

# Minutes of the South Carolina Roster Administrators

Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2010

Location: Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

Host: Laurie Jennings

## **Attendees:**

Laurie Jennings

Sharon Hyland

Sheri Neely

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P.

Nexsen Pruet, LLC

Law Office of Daryl G. Hawkins, LLC

## **Attendees By Phone:**

Suzanne Ponder

Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.

Laurie called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.; a teleconference was established. Laurie made sure that Suzanne had received the agenda with attachments and also let her know that Sheri is recording the meeting in order to transcribe the minutes.

Laurie asked if there were any corrections or additions to the last month's minutes. None were noted.

## **Old Business –**

Sharon - update on correspondence with Mr. Hamilton with SCCCROD. Update – Sharon talked to Vicki Lynn. January is not a good month to try and get together because the new governor is meeting with state representatives. We should be able to meet with Mr. Hamilton in February. Sharon will get with Vicki Lynn regarding sending Mr. Hamilton an email reminding him of who we are and that Julie had contacted him. Julie is no longer with Nexsen Pruet.

Diane at Carolina Paralegal News. Update – Laurie emailed Diane Smith to make corrections for group name and update officers, per recent elections. Laurie has not heard back from her regarding the email so she will contact her again.

SCRA Website – the member roster has been added in alphabetical order. Thank you Kim!

We have officially established a contact person at the Supreme Court level for roster related issues (Scott Hayes). Scott's contact information was sent out in the SCRA minutes for our meeting after the 11/8 meeting with the Bar, etc. In case anyone needs it again, please see below:

T. Scott Hayes, Sr. Applications Manager

SC Judicial Department

Office of Information Technology

803-734-0342 – Office

803-240-5082 – Cell

[shayes@sccourts.org](mailto:shayes@sccourts.org)

## **New Business –**

Laurie sent Kim an email regarding updating the Roster links with Saluda's new website address. Per Suzanne, they have changed over to CMS.

Laurie has not made contact with or heard from Scott or Mr. Wells since the 11-8-2010 meeting.

Carolina Paralegal News article by Lindsay Valek (SCRA member) – “No response from SC Bar when paralegal asked to teach CLE” – Discussion followed regarding how or if SCRA could help facilitate that since we have a contact person with the SC Bar and the Supreme Court. Laurie will email Lindsay to see if she’s interested in going through SCRA to try and get their attention. Sharon mentioned that Joan Assey might be a good contact person to start with.

Suzanne mentioned that Scott Hayes responded to an email she sent to the website forum regarding the roster links not working. Suzanne further discussed the roster links not working correctly sometimes so her firm has made a firm-wide decision to have Suzanne email the pdf version of the roster instead of sending the roster link.

Sharon asked Suzanne about an email enclosing a docket notice that a coworker in the Myrtle Beach office received which listed several courts and cases. Suzanne said she had not received that one in particular but has seen emails sent to attorneys from courts re cases on rosters.

### **Reminders –**

When counties have a large number of rosters, you may need to sort by “roster type” (and you may need to enter a date in the heading to further narrow your search) to ensure you do not miss any when you search by county.

Berkeley County posts Master-In-Equity rosters on Thursday or Friday for the following Monday. Please continue to look out for that one. We will forward that notice to everyone right away if it is sent to us. Update - Sharon mentioned that Laurie should add “Foreclosure” to the title. Suzanne mentioned that the Berkeley County Master in Equity “Sales” roster comes out the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month.

Thank you all for sharing roster information as you find it. It has been very helpful to have all the tips to share with the group. Please do continue to forward information to Laurie Jennings or to the group. As always, if something is a concern to one, it is a concern to others!

Please include the following people when sending SCRA roster email notices:

Laurie Jennings	Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, L.L.P.	<a href="mailto:Laurie.Jennings@nelsonmullins.com">Laurie.Jennings@nelsonmullins.com</a>
Sharon Hyland	Nexsen Pruet, LLC	<a href="mailto:SHyland@nexsenpruet.com">SHyland@nexsenpruet.com</a>
Sheri Neely	Law Office of Daryl G. Hawkins, LLC	<a href="mailto:sneely@dghlaw.net">sneely@dghlaw.net</a>

### **Additional –**

We are always seeking locations for future meetings. Remember: lunch does not need to be provided; we just need a conference room, and would prefer to have a computer, Internet connection, screen and teleconference capability, if possible. Please let any officer know if you are interested in hosting a future meeting. Thank you!

**Future Meeting Locations –**

January 18, 2011: Laurie Jennings, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough

February 15, 2011: Sharon Hyland, Nexsen Pruet, LLC

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sheri Neely*

Secretary

South Carolina Rosters Administrators

01/17/2011

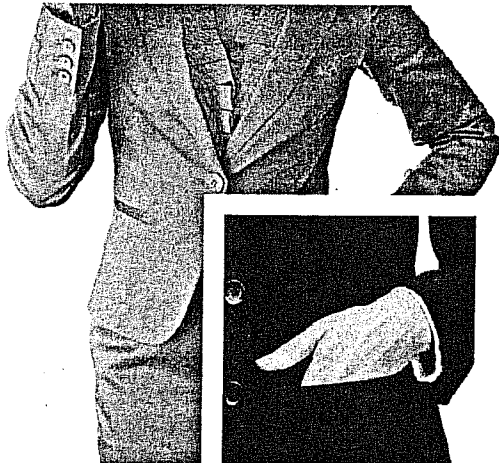
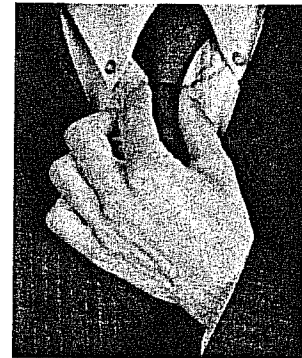
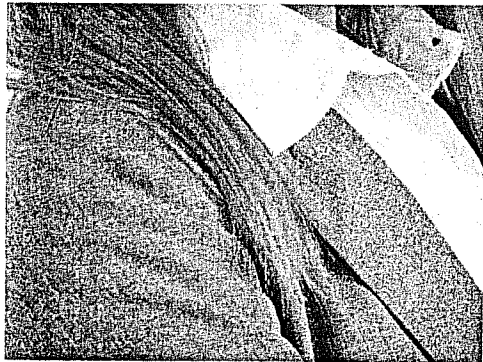
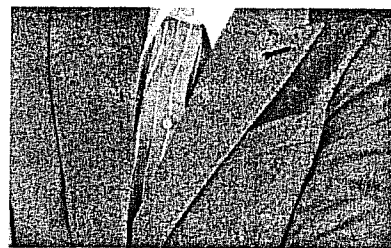
# CAROLINA PARALEGAL NEWS

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A North Carolina Lawyers Weekly and South Carolina Lawyers Weekly Publication

NOVEMBER 2010 ISSUE

## STRIKE A (PROFESSIONAL) POSE



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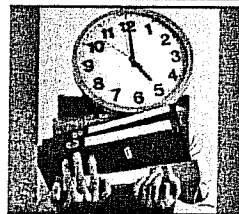
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# Giving thanks

## Paralegal expresses appreciation to those who influenced his career

By DARRYL HAMMILL, *Special to CPN*

In 2008, I began a journey. It started by a simple conversation with one of my wife's beauty shop clients, a North Carolina attorney named Amy Nutall.

Amy went to law school later in life, passed the bar exam and now works as a family law attorney in Raleigh. It was a career path that I had once dreamed of.

