A Message from the President:

Our association is built on relationships. As you heard earlier, our association has numerous committees that function together to make the association a better organization. From formal CLE meetings to social functions, community outreach and Pro Bono events, MCPA is an active organization. The 2012 Planning Committee was hard at work. For the first time, we had our year lined up in advance. We started off 2012 with the Honorable Carolyn Carluccio speaking to us at the Kickoff. We had Mary Pugh, Esquire, and Sharon Jones, Esquire, share with us regarding MCAP. At our yearly breakfast meeting in March, we had Elizabeth Staber, JD of the Independence Planning Group. April and May brought speakers Sondra Miller Wein, Esquire, speaking about Immigration Law and Paul Herrmann on eDiscovery. Once again the Montgomery Bar Association sponsored our Paralegal Celebration in July. The silent auction raised over $500 for MCAP. In September, we had Medical Legal Consultants share regarding Medical Malpractice. And who can forget the failed field sobriety tests that Steve Fairlie, Esquire, had our very own Harry Reichner attempt – and fail. In November we heard from the incoming Bar Association President, Paul Troy, Esquire, on avoiding legal malpractice. We ended the year with the Holiday Social in December.

In 2012, MCPA once again sponsored a hole at the Legal Aid Golf Classic, donated to the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project and participated in the Bar Association Mock Trials and the Legal Expo. In 2012, fundraisers were added for donations to Manna on Main Street and Legal Aid and our members took an active role with Special Olympics. The Marketing and Public Relations Committee revamped the sponsorship packages and we have added several new sponsors. Our website was reworked and upgraded by our webmaster, Harry Reichner. Our Social Media Chair, Christopher Gregg has continued to promote MCPA via Facebook. MCPA Paralegal Articles also appeared in the quarterly publication of the “Sidebar” and online in 2012.

As paralegals, we play a key role in delivering legal services at our places of work. In the early 1980s the courts and the legal community at large began to recognize that paralegals were separate from support staff. As an association, we are here to take an active role and make a difference. MCPA is a forum for the exchange of ideas. We take an active role in the development and growth of the paralegal profession at the local, state and national levels. As such, our Community Outreach Chairperson, Ro Fedorka, has also become an active member of the Montgomery Bar Association Community Outreach Committee. We have several members who are highly involved with the Keystone Alliance and the National Federation of Paralegal Associations.

The Bar Association has allowed our membership to utilize the listserv – not without its problems and a concept many of us are still learning to use – but we’re now able to send our email blasts to our members as well as receive information on CLE events sponsored by the Bar. As a member of MCPA, we are being offered Bar Association CLE events at member pricing.

In 2013 we will continue to work on implementing a Paralegal Scholarship for those interested in taking the PACE and PCC Exams, more Pro Bono activities and a membership drive.

There are many, many ways for you, our members to become involved with the association. Thank you all and I look forward to another great year with MCPA.

Annette M. Long, President
Board of Directors-2013

Officers:
Annette M. Long, CRP
President

Harry Reichner, M.A.
Vice President

Kelly Smith
Treasurer

Lindsay Bean
Secretary

Board Members:

Christopher Gregg ~ Sheila Kees-Hayden, Pa C.P.
Laura Garifo, Pa. C.P.

Student Liaisons

Lansdale School of Business
TBD

Peirce College
Erika L. Turner-Stokes

Manor College
Suzanne Hasty

Villanova University
Lesley H. Aronson Shade

Bucks County Community College
Kim Sullivan and Brett D’Antonio
SAVE THE DATE...

February 7  Board Meeting
Time:  
6:00 p.m.
Location:  
Elliot Greenleaf
925 Harvest Drive
Blue Bell, Pa 19422

February 21 General Membership and CLE Meeting
Topic:  
“Hot Topics in Education Law”
Time:  
6:00 p.m.
Location:  
Whitpain Township Building
960 Wentz Road
Blue Bell, Pa 19422

March 9 Annual Breakfast Meeting
Time:  
10:00 a.m.
Location:  
Zoto’s Diner
1100 Bethlehem Pike
Hatfield, Pa 19440

If you have any suggestions to offer on topics, venues and/or speakers for upcoming events, please contact Kathleen Zamorski at kmz@elliottgreenleaf.com.

