

# MCPA TODAY

*The Official Publication of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association*

Election Edition 2010

[www.montcoparalegals.org](http://www.montcoparalegals.org)

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

## Message From the President

Welcome to the 2010 Edition of *MCPA Today's* Election Issue! There are four open board positions this year, and we have five candidates for you to choose from including one incumbent. Please read over the bios in this issue and select the candidate you believe will best represent the interests of the Association and its members. A proxy ballot is included for those who will be unable to attend the Election Meeting on Tuesday, November 16th, at Phil's Tavern in Blue Bell, PA. Many thanks to Strehlow Court Reporting and to Harris Investigations for their sponsorship of this event which has helped us to greatly reduce the cost to our members this year!

Also at this meeting we will continue our collection of donations for Baptist Children's Home which was begun at the October general meeting. Please look for the flyer in this issue which you may post at your place of employment to solicit additional donations (assuming your employer permits it). I realize it is very short notice, but if we can generate even a few more donations, it will go a long way in contributing to a happy holiday season for children in unfortunate circumstances.

***Please also consider attending the 2010 Delaware Valley Legal Expo which will take place on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Presidential Caterers in East Norriton, PA. The MCPA has been invited to participate this year, so be sure to stop by our booth – and bring a coworker! Membership applications will be available, and we will have giveaway items and a door prize! Additional details are available in this newsletter, on the MCPA website and at [www.montgomerybar.org](http://www.montgomerybar.org).***

Our culminating event for 2010 will be our Holiday Social scheduled for Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at Chap's Tavern in Jeffersonville. As has been our tradition for many years now, we will be collecting hats and mittens for Montgomery County Head Start, so don't forget to include this item as you begin, or continue, your Christmas shopping. Already finished your Christmas shopping? I don't think so – there's always that one last thing, and this is your reminder. ☺

Keep reading – there's much more information inside! This is our biggest issue yet of *MCPA Today*!

Best wishes to everyone as we move into the holiday season!

Deborah A. Long, Pa. C.P.  
President

## Board of Directors-2010

### *Officers*

**Deborah A. Long, Pa. C.P.**

President

**Deborah Arbuckle, Pa. C.P.**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Harry Reichner**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice

President

**Ro Fedorka**

Treasurer

**Linda Brearey**

Secretary

### *Board Members*

**Terri Hall**

**Sherry Barag, Pa. C.P.**

**Annette Long**

**Christine Horace**

### *Student liaisons*

**Mary Kay Alt (LSB)**

**Mark D'Annunzio (Pierce)**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **SAVE THE DATE!!**

*November 16, 2010—Election Meeting  
Phil's Tavern*

*December 9, 2010-Holiday Social  
Chaps*

## ..... **Welcome New Members** .....

**Cheryll Schinski**

**Holly Huber**

**Frank Rinaldo**



# LEGAL Recruiters



organ  
wentworth, LLC  
*When the best is worth it*

**1000 Valley Forge Circle, Suite 102B  
King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Phone (610) 783.0900  
Fax (610) 783.7940**

**patmosesso@morganwentworth.com**

**www.morganwentworth.com**

If you are seeking a new position or if you are seeking the right candidate. We work hard to facilitate the perfect match

## LEGAL CAREER ALIGNMENT AND PLACEMENT SERVICE

### *WE SERVE*

- *Firms seeking attorneys and other legal staffing*
- *Attorneys and other legal professionals seeking a career change*
- *More than 75 years of combined experience in the legal arena*
- *A track record of assisting with hard to find jobs and hard to find candidates*
- *We work with practice groups and individual partners.*
- *We facilitate mergers*



**THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION  
MEMBERSHIP/ELECTION MEETING**

<b>When:</b>	<b>November 16, 2010</b> 6:00 p.m.
<b>Where:</b>	<b>Phil's Tavern</b> 931 Butler Pike Blue Bell, PA 19422 215-643-5664
<b>Topic:</b>	<b>Updates regarding Leadership, Regulation and Examination Changes in NFPA</b> presented by Deborah Arbuckle, Pa. C.P., and Sherry Barag, Pa. C.P. and <b>Election of 2011-2012 Directors</b>
<b>Cost:</b>	\$5 for members                      \$20 for non-members
<b>Menu:</b>	Choice of Chicken Special (chicken and spinach in a garlic white wine sauce over linguini), Baked Tilapia, or Petite Filet Mignon. All meals served with salad, coffee or tea, and chocolate pudding.
<b>Special Collection:</b>	<b>Gifts/Gift Cards for Baptist Children's Services (see attached flyer)</b> Baptist Children's Services is a non-profit, non-sectarian Residential Child Care Institution licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and regulated by the Department of Public Welfare. Baptist Children's Services provides residential care and services to dependent/neglected youth ages 13 to 18 years old.
<b>RSVP (with meal choice):</b>	Tracey Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P. ( <a href="mailto:tbarnes@dbyd.com">tbarnes@dbyd.com</a> ) By November 12, 2010

