Judge John Specia will be the speaker.
- **Oct. 19, at noon:** A brown bag luncheon at the Stanton Tower Auditorium in El Paso; Daniel Ortiz, Asst. General Counsel with El Paso Water Utilities, will be the speaker.
- **Oct. 19, from 5:30–6:30 pm:** A social and happy hour at Taste Dessert Bar, in Amarillo.
- **Oct. 20, at noon:** A luncheon at the Midland Country Club, in Midland; Hon. Royal Furgeson is the guest speaker.
- **Oct. 20, from 6–8 pm:** A Paralegal Day celebration at Parkside, on 6th Street at San Jacinto, in Austin; Allen Mihecoby, RP, ACP, is the speaker.
- **Oct. 28, from 11:45 am–1 pm:** A luncheon to be held at the Belo Mansion in Dallas. Frank Stevenson, State Bar President, will be the speaker.

Congratulations



Norma Hackler — TBLS congratulates Norma Hackler for 25 years of service with the State Bar of Texas Paralegal Division. Norma retired this year after serving as Executive Director of the Division. TBLS was extremely fortunate to work with Norma from the early beginnings of the TBLS Paralegal Certification program to today's current success. The *Texas Paralegal Journal* honored Norma for her service this past spring. [Click here](#) to read.



Rhonda J. Brashears — Following Norma's retirement, TBLS Board Certified paralegal Rhonda J. Brashears has now taken on the #1 position at the Division as Paralegal Division Coordinator. Congratulations, Rhonda! She was also highlighted in the *Texas Paralegal Journal*. [Click here](#) to read.

Rhonda has been Board Certified by TBLS in Personal Injury Trial Law since 1998. We look forward to our continued partnership and success with the Paralegal Division.

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