Mark your calendar now.

Follow MCPA at our new location on Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Montgomery-County-Paralegal-Association/268109046565145

Don’t forget to

Check back for photo, news, and announcement updates!
Support those who support us!

All of the sponsors appearing in the MCPA Today provide financial support to keep MCPA programs affordable to its members. Remember our sponsors the next time you need a service.

Check the MCPA website (www.montoparalegals.org) for links to sponsors’ websites.

The Montgomery County Paralegal Association was happy to support Legal Aid with the 2012 pasta fundraiser. Legal Aid is a non-profit Pennsylvania corporation committed to delivering high quality civil legal services to low-income people, victims of domestic abuse and the elderly living in our area. Created in January 2001, Legal Aid provides their services for people living in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. Those in need can contact them on their toll-free hotline, available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Legal Aid has six full-time staff members operating out of offices in Bristol, Doylestown, Norristown, Pottstown, West Chester and Chester.

On December 5, 2012, the Association was happy to present Harvey Strauss, Co-Executive Director, with a check at the holiday social at PJ Whelihan’s in Blue Bell. The fundraiser raised $609, which was matched by the Association for a total donation of $1,218 to this much-needed organization.

Harvey had this message for MCPA members:

“On behalf of all of us at Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania’s Montgomery County division, I want to thank you again for the $1,218 check you presented to me on 12/8/12. I know this represented the proceeds from the “Fun Pasta” sale that was then matched by your Association. As I mentioned, your funds will be used to help our program to provide free civil legal aid to low-income residents of Montgomery County.

Please pass on our very sincere thanks to all of your members.”

Submitted by Kelly Smith
RISE ABOVE

100 Ross Rd. Suite 204
King of Prussia, PA 19406

&

100 Porter Rd. Suite 200
Pottstown, PA 19464

Phone: (484) - 681-4040  Fax: 484 - 681-9734

A Licensed Drug and Alcohol Outpatient Program with extensive experience in working alongside the criminal justice system and engaging clients with respect and dignity

Our mission is to empower people in need, helping them attain the highest level of independence possible and build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

Conveniently located offices in King of Prussia (upstairs from Montco Adult Probation and DUI Administration) and Pottstown (near the Pottstown Hospital)

Our services include Drug and Alcohol counseling, anger management and domestic violence groups (S.A.F.E)

Specializing in Treatment Determination Evaluations; comprehensive, clinical evaluations offering treatment and supervision recommendations for individuals involved in the criminal justice system at all levels.

Another people-helping-people project from Resources for Human Development. Call for a description of rates. Spanish language services available.
Two Day Basic Collaborative Law Training
Fri., January 25 and Sat., January 26
9-5pm
10.5 PA Attorney CLE credits
(Pending)

Bucks County Community College
Lower Bucks Campus
1304 Veterans Highway
Bristol, PA 19007

Facilitated By:
Collaborative Expert and Bucks County Collaborative Law Group President
Tracy A. Timby, Esquire

An introductory two-day course featuring training provided by leaders and pioneers in Bucks County Collaborative Practice. The course lays a solid foundation and highlights the nuts and bolts of collaborative law. This two day training is interactive with role play of each aspect of a collaborative case including mental health and financial professionals. The training will demonstrate why traditional approaches to divorce do not help couples and their children reach optimal lasting solutions, and why collaborative family law is so powerfully effective.