***Drawing for free 2011 MCPA Memberships!***

***(Must be present to win)***

***Event Sponsors:***



**STREHLOW & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
FULL SERVICE COURT REPORTING AGENCY

**2010 Holiday Wish List  
Baptist Children's Services**



**Your donations will make happy holiday memories for 87 boys and girls  
ages 13-18 residing in our group homes and shelters!**

**Item most requested: Gift Cards Always the right size, style and color!** In denominations of \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 to the following stores: Target, Walmart, Forman Mills, Marshalls, Gap, Old Navy, American Eagle, Footlocker, Modell's, Costco, B.J.'s Best Buy, Game Stop

**OR-If you prefer to purchase a gift-please adhere to the following most requested gift items.**

**Most of our residents are 13-18 years old. All gift-in kind donations must be new and unused**

**Clothing: MENS: Favorite Brands:** Polo, American Eagle, Old Navy, GAP, Nike, Adidas, Aeropostle

**Gifts:** Sweatshirts, sweat pants, jeans, Sports jerseys, Polo shirts, Pajama bottoms, Timberland boots, Nike or Adidas sneakers. Assorted men's Sizes

**WOMENS: Favorite Brands:** American Eagle, GAP, Old Navy, Rocawear, Aeropostle, Pac Sun

**Gifts:** Pajamas, robes, sweat shirts, sweat pants, tops. Assorted teen Sizes

**Personal:** Watches, Cologne/Bath and Body sets, Make up sets, Art and sketch sets, duffle bags, back packs

**Electronics:** Ipod Shuffle, MP3 players, Portable DVD players, DVD movies, Portable CD player, Play Station and Xbox 360 games, digital cameras

**Stocking stuffers:** Journals, AA Batteries, Gift certificates to Wawa, McDonalds, Wendy's, Burger King, KFC/Taco Bell, playing cards, winter gloves

Baptist Children's Services 588 N. Gulph Rd. King of Prussia, PA 19406 [www.baptistchildrensservices.org](http://www.baptistchildrensservices.org)

**501(c)3 Charitable Organization  
Federal Tax Identification Number: 23-1352032**

***Baptist Children's Services is a non-profit, non-sectarian Residential Child Care Institution licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and regulated by the Department of Public Welfare. Baptist Children's Services provides residential care and services to dependent/neglected youth ages 13 to 18 years old.***



## Westlaw

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

On September 23, 2010, Devon Collins from Thomson Reuters gave a very informative presentation regarding advances to the Westlaw programs.

Devon began the evening with an article recently published in the Legal Intelligencer. The article relating to a survey taken of attorneys regarding the things they “wished” their paralegals knew. Many of these so-called “wishes” got a laugh or groan from the audience. However, some wishes, Devon indicated, could be accomplished with the Westlaw advancements.

Devon began with a brief overview of WestlawNext. The biggest advantage to WestlawNext is that it is now extremely user- friendly. Gone are the searches with complicated boolean codes. Now your legal research is effected in a way that is similar to *Google* searches. The searches are based on area of law rather than term specific. Another useful advancement, of the many, is the “copy with reference” option. This option allows you to copy parts of a case or statute and insert directly into a brief or pleading with the appropriate Blue Book citation. Other advancements include a return key that takes you to the specific point in your search where you left off, email subject line stating the name of the case/statute rather than the citation, and a folder where research can be *dropped and dragged* or saved for eternity.

Devon then moved on to Westlaw Notebook. This is a management program but Devon made a point that it is not a case management program. This program allows you to have your case information, notes, and analysis accessible easily and quickly. A user can add notes to transcripts, do transcript summaries on the screen, and can search for terms and a string of terms across all case materials. Notebook even recognizes scanned handwriting.

Finally, Devon introduced PeopleMap. PeopleMap is a tool that helps the user find information regarding people and their relationships. Two interesting enhancements are the ability to do a utility records search and also access to an Experian search. Once you find the information you are looking for, PeopleMap has incredible reporting capabilities including the listing of text documents relating to the person. Devon’s one helpful hint when using PeopleMap--“less is more.” This means that when you are searching for a particular person do not limit your search by starting with too many details. Give some information and then start restricting the search from there.

All and all, Westlaw has spent a great deal of time listening to the needs of over 3,500 attorneys and paralegals and have answered the call. The WestlawNext, PeopleMap, and Westlaw Notebook have made it possible to grant some of the “wishes” attorneys have asked for.