Even though I had put all of the pieces in place to prepare for the LSAT and began looking at law schools, a lack of time and money caused me not to proceed. I thought that my wish of becoming involved in the legal community had reached a dead end.

Amy suggested that if I had such a strong desire to work in the legal profession, perhaps I should consider becoming a paralegal. I had never thought about that before and began researching what it meant to be a paralegal.

Through my research, I discovered Meredith College's post-baccalaureate paralegal program. Time was running short to register, but fortunately I crossed paths with Marisa Campbell, the program's director. Since I was able to get my paperwork into her quickly, she admitted me. This simple act of kindness set me on a path that has taken

my professional career in directions I would never have imagined.

Through the Raleigh-Wake Paralegal Association's mentoring program, I had the good luck of meeting Julianne Fink, assistant director of Sections and the Paralegal Division with the N.C. Bar Association. She offered to work with me to make needed adjustments to my résumé. She also offered excellent recommendations about my professional paralegal portfolio.

I always assumed that I would follow a very traditional path upon graduation — working in a law firm, probably in civil litigation. But Sarah Kaufman, an instructor at Meredith and paralegal with Ellis & Winters, helped me see my options in a different light.

Sarah organizes meetings so Meredith's paralegal students can meet with graduates and receive real-world experience directly from practicing paralegals. One of the speakers in 2008 was Grace Carter, a crop genetics research strategic planner with Syngenta. She had many years of paralegal experience, but after taking the traditional route in her career, she switched gears and went to work for a corporation. I vividly recall how pivotal that evening was in teaching me that there were career options beyond the typical law firm job.

In May 2009, I began my paralegal career at Emanuel & Dunn in Raleigh. I received great advice and guidance from the departing paralegal, Karen Winer, who showed me the ropes of the job.

Emanuel & Dunn is primarily a civil litigation firm practicing in the local, state and federal courts. I supported three attorneys, including Stephen Dunn. Stephen gave me the chance to be a part of the legal community the way I had always wanted. Even though I didn't become an attorney, I had nonetheless reached my destination. But I didn't know that an adventure was in store for me.

Earlier this year, I was approached by a national recruiter about a position with a company headquartered in Rocky Mount, N.C. They needed a contract administrator, and the recruiter felt that I might be a perfect fit.

The position required someone who could handle multiple projects and assignments concurrently, be highly motivated, work well independently and in a team environment, have knowledge regarding contract law and contract administration, excellent communication skills and be tech-savvy.

As the interviewing process began, I recalled Grace Carter speaking about how her paralegal experience opened doors for her at Syngenta. I came to

realize that the basic editing to my résumé and paralegal portfolio by Julianne Fink helped me catch the attention of a recruiter. Most importantly, I recognized that the training, education and experience I gained at Meredith was benefiting me in an unexpected way.

In August, I became the contract administrator for Engine Systems Inc., a division of Kirby Corporation.

If anyone told me in 2007 that I would go back to school to become a paralegal, I probably would have thought they were talking about someone else. If anyone told me in 2009 that I would be commuting to Rocky Mount from my home in Raleigh, I probably would have asked, "Are you sure you have the right guy?"

But what started as a journey down a traditional path for a paralegal brought me to an unexpected crossroads. Making the decision of which way to go was made so much easier because of all the wonderful people I mentioned in this article.

If I can offer any advice to someone either entering or graduating from a paralegal program, I would paraphrase the poet Robert Frost and tell them not to be afraid to take the road less traveled. Because just as the Frost quote suggests, "... that has made all the difference."

### NEWS BRIEF

#### NCPA issues 2,000-hour pro bono challenge

The North Carolina Paralegal Association is urging all paralegals — both members and non-members — to help the organization accomplish a goal of performing 2,000 hours of pro bono service by October 2011.

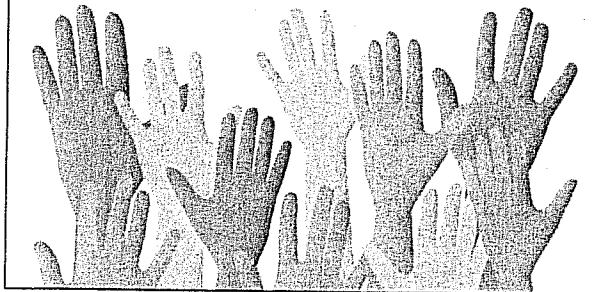
Both legal and non-legal work can be counted towards the NCPA goal. For

example, hours spent stocking a food bank or participating in a charitable event like the Susan G. Komen Relay for Life also qualify as pro bono work.

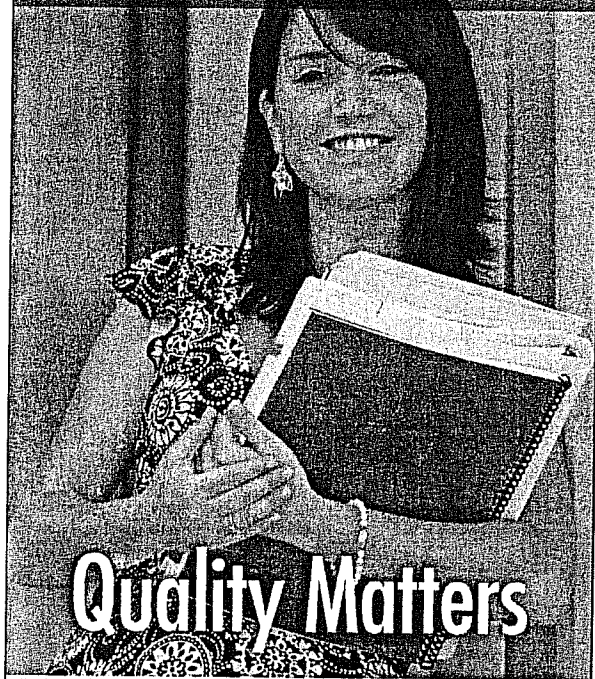
For more information or to recommend an organization that needs volunteers, contact NCPA pro bono chair Alyssa Mozingo at (919) 720-3061.

### WHAT'S YOUR PROJECT?

Carolina Paralegal News wants to know what's on your list of community care projects. Are you serving the needs of the poor? Visiting the elderly and infirm? Providing holiday gifts to children and adults who might otherwise not get any? Whatever the service, if it's provided by paralegals or a paralegal association, let us know what it is and how it's making the world a better place. We'll run your responses in a special feature in Carolina Paralegal News. And who knows? Maybe your community project will be the inspiration for someone else's.



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# Wrapping it up: Self-mastery means taking charge of your life

By CHERYL LEONE and DAVE FAVOR  
Special to CPN



Leone

Favor

We have spent this year looking at self-mastery. We started by telling you that taking control of your life allows you to transcend challenges and learn the secrets of soaring to new heights.

We also told you that you will find opportunities to practice self-mastery many times each day. Every moment of your life provides an opportunity to practice expanding your vision, awakening your mind and heart and achieving full responsibility for living, growing and contributing to being the best you can be.

First, we instructed you to define your values. Your core values stabilize you and build the foundation from which you can make good decisions. Values define you, guide you and protect you. They are a powerful message to others about who you are and how you will walk through this life.

We then asked you to develop a vision for yourself. This is where you can allow yourself to dream the impossible dream. It is also where you begin to plan. For us, nothing is more exciting than connecting with someone who

wants to change their way of living, define a new future and start realizing that the only impediment to their success was their own negativity.

The key to self-mastery is realizing everyone reacts to a situation emotionally, based on their beliefs.

Fear will always be the first emotion you feel when faced with a problem. How quickly you move through the fear stage will determine how quickly you can gain control of your life and master the obstacles that seem to appear. Fear is a powerful emotion that you have to overcome to get to the other side.

