



The Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Paralegal Association

September 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Roberta Fedorka, Pa.C.P.

ARE YOU PREPARED?

As paralegals, it is our responsibility to be prepared. We must make every effort to ensure our attorneys are prepared and have everything they need for upcoming meetings with clients, depositions, conferences, etc. Are we equally diligent in planning and being prepared at home and in our communities? September is National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It's an annual campaign to encourage us to prepare for emergencies and disasters. September was chosen as National Preparedness Month because of the September 11, 2001 tragedies highlighting the importance of being prepared, and because it is the peak of the Atlantic hurricane season. Preparedness includes prevention, protection, response and recovery efforts for all hazards – from natural disasters to terrorist attacks.

An important first step is to be informed. You can follow social media to get tips and updates. You can and should sign up for alerts and warnings by visiting www.Ready.gov or by downloading the FEMA app (www.FEMA.gov/mobile-app). (Standard message and data rates apply.) Public safety officials already use Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs), like Amber alerts and flash flood warnings you've probably already seen. WEAs look like text messages but are designed to get your attention with a unique sound and vibration, repeated twice. They are no more than 90 characters and will include the type and time of the alert, any action you should take, and the agency issuing the alert. Mobile users are NOT charged for receiving WEAs and there is no need to subscribe. Don't wait – communicate. Set up group texting so your entire group, family and loved ones, can keep in touch before, during and after an emergency.



Disasters don't plan ahead but you can. "It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark" (Howard Ruff). Have an evacuation plan in place and make sure everyone in your home is familiar with it. Practice evacuating your home with family and pets so they are more comfortable if you need to leave in an emergency. Know how to shut off utilities like electricity, gas and water. If you don't know where the shut-off valves are, call your utility company and have someone show you. Learn to use a fire extinguisher. For more information visit www.ready.gov/safety-skills.

Prepare and maintain an emergency supply kit. Some items to include are 1 gallon of water per person per day for at least 3 days; at least a 3-day supply of non-perishable food and a manual can opener; pet food and extra water for your pet(s); hand-crank or battery-powered radio and NOAA weather radio (available at Home Depot and Amazon for less than \$30) and extra batteries for both; a first-aid kit; a whistle to signal for help; dust masks; prescription medications and glasses; and sleeping bags and/or blankets. You can view the complete list and download or request free publications, including unique brochures specifically for pet owners, families with children, seniors and people with disabilities at www.FEMA.gov.

As Ben Franklin once said,

"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail."

Get involved and be a part of something larger in your community. Join a neighborhood watch group, learn CPR, donate blood and check on your neighbors. Learn skills you need to help yourself and others. Web-based training "Until Help Arrives" is available at www.ready.gov.

You ARE the help until help arrives. Paralegals, like Boy Scouts, please BE PREPARED.

Information and resources available at www.ready.gov, www.fema.gov, and www.DHS.gov.

NEXT CLE:

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
6:00 p.m.

USING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR WINNING OUTCOMES

Presented by
Christa Iannone, Sr. Litigation Consultant

Approved for 1.0(S) CLE by NFPA and Keystone Alliance

Miller, Turetsky, Rule & McLennan
3rd Floor Training Room
3770 Ridge Pike
Collegetown, PA 19426

\$10.00 for NFPA affiliated members
(evidence required)
\$20.00 for non-members

Space is limited. Please RSVP Nancy Marchese, Pa CP at:

nmarchese@millerturetsky.com

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October 26, 2017

Don't Give Up Five Minutes Before the Miracle

November 13, 2017

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PEIRCE COLLEGE LAUNCHES PROFESSOR EDWIN B. MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

For the Philadelphia-area legal community, Peirce College and Professor Ed Miller, J.D., went hand-in-hand. As the head of the College's Legal Studies programs for 16 years before his passing in December 2016, his dedication to the industry and to helping his students reach their fullest potential was legendary.



And now, that spirit will live on in the form of the **Professor Edwin B. Miller Memorial Scholarship**. Retired Peirce professor Glenn Barnes, J.D.; Dr. Ruth Shaber, founder and president of the Tara Health Foundation; and current Peirce professors Cynthia Gentile, J.D. and Ivy Kempf, J.D. have pledged a 4-to-1 match, up to \$160,000, for every dollar given to the scholarship through December 31, 2017.

Miller, formerly of Haverford, Pennsylvania, was a practicing attorney before he transitioned to education, where he believed he could have a more substantial impact on the industry he loved. As an educator, he maintained strong connections with the Philadelphia legal community to ensure the program was always teaching the skills needed most by employers. Under his leadership, Peirce-trained paralegals became some of the most sought after job applicants in the region. Additionally, the Paralegal Studies bachelor's degree program became the Philadelphia region's first and only to be approved by the American Bar Association.

At the signing ceremony on July 26th, Babette Pace, a paralegal for the City of Philadelphia and a 2005 graduate of Peirce, recalled a frightening moment in her early educational journey in which her mind went blank as she stared at the pages of one of Miller's exams. After 15 minutes, she wrote her name on the blank exam, walked it to Miller's desk and left. He quickly chased after her and told her of the confidence he had in her abilities. She returned to class and, through his inspiration and her own hard work, earned an A on the exam.