*If you are unable to attend the election meeting, as per MCPA's Bylaws at Article VIII, Section 3, "...a voting member may vote by proxy executed in writing by said member or his agent. The proxy must be filed with the Secretary of the Association before the meeting. The proxy must be signed and dated." Kindly cast your vote via the proxy ballot, and forward it to the Nominating Committee as per the directions on the ballot.*

## Proxy Ballot

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby state that I am a current voting member of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association (hereinafter MCPA) and that I freely cast my vote of my own will for the following individuals to the position of Board of Director of the MCPA.

**PLEASE MARK UP TO FOUR BOXES**

- SHERRY BARAG, Pa. C.P.**
- NOREEN MESSMER**
- JENNIFER HANDFORTH**
- HEIDI REISS-TAIT**
- SHEILA KEES-HAYDEN**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Print Name**

**Mail Ballots to:** Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P., Nominating Committee  
1800 Pennbrook Parkway, Suite 200  
Lansdale, PA 19446-0107

**Or fax to:** 215-362-6722

**Or E-Mail to:** tbarnes@dbyd.com



## MEET THE CANDIDATES!!

### **Sheila Kees-Hayden**

Sheila graduated with honors from Lansdale School of Business in January of 2010. She was one of the first student liaisons appointed to the MCPA Board of Directors. Sheila is currently employed by Michelle A. Winter, Esquire in Colmar. This is a small firm that specializes in Family Law.

Before zeroing in on the paralegal profession, Sheila had always considered herself a “Jack of all Trades.” She now feels that her ability to think outside the box and her talent for putting people at ease are being put to good use. The MCPA has been instrumental in helping Sheila accomplish her goals in the legal profession. She hopes to be able to give back and pay it forward.

A life-long Upper Dublin resident, Sheila has two children. Her son, Jeff will graduate from the University of the Sciences in May and her daughter, Devin attends Gwynedd Mercy College. She has been happily married to her high school sweetheart, Jamie, for the past three years.

### **Sherry Barag**

Sherry is an intellectual property paralegal with Fox Rothschild LLP, working in their Blue Bell office, and has more than 40 years experience in intellectual property law. She has had such varied jobs as secretary, word processing specialist, network co-administrator, WordPerfect specialist, form documents and letters creator, computer trainer, senior billing coordinator and paralegal.

While working in Center City, Philadelphia, Sherry was very active in the Philadelphia Association of Paralegals and its Intellectual Property Group subcommittee, where she served as co-chair of the IP Group for several years and also served two years on the planning committee for PAP’s annual Education Conference. She was the recipient three times of PAP’s Special Recognition and Achievement Award for her work with the IP Group.

Sherry is currently serving on MCPA’s Board of Directors and is the Secondary Delegate to the National Federation of Paralegal Associations. This year, as Secondary Delegate, Sherry attended NFPA’s Annual Convention in Cherry Hill, NJ, as well as the Region IV Meeting in Pittsburgh and the Joint Conference on Leadership, Regulation and PACE in Washington, D.C.

Sherry is also a member of the Committee on Paralegal Certification of the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations.

Sherry grew up in Overbrook Park (in West Philadelphia) and attended the main campus of Penn State University. Sherry currently lives in Blue Bell and enjoys visiting her daughter and granddaughter in South Jersey.

### **Heidi Reiss-Tait**

Heidi Reiss-Tait received her Certificate in Paralegal Studies from Peirce College in August 2010. The same month, she became employed by Chernow Katz LLC in Horsham, Pennsylvania as an intellectual property paralegal concentrating on trademark law.

Heidi joined the Montgomery County Paralegal Association as a student member in 2009. She currently has the pleasure of serving on the Planning Committee with her daughter, Lindsay Tait. Heidi lives in Collegeville, Pennsylvania with her husband. She is the mother of two grown children who live nearby and she recently became a grandmother.

### **Noreen Messmer**

Noreen Messmer is currently employed by the law office of Ford & Buckman, P.C. as a legal assistant. Noreen has been employed with Ford & Buckman, P.C. since 1999, although has been working for Sarah M. Ford, Esquire at various firms for the past 37 years.

Noreen is currently in the process of completing her application to become a Pennsylvania Certified Paralegal (Pa.C.P.). She has been a member of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association for the past seven years and has been a member of the Planning Committee for the past four years.

Noreen also is currently working with the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations (KAPA) to develop criteria and a checklist for pre-approval of CLEs.

Noreen lives in Blue Bell. She has three children, a son who lives with her, and a daughter and son who are married. She is a “nana” to one and is expecting her second grandchild in January 2011.

### **Jennifer Handforth**

Jennifer has nearly ten years of experience as a legal assistant and paralegal, beginning in Monte & McGraw, a small firm in Skippack, PA. