

MCPA TODAY

The Official Publication of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association

March 2011

www.montcoparalegals.org

Editor: Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.

Message From the President

As we turn our clocks ahead and “spring forward”, I can’t help but think... I’m so glad the snow and cold are about gone! Looking forward to warmer days of sunshine, sand and surf in the near future.

One of my favorite quotes by Ralph Waldo Emerson - “Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and **LEAVE A TRAIL.**” MCPA is endeavoring to leave a trail and have some exciting opportunities for the membership to become involved with this year. Some of these include:

1. The **Yankee Candle Fundraiser** is a wonderful opportunity for us to raise funds for MCPA. These are the high-quality; brand name candles which burn for a very LONG time. If you’ve ever purchased Yankee Candles you know they are well worth the price. I personally have an Evergreen scented Christmas candle which was purchased for me two years ago. Since I only use it during the holidays I’m sure I’ll get another 2+ years from the same candle. These candles make excellent gifts. Consider sharing this fundraiser with family and friends!
2. **AFLAC** - Those who attended the February and March General Membership meetings were given the opportunity to complete a survey. As an association, we are looking to increase your benefits by adding the opportunity to purchase additional insurance you may not be receiving at your employment. In this newsletter, is a copy of the AFLAC Survey. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so and return it to me either by mail or email by April 4th so that we might include your responses. Should there be enough interest, we will have a representative present the insurance offerings at an upcoming General Membership Meeting.
3. The **Wills for Heroes** events are well underway and could use your help. Wills for Heroes is an innovative nationwide program that provides free legal services to police, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel and their spouses/partners. The program provides Wills, Powers of Attorney and Health Care Directives to Pennsylvania first responders so that their families will be protected in the event of a tragedy. These daylong events are held at local police stations, fire stations and other department locations and are staffed by volunteer attorneys who donate their expertise and time to meet with the dedicated individuals and prepare these vital documents. Each event requires attorneys, paralegals, notaries and witnesses to assist with the preparation of these documents. For a full listing of events: <http://www.willsforheroes.org>. Contact Lisa Sherman, Esquire to volunteer for the local events las@plotnickellis.com
4. Don’t forget to join MCPA on Facebook and the listserve located on Yahoo Groups. If you would like further information on either of these, please contact me for sign up information.
5. Set your calendars now and plan to attend the next CLE on April 13th – “*Tax Planning, Retirement Planning and Market Recovery Guide*”.

I look forward to seeing and meeting with more of you as the year progresses!!

Board of Directors-2011

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Manor College

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Bucks County Community College

SAVE THE DATE!!

*April 13, 2011--Paul Biedlingmaier,
Edward Jones (CLE Seminar)*

*May 17, 2011—Mark B. Dischell,
Esquire (CLE Seminar)*

Welcome New Members

Kelly Yurick

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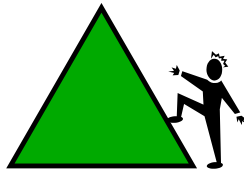
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Student Liaison Program

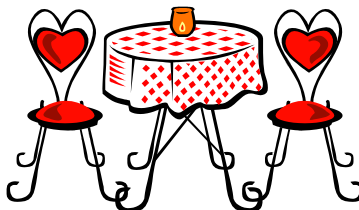
By: Lisa M. LaPenna, Pa.C.P.

If you belong to a school that is not represented and would like to become a student liaison, please contact Lisa LaPenna at (610) 941-2523 or llapenna@kaplaw.com. Prospective candidates must be members of the MCPA, 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. 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 peaked 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!

Lisa M. LaPenna, Pa. C.P. and Chair of the Mentoring Committee of the MCPA

llapenna@kaplaw.com (610) 941-2523



WHAT'S **YOUR** FAVORITE RESTAURANT?

Have a favorite restaurant that can accommodate a large crowd? Let the Planning Committee know and maybe the next MCPA function could be held there. If the MCPA uses your restaurant, you will receive a free gift. Send ideas to Lindsey Tait at lindsay.tait@gmail.com.



MCPA Moves Into 2011

Submitted by Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.

On January 20th, the MCPA kicked off 2011 at Chadwick's in Audubon, Pennsylvania. Annette Long, Pa. C.P., began the evening by acknowledging the many sponsors who support the MCPA and particularly Just Legal, Inc., and Strehlow Court Reporting for their sponsorship of the Kick Off Event.

Annette continued the evening with the introduction of the evening's special guests, The Honorable John S. Murray, III. Magisterial District Judge (38-1-2), Pennsylvania State Senator Stewart Greenleaf, Mary Sims from Manor College, and Justin Baer, Esquire, and Rachel Cantor, Esquire, from the Montgomery Bar Association Young Lawyers' Association.

Sueanne Hall from Just Legal, Inc. gave some background regarding her company and indicated that the company is growing and is now sharing space with the Montgomery County Bar Association.



Debbie Long, Pa. C.P., then continued the evening with some parting words as she leaves her position as MCPA President, a position she has found very fulfilling. Debbie gave credit to Charlene Healy, RP, and Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P., for their continued guidance through her membership on the Board and her role as President. To the Board members that served with Debbie, Debbie made these remarks:

- | | | |
|--------------------|----|--|
| ➤ Debbie Arbuckle | -- | Right hand, confidant and anchor |
| ➤ Harry Reichner | -- | For always being there; one of a kind |
| ➤ Ro Fedorka | -- | Funny, sweet, and the only one that didn't say "not me" when the office of Treasurer was discussed |
| ➤ Terry Hall | -- | Took charge of the Planning Committee, one of the most active committees in the MCPA |
| ➤ Sherry Barag | -- | Volunteered to be NFPA 2 nd Representative and for bringing her own "spark" to the Board. |
| ➤ Annette Long | -- | Tireless work with the Bar Association |
| ➤ Linda Brearey | -- | Outstanding job as Secretary |
| ➤ Christine Horace | -- | Great work with fundraising |

Debbie stated, however, that it is the collective commitment of not only the Board of Directors, but that of all of the MCPA members that will continue to keep MCPA growing. Debbie gave a few examples of individuals stepping up in the MCPA such as the members that have volunteered their time to KAPA's standing committee for the Pennsylvania certification. By this type of commitment, MCPA is becoming recognized not just in the Montgomery County area but now in the entire Keystone State.

Debbie concluded by thanking the MCPA--and her husband--for allowing her to serve the MCPA. Debbie indicated that she accomplished what she set out to do and congratulates Annette Long as she takes over the reins of MCPA as President.

Debbie Arbuckle, First Vice President, then took the podium to make some remarks regarding the outgoing President. The "Debs" first bonded when they met at PJ Whelihans and both "pinkie swore" that neither was going to become Treasurer. Debbie Arbuckle could see from then on how passionate Deb Long was regarding the profession and the MCPA. Deb Long challenged the board to think outside of the box and outside of their comfort zones.



During Deb's leadership, the MCPA for the first time has a reserve fund in the treasury, was able to award student scholarships, has a successful student liaison program, hosted the first leadership retreat of board members, committee members, and interested parties, and oversaw the MCPA pass its 10th anniversary. How does she do it all? In a nutshell, Deb "doesn't sleep."



Annette Long and Debbie Arbuckle then presented Deb Long with an Award of Excellence for her tireless commitment to the MCPA and for being our "fearless leader."

Harry Reichner, Second Vice President, then introduced the keynote speaker, State Senator Stewart Greenleaf.

Senator Greenleaf gave some background regarding himself including that growing up he wanted to become a professional basketball player. However, when the Sixers never

called, he moved into the area of law.

Senator Greenleaf congratulated the MCPA on its accomplishments and indicated that the discussions he has had with the members of the Montgomery Bar Association have all been positive and the MCPA has received high compliments. The Senator stated that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to practice law without paralegals. Paralegals are everywhere and do everything "but practice law." They are the hardest working individuals in the law firm.

Senator Greenleaf indicated he thinks all states should have separate divisions for Paralegals. He encourages the MCPA to continue to reach out to the Montgomery Bar Association and continue

to feed the working relationship that it has started through its work with the Young Lawyers Association (Holidays for Heroes). It's through this continued relationship with the MBA that the MCPA can bring Pennsylvania into the "modern world."

The Senator then took questions from the members. Sheila Hayden-Kees asked the Senator what issue out of the many that he has lobbied for or against, did he feel the strongest about. The Senator answered unequivocally child abuse reform. A current issue that the Senator is working on is prison reform. The reformation would help to decrease the conviction of innocent people, remove punishment without rehabilitation, and revise the eyewitness identification and confessions process.

Karen Strehlow-Kmetz then took a few moments to introduce her company and brought to the attention of the members an added bonus of the availability of conference rooms in New Jersey, Philadelphia, Montgomery County, and Bucks County.



The evening then turned to the induction of the 2011-2012 MCPA Board of Directors. The Honorable John S. Murray, III, Magisterial District Judge, introduced each of the members and the new Board then recited their Oath to the MCPA members.



Annette Long, Pa. C.P., the 2011 President, spoke a few words to the attendees. She thanked Deb Long for paving the road for the 2011 Board to follow. She then continued with her vision for the coming year. The MCPA has now become more visible in the community and she wants to continue that visibility and viability with continued relationships with the Young Lawyers Association and the Montgomery Bar Association. She encouraged members to look into certification and to investigate options available be it the PACE program

through NFPA (exam and education) or the Pa. C.P. Certification program through KAPA (education and fee).

Annette challenges the MCPA members to continue to help the Association to continue in its growth. MCPA members are valuable and important members of the legal profession and should be proud to be paralegals and members of the MCPA.

Congratulations to Lindsay Tait, the winner of the 50/50 drawing. Proceeds from the 50/50 drawings benefit the MCPA's Student Scholarship Program.

The evening was a huge success with delicious food and engaging and entertaining speakers. Thank you MCPA members for being part of the MCPA and making a difference in the paralegal profession.

Special thank you to all the speakers, sponsors, and the Planning Committee who helped to make the evening the special night it was.







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THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

<i>When:</i>	April 13, 2011 6:00 p.m.
<i>Where:</i>	Wisler Pearlstine LLP (<i>new offices</i>) 460 Norristown Road, Suite 110 Blue Bell, PA 19422
<i>Topic and Speaker</i>	Tax Planning, Retirement Planning, and Market Recovery Guide Presented by <i>Paul Biedlingmaier</i> <i>Edward Jones</i> <i>**Approved for 1.5 SUBSTANTIVE CLE**</i>
<i>Cost:</i>	<u>Free</u> for members \$20.00 for non-members
<i>Menu:</i>	Light dinner and refreshments compliments of <i>Wisler Pearlstine, LLP</i>
<i>Donations:</i>	Collecting condiments (mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, etc.) for Manna on Main Street's "Sinko de Mayo"
<i>RSVP:</i>	By Monday, April 11, 2011 To Tracey L. Barnes, RP, at Traceyb@dbyd.com

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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION**



FUNDRAISER

Our Yankee Candle Fund-Raiser is underway! I've already received orders and the fund-raiser is shaping up to be a huge hit! I've attached the informational hand-out but here is some additional information that will get all of our sellers (You) on the same page.

Pursuant to the pre-set Sale End-Date, completed order forms can be returned to the Law Offices of O'Brien & Ryan (<http://www.obrlaw.com/contact.aspx>) during regular business hours M-F at any time before March 25th **OR** on March 23rd & March 25th from 5pm to 7pm (later if necessary).

If members are not able to return order forms at those times, Harry Reichner and I will be available to make arrangements with individual members. My contact information is below; here is Harry's contact information:

Harry A. Reichner, Paralegal
HReichner@mmclaw.com
Campbell Rodriguez, LLC
2701 Renaissance Boulevard, Fourth Floor
King of Prussia, PA 19406
(Work) 610.205.1560 / (Mobile) 215.206.7551

Of course, completed order forms can be returned to individual Board Members if that is a more convenient option.

If you did not receive a Collection Envelope at the Breakfast Meeting, please contact me and we can make arrangements to get you a few.

In the event that members are unable to obtain a collection envelope, I have made available the following option. Attached you will find a PDF formatted Order Form a link to the Spring / Summer Catalog. Please complete the Order Form and return the same with payment.

<http://www.yankeecandlefundraising.com/springCatalog.html>

Finally (and as an added incentive), **sales tax does NOT need to be calculated. As a Non-Profit Organization we are not responsible for Pennsylvania Sales Tax.**

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. My direct dial is Direct No.: 610-834-6228 and my cell is 570-362-0490.

Thank you all in advance for your participation. Let's show off our commitment and dedication to the MCPA and SELL, SELL, SELL!!!!

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NFPA Awards – They are Meant for Members – Get ready to nominate your members

Theresa A. Prater, RP
Vice President and Director of Profession Development

Do you know that NFPA gives yearly awards to its members? There are awards for associations and for individuals – including a scholarship to take PACE. Each award has specific requirements for what the nomination letter must contain and what supporting documents need to be submitted. Ask your board to look in the NFPA Procedures Manual for all the details as outlined in Section 25.

Here is information on what the awards are and later I'll explain how they are judged and how the judges are chosen.

NFPA Individual Pro Bono – Recognizes an individual practicing paralegal who has exhibited extraordinary dedication to the delivery of quality legal services to a portion of the population that cannot afford to pay for legal services. Any individual or Association may nominate a practicing paralegal for this award. An individual may also nominate themselves. The nomination form shall be submitted with a letter of nomination of no more than two pages and must include a variety of information including a clear identification of the services and accomplishments of the nominee in the area of Pro Bono services.

This award is open to all practicing paralegals. The nominee need not be a member of NFPA or an NFPA member Association. Among the criteria the judges look at are that the nominee must have offered Pro Bono services designed to target that portion of the population which cannot otherwise afford legal assistance, and have contributed to the delivery of quality legal services directed to members of the community who are unable to pay reasonable or customary legal fees. Also, did the nominee further enhance the delivery of such legal services? and does the nominee exhibit a true dedication to the delivery of quality legal services?

However, a greater weight shall be given to those nominees who provide Pro Bono services outside of or in addition to their normal course of employment.

This award includes expenses to attend the NFPA Annual Convention, a commemorative plaque, and a \$1,000 donation to the pro bono project of the recipient's choice.

NFPA Association Pro Bono -- Recognizes NFPA member association that has exhibited outstanding dedication and service in the area of Pro Bono services. Anyone may nominate an NFPA member association for this award, or the association may self-nominate. As with all awards, there are specific topics the nomination letter must include, which are outlined in the NFPA Procedures Manual at Section 25.

The general criteria to be considered shall include, but are not limited to:

- The Program must be designed to target a portion of the community which cannot otherwise afford to seek legal assistance.
- Each paralegal participating in the Program shall comply with the ethical standards of NFPA and the local Association.
- At no time will the Judges consider the number of hours contributed by the Association's members, nor the number of individuals assisted by the Program.

This award comes with a \$500 check for the Association's chosen pro bono project.

PACE Ambassador -- This award will soon be renamed to include the PCC exam. It was designed to recognize outstanding achievement in promoting NFPA's paralegal certification exams. The nominee must be an NFPA member association can nominate its Paralegal Certification Ambassador and the Association for the award by submitting a letter of nomination, providing evidence of all the marketing efforts made by the Ambassador and/or the Association in the previous year. The nomination must be specific as to dates with respect to accomplishments, projects or any other information submitted. It should address the questions such topics as:

- Has the Association appointed a Paralegal Certification Ambassador?
- Has the Association sent its Ambassador or other representative to the NFPA Paralegal Certification Ambassadors' Conference?
- How effective has the Ambassador been?
- Any other evidence presented by the association.

The judges weigh the evidence as follows:

20%: Utilization of the Paralegal Certification Ambassador Program

20%: Assisting members by helping them prepare to take PACE or PCC Exam

Considerations:

20%: Participation by individual members in PCC Exam and PACE

Considerations:

20%: Marketing PACE and the PCC and exams within the Association

Considerations:

20%: Marketing the PCC and PACE exams to other members of the legal community

Considerations:

The award includes expenses to attend the NFPA Annual Convention and a commemorative plaque.

William R. Robie Leadership -- This award recognizes an NFPA member in honor of the Honorable William R. Robie and his dedication to the paralegal profession, the expansion of the delivery of legal services and equal access to justice for all Americans. Any NFPA member Association may nominate a voting, student or affiliate member of an NFPA member Association for the Robie Award. The nomination must be accompanied by a letter/letters of nomination from the nominating Association's President and/or other individuals and contain, among other information, the following information:

- A description of the following qualities of the nominee: Dedication to the paralegal profession; Service to the legal community; Leadership; Participation in the NFPA member Association work; Positive attitude toward paralegal education either by service on an advisory board, as an instructor in a paralegal program, or as a speaker in a continuing education project; and Has created a lasting legacy to the paralegal profession through some distinct contribution(s).

The award includes expenses to attend the NFPA Annual Convention and a commemorative plaque.

NFPA Outstanding Local Leader -- This award recognizes an individual NFPA member for outstanding leadership contributions to his/her local Association. NFPA member Associations or a member of an NFPA member Association may nominate an individual NFPA member for this award. Nominations must be accompanied by a letter of nomination by the nominating member or Association detailing how the nominee meets the criteria for eligibility.

Nominees for this award must be a member of an NFPA member Association and must be nominated by a member Association or individual Member of the same association. The nominee will have demonstrated influential behavior in the paralegal profession; promoted interest and active participation in the activities of his/her local Association; motivated others to work toward establishing and carrying out professional goals; and will have been recognized by the legal community as a committed professional dedicated to the advancement of the legal profession.

The award includes expenses to attend the NFPA Annual Convention as well as a plaque.

NFPA Paralegal of the Year -- The award recognizes an individual NFPA member, whose on-the-job achievements have contributed to expansion of the paralegal profession, including contributions to his/ her employer, colleagues and the paralegal profession in general. Anyone may nominate a member of an NFPA member Association or an individual sustaining member of NFPA for this award. The letter of nomination must include information on how the nominee has taken the initiative beyond typical job duties to contribute to expansion of the paralegal profession, including how an expanded role has served the paralegal's employer and/or others for whom the paralegal performed additional duties, cost savings, added efficiency, added professionalism, increased visibility, or other factors that have been a positive result of the paralegal's initiative and how his/her efforts have been recognized and appreciated by the individuals who the paralegal performs paralegal duties for.

Nominees for this award must be members of an NFPA member association or an individual sustaining member of NFPA. Paralegals working as either traditional or non-traditional paralegals are eligible to receive this award. If the nominee is a freelance or independent paralegal (within the scope of the authorized practice of law), the nominating individual may be a client.

The award also includes expenses to attend the NFPA annual convention together with a plaque.

Judges for the all awards are chosen by the NFPA board of directors at the winter board meeting, from the NFPA Advisory Board. It is the duty of the VPPD to suggest the judging panels for the Thomson-Reuters' scholarships, as well as the annual awards. The nominations open on April 1 and close on July 1 – without exception.

All nominations are handled by the NFPA Management Team at headquarters, under the supervision of Cindy Byfield, the managing director. The NFPA board does not know who is nominated, how many nominations are received or when they are received. Cindy oversees the delivery of nominations and receives the judges' decisions, orders the plaques and contacts only those individuals who must make arrangement to get winners to Convention. The NFPA board does not know who wins what award until the announcement is made by the individual Vice Presidents announce the winners.

Please think about the members of your association who have given to the paralegal community and to the public – honor them by placing their names before an independent panel of judges for recognition of their accomplishments. Ask your NFPA primary, secondary or association president to get the procedures – read them – nominate someone by July 1.

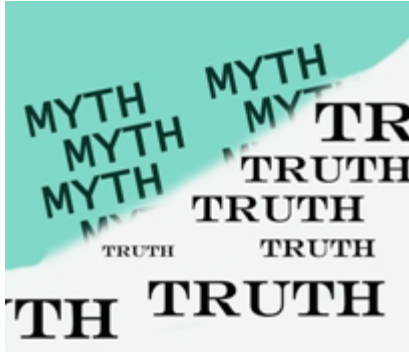
NFPA also awards a PACE scholarship and further recognizes excellence in paralegal students by the presentation of two student scholarship awards. If you'd like more information on the scholarships, visit the NFPA website. These scholarships also have an application deadline of July 1. Of course, you are free to contact me at vppd@paralegals.org.



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The No. 1 Myth You Should Never Believe

By Vicki Voisin, ACP



Myth: Once you have your paralegal education and your job as a paralegal, you don't have to do anything else to have a successful, fulfilling paralegal career.

Truth: Your paralegal job and education are just the foundation for your career. That foundation simply serves as a facilitator for the rest of your career, much the same way a blank canvas serves as the facilitator for a beautiful portrait.

While your job may be interesting, time-consuming and challenging, it is not the sum total of your career. Consider my situation for a moment:

My entire working life has been spent in a small law office in a very small town. This has been a job I've enjoyed immensely. The attorneys would come and go...and name of the firm would change...but I remained like a favorite old shoe: reliable, durable...and also knowledgeable.

Had I remained in that comfortable cocoon, where would I be today? Probably preparing to retire with a cheese and cracker reception attended by people I've known all my life...wonderful people, I might add.

Instead of choosing that cocoon, I chose to make my world large and if I were to retire today (and I'm NOT!) I could at least expect good wishes from paralegals from every state in the U.S.

How do you make your world large? Here are some tips for you:

Never stop learning. If you follow the Thirteen Questions column in Paralegal Strategies, you'll notice that everyone says that to make your career interesting, you must never stop learning. This includes new technology, new systems, and new areas of the law.

Accept challenges. If you think you can't speak before a large group of people or that you could never write an article for a professional journal, you're dead wrong. But how will you know what you can do if you don't try? When you're asked to do this, always jump at the chance. What if you're not asked? Volunteer! You'll always be glad you did.

Join groups and participate. Joining groups (professional associations in particular) is like throwing a pebble into a pool of water and watching the ripples widen. You will widen your circle of acquaintances (who will probably become best friends!) as well as

your professional network. You will be surprised at your capacity for growth. The ripples spread even wider when you take an active part, run for office, serve on a committee, and attend annual meetings. Wide ripples are good for your career.

Write and speak. Considering your capacity for growth, you will be shocked by the words that will come from your mouth and flow from your pen as you expand your horizons.

Get out of your comfort zone. When I traveled just from tiny Charlevoix to Detroit to join a professional association, I might as well have been traveling to Mars! Today, I can maneuver most any travel and enjoy it immensely. You can do this, too, but you have to take chances and leave your cocoon.

Your career is always a work in process. It doesn't happen all at once. In fact, it takes a lifetime. As you take the steps above (and there are many others, you will be painting on the canvas where the brush strokes illustrate the bright colors you've chosen for yourself.

Your challenge? Consider the steps above and choose at least one challenge. This will be your first step in painting the gorgeous picture that will, in the end, be your outstanding career.

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©2011 Vicki Voisin, Inc. Vicki Voisin, "The Paralegal Mentor", delivers simple strategies for paralegals and other professionals to create success and satisfaction by achieving 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 publishes a weekly ezine titled Paralegal Strategies and co-hosts The Paralegal Voice, a monthly podcast produced by Legal Talk Network. More information is available at <http://.paralegalmentor.com>.



IPad as a Legal Tool

By Christina L. Koch, ACP

Submitted by Charlene Healy, RP with permission from author

As technology advances, paralegals get more and more in tune with software which can assist us, personally and professionally. Paralegals are consistently looking for ways to streamline our organizational structure with technology, from word processing to trial presentation software. As technology advances, society continually looks for the smaller, more portable, most functional option. After using an iPad for over six months, I can attest that it is a wonderful legal tool. There is seldom a day I do not use the iPad. The iPad is fairly expensive, starting at \$499.00 for the 16 GB Wi-Fi models, accelerating in price to \$829.00 for the 64GB Wi-Fi plus 3G. The 3G models allow you to have service wherever AT&T has service, however, in order to get the 3G service, you must purchase a data plan from AT&T. My iPad is the 32GB Wi-Fi model. It is not designed to replace a full computer; however it is a wonderful supplement as it allows me to write articles and blog on the road, as well providing a number of legal tools. The iPad has a wonderful battery life and, when in a Wi-Fi area, allows me to browse the internet or conduct a little free legal research, using Fastcase, a free legal research tool for iPad.

There are a number of other legal applications which are helpful. The ABA Journal is a free application that provides breaking legal news. LawBox provides access to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Federal Rules of Evidence, The Constitution of the United States, and U.S. Code Title 28. LawStack provides access to the U.S. Constitution, Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, and the Federal Rules of Evidence. Pocket Justice provides access to Supreme Court decisions, oral arguments and opinion announcements. Additionally, there are iPad applications for different state statutes. I have Nebraska and Iowa on my iPad (approximately \$5.00 each), as well as the Title 3 Code of Federal Regulations and the U.S. Code. NOLO offers a free Law Dictionary for iPad. LegalPad H.D. is a legal pad that allows you to take notes using your finger or a specially-designed iPad pen.

Court Days is a date calculator which allows you to quickly calculate the number of court days or calendar days before or after a given date. The program will allow you to calculate multiple dates on a single screen. iCLE, a derivative of I-Juror, allows you to keep track of your Continuing Legal Education hours. Nebraska Court Calendar is an application developed through the Nebraska Judicial Branch which allows you to access court calendars at any time of the day or night. This is very useful if you wish to check the Court's calendar or the calendar for a specific judge.

Trial paralegals can get a lot of use out of the Jury Tracker, iJuror, Transcription Reader and TrialPad. iJuror allows you to track details about your jury selection, while Jury Tracker takes it one step further and allows you to set a timer to track time used by each party. This is very useful for opening and closing arguments. It also allows you to keep track of juror activity such as note taking, eye contact, body language, fidgeting or even whether your juror is paying attention or not. This is very useful when polling a juror after the verdict has been entered. Jury Tracker is a relatively new program, but allows much more versatility than iJuror. Transcription Reader allows you to have the court reporter send the transcript to Transcription Reader for download. You can then highlight the deposition or start the timer and calculate the time it takes to review the deposition or index or summarize your deposition for billing purposes. myWorkTime is a task, time and billing tracker that allows you to keep track of the time spent on tasks or clients. The program is affordable at \$2.99. The iPad calendar program also works very well with Outlook by synchronizing through iTunes.

The newest program I have is TrialPad, which was just released in December of 2010. This program allows you to create different folders for each trial and store a portable data format (pdf) file for presentation at trial. This is a new program with no reviews and is the most expensive program I have at \$89.00. The program connects directly from your iPad to the standard projection software available in Sarpy County and Lancaster County Courtrooms, and hopefully in the future, the remaining Nebraska counties, enabling you to review, annotate, and scroll through your documents in front of the jury. It is a great tool if you are tech-savvy in the courtroom.

A more active and daily useful option is iAnnotate PDF, which allows you to annotate your pdf with notes, highlights, and bookmarks, which can be added or removed at will. This is a very good program at \$9.99, and very helpful for preparing for depositions or client meetings. There are a number of other programs I use frequently, such as Index Card and iCardSort, which have been very useful for brainstorming on cases and organizing facts. Medscape is useful for checking drug interactions or looking up medical procedures I am not familiar with. DocstoGo is a great program to transfer Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents from your land computer to your iPad, at a very affordable price of approximately \$15.00.

Finally, iMeeting Pad is a very useful program for meetings and is fairly self-explanatory. The program allows you to take notes at Meetings, which you can later organize into meeting minutes and e-mail to meeting attendees. The program has an option allowing you to Tweet from Twitter, for convenient "meeting tweeting". This is useful if all of your meeting attendees are on your Twitter list and you want to tweet a new meeting date and time. This, of course, leaves issues of confidentiality, as well.

The iPad comes with a built-in keyboard which is very easy to use; however, I have found that with the amount of time I spend on my iPad that purchasing an external keyboard was helpful. The keyboard connects through Bluetooth and makes work on the iPad as convenient as working on a netbook or laptop. Overall, the iPad has become a very useful legal tool for both attorneys and paralegals.



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NFPA UPDATE

Submitted by NFPA Primary Representative, Debbie Arbuckle, Pa. C.P.

As promised, the NFPA Board of Directors and staff are moving forward with efforts to incorporate more technology into our programs and member benefits. Some of those efforts include an overhaul of the NFPA website and converting various procedures to on-line processes - stay tuned for further details! Additionally, *The National Paralegal Reporter* will soon be available for subscription in electronic format.

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, MCPA will host NFPA's Region IV Spring Meeting at the offices of Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein, P.C., 910 Harvest Drive, Blue Bell, PA. Region IV includes NFPA member associations in Pennsylvania, South Jersey, Northern Virginia, Maryland, Washington, DC and the Navy Legalmen.

The Spring Meeting enables member associations to meet in a more informal setting than at the Annual Convention and discuss topics relevant to all of us as professional organizations. This meeting usually runs from about 8:00 a.m. to mid to late afternoon, depending on the agenda. It is open to all members of MCPA.

This is a great chance to glimpse what goes on at a national level. I really did not have an understanding of NFPA until I went to my first Spring Region Meeting and experienced roundtable discussions and met paralegals from many walks of life and various areas of practice.

Please consider taking a few hours of your Saturday to come to the Spring Region IV Meeting. You don't have to stay all day, but if you've got a couple of hours to spare, I think you'll be glad you attended.

Kaplin Stewart will provide our breakfast and the facility and Love Court Reporting has graciously offered to sponsor lunch. Please contact either myself at darbuckle@kaplaw.com or Sherry Barag at sbarag@foxrothschild.com to let us know you will be attending.

It's that time again -- NFPA is happy to announce that the 2011 Thomson Reuters' Scholarship Application is available at http://www.paralegals.org/associations/2270/files/2011content/2011_Thomson_Reuters_Scholarship_Application.pdf

This year's essay topic is:

“The economy has had a strong impact on the practice of law. As a paralegal student, who will soon be graduating, describe the current legal job market in your community, and how your paralegal education can give you an advantage in securing paralegal employment.”

The scholarships are \$3,000 and \$2,000, and include a stipend for the winners to travel to the 2011 Annual Convention to be personally recognized by NFPA and Thomson.

One last item is that NFPA recently changed the member password on their website – the new member password is “pcc exam”. Please note that this password does contain a space and is case sensitive!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Region IV Spring meeting, Saturday, April 16, 2011.

NFPA® moves forward with the development of its Paralegal CORE Competency Exam



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Be among the first to earn this new credential by participating in the PCC Exam pilot test at one of several testing sites around the country on Saturday, June 11, 2011. The fee for this initial test will be \$65.00. The online application process for the pilot test will begin April 1, 2011.

National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.

www.paralegals.org

info@paralegals.org



Student Affairs/Mentoring Committee

Lisa LaPenna, Pa. C.P., Mentoring Committee Chairperson

Whether you are a member of the committee or just want to give back to your profession for this one day event, Manor College needs speakers from MCPA for their symposium on April 12, 2011 at 700 Fox Chase Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046. They need members from various law firms or companies to speak to their students. More details to follow.

The 2011 fall semester Peirce College Paralegal Student Association Event will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at Peirce College, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA. Members from MCPA will serve as panelists during the networking feature of the evening along with other associations. You can speak about your academic and professional experiences. We will also have a table.

If you are interested in participating, 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.



MCPA APPAREL, MUGS and TOTES

MCPA long-sleeved t-shirts and short-sleeved polo shirts are still available. The long-sleeve shirts are \$10 and the short-sleeve shirts are \$20 Show your MCPA spirit by purchasing a shirt (or two).

MCPA coffee (or tea, or hot chocolate) mugs and re-usable MCPA Totes are also still available! Each at a low cost of \$5. Show off your MCPA spirit in the office with a new mug and in the community with a tote bag or two.

All MCPA spirit items will be available at the general membership meetings or you may contact J. Maxwell Conaboy, Paralegal, O'Brien & Ryan, LLP, mconaboy@obrlaw.com.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Ro Fedorka, Chairperson

At the Breakfast Seminar on March 12th, we will be collecting money to purchase items to make up breakfast bags for Aid for Friends. Around 15 people at last meeting indicated interest is getting together the end of March to assemble the bags. More scheduling information to follow.

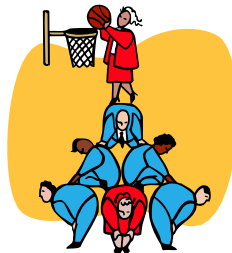
There are also some March dates for people to volunteer for Wills for Heroes. Norristown is March 26th for anyone that is interested. (Jenkintown 3/12, Phila. FOP 3/19). The events run from 9-5 and this year there is a training session from 9:00 am – 11:00 am which will qualify for CLE credit. Check out Wills for Heroes on Facebook or contact Lisa Shearman at las@plotnickellis.com.

We will be collecting condiments (mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, etc.) for Manna on Main Street's "Sink de Mayo" event at the April CLE seminar on April 13th. April 30, 2011 is Creek Clean-Up for Wissahickon Valley Watershed. Norma Gunning reported that we have the same area we were assigned in the past. This is a day to clean up the creek area and then enjoy a picnic at Fort Washington State Park.

We will be collecting pet supplies (canned/dry pet foods, collars, leashes, toys, kitty litter) for Animal Lifeline at the May 17th CLE seminar. They will also take used cell phones and ink cartridges. Michelle Ciocca has volunteered to take the items to the Warrington location.

We anticipate there will be another Run for the Hill of it for MCAP in July if anyone is interested in helping out with that. More information to follow.

For the Fall we will have another Military Outreach collection, possibly a volunteer day with BCS and we try to get a nice group together for Special Olympics. In the winter we will do a collection and wrapping event for BCS and Bead for Life. If you are interested in or have a community project / cause in mind that we may be able to partner with, please contact a COC member.





MCPA AND THE MILITARY OUTREACH PROGRAM



Dear Colleagues,

For the past several years, the Montgomery County Paralegal Association has joined the NFPA in supporting our colleagues that are serving our country in combat zones around the world. Many of these paralegals are reservists that have left their safe and secure homes and families to defend our way of life. These military paralegals are from each and every branch of the military. In an effort to show our appreciation and support, MCPA has been sending care packages on your behalf to Iraq and some to Afghanistan. Recently, the program has been revised in an effort to support more of our colleagues. Instead of being assigned an individual to send the packages to, we are now supporting a JAG (Judge Advocate General) office of paralegals so that no one in that office is left out.

I have been given the honor of continuing to coordinate those packages for our troops. Please visit the MCPA website (www.montcoparalegals.org) for suggested donations for the package. It is my hope that we will get enough donations to be able to send an extra package now and then to help lift the moral of our troops. As a veteran, I cannot tell you how much mail and packages mean to those away from home. Please DO NOT send any items that can be considered obscene or even questionable in any way and DO NOT send anything that contains pork or a pork byproduct. The troops must respect the customs of the country where they are stationed.

I have placed my contact information below so that anyone wishing to donate will be able to reach me. Feel free to contact me at any time. Items may also be given to Board members. Thank you so much for your support of MCPA and the Military Outreach Program.