Registration – $490 per person, before January 4th
- $525 per person, after January 4th

Mail completed registration form along with check payable to:

TimbyHunt, LLC
110 N. State Street
Newtown, PA 18940

For more information contact:
Tracy Timby, Esq. at 215-968-6886, tracytimby@timbyhunt.com

10.5 PA CLE CREDITS FOR ATTORNEYS - Pending

Name: ________________________________

Profession: ________________________________

Firm: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________  
__________________________________________________________________________

E-mail: ________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

Fax: ________________________________

Are you currently a member of a Collaborative Law Group?  
Yes  No

If yes, what is the name of the group:  
__________________________________________________________________________

I have had the following training:

__________________________________________________________________________
Recent Meetings & Events Recaps

Paul C. Troy Esq. Addresses MCPA Members Regarding Avoiding Legal Malpractice: How to Help Protect Your Firm from Professional Liability

Joni Lahr-Magee M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

On Thursday, November 29, 2012 at 6 p.m., the MCPA held its annual elections meeting at the Giant Community Center in Willow Grove. President Annette M. Long CRP presided over the meeting. Annette announced that $1,000 from our successful fundraiser would be awarded to Montgomery County Legal Aid. We have three new board members: Kelly Smith, Christopher Gregg and Laura Garifo. The holiday social will feature a jewelry and handbag trunk show. We are looking for a Pierce Paralegal School student liaison and a volunteer to give out and collect nametags for each meeting. MCPA has a new gold sponsor: Morgan Wentworth recruiters. Morgan Wentworth is sponsoring tonight's program.

Having dispensed with the announcements, Annette then turned the spotlight over to Paul C. Troy. Mr. Troy focuses his practice on professional liability; commercial, auto and general liability; and medical malpractice litigation. Mr. Troy presently serves as the Chair of the House of Delegates of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. He is a Life Fellow of the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation and served on the Board of Directors of the PBF from 1998 to 2000. He is a past President of the Montgomery County Trial Lawyers Section. He served as a Director of the Montgomery Bar Association from 1997 to 1999 and presently serves as an Officer of the MBA. At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute in May, Paul Troy was elected Vice President of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. He has previously served as Secretary and Treasurer of the PBI. Paul Troy recently presented Continuing Legal Education Seminars entitled “Avoiding Legal Malpractice” to the Bar Associations of Montgomery, Bucks and Lehigh counties. Mr. Troy teaches this program several times annually to county bar associations and law firms as part of his work with the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Professional Liability Committee.

In his presentation on “Avoiding Legal Malpractice: How to Help Protect Your Firm from Professional Liability,” Mr. Troy stressed that it is not only the bottom of the barrel of lawyers who may be sued. Rather, any attorney can be sued. Common issues that cause attorney malpractice suits are: failing to file the lawsuit before the statute of limitations expires; filing suit against the wrong party; failing to keep the client's expectations under control; dabbling in types of suits with which the attorney is unfamiliar; failure to compose an engagement letter documenting the estimated length of the case, the cost of the case, and realistic estimate of the client's chances for prevailing in the suit; failing to document notification of the client that the case is not going well if the case has become a monster and the client is unlikely to prevail.

How can an attorney avoid a countersuit from a client he has taken to collections? The attorney can show the client the engagement letter documenting the estimated length of the case, the cost of the case, and realistic estimate of the client's chances for prevailing in the suit that both
attorney and client signed at the outset of the case. As cases progress, documenting advice that the client's chances are beginning to look less rosy are very helpful if the client eventually sues. The attorney may recommend that the client refer the suit to the fee dispute committee of the Montgomery County Bar. If the attorney wants to withdraw from the case due to nonpayment of fees, it is important that he ask permission of the court to do so.

Mr. Troy then spoke of the role of the paralegal in preventing malpractice suits against their firms. Paralegals facilitate communication between the client and the attorney. With that function and the attorney's permission, they can help keep the client's expectations under control. Paralegals may help to avoid missing the statute of limitations by making sure the complaint is filed early. They can use investigators to ensure they have sued the proper party. They keep track of clients’ escrow accounts to verify they are being replenished in a timely manner.

The MCPA is grateful to Paul C. Troy for his interesting and informative presentation. Thanks are also extended to the Giant Conference Center for the use of their conference room. Thanks are extended to our new gold sponsor, Morgan Wentworth, LLC for refreshments and favors. It is this type of support that helps us to maintain our commitment of professional growth and development to our members and to the paralegal profession in general.
Recent Meetings & Events Recaps (Continued)

The Spirit of Giving
Ro Fedorka

In these tough economic times, many families in our area find themselves in need of help feeding their families, heating their homes, paying household bills and making holiday memories for their children. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of many of our members, we were able to help those in need. The food and diapers that we collect at our meetings helps lessen the burden on some families. Our collection for the Holiday Adopt-a-Child Gift Program allowed us to be a part of Manna on Main’s biggest toy distribution to date. With our help, they distributed more than 2,000 toys to 449 children during the holidays. That was quite an undertaking!