Once you move from fear, you go into a duty mode, where you successfully complete all of the tasks set

before you. Most of us like the comfort of the duty mode because it is a strong rope that you can cling to. But you can't achieve true success without moving on towards what we call the achievement mode.

While fear and duty are your safe modes, operating from the achievement paradigm allows you to truly start to see your possibilities. It gives you a good look at your vision so that you can be all that you can be.

And finally, you get to where you want — self-mastery. You operate with integrity. You have a clear sense of yourself and understand the foundation of your values. You know your purpose. You see yourself for exactly who you are and what you will be.

Every day, we wake up and try to keep our vision and purpose first and foremost in our minds. Sometimes we stay on track. Other times, we find ourselves stuck in first or second gear.

But the more that we keep our eyes on our vision, the easier it seems to handle things that would cause others to shut down. We accept that we can fail — and sometimes we do — but we also know that as long as we walk the path we have laid out for ourselves with

a sense of integrity, anchored by our values and the vision of what we are capable of, the end goal seems always within our reach.

One of our readers told us that about halfway through the articles, she suddenly realized that she was saying "Why not?" rather than "Why?" She saw unlimited possibilities where she previously saw limitations. She became the master of her own fate.

Simply put, how you make the journey through life is far more important than the destination. If you find yourself on the receiving end of an event, remember you can always control how you react.

**Editor's note:** Cheryl Leone and Dave Favor are the principals in Catalyst Group, Inc., a national professional development company in Raleigh, N.C. Both speak and write nationally on law firm development and mentor and coach lawyers and paralegals in personal and professional development. Soaring Eagles is the name they apply to law firm personnel when speaking and writing. The company website is [www.catalystgroupinc.com](http://www.catalystgroupinc.com). Soaring Eagles blogs can be found at [www.lawfirmcoachblog.com](http://www.lawfirmcoachblog.com).

## Q&A: LAURA CHAMPLIN

### Paralegal profession is suffering from an 'identity crisis'

Laura Champlin is a paralegal in the commercial litigation practice group at Van Winkle, Buck, Wall, Starnes and Davis in Asheville, N.C. Champlin is certified through the North Carolina State Bar and holds an advanced certification in contracts administration/management through the National Association of Legal Assistants. In 1990, she received her bachelor's degree in administration of justice and associate's degree in paralegal studies from Wichita State University in Kansas.

**CPN:** How long have you been a paralegal?

**Champlin:** Since 1990.

**CPN:** What drew you into the career?

**Champlin:** While studying criminology and forensic science in college, I learned of the legal assistant program and took a few courses. I enjoyed them so much I decided to pursue two degrees — criminal justice and paralegal studies. Post graduation, I entered the legal profession as a legal assistant (now known as a paralegal), and I can honestly say I have never regretted my career choice.

**CPN:** What paralegal organizations — national, state or local — are you member of and what positions do you hold in them?

**Champlin:** I am a member of the National Association of Legal Assistants and a member of the Organization of Legal Professionals' education committee. I also belong to the e-Discovery Paralegal Network and am publicity committee chair for the Asheville Area Paralegal Association.



Champlin

**CPN:** When you talk with other paralegals, what are the main concerns or issues they face on a daily basis?

**Champlin:** Those interested in becoming paralegals are concerned about the high cost of obtaining a paralegal degree. Those already employed express concern about the lack of career path/career opportunities and the desire for more challenging work. Another issue that affects the entire profession is the general lack of understanding by attorneys about what tasks a paralegal can and should do.

**CPN:** If you could name one thing that would most benefit the paralegal profession, what would it be?

**Champlin:** To clear up the identity crisis and settle on one name for our profession — either legal assistant or paralegal. To that end, I would suggest NALA and the National Federation of Paralegal Associations merge. One strong, united paralegal voice and one certification standard would be of great benefit to the nation's paralegals. With increased pressure by clients for quality, cost-efficient legal services performed at the right level, this is a wonderful time to be a paralegal.

**CPN:** If you could snap your fingers and create the perfect CLE, what would it be and why?

**Champlin:** I'm a bit of a geek, so I'd say a day focused on emerging technology for the legal profession, particularly in litigation.

**CPN:** When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

**Champlin:** I wanted to be a veterinarian. I also wanted to be a flight attendant.

**CPN:** Knowing what you know now, if you weren't a paralegal, what else would you want to do?

**Champlin:** Lurking beneath my interest in law is a passion for science and animals. If I had not followed the legal path, I most likely would have

pursued a career in marine biology. I spent my childhood in Hawaii and the beauty and wonder of the ocean and its creatures inspired me at an early age.

**CPN:** What do you wish you knew when you were getting started in the profession that you know now?

**Champlin:** How long and difficult it would be to define our profession.

**CPN:** What is the best thing about your job?

**Champlin:** It is the perfect combination of people and paper (information).

**CPN:** And what part of your job could you do without?

**Champlin:** Keeping track of time for billing purposes.

**CPN:** What one thing, either personally or professionally, are you most proud of?

**Champlin:** I am proud to be a member of the paralegal profession and look forward to the exciting changes that are coming in the next few years.

**CPN:** Where would we find you on the weekends?

**Champlin:** In South Carolina, on Lake Keowee, soaking up sun and water skiing.

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# How do you find inspiration? Consider a life coach

By CAMILLE STELL, Special to CPN

Do you wonder what it would take for you to find renewed inspiration at work or to take your career to the next level? Working with a career coach could be just what you need. Here's a conversation I had with "Lauren," who is employed at a North Carolina law firm and has been working with a coach for several months.

**CPN:** What made you decide to hire a coach?

**Lauren:** I felt like I didn't have a plan for "what I wanted to be when I grew up." I wasn't sure about my long-term career aspirations, or where I hoped to be 10 or 20 years down the road and needed some help developing a vision.

**CPN:** What kind of coach did you hire and how did you find your coach?

**Lauren:** I was referred to my coach, Stefanie Zizzo, from a friend who raved about her services. Stefanie is a professional certified coach, has a certification in life coaching through the Institute for Life Coach Training, a Master of Science in counseling and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology.

**CPN:** Any tips you would share for finding a good coach?

**Lauren:** My advice would be to get referrals from people you know and trust and make sure you have a great connection with your coach right off the bat.

**CPN:** What were your goals going into the process of working with a coach? Have you met those goals? Did your coach help you establish goals, results or milestones?

**Lauren:** My first goal was to figure out where I want to be in 10 years and work backward from there to make sure that the things I am doing now are setting me up to achieve that vision.



Stell

Another goal was to create more balance in my life. For this, we set smaller weekly goals (almost like homework) to make a big, obtuse goal more manageable. For example, one week I might plan to leave the office for lunch at least three times, not check my Blackberry after 7 p.m., make time to exercise three times or try a new recipe. My coach and I worked together to set these goals.

**CPN:** Do you think you are getting your money's worth?

**Lauren:** Absolutely. Coaching is an investment, but like anything, you get out of it what you put in. If you hire a coach and expect them to say "this is the job that is going to make you happy and the exercises that will make life perfect," you will be disappointed. It is a process.

My coach had me complete exercises in a workbook to determine my values and passions. I spent a lot of time outside of our sessions working on these activities and putting thought into what I want out of life. You have to be willing to do the work and step outside of your comfort zone in order to make changes in your life that will make you happy.

Before each session, I complete a coaching prep form to provide an

update on my action items and whether there are new issues I'd like to discuss or problems to work through. This assures our sessions are focused, maximizing my time and money.