Charlene M. Healy, RP
chealy@sattinronca.com
610-278-2630



Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations (KAPA)

News of Note

Submitted by Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P., Secondary Delegate

I am pleased to announce that Debbie Long, Pa. C.P. has volunteered to be the Chairperson of the KAPA Standing Committee. The Standing Committee oversees and markets the Pa. C.P. Program.

I have been asked and have agreed to act as Chairperson of the KAPA Credentialing Committee which is the committee who reviews all applications and renewal forms for the Pa. C.P. Certification program. My committee reports to the Standing Committee which Debbie is now chairing.

The transfer of documents to the new chairpersons is in process and Debbie and I hope to have all documents and information within the next two weeks.

Be sure to visit KAPA's web site for more updates at <http://www.keystoneparalegals.org/>.



Facebook

The Montgomery County Paralegal Association (MCPA) now has a Facebook page!

Join our group for updates on membership meetings, CLE events, socials, job postings, news at the local, state and national levels and connect with other Paralegals in Montgomery County.

SEARCH: Montgomery County Paralegal Association (MCPA)



NFPA MEMBER BENEFITS

Submitted by Sherry Barag, Pa. C.P.

Just in case you were not aware, membership in MCPA also includes membership in the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA). There are many advantages to membership in NFPA, which include special discounts and benefits specifically obtained by NFPA for us.

To check these out yourself, go to the NFPA website (www.paralegals.org), click on the Members Only area (password: regulation) and then to the Member Benefits section. These special discounts and benefits include:

- Discounts on Walt Disney World Resort Vacation: As an NFPA member you can log on to the following website to plan a Florida trip to any of the 16 Theme Parks in the Orlando area. The website is <http://www.orlandovacation.com/discounts/login.php>. Our username is "**NFPA**". From there you can view the National Member Discount Program and all the discounts and special offers in Orlando. Some of the packages include cruises and resorts, National Car Rentals and other discounts.
- Dell - Take off an additional 7% on top of generally advertised Dell Products! Go to www.dell.com/paralegals. Our member ID is CS105317223 or call 1-800-695-8133.
- Car Rentals - Special rental rates on cars and vans are offered to members. Call Hertz at telephone (800) 654-3131 and provide NFPA's discount identification CDP# 336599. At least 24 hours advanced notice is required to receive this discount.
- 1-800 FLOWERS - Members can receive a 10% discount off an array of gift products including gourmet gift baskets, novelties, and flowers. 1-800 Flowers is offering this special benefit through its secure web site <http://www.1800flowers.com/>. Enter code "NFPA" under special offers during checkout or telephone 1-800-356-9377 and mention the promotion code "NFPA."
- Hotel Reservations - Members can receive up to 65% off regular hotel rates in certain cities. Take advantage of this benefit to save money for yourself and your employers. Telephone (800) 964-6835. Or visit www.hoteldiscount.com and identify yourself as an NFPA member to receive the discount.

Be sure to check out the complete listing of all of the special benefits and discounts available to us in the Members Only section of the NFPA website.



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Paralegals receive two major benefits by taking PACE. The exam

(www.paralegals.org -- NFPA's Official Website)

- provides a fair evaluation of the competencies of paralegals across practice areas; and
- creates a professional level of expertise by which all paralegals can be evaluated.

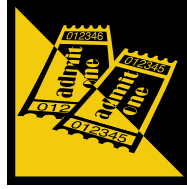
PACE presents a bold opportunity to all paralegals to advance the profession. This exam provides hard facts about the competency of experienced paralegals. While PACE does not address all the issues of regulation, including certification and licensing, it does provide the legal service industry with an option to evaluate the competency level of experienced paralegals.

As members of a self-directed profession, all paralegals should consider the vital role the profession performs within the legal service industry. PACE is independently monitored and well-structured. PACE provides test results across practice areas and, possibly, state-specific laws. While the test is offered on a voluntary basis, all experienced paralegals are encouraged to sit for the exam.

NFPA® is committed to ensuring the paralegal profession responds to the changing needs of the public and legal service industry. In voting to develop PACE, NFPA's membership took a bold step toward addressing the future issues facing the profession.

Lexis-Nexis has sponsored a twenty minute presentation on paralegals which highlights PACE and can be ordered from the [PACE Merchandise](#) page. For more information on Lexis-Nexis newsletter [click here](#).





Surrounding Paralegal Association Events

Bucks County Paralegal Association

Thursday, April 22, 2011 - Attorney Charles Weiner will discuss LSAT guidelines, Disability and Education Law. Mr. Weiner has a very specialized niche of practice; primarily he helps to get accommodations for disabled individuals for taking the LSATs and SATs.



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International Spring Festival April 16, 2011

The Lansdale Public Library's 20th Annual International Spring Festival will be held on **Saturday, April 16, 2011 at North Penn High School in Lansdale from 11:00 AM-5:00 PM**. The festival is the library's biggest program, and it is also the largest multi-cultural festival in Montgomery County. The Festival celebrates ethnic and cultural heritages through performances, food and cultural displays. There are plenty of activities for children, including a passport program and a special crafts room where children can try ethnic costumes, food, musical instruments and art projects. There is no charge for admission to this community sponsored event that includes 2 performance stages, but you might want to bring some money to purchase the luscious food sold from 12 different cultures and the inspired crafts.

The performances are too good to miss. This year, the famous Voloshky's Ukrainian Dance Ensemble will perform. Also performing this year are: Obidiah, an African drum and dance ensemble, the Steven Cain Jazz Quartet, Lenny Gordon and the Soul Senders, and many more international singers and dancers. For a more detailed listing of performances, go to the festival website www.internationalpringfestival.com.

Last year, over 3,500 people attended the festival which had 131 displays. Some of the countries that will be featured this year are: China, Ireland, Korea, Ukraine, Taiwan, Poland, Nepal, Jordan, Germany, Israel, Malaysia, Jamaica, Peru, India, Argentina, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Philippines, and the list keeps growing. The United States will be represented in a historic colonial and Native American display. If you would like to represent a country not listed here, please contact us.

A favorite part of the festival is the large selection of ethnic food. Cuisine from Jamaica, Hungary, China, Middle East & Mediterranean, Thailand, Peru, Philippines, and India will be available for purchase. Pizza and hot dogs will be available for the less adventurous. If you own an ethnic restaurant and would like to participate, call us at the number below.

The International Spring Festival is even more fun if you are a volunteer on the day of the event. If you can volunteer for just a few hours setting up (the night before the festival), assisting with children's activities, staffing tables, or tearing down (immediately after festival) that would help tremendously. To get more information or to volunteer, contact **Tom Meyer at Lansdale Public Library (215-362-2666)** or email director@lansdalelibrary.org.



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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.

Membership

Coordinate membership drives and membership matters

-

Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.
Tbarnes@dbyd.com

Newsletter

Solicit and write articles; layout and editing for the bi-monthly newsletter, MCPA Today

-

Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P., Editor
Tbarnes@dbyd.com

Job Bank

Solicit, accumulate, and distribute current job postings to the general membership

-

Stephanie Dise, Pa. C.P.
sad@elliottgreenleaf.com

Marketing

Solicit sponsors and advertisers for MCPA

-

Deborah A. Long, Pa., C.P.
dlong@dbyd.com
Deborah A. Arbuckle,
darbuckle@kaplaw.com

Public Relations

Promote the MCPA in the legal and general Community

-

Annette Long
along@kanepugh.com

Planning

Plan and schedule upcoming MCPA presentations, meetings and social events

-

Lindsey Tait
ltait@millerturetsky.com
Terri Hall
thall@streamlight.com

Community Outreach

Plan and schedule MCPA charitable and community events

-

Roberta Fedorka
rfedorka@obrlaw.com

Fundraising

Organize and hold fundraisers for the Association and/or charitable organizations

-

Christine Horace
chorace@good-lawyer.com

Mentoring

Provide a range of services and support to students interested in a paralegal career

-

Lisa LaPenna, Pa. C.P.
llpenna@kaplaw.com

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

Theodore Roosevelt



And now a word from our sponsors...

Actually, a word *about* our sponsors. The relationship between the MCPA and its sponsors offers mutual benefits.

Benefits to the MCPA

The support we receive from our sponsors allows us to carry out Association functions, offer free CLE's, and participate in the development of the paralegal profession not only locally, but also at the statewide and national levels. Additionally, we have a pool of expert resources readily available if, for instance, we need to obtain a Certificate of Merit, develop a Life Care Plan, schedule a deposition, or suggest a resource for assistance with legal staffing.

Benefits to Our Sponsors

Sponsors of the MCPA have a direct link to the legal community. Information distributed at our general membership meetings can be shared with attorneys, office managers, and coworkers who may have a need for the specific services offered. Direct advertising is available through *MCPA Today*, and sponsor and vendor links are readily accessible through our website.

What Can You Do?

Check the MCPA website on a regular basis so that you know who our sponsors are. Then, share this information – as well as information you receive at our general membership meetings – with those in your office who have a need for these services. Be sure to have them mention the MCPA when they call so that the provider knows the work came through us and will be likely to renew their sponsorship next year.

Don't see one of your office's service providers on our website? Could this service provider benefit from a relationship with the MCPA? Let us know! Send an e-mail to Debbie Long at dlong@dbyd.com or Debbie Arbuckle at darbuckle@kaplaw.com. If the service provider becomes a sponsor of the MCPA, you will receive a \$25 debit card!

“This is your organization. The more involved you are, the more you will benefit from your membership.” Sharon Jones, founding President of MCPA, 1999



ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO MCPA MEMBERS

Do you own your own business? Consider advertising in the *MCPA Today*.

Advertising rates offered to MCPA members are as follows:

¼ page \$15 per issue

Business Card \$8 per issue

Commit to a full year and receive one ad for free!

Complete the information below and submit along with your advertisement to Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P., tbarnes@dbyd.com (Word or JPEG format preferred, PDF format accepted). Payments should be mailed to MCPA, PO Box 1765, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422.

Member Name _____

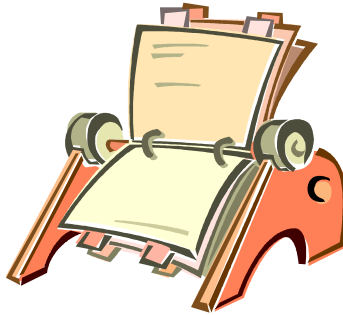
Member E-Mail _____

Member Phone _____

Business Name _____

Number of Issues _____

*All submissions are subject to Board review and approval.



How to Contact Us-2011

Officers	Board Members
Annette Long, President along@kanepugh.com 610-275-2000	Noreen Messmer nmessmer@fordbuckman.com 215-628-9000
Deborah Arbuckle, Pa. C.P., 1 st Vice President darbuckle@kaplaw.com 610-941-2523	Terri Hall thall@streamlight.com 610-631-0600
Harry Reichner, 2 nd Vice President hreichner@mmclaw.com 610-205-1560	Sheila Kees-Hayden srkshamrock9@yahoo.com 215-643-0941
Ro Fedorka, Treasurer rfedorka@obrlaw.com 610-834-8800	Heidi Reiss-Tait hreisstait@belleskatz.com 215-659-3600
Sherry Barag, Pa. C.P., Secretary sbarag@foxrothschild.com 610-397-4431	
	Student Liasons Dena Fernandez-Mitchell dmitch63@aol.com Lindsay Tait lindsay.tait@gmail.com Megan Shull mshull@manor.edu Frank Rinaldo frankrinaldo@myway.com

www.montcoparalegals.org

2011 MCPA Committee Contact List

2011 Committee Chairs:

Planning Chair

Terri Hall – thall@streamlight.com

Lindsay Tait – lindsay.tait@gmail.com

Marketing Co-Chairs

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