Our members’ donations helped put big smiles on the faces of three of those children. We were able to buy them each a heavy winter coat and a couple of outfits. We also bought each child several toys from their wish lists. The little girl got her light-up pillow pet, Play-Doh cookie-making set and a few other toys. The boys both got their Super Hero Lego sets, cars, games and other Super Hero toys they requested. It is great to see people come together and make a difference when it is needed most. Thank you very much to everyone that contributed. Please know that every little gesture of kindness is greatly appreciated.
Bucks County Collaborative Law Group
Promoting alternatives to litigation in resolving marriage & parenting issues in Northeastern, Pennsylvania

Presents:

Advanced Training - Collaborative in Practice

January 24, 2013  9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Presented by:

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

PA: This course is pending approval by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania Board on Continuing Legal Education for 6.00 total CLE hours instruction.

Location: Bucks County Community College, Lower Bucks Campus, 1304 Veterans Highway, Bristol, PA 19007. Phone: (267) 685-4800. We have a limited amount of slots for training participants.

Please register early to receive the reduced rate.

Registration
Please complete & mail with payment to Bucks County Collaborative Law Group (BCCLG), c/o Tracy L. Timby, Esquire, 110 N. State Street, Newtown, PA 18940. Phone (215) 968-8886.

BCCLG Members Up to 1/15/2013 1/15/2013 - 1/24/13
$175.00 $275.00 $290.00

Name: __________________________ Organization: __________________________

I am an: Attorney □ Mental health professional □ Financial professional □ Mediator □ Other □ Credential Letters* (ex. LCSW-C, Esq, etc.) _____________

State(s) of Admission/License & License Number(s): __________________________

Address:

Phone No: ___ E-mail: __________________________ Website: __________________________

Advance cancellation refund policy: 31+ days, 100%; 30 days; 75%; 14 days 50%; 8 days, 25%. We regret that we cannot honor refund requests within 7 days before the training. You must attend the entire training to receive a Certificate of Attendance. Please call 215-968-8886 with any questions.
Becoming a Paralegal: A New Graduate’s Experience

Lesley Aronson

Starting a career as paralegal is not always easy. I believed that my career as a paralegal would begin very differently and years ago. I thought I would get my start at a large law firm in Richmond, Virginia in May 2009 upon graduation from the University of Richmond. As a recent graduate who had just obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science, I was disappointed to learn that the job world wasn’t interested in giving me a well-paying job that required specific skill sets. After all, why then did I have a large amount of debt waiting for me to make payments on each month after graduation? Did I just waste the last four years of my life to obtain a worthless piece of paper? Without any job prospects in the Richmond area, I moved home to Pennsylvania to see if there were any opportunities for me there.

Unfortunately nothing promising came about, so I volunteered to work on a local political campaign and found a job as a receptionist at an animal hospital that was 45 minutes away from my parent’s home. I swallowed my pride and decided that at least if I was going to work as a receptionist, I would be around lots of animals. As it turns out, I really liked being around animals and even considered changing career paths to become a veterinary technician. Besides enjoying spending time around animals, I learned that I have a desire to help them. I was introduced to the concept of animal rescue and I haven’t looked back. I networked with people I had never met (and still have not) to assist with the rescue of animals from abusive situations. About half of the women I spoke with through animal rescue were paralegals themselves.

I sometimes wonder why so many people involved with animal rescue were in the same professional field. Perhaps it’s because they’re smart people who think outside the box, who understand the law and want to change it to protect those without voices. Or, it could be that they are driven individuals who are also compassionate and who work well together to accomplish a task. Whatever it is, I’d like to think that paralegals are attracted to their line of work to make some kind of difference and be a part of a team.