**CPN:** Would you recommend the process of working with a coach?

**Lauren:** Yes — if you are willing to examine yourself and commit to growth.

**CPN:** What is the best takeaway you have received from your coach?


**Lauren:** The energy that you project affects the way your message is received. I did an exercise where over the course of a week I observed my body language and tone when talking to people I didn't particularly enjoy talking to versus people that I loved talking to. I then tried to model the same engaged posture and positive tone when talking to everyone. It made a big difference.

Also, after doing the activities to determine my interests and passions, we talked about ways to do more of the things that I enjoy at my job and volunteer groups. Even if you are happy

with your job, but are feeling burnt out or frustrated, a career coach can help you find ways to feel more engaged and enthusiastic, both at work and in your life. Working with my coach has helped me take a holistic look at my life and realize the connections between work, friends, family and volunteer activities.


**Author's note:** In January, we are going to talk with some coaches about coaching qualifications and what to expect from working with a coach. If you have a personal experience in working with a coach, I'd love to hear your story to share with our readers. You can contact me at [camille@lawyersmutualinc.com](mailto:camille@lawyersmutualinc.com).

**Editor's note:** Camille Stell is director of client services for Lawyers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina. She worked as a paralegal for 20 years, taught ethics and law office management in the Meredith College Paralegal Program and served as president of the Raleigh-Wake Paralegal Association, the North Carolina Paralegal Association and as District II director of the National Association of Legal Assistants.

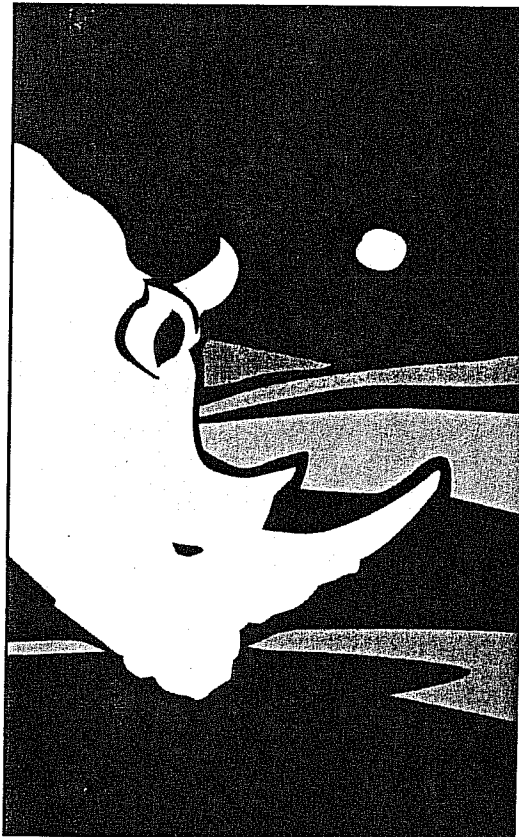


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Swaringen



Estrin



Watford

# STRIKE A (PROFESSIONAL) POSE



By **DIANA SMITH**, CPN Managing Editor  
diana.smith@nc.lawyersweekly.com

With fall in full swing, many people are donning their long-sleeved sweaters and warmer dress slacks when they head into work each morning.

But that's not the case at every law office. Paralegals say the skirts are getting shorter and the clothing more casual these days — and some don't like it.

Wearing suits or dresses is a way to convey professionalism right from the outset in the workplace, no matter what the setting, said Cyndy Adams, president of the Catawba Valley Paralegal Association in North Carolina.

"In my office, whenever our paralegals go to court, we wear suits or well-coordinated outfits that match the circumstances," she said. "To me, you're in a situation where you need to show respect, both to the court and your client. The way we do that is by dressing appropriately."

It doesn't have to be designer fashion, but it shouldn't be picnic wear, either, according to most Carolina paralegals.

When the seasons warm up, the staff also receives a reminder alerting employees of the dos and don'ts of fashion at the firm, Swaringen added.

But from what Watford has seen, not all paralegals seem to get the memo.

Skimpy office attire hasn't been as prevalent, but Watford told Carolina Paralegal News that overly casual attire is common.

"I'm always surprised at CLEs where people dress as though it's their day off," she said.

Among the faux pas she's seen: one woman dressed in a sweatshirt, yoga pants and a scarf. Another sat Indian-style on the floor with her shoes off, scratching her feet.

That type of attire could have damaging effects for a line of work that has been striving for years to prove its professionalism, cautioned Estrin.

"In the paralegal field, there's no hierarchy," she explained. "It's 'once a paralegal, always a paralegal' in most of these firms. There's no vertical climb up a ladder. It's a horizontal climb, so you need to do everything you can to be successful."

Paralegals are not the only people who could plead guilty fashion crimes.

"What has concerned me is the standards for incoming lawyers, especially females, seem to be very lax," said Debbie Reynolds, a paralegal with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough in Greenville, S.C. "I see very short skirts, low tops, sometimes even a midriff showing. I don't seem to see too many of the staff folks dressing that way, but it does seem to be unadressed with the attorneys."

But that's no excuse for paralegals to get sloppy, Estrin said.

"Lawyers are not an example," said Estrin. "Paralegals are still looking to be defined, still looking for upgraded assignments and people are going to give it to the people they think are most successful. How are you going to portray that image?"

Even on days when she's not wearing a business suit, Reynolds said she keeps a nice jacket at her desk in case she unexpectedly gets called into a meeting with a client.

"It's something to pull on just to dress it up a bit," she said. "It's not a power suit, but always neat and professional."

And it need not be expensive to look the part.

"It is hard to buy an Ann Taylor suit, times seven, on a paralegal salary. I get that," said Watford. "But you can still dress nicely."

And what to do with those plunging V-necks and relaxed fit jeans?

"Save it for your social hour," said Estrin.

"Our attorneys say if you can rake in it, you can't wear it," said Raleigh, N.C., paralegal Jennifer Watford. "Now, that may not have one ounce of a reflection on my work product. But if I saw somebody looking disheveled, I'd think, 'Hmm. Are they taking as much care with my stuff as they did with their professional appearance?'"

Fashion could also make or break a paralegal's ability to land a job.

That's because the first thing that any employer notices about a job candidate is their attire, said California-based Chere Estrin, editor-in-chief of *KNOW*, a magazine for paralegals.

Estrin told Carolina Paralegal News that a daily work wardrobe consisting of casual polo shirts and khakis was "great in the '90s and the dot-com era, but it doesn't hold water anymore."

"These are tough times, and you have to look better than you've ever looked simply because of the psychological impact that a well-put-together person conveys to somebody else," she said.

However, finding the fashion balance can be difficult to strike in law offices, particularly those without some sort of dress code.

But Vicki Swaringen of Charlotte, N.C., said the paralegals she knows have the common sense to know what's appropriate.

"On days we have clients come in, I might choose to wear a suit, but usually it's something that's comfortable like a blouse and slacks," said Swaringen, and estate and tax paralegal with Robinson Bradshaw & Hinson.

Swaringen's firm's dress code prohibits attire such as sandals, "short" short skirts and sleeveless tops, she said. There is also no "casual Fridays" policy.

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Members of the North Carolina Paralegal Association, left, recently convened for the organization's mid-year seminar in Asheville, N.C. From left to right: **Stephanie Elliott-Park**, NCPA first vice president (education); **Melissa Stockley-Jones**; **Kaye Summers**, NALA liaison; **Patti Clapper**, president and **Michele Tuttle**.



