

**The 51st Institute on Property Taxation
and
Texas Comptroller's Property Tax Assistance Division's 31st Annual
Conference
September 24 & 25, 2009**

Thursday, September 24, 2009

- 7:30 am Registration *Atrium, Commons Center*
- 8:30 am **Opening General Session** *Room 1.102*
*Presiding: Michael Barnett, Chief Appraiser of the Smith County
Appraisal District and TAAD President*
- Welcome and Introduction**
Barry Bales, Assistant Dean of Professional Development, LBJ School of
Public Affairs
- 8:45 am **Opening Keynote Speaker**
Communicating for Results
Speaker: Anne Pritchard, Strategic Solutions
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:30 am **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – I**
1. **Legislative Update on Property** *Room 1.102*
 Value Study Changes
 *Speaker: Deborah Cartwright, Property Tax Assistance Division, The
Texas Comptroller's Office*
2. **Best Practices in Depositing Checks &** *Room 1.122*
 Alternative Collection Practices
 Speaker: Thomas Spencer, Chief Deputy, Tarrant County Tax Office
3. **How to Prepare a Reappraisal Plan** *Room 1.108*
 *Panelists: Debbie Wheeler, Perdue, Brandon, Fielder and Mott, and
others*
- 12:00 noon *Lunch on your own*

1:30 pm - **CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS – II**
3:00 pm

1. **Methods & Assistance Program (MAP) Room 1.102**
Reviews – How the Process Works
Panelists: **Steve Atkinson**, Property Tax Assistance Division, The Texas Comptroller’s Office and **Deborah Cartwright**, Property Tax Assistance Division, The Texas Comptroller’s Office

2. **Customer Service & Taxpayer Room 1.108**
Assistance Tips
Speakers: **Joe Pondrom**, Deputy Tax Collector, Williamson County Tax Office; **Becky Turner**, Property Tax Specialist, Williamson County Tax Office; and **Geoff Lawrence**, Director, Property Tax Division, Williamson County Tax Office

3. **100% Disabled Veterans’ Exemption Room 1.122**
Panelists: **Sands Stiefer**, Attorney, Harris County Appraisal District; **Jamie McCormick**; **Connie Rose**, Information Specialist, Property Tax Assistance Division, The Texas Comptroller’s Office

3:00 pm Break

3:30 pm – **Update on the Financial Markets Room 1.102**
5:00 pm **Sandy Leeds**, Senior Lecturer, The McCombs School of Business,
The University of Texas at Austin

Friday, September 25, 2009

Presiding: **Curby Brantley**, TAAO president

8:30 a.m. **Litigation & Attorney Room 1.102**
General Opinions Update
Speakers: **John Brusniak**, Principal, Brusniak-Blackwell, PC; and,
Judith Hargrove, Hargrove & Evans, LLP

10:00 a.m. **State of the State**
A review of the legislative trends, what has happened and what is likely to come.
Speaker: **Susan Combs**, The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

10:25 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. **Closing Keynote Address**
 Dealing with Difficult People
 Speaker: Barbara Miller, Barbara B. Miller Communication

Noon Adjourn

1:00 pm **Utility Industry Meeting** *Room 1.130*
 This session is free and does not require conference registration

Special Session for Appraisal Review Board Members

1:30 pm - **Appraisal Review Boards Special Session –** *Room 1.138*
4:00 pm **How to Weigh Evidence at Hearings**
 Moderator: Melinda Blackwell, Attorney
 Panelists: Peter Low, Attorney; Jim Evans, Attorney; and Darlene
 Sullivan, Attorney