After almost two years working in veterinary care, I accepted a position for a small firm working as a legal secretary and marketing director. I enrolled in Villanova’s Paralegal Part-Time studies program, allowing me to work full-time and attend classes in the evenings for one year. Villanova was an easy choice because it is an approved school through the American Bar Association. The ABA Certification is something many employers now look for and is becoming the standard in the paralegal profession. Last year I received an email from the Villanova director with a job posting for a large corporation that caught my eye. The position was for an entry-level paralegal in the in-house counsel law department. I read through the posting, which outlined the duties and responsibilities required for the job. Some of the tasks looked familiar from business law class but other parts weren’t as familiar to me. Nevertheless, I applied to see if it would be a good fit. Turns out, my skill sets and past experiences were exactly what the company was looking for. In a rare opportunity, the company was willing to hire a recent paralegal graduate and teach them everything they need to know to successfully do their job. The seemingly intimidating and quiet law department was filled with a nice group of people, making it easier to see myself there. To make it even better, many of them had rescued an animal or are involved with rescue. Talk about a good selling point for me. The
way I see it, the work environment is great and even during the stressful days, the professionals I work with are good people who share my interests.

My opportunity to come into the company as a new paralegal is unique. I have been given time to adjust and learn, make mistakes and do things I never knew paralegals can do. I knew very little about the stock market and now I manage all employee stock option exercises and speak with brokers daily. I knew of minute books that had to be kept for businesses but only in a minimal capacity for small business. As a large corporation, minutes are drafted frequently for different committees and I help prepare them for the minute books. Another aspect of my job that I had little familiarity with is the filing of SEC compliance documents like 8-K, 10-Q and 10-K filings.

I have been shown how to shepardize the federal regulations that apply to the SEC filings. Along with that, I assist in the preparation and circulation of questionnaires to all members of upper-management and the board of directors for the information to draft the filings. Another aspect of my job I enjoy is that I have one client -my company - and I know it well despite its expansive national and international presence. I have been able to act as a liaison between hired outside counsel and the company to manage various cases. My position as a paralegal allows me to learn often and work on a variety of projects.

Very recently I was offered a promotion to become the Corporate Paralegal for the Company. As the New Year rings in, I will begin a new path to becoming a more specialized paralegal professional. The new opportunity will allow me to gain a greater understanding and knowledge of corporate governance and executive compensation. For example, instead of helping to post materials for board meetings, I will be able to assist the Corporate Governance and Securities Attorneys to prepare the materials. I am looking forward to starting 2013 with a new focus!

My advice to new paralegals is to start small; sometimes there isn’t a big break that happens just because you deserve it for earning a degree. Sometimes, it’s finding ways around landing the perfect job to gain the skills you need to impress a future employer. Learning as much as you can from experiences you wouldn’t normally think apply to paralegal skills may open your eyes and give you a competitive edge over other applicants.

=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=*=**

Individual Income Tax Return Preparation
25 Years Experience
Louis F. Murray, CPA
610-247-4483
lfmurray2@aol.com
New clients receive a 10% discount when you mention this advertisement.
Student Section (Continued)

The following news was submitted by Suzanne Hasty, Student Liaison for Manor College:

The spring semester will start on January 14th, and there are a host of events on tap for the next few months. The legal studies students are looking forward to some spring events such as our Law Symposium and Mock Trial. Also, the Legal Studies Student Association (LSSA) will be participating in the Wills for Heroes on April 6th.
Introduces:

Meg Donahue Halloran, Esq.
Director of Staff Recruitment

Paralegals and Legal Assistants!

Meg looks forward to assisting you in finding the position that best matches your experience, goals, and career objectives.

Contact Meg at:

800 Penllyn Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422
(610)783-0900 ext. 23
meghalloran@morganwentworth.com
Student Affairs and Mentoring News

Student Affairs and Mentoring Committee Needs You
Lisa M. LaPenna, Pa.C.P.