NCPA president **Patti Clapper** was one of 19 recipients honored with the 2010 Affiliates Award from the National Association of Legal Assistants at its annual convention in Jacksonville, Fla. Pictured from left to right are NCPA member **Sharon Robertson**, **Clapper** and NALA president **Linda Wolf**.

Over 100 people attended a career fair at the North Carolina Bar Center in October. Open to all individuals interested in pursuing or currently involved in the paralegal profession, the event was a collaborative effort between the Research Triangle Paralegal Association and the Paralegal Division of N.C. Bar Association.

The event had more than 10 sponsors and 25 representatives from law firms across the state, including Ward and Smith, Myers Bigel, Wyrick Robbins and Young Moore & Henderson. Corporate representatives from Sony Ericsson and Syngenta also participated in the fair.

The program offered career tips, mock interviewing opportunities, résumé reviews, and tips on social networking and professionalism tips. Jennifer Watford, co-planner of the event, spoke highly of the attendees.

"The candidates were excited to be part of this event. They dressed and presented themselves in a professional manner," she said.

Students from Miller Motte Technical College's paralegal program were required to attend the career fair, collect business cards, have their resumes reviewed, participate in mock interviewing if time allowed and submit a paper on their experience.

"We were pleased that the mock interviewing was utilized to such an extent that the interviewers did not leave until everyone who wanted to attend the mock interviewing had their chance, which was nearly one hour after the fair had ended," Watford said. "In addition, the résumé review proved to be a great tool for many paralegals currently searching for employment and for the paralegal who requested a 'refresher' for the résumé that hadn't been updated in some time."

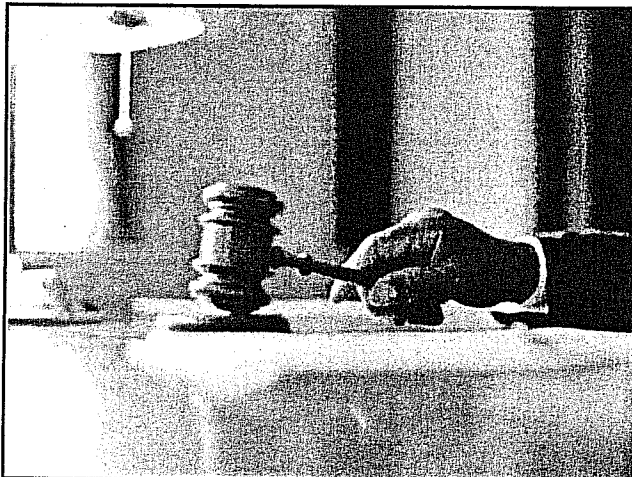
Most attendees were not currently employed as paralegals. In addition to students, some were second-career individuals looking for a new in the profession.

Paralegal associations, including RWPA and the NCBA Paralegal Division, had members present to inform interested paralegals of the benefits of association involvement. Members from the N.C. State Bar's Board of Paralegal Certification also attended the fair to discuss the benefits of pursuing certification.

Earlier this month, the Asheville Area Paralegal Association in North Carolina gave a presentation to the 28th Judicial District Bar called "The Dollars and Sense of Effective Paralegal Utilization." Paralegals **Laura Champlin**, **Elizabeth Stallings** and **Carolyn Timmons** provided an overview of the profession and discussed attorney profitability through effective paralegal utilization, substantive tasks that can be performed by paralegals, delegation of work and the unauthorized practice of law. Copies of the handout materials are PowerPoint presentation are available by contacting Champlin at [lchamplin@vwlawfirm.com](mailto:lchamplin@vwlawfirm.com).



The S.C. Upstate Paralegal Association held its annual education seminar on Oct. 1 in Greenville. Among the attendees at the evening reception (left) Paralegal of the Year **Dorothy Huskey** and (bottom left to right) **Elaine Williamson**, **Jessica Keith** and **Jennifer Green**.



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# NALA president: Mandatory certification could actually limit paralegals

Karen McGee is the president of the National Association of Legal Assistants. She is also the first deputy clerk with the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal in Shreveport, La. A frequent speaker on paralegal procedures, McGee also is a member of the Northwest Louisiana Paralegal Association, the Louisiana State Paralegal Association and the National Conference of Appellate Court Clerks. She received her certified paralegal credential from NALA in May 1990 and her advanced credential in civil litigation in May 1994. In 1996, McGee was named Louisiana's Outstanding Paralegal of the Year.

Here, McGee tells Carolina Paralegal News why mandatory certification carries both risks and benefits for paralegals.

**CPN: How long have you been a paralegal?**

McGee: I first began doing paralegal work in 1987 and attained my certified paralegal credential in 1990.

**CPN: What drew you into the career?**

McGee: I was approaching my 29th birthday and the nonprofit agency that I worked for was about to lose its funding. I was at a crossroads and had to decide what I wanted to do "when I grew up." I needed a career.

I happened to read an article about the paralegal profession and since I'd always been interested in the law, it seemed like the perfect career choice for me. I was right! Working as a paralegal has allowed me to be part of a profession that serves others and my professional association work has allowed me to give back to a profession that has given me so much.

**CPN: What are the challenges of being president of the National Association of Legal Assistants?**

McGee: So far, the biggest challenge has been balancing the demands of the association with the demands of my regular job. I work a lot of nights and weekends. However, I am so fortunate

to have the type of job that allows me to be available during most days, and my employer has been very supportive of my involvement in NALA. I love being able to talk to paralegals all over the country about the issues that are important to them.



McGee

**CPN: When you talk with other paralegals, what are the main concerns or issues they face on a daily basis?**

McGee: No matter what they do — whether they work in small or large firms, a corporate environment, doing plaintiff's work or defense — most paralegals just want to know what they can do to be the best at their jobs. Successful paralegals, as a "species," are detail-oriented individuals, who can be quite competitive and usually are driven to perfection. They are constantly seeking new tools and techniques to help them excel at what they do and to improve the service rendered to their clients. They have found those professional development tools in NALA's certification and CLE programs, as well as the leadership training and volunteer opportunities offered by NALA.

**CPN: Are there issues that paralegals face in one part of the country, but not others? What are they?**

McGee: Well, obviously the economic downturn has impacted some areas of the country harder than other areas and that may have resulted in lost employment opportunities in those areas. We also know there are some areas that are so remote it is difficult for paralegals to develop a network of support. These two problems are somewhat related, in that the result is that there are paralegals who feel disconnected.

The best way to reconnect is through the networking tools offered through

NALA's website and its annual convention, or by retraining through NALA's online educational programs. Online education serves anyone with access to a computer, and the networking opportunities through NALA's Conference Center connect NALA members, making them aware of career opportunities across the country.

**CPN: In your opinion, should certification be a mandatory requirement for paralegals? Why or why not?**

McGee: I believe whether a paralegal seeks certification should be a matter of personal choice. Over the last three decades, this profession has seen great growth, and this growth will be sustained as long as there continue to be plenty of opportunities for us to apply our paralegal skills in a variety of ways.

A mandatory certification is more precisely a licensing scheme. This defines for the employers who they can and cannot hire for a job, increases the cost of hiring a paralegal and puts governmentally imposed limits on the work paralegals may be able to do. It is very possible much of what we can do now would be limited. I don't see a lot of positive benefits in government regulation of paralegals.

To me, the key is working in an environment that provides for ultimate supervision by an attorney. If that is achieved, we will always find paralegals working in many different positions, both traditional and nontraditional. Those who want to go that extra step in order to show commitment to the profession and stand out from the crowd will continue to see NALA's voluntary certification as the best means to accomplish those goals.