Barnes, a professor from 2003-2016, said he's making this gift to continue Professor Miller's legacy of supporting his students. Time and time again, Barnes witnessed how impactful scholarships were on Peirce students, so it seemed like the right way to honor his memory.

"Ed was the silver lining of every cloud. Whenever I had a bad day, I would call him up and he would turn it all around for me," Pace said. "

"Whenever I saw a student receive a scholarship, they experienced such joy with the realization that they were going to be able to accomplish their academic and career goals with at least some of the financial burden relieved," said Barnes. "Most Peirce students are not only working, but they also have families and many are single parents. Being able to take some of that financial pressure off their shoulders as they complete their degrees is a tremendous honor for both the student and the College."

Peirce will award the scholarship annually to students majoring in Paralegal Studies, Legal Studies in Business or Criminal Justice Studies, who demonstrate a financial need and who embody the virtues of commitment, scholarship and compassion that were emblematic of Miller's work.

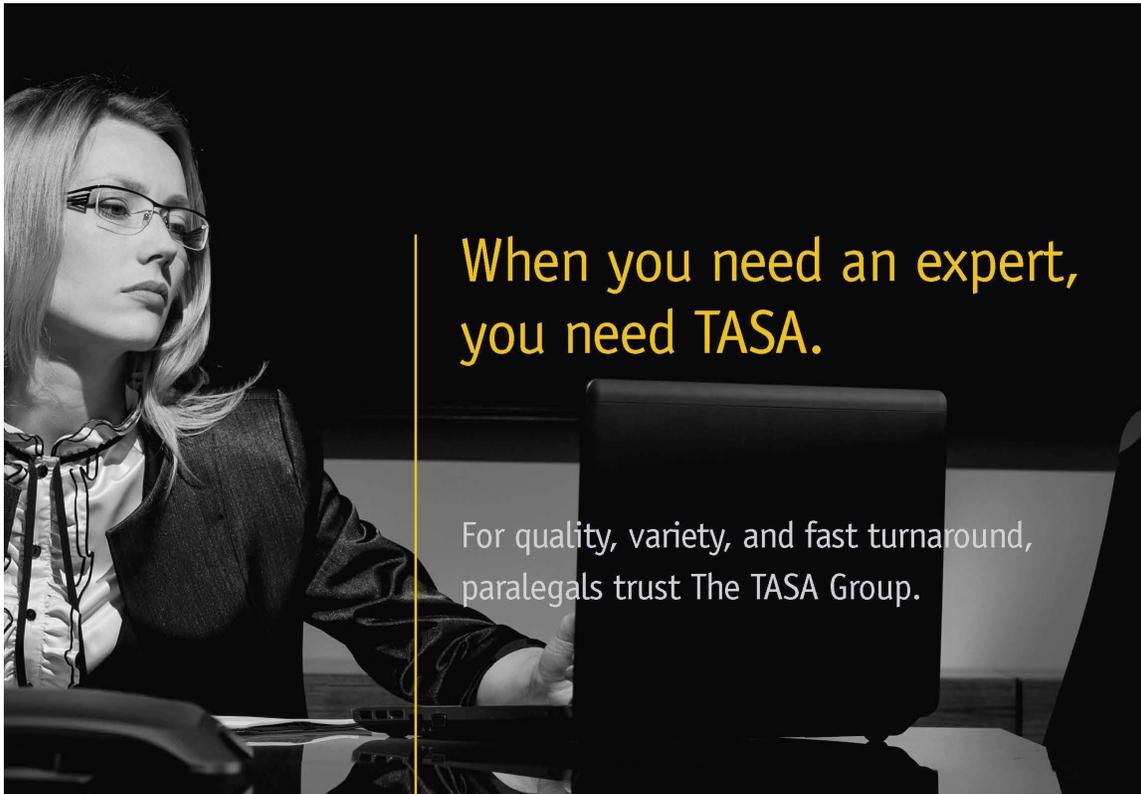
For more information, visit www.peirce.edu/edwinmillerscholarship.

PEIRCE COLLEGE LAUNCHES PROFESSOR EDWIN B. MILLER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP CONTINUED



Photo Caption (L-R): Dr. Ruth Shaber, founder and president of the Tara Health Foundation; Retired Peirce College professor Glenn Barnes, J.D. and current Peirce professors Ivy Kempf, J.D. and Cynthia Gentile, J.D. joined together to honor the late Prof. Edwin Miller by creating a memorial scholarship in his name at a June 26 ceremony at Peirce College.





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presents its

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Saturday, May 5, 2018

at Lehigh Carbon Community College's
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WILLS FOR HEROS

Saturday, September 30th

**Bucks County Public Safety Training Center
1760 S. Easton Road/Route 611
Doylestown, PA 18901**

The Public Safety Training Center (also known as the Emergency Services Training Center) is located in the same parking lot as the Bucks County Youth Center. For directions, visit <http://www.buckscounty.org/Courts/YouthCenter/BCYCDirections>.