The Peirce College® Paralegal Student Association will be hosting the Paralegal Studies Symposium and Networking Event on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm at Peirce College, Main Campus Building, Symposium Rooms 51 and 52. Keynote Address Focus: A View from the Bench: The Judicial Perspective of our Legal System and the Role of the Paralegal. Keynote Speakers: The Honorable Nathaniel C. Nichols, Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County, Pennsylvania and The Honorable Mark S. Vavala, Commissioner, Superior Court of Wilmington, Delaware.

Please join Peirce for an evening of networking with colleagues, making new connections, and learning about opportunities in the legal community!

MCPA will be participating in this event by having a table to answer any questions about our association. If you would like to help out, please contact Lisa LaPenna at (610) 941-2523 or llapenna@kaplaw.com.

On another note, if your company or law firm is willing to provide an externship or internship to our student members, please contact me. Our student members are always willing to gain more “hands on” experience.

++++++++++++

Student Liaison Program

If you would like to become a student liaison – the middleman/woman between your school and the Montgomery County Paralegal Association, the time has come. Prospective candidates must be enrolled in a paralegal studies program and able to attend one Board Meeting a month held in Montgomery County. Although student liaisons do not have voting power, they can provide input to the Board on behalf of their fellow students regarding their needs and how the Association can better serve them. Student liaisons also assist with coordinating speaking events and informational sessions between the MCPA and their respective schools.

If you are interested, please submit a short bio/resume to me, Lisa LaPenna at (610) 941-2523 or llapenna@kaplaw.com, no later than November 19th. Please include the name of your school, expected graduation date, job (if you have one), any legal experience, and any other organizations with which you may be affiliated. I will review and submit to the Board for final approval. The appointment of Student Liaisons to our Board of Directors has not only been a huge success, but it has piqued interest with other local associations. This is a networking opportunity, which can benefit your career search as a paralegal. Your voice as a student needs to be heard!

++++++++++++
BOOKS/APPS/WEBSITES – We NEED You!

Shari Weber Bradley, Pa C.P.

BOOKS: What book have you read recently that is enlightening, inspiring, or just plain helpful to paralegals? (It does not have to be non-fiction.) We are collecting book recommendations for our list: 30 Books Every Paralegal Should Read.

Please fill out the following information and email it to me at sweber@bortlaw.com.

Book Name:
Author:
Description on why paralegals would like it:

APPS: What Smartphone/Droid/Iphone apps do you find helpful to your job or just plain interesting?

App:
Description:

WEBSITES: Reliable Internet sites can be so helpful to paralegals in our jobs. What website do you find yourself going to time and again for information?

Site:
Description:

I look forward to collecting your ideas and recommendations! Stay tuned for the next issue of MCPA Today for the results.
Helpful Hints from our Colleagues

Resolve to Be Organized

Harry A. Reichner. M.A.

With the New Year upon us, I think that many paralegals are resolving to be a little more organized in 2013. Being organized can make life easier and less stressful when your schedule gets full, and here are some simple ways that you can keep yourself organized without any hassle:

**Give each item a “home,”** meaning everything in your work area has a place where it stays, so certain parts of your work area have the items you use for certain tasks. The reason you want everything to have a certain “home” is so that before you leave your work area every day, whatever you used can be returned quickly to its proper place, and you **never create clutter.** When you utilize this "clean as you go" method, you only need a few minutes every day before leaving work to set things right. It's great to come in to a pristine work area every morning.

**Use a physical, Outlook or smartphone calendar or planner:** Now this may seem like something that is common knowledge, but a lot of people use a calendar or planner and then never look at it. Putting a calendar in a place where you can see it and making sure that you look at it every day is something that you need to put in your routine. After making your coffee or before getting ready to start your day, make sure you look at the day and take note of what you need to get done. Today's Outlook and smartphone calendars have great pop-up reminder features that make appointments, reminders and tickler events a breeze to create.

**Make a list for the day:** After looking at your calendar, you write down tasks you need to get done or what you need to do to accomplish the tasks. Giving yourself a visual of what you need to do gets rid of the worry that you may have forgotten something or helps you remember an item that may have slipped your mind. Outlook has task functions and smartphones have apps available such as Todoist ([http://todoist.com/](http://todoist.com/)) that keep track of your running task list.