**CPN: If you could name one thing that would most benefit the paralegal profession, what would it be?**

McGee: My wish is that all attorneys were trained to fully appreciate the very real benefits of employing paralegals, understand how best to utilize the unique skills paralegals bring to the job

and the benefits of supporting them in their professional development.

**CPN: If you could snap your fingers and create the perfect CLE, what would it be and why?**

McGee: No need — it's already been done! NALA has created a wonderful combination of CLE options designed to meet the many learning styles and needs of paralegals. You can learn in a classroom setting where the education builds from one day to the next. You can learn through a traditional book or in one of 90 interactive online courses, or through a NALA Campus course on a Saturday morning in your slippers. It doesn't get any better than that!

**CPN: What do you wish you knew when you were getting started in the profession that you know now?**

McGee: I was lucky that there was a local paralegal association in which I could network and meet like-minded professionals who mentored me as I was learning the job. I only wish I had discovered them sooner.

**CPN: What is the best thing about your job?**

McGee: I have the pleasure of working in a challenging job where I am surrounded by professionals and have the opportunity to learn something new every day. I couldn't ask for anything more.

**CPN: And what part of your job could you do without?**

McGee: I could do without attorneys who wait until the last minute to make their filings, and then it's an emergency!

**CPN: What one thing, either personally or professionally, are you most proud of?**

McGee: While I am incredibly proud of my professional accomplishments, I would have to say I am most proud of my two daughters. They are wonderful, talented young women who make such a difference in the lives of those they touch. They constantly inspire me.



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# No response from S.C. Bar when paralegal asked to teach CLE

By LINDSAY VALEK, Special to CPN

Last month I attended a continuing legal education course sponsored by the Association of Litigation Support Professionals. The seminar, entitled "Making the Most of Technology in Trial," featured a panel of graphic designers, litigation support specialists, an attorney and a representative of the South Carolina Office of Disciplinary Counsel. Introducing myself, I discovered that nearly two-thirds of the attendees were in some form of litigation support.

That got me thinking: Could a paralegal's perspective benefit a CLE?

South Carolina attorneys are required to complete 14 hours of approved CLE courses, two of which must be committed to legal ethics and professional responsibility. The CLE requirements were implemented in 1982 and are governed by the state Supreme Court's Commission of Continuing Legal Education and Specialization, which is comprised of 12 members appointed by the high court and includes representatives from the judiciary and practicing attorneys from the four judicial regions.

While many states recommend legal education for legal assistants and paralegals, few and far between require the completion of credit hours. South Carolina does not require that paralegals meet any CLE quota.

By contrast, the Legal Assistants Division of the State Bar of Texas requires that paralegals obtain six hours of continuing legal education each year to maintain their voting rights and active membership within the organization. California, Indiana and Oklahoma also require their paralegals to obtain some CLE credit.

The practice of law is constantly evolving. Societal changes impact not only the laws that govern us, but the very process by which attorneys conduct business. Electronic discovery, encrypted metadata, iPhones and social networking are just a few examples of how the legal field has been touched by societal evolution. CLE courses keep attorneys and their support staff educated on the latest issues that affect their practices.

Ask any paralegal and chances are likely that his or her job responsibilities already include tracking and managing their attorneys' CLE requirements. But just below the surface — right underneath their attorneys' noses — lays a smorgasbord of knowledge that is quietly waiting to be unearthed.

It is the paralegal that is called upon to design PowerPoint presentations for hearings and arbitrations.

It is the paralegal who structures document databases or, in many firms, hard copy files containing hundreds of thousands of pieces of evidence.

A tech-savvy paralegal splices video deposition transcripts and embeds them into trial presentation software.

It is the paralegal who often lays the first eyes on the documents that will become the backbone of a case.

Paralegals navigate the courthouses, getting to know not only the docketing clerk who will let them make an emergency copy, but also the technology (or lack thereof) available.

So why aren't paralegals teaching CLEs?

Robert Dodson, a local Columbia attorney, has been in practice 12 years and specializes in civil litigation. He said that attorneys often discount their

paralegals' ideas and perspectives.

"Lawyers are bad at managing people. That stems from the fact that we don't get any training or education [in that area]," Dodson said. "I would love to know what a paralegal's perspective is when getting ready for a trial or hearing or interacting with clients and potential clients. Those are probably two of the most stressful parts of my paralegals' jobs and hearing what they say on that would be interesting."

Without sugarcoating the subject, paralegals aren't teaching and participating in the instruction of CLEs for a host of reasons that, in reality, lack sufficient standing.

Either those coordinating CLE programs don't think attorneys would respond to a paralegal's perspective or paralegals themselves aren't showcasing how tremendously valuable their skills, insights and roles within the legal arena really are. Perhaps it is a combination of both.

In April, I wrote to the S.C. Bar's CLE Division requesting permission to develop a CLE program taught by paralegals on



Valek

trial preparation and technology use at trial. My inquiry was bolstered by a letter of support from an attorney who had held the role of opposing counsel in a trial that I had attended.

"Ms. Valek demonstrates a strong understanding of trial preparation and the use of technology in the courtroom," he wrote. "Most often, attorneys do delegate this responsibility to paralegals and consequently they are in the best position to provide education concerning these matters. I wholeheartedly recommend that you approve Ms. Valek's proposed CLE seminar."

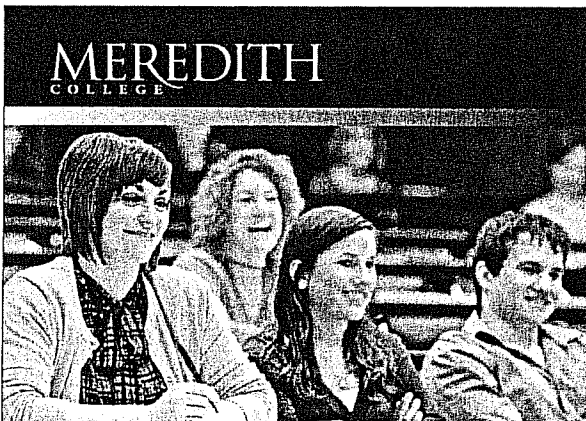
Despite follow-up letters and telephone inquiries — which inevitably led directly to voicemail — I have heard nothing from the CLE Division.

It goes without saying, then, that the paralegal's perspective is undervalued by attorneys, CLE coordinators and in many cases, paralegals themselves.

I encourage all paralegals to showcase their talents, if not to a conference room, then to your fellow staff members. Create opportunities to educate your colleagues and bosses on those skills that you perform best.

Perhaps eventually the CLE seminar circuit will catch up to how amazing we really are.

**Editor's note:** Lindsay Valek is a paralegal and writer based in Columbia, S.C.



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# Congratulations

Results from the NC paralegal certification exam are in

The North Carolina State Bar Board of Paralegal Certification just announced the names of the paralegals that passed the September certification exam.

Out of 171 hopefuls who sat for the test, 131 passed. That brings the total number of N.C.-certified paralegals to 4,343, according to Tara Wilder, assistant director of the Board of Paralegal Certification.