Estate planning attorneys, non-estate planning attorneys, law clerks, law students, paralegals, paralegal students, notaries and witnesses are needed. Training will be provided for attorneys, law clerks, law students, paralegals and paralegal students and will begin at 9:00 am (2 free CLE credits will be provided courtesy of Ballard Spahr LLP) with the client appointments for first responders and military veterans beginning at 11:00 am.

Training is mandatory for anyone who has not previously volunteered or anyone who has not volunteered in the past 6 months.

Notaries and witnesses should arrive at 11:30 am.

The event will last until approximately 4:00 pm but may finish earlier. Breakfast and lunch will be provided courtesy of the Training Center.

To volunteer, please contact Sandra A. Romaszewski, Esquire, the Wills for Heroes Co-Director of National Affiliate Development and PA State Co-Coordinator at:

SRomaszewski@foxrothschild.com

When contacting Sandra, please **specify in what capacity you will be volunteering** (i.e., estate planning attorney, non-estate planning attorney, law clerk, law student, paralegal, paralegal student, notary or witness).

If you are not available to volunteer for this event, please click here for future events (see <http://www.pabar.org/site/Public/YLD/YLD-Projects/Wills-for-Heroes>).

Thank you for helping us to continue making Wills for Heroes such a successful program for our firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMS personnel, and military veterans and all of their families.



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PENNSYLVANIA NOTARY LAWS ARE CHANGING. WHAT'S IN? WHAT'S OUT?

WHAT PA NOTARIES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RENEWING THEIR COMMISSIONS

- ⇒ How does PA's new law affect office Notaries and their bosses?
- ⇒ Can I still use my current seal, Notary register/journal and certificates?
- ⇒ Why does Pennsylvania's required Notary course currently focus on the new law (effective October 26, 2017) rather than current law?
- ⇒ If I follow the new law, will I comply with current law?
- ⇒ How do I find out how to comply with current law?

To learn more about these and other topics, click [here](#).

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(610) 256-5444
rfedorka@villarilaw.com



Ro is a Paralegal at the law firm of Villari, Brandes & Giannone, PC in Conshohocken. She has been a member of MCPA since 2005 and has served as chair of the Planning &

Community Outreach Committees. She has also previously served as Treasurer for four years and Secretary for two years and was recently elected to serve as President. She resides in West Norriton with her husband, Larry.

Jen Kuemmerle, CRP, Pa.C.P.—Secretary

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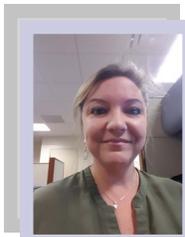


Jen is the Vice President of Finance at The Luther Woods Nursing & Rehabilitation located in Hatboro. She has served on the Association's Board of Directors and was

recently elected to serve as its Secretary. She lives in Hatboro with her husband and two children.

Suzanne H. Sarver, RP— Vice President

Gramercy Property Trust
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suzannehoffman32@yahoo.com



Suzanne works for Gramercy Property Trust as a Registered Paralegal in the Horsham office. She currently serves as a Board of Director of the Association as well as Contributing Editor to its

newsletter and has recently been elected as the Vice President. She resides in Upper Gwynedd with her husband Brian and their two labs, Frack and Powerstroke.

Kelly Smith, Pa.C.P. —Treasurer

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(610) 275-2000
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Kelly is a Paralegal at the law firm of Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer in its Norristown office. She currently serves as the Association Treasurer, a position she has held since 2013. She is also the Job

Bank Coordinator for the MCPA. She lives in Phoenixville with her cat, Emmett J.

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Christopher Gregg
(2017—2019)

Chris works for the law firm, Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer as a Paralegal. He has been an active board member for the past 3 years and serves as its Social Media Committee Chair. Chris was born and raised in Willow Grove and still resides there with his family and their dachshund Queenie.



Noreen Messmer, Pa. C.P.
(2017—2019)

Noreen is a Paralegal with the law firm of Ford & Buckman, P.C. in Blue Bell and has worked with Sarah Ford, Esquire for over 40 years. She has been a Board member since 2010 and also serves on the Hospitality/Planning Committee. Noreen lives in Blue Bell and is the mother of three and Nana to three granddaughters.



Michelle Calkins, Pa. C.P.
(2017—2019)

Michelle is a Paralegal with Miller, Turetsky, Rule & McLennan located in Collegeville. She is an active member of the Association and currently serves as the Layout Editor of the MCPA newsletter. She lives live in Collegeville with her husband, Wes.



Shari Weber Bradley, Pa. C.P.
(2016—2018)

Shari works for Peter E. Bort, Esquire at Bort Law which is a general practice firm. A long time member of MCPA, she was recently elected to the Board of Directors. Shari lives in Eagleville and is the mother of two twenty something boys and stepmother of three teen boys.



Nancy Piechota, Pa. C.P.
(2016—2018)

Nancy is a Paralegal at the law firm of Mannion Prior, LLP in King of Prussia. Nancy was recently elected to the Board of Directors and also serves as Chair of the Marketing Committee. She lives in Berks County with her husband, Joe and rescue dogs.

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