**Scan every document:** Most law firms utilize a document management system. Know your firm's system inside and out. Scan and electronically file every physical document you touch. This practice reduces the amount of paper clutter in your work area and will lead to increased productivity because you don't have to hunt down lost files and documents. I have a "scan first" policy at my office- my attorneys, colleagues and clients have come to depend on me because I can locate and transmit needed documents quickly.

I hope these practices will make you an indispensable asset to your firm in 2013!

**What are some ways that you stay organized?** E-mail april.solla@gmail.com. Submissions will be reprinted in the next edition of MCPA Today.
A Recommended Read

12 Tips to Help You -- and Your Career -- Thrive in 2013

Vicki Voisin, ACP

As you kick off the New Year, instead of "resolutions" look for "real solutions" that will help you grow and flourish in the 12 months ahead.

Here are 12 tips to help you make 2013 one of your best years ever:

1. Look for the opportunities and be prepared to take advantage of them.
2. When you make plans, back them up with action. A plan without action is just a wish.
3. Doing what's right may not be the easiest way, but it is the best way.
4. When you encounter negativity, respond with education instead of anger.
5. Nourish your mind every day with new information that educates, motivates and inspires you.
6. Deliver on your promises and exceed expectations.
7. Always ask, “What can I learn from this situation?”
8. Do not be a follower. Instead, find the courage to be your unique self.
9. In addition to work that pays, do work that matters.
10. When you start a project, always be working on the end result you want.
11. Avoid fixating on disturbing news and disasters that you can do nothing about.
12. Rather than complain, create a solution.

What would you add to this list? Follow this link to leave a comment at my blog.

© 2012 Vicki Voisin, Inc.

Vicki Voisin, “The Paralegal Mentor”, delivers simple strategies for paralegals and other professionals to create success and satisfaction by setting goals and determining the direction they will take their careers. Vicki spotlights resources, organizational tips, ethics issues, and other areas of continuing education to help paralegals and others reach their full potential. She is the co-author of The Professional Paralegal: A Guide to Finding a Job and Career Success. Vicki publishes Paralegal Strategies, a weekly e-newsletter for paralegals, and co-hosts The Paralegal Voice, a monthly podcast produced by Legal Talk Network.
VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MCPA

Below are the names and contact information for the Chairpersons of the various MCPA committees. If you have an idea or would like to volunteer, please contact a Chairperson! The Fundraising and Public Relations Committees are newly formed and are actively seeking new committee members.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate membership drives and</td>
<td><a href="mailto:TBarnes@dischellbartle.com">TBarnes@dischellbartle.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>membership matters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newsletter</th>
<th>Rachel Fineberg, Committee Chair</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solicit and write articles; layout and editing for the bi-monthly newsletter, MCPA Today</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rfineberg@goldblumhess.com">rfineberg@goldblumhess.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Bank</th>
<th>Kelly Smith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solicit, accumulate, and distribute current job postings to the general membership</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ksmith@kanepugh.com">ksmith@kanepugh.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marketing</th>
<th>Deborah A. Long, Pa. C.P.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solicit sponsors and advertisers for MCPA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:deblong420@gmail.com">deblong420@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deborah A. Arbuckle, Pa. C.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:darbuckle@kaplaw.com">darbuckle@kaplaw.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Relations</th>
<th>Annette M. Long, CRP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promote the MCPA in the legal and general Community</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amlong83@gmail.com">amlong83@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospitality &amp; Events Planning</th>
<th>Kathleen M. Zamorski, Pa. C.P.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan and schedule upcoming MCPA presentations, meetings and social events</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmz@elliottgreenleaf.com">kmz@elliottgreenleaf.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Outreach &amp; Pro Bono</th>
<th>Roberta Fedorka, Pa. C.P.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan and schedule MCPA charitable and community events</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rfedorka@obrlaw.com">rfedorka@obrlaw.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>TBD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organize and hold fundraisers for the Association and/or charitable organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Affairs &amp; Mentoring</th>
<th>Lisa LaPenna, Pa. C.P.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide a range of services and support to students interested in a paralegal career</td>
<td><a href="mailto:llapenna@kaplaw.com">llapenna@kaplaw.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

*Theodore Roosevelt*

**********
# How to Contact Us-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Board Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **President:**  
Annette M. Long, CRP  
610-275-2000  
amlong83@gmail.com |
| Noreen Messmer, Pa. C.P.  
215-628-9000  
nmessmer@fordbuckman.com |
| **Vice President:**  
Harry A. Reichner  
610-205-1560  
hreichner@groundworklaw.com |
| Kathleen M. Zamorski, Pa. C.P.  
kmz@elliottgreenleaf.com |
| **Treasurer:**  
Kelly Smith  
484-824-5668  
ksmith@kanepugh.com |
| Sheila Kees-Hayden, Pa C.P.  
215-643-0941  
srkshamrock9@yahoo.com |
| **Secretary:**  
Lindsay Bean  
610-505-8694  
lindsay.tait@gmail.com |
| Christopher Gregg  
215-704-2458  
cgregg@kanepugh.com |
| Website: [www.montcoparalegals.org](http://www.montcoparalegals.org) |
| Laura Garifo, Pa. C.P.  
215-880-2839  
lgarifo@geisrealty.com |
| **2012 Student Liaisons** |
| Hospitality & Events Planning:  
Kathleen M. Zamorski, Pa. C.P.  
kmz@elliottgreenleaf.com |
| Marketing & Public Relations:  
- Marketing Co-Chairs:  
  Debbie Long, Pa. C.P.  
debleong420@gmail.com  
  Debbie Arbuckle, Pa. C.P.  
darbuckle@kaplaw.com |
| - Public Relations Chair:  
  Annette M. Long, CRP  
amlong83@gmail.com |
| Marketing Co-Chairs:  
  Debbie Long, Pa. C.P.  
debleong420@gmail.com  
  Debbie Arbuckle, Pa. C.P.  
darbuckle@kaplaw.com |
| **Student Affairs & Mentoring:**  
Lisa LaPenna, Pa. C.P.  
llapenna@kaplaw.com |
| **2013 Representatives and Coordinators** |
| Newsletter:  
Committee Chair: Rachel Fineberg  
  rfineberg@goldblumhess.com |
| Contributing Editor: April Solla  
  april.solla@gmail.com |
| Layout Editor: Kate Capanear  
  kate8708@hotmail.com |
| Committee Chair: Rachel Fineberg  
  rfineberg@goldblumhess.com |
| Contributing Editor: April Solla  
  april.solla@gmail.com |
| Layout Editor: Kate Capanear  
  kate8708@hotmail.com |
| **Membership:**  
Tracey Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.  
  TBarnes@dischellbartle.com |
| **Community Outreach & Pro Bono:**  
Ro Fedorka, Pa. C.P.  
  rfedorka@obrlaw.com |
| **Fundraising:**  
TBD |
| **Social Media:**  
Christopher Gregg  
  cdgregg@gmail.com |
| **Bar Liaison:**  
Annette M. Long, CRP  
amlong83@gmail.com |
| **NFPA Primary Delegate:**  
Debbie Arbuckle, Pa. C.P.  
darbuckle@kaplaw.com |
| **NFPA Secondary Delegate:**  
Sherry Barag, CRP, Pa. C.P.  
sbarag@foxrothschild.com |
| **Keystone Alliance Primary Delegate:**  
Harry Reichner  
Hreichner@groundworklaw.com |
| **Keystone Alliance Secondary Delegate:**  
Tracey Barnes  
  TBarnes@dischellbartle.com |
| **Certification Ambassador (PACE & PCC):**  
Sherry Barag, CRP, Pa. C.P.  
sbarag@foxrothschild.com |
| **CLE Coordinator:**  
Tracey Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.  
  TBarnes@dischellbartle.com |
| **Job Bank Coordinator:**  
Kelly Smith  
  ksmith@kanepugh.com |
| **Webmaster:**  
Harry A. Reichner  
Hreichner@groundworklaw.com |