The newly certified paralegals are:

## A

Sylvia E. Adcock, Bobbi Adderton, Lucy M. Anderson, Cheryl Brasher Anton, Patricia Arcaea

## B

Collins Whitney Bailey, Lucy Ballantyne, Lukas Barry, Kate Ferrell Batten, Vicki Bozzola, Ruth Ann Brill, Megan E. Brown, Jean-Marie R. Buckley, Shannon Lynette Burns, Serinda J. Byrns

## C

Amanda Capps, Angela Campbell, Marilyn F. Carter, Maria D. Charles, Maura Elguera Chavez, Dana Patrice Clark, Jill B. Clark, Shila S. Cook, Virginia M. Cook, Natalie Sawyer Copeland, Steve Creech, Melissa Anne Crosby

## D

Jillian A. Davis, Kenneth W. Dietel Jr., Margaret Pate Duffey, Marco E. Duque

## F

Lacey Renee Fachan, Stephanie K. Faris, Julia Grace Fisher, Mary Beard Flannigan, Wendell Scott Floyd, Alan M. Folk, Nhu-Lang Fowler, Rebecca Freiert, Clifford J. Fullmer

## G

Danielle Rose Girard and Anita Goel

## H

Camille Elizabeth Hall and Irma Rovaite

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Sharon Ruth Ramsey, Sarah E. Ramus, Nancy C. Renn, Jodi L. Regina, Lynae C. Rhodes, Portia Lett Richardson, Karen Michelle Reid, Sara Elizabeth Riopell, Robert W. Rucfenacht

## S

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## T

Lida Missy Taheri, Sally Jean Taylor, Liisa Trent, Sarah B. Thompson, Oksana V. Tsarevskaya

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## NORTH CAROLINA

### Alamance County Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- Regular membership meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 12:20 p.m. at Carver's on Elm in Graham.

#### Notes:

• The Alamance County Paralegal Association held its first meeting of the 2010-2011 fiscal year on Sept. 21. New president Adrienne M. Lewis presented a plaque to outgoing president Hattie S. Sheets. Including Lewis, the new officers for 2010-2011 are: Hope Dodson, first vice president; Katharine Kuczowski, second vice president; Sharon Boger, secretary; Annette Younger, treasurer; Meredith Giannotti, parliamentarian and Belinda Thomas, historian.

### Asheville Area Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- Monthly membership meetings occur the first Thursday of each month at 12 p.m. at a downtown Asheville restaurant. Visit [www.aapaonline.net](http://www.aapaonline.net) for meeting details and locations.

• Topics vary from meeting to meeting. They are posted online at [www.aapaonline.net](http://www.aapaonline.net). RSVP with menu selection is needed.

- Dec. 1: Holiday social at Zeleandria from 6 to 8 p.m. Details will be coming soon.

#### Notes:

• AAPA welcomes its members to submit articles of interest for potential posting to the association's website. Send your submissions to Jenny Iaquinto, chair of the publicity committee, at [jiaquinto@roberts-stevens.com](mailto:jiaquinto@roberts-stevens.com).

• For the last quarter of 2010, AAPA will support the Salvation Army. Money or new household items/clothing will be accepted. For more information, contact Aundry Freeman at [aundry@pisgahlegal.org](mailto:aundry@pisgahlegal.org).

- The 28th Judicial District Bar recently provided \$200 grants to AAPA to fund its spring and fall seminars.

### Catawba Valley Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at various locations. Membership is open to paralegals, legal assistants, legal secretaries, attorneys, students enrolled in paralegal programs of study, paralegal educators, employees of judicial entities and other recognized legal agencies.

For more information, visit <http://www.catawbavalley-paralegalassoc.org>.

#### Notes:

- For membership inquiries, contact Cyndy Adams at [cadams.nccp@lawwaddelllaw.com](mailto:cadams.nccp@lawwaddelllaw.com) or Leah Poovey at [lpooey@PHD-LAW.com](mailto:lpooey@PHD-LAW.com).

### Cumberland County Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- Monthly membership meetings: Second Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. at various locations. Visit [www.ccpa.com](http://www.ccpa.com) for details.

### Gulford Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- GPA meets on the second Tuesday of every month in either Greensboro or High Point. Meetings are open to any attorneys, legal support staff and others connected to the legal profession. Visit GPA's Web site at [www.guilford-paralegalassociation.org](http://www.guilford-paralegalassociation.org) for information on meetings, events and local continuing education opportunities.

### Legal Support Staff of Asheville

#### Upcoming events:

- Monthly meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the law offices of Northup, McConnell & Sizemore, 123 Biltmore Ave., Asheville. No membership necessary to attend. Contact Susan D. Austin at [sda@northupmcconnell.com](mailto:sda@northupmcconnell.com) for details.

### Metrolina Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- Monthly membership meetings: Second Thursday of each month at 12 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 115 W. 7th St., Charlotte.

#### Notes:

- MPA is now on Facebook and LinkedIn.

### North Carolina Bar Association Paralegal Division

#### Notes:

- Visit [www.paralegaldivision.ncbar.org](http://www.paralegaldivision.ncbar.org) for information about news and information about upcoming meetings and CLEs.

### North Carolina Paralegal Association, Inc.

#### Notes:

- Remember that the CLA/CP exam is now computer-based. The deadline to register for the next testing window is Dec. 1. The exam will be available from Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, 2011. E-mail [jacqueline.thurman@yahoo.com](mailto:jacqueline.thurman@yahoo.com) for details.

• The NCPA is sponsoring its annual Student Scholarship Program. Any paralegal student enrolled in an accredited N.C. paralegal educational program is eligible. Win a cash scholarship, free one-year membership to NCPA and a free registration to the 2011 annual meeting. Check out [www.ncparalegal.org](http://www.ncparalegal.org) for details.

• For those who are interested in taking the CLA/CP exam, the *CP Review Manual* from NALA is now available. Visit the NCPA website and click the "NALA News" link for more details.

• Any paralegal association that is interested in becoming an affiliate of NCPA may contact affiliates director Teresa Stacey at [tas@vermonlaw.com](mailto:tas@vermonlaw.com).

• NCPA is now on Facebook and MySpace. Contact Beverly King at [bev@tissuelaw.com](mailto:bev@tissuelaw.com) if you have trouble locating NCPA on Facebook. For MySpace questions, e-mail Erin Galloway at [eburris@earthlink.net](mailto:eburris@earthlink.net).

### N.C. Advocates for Justice Paralegal Division

#### Upcoming events:

- March 16, 2011: NCAJ Spring Seminar for Paralegals at the Embassy Suites hotel in Concord, N.C. More information is available on the CLE calendar at [www.ncaj.com](http://www.ncaj.com).

### Raleigh-Wake Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- For 2010, RWPA membership meetings will occur bi-monthly. Meetings will take place from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October and December at the Holiday Inn, 4100 Glenwood Avenue, Raleigh. Featured at each luncheon are guest speakers from a variety of practice areas and local businesses. The 2010 annual seminar will not be affected by the change and will proceed as scheduled.

#### Notes:

- Any questions about RWPA can be directed to Sherry Grady at [sherry.grady@klgates.com](mailto:sherry.grady@klgates.com).

### Research Triangle Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- The Research Triangle Paralegal Association meetings occur the third Wednesday of June, August and October. A holiday meeting will occur in December.

#### Notes:

- RTPA regularly supports Interact of Wake County ([www.interactofwake.org](http://www.interactofwake.org)) and challenges you and your firms or companies to get involved. Please visit our website at [www.rtpanc.org](http://www.rtpanc.org) for additional information about upcoming meetings and events.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### Charleston Association of Legal Assistants

#### Upcoming events:

- Membership meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. Attendees can earn CLE credits for their participation in the luncheons.

- Dec. 2: CALA holiday party at the Charleston Yacht Club.

#### Notes:

• CALA is now on Facebook. Log in to the website and enter "Charleston Association of Legal Assistants" to access the page.

### S.C. Upstate Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- Educational luncheon meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m. at the Poinsett Club, 807 E. Washington St., Greenville.
- Dec. 4: Holiday party.

### Legal Staff Professionals of Greenville

#### Upcoming events:

- LSPG's regular membership meetings are on the third Wednesday of every month from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Poinsett Club. The meetings offer educational speakers and one half-hour of CLE credit. For reservations, contact Myra Culbertson at 864-239-5959 or at [mculbertson@wcsr.com](mailto:mculbertson@wcsr.com) or Laura Harling at 864-232-8722 or at [lauraharling@yahoo.com](mailto:lauraharling@yahoo.com).

- Dec. 3: LINKS deadline.

#### Notes:

• For membership inquiries, contact Laura Harling at 864-232-8722 or [lauraharling@yahoo.com](mailto:lauraharling@yahoo.com). Please visit [www.lspg.org](http://www.lspg.org) for updates and additional information.

• Members who are interested in receiving the Greenville Bar Association's newsletter can contact Melinda Davidson at [gbarnews@charter.net](mailto:gbarnews@charter.net) to be added to the distribution list.

### Legal Staff Professionals of South Carolina

#### Upcoming events:

- Jan. 29, 2011: LSPSC winter membership meeting, Columbia.
- April 29-30, 2011: LSPSC annual membership meeting, Hilton Head Island.

#### Notes:

• LSPSC is continuing to support the S.C. Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Donated items may include paper towels, toilet tissue, paper items, cups, plates, napkins, utensils, envelopes, stationary, personal items, bars of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, sanitary products, diapers and baby wipes.

- For LSPSC information, please contact Tara Jean Prevatte at (864) 271-7940 or visit [www.lspsc.org](http://www.lspsc.org).

### Legal Staff Professionals of the Lowcountry

#### Upcoming events:

- Regular membership meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 6 p.m., Sunfire Grill & Bistro, 1090 Sam Rittenberg Blvd, Charleston. The meetings offer

educational speakers and one hour of CLE credit and a short business meeting. For reservations or additional information, contact Jennifer Cook at (843) 724-1115 or [cookjmy@aol.com](mailto:cookjmy@aol.com).

### Legal Staff Professionals of the Midlands

#### Upcoming events:

- Regular membership meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 p.m., 1320 Main St., Meridian Building, 17th Floor, Columbia. A presentation by a legal education speaker will earn members a half-hour of CLE credit. A short business meeting will follow. Bring your lunch and a friend. For additional information, contact Jamie Early at (803) 422-6813.

### Palmetto Paralegal Association

#### Upcoming events:

- Regular membership meetings on the third Wednesday of each month from 12:30 to 2 p.m.
- Nov. 30: Deadline for Paralegal of the Year nominations.
- Dec. 8: Holiday social.
- Dec. 31: All CLE credits due to education chair.

### S.C. Association of Roster Administrators

#### Upcoming events:

- Regular membership meetings on the third Tuesday of each month from 1 to 2:15 p.m. at various law firms in Columbia. Visit [www.scrosteradministrators.org](http://www.scrosteradministrators.org) for more details.

## NATIONAL

### National Association of Legal Assistants

#### Notes:

• NALA Campus LIVE provides online educational courses for paralegals. The courses are offered during two sessions per year. Twelve of the 44 courses offered through the program are recommended as preparation for the certified paralegal examination.

For more information, visit [www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org).

• The NALA certification exam is now computer-based. The new exam format will be available at all NALA testing centers nationwide.

### National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.

#### Upcoming events:

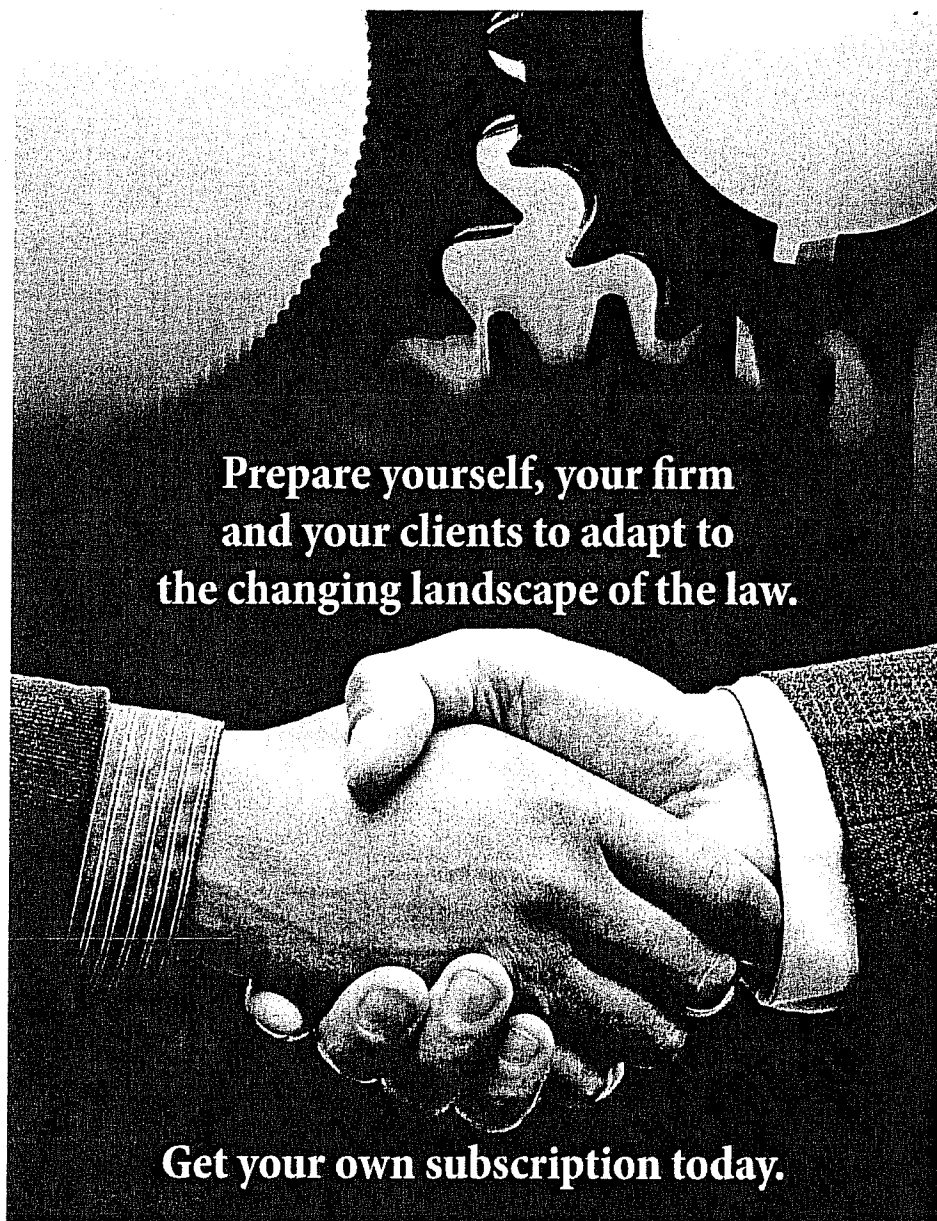
- A calendar of upcoming events and webcasts can be found at <http://www.paralegals.org/calendar.cfm>.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS:

Carolina Paralegal News is happy to publish announcements of upcoming events, association anniversaries or meetings scheduled for your paralegal organization. Please e-mail your news to [diana.smith@nclawyersweekly.com](mailto:diana.smith@nclawyersweekly.com) by Jan. 10 for the next issue.

Carolina Paralegal News on the web: Click on the link at [www.nclawyersweekly.com](http://www.nclawyersweekly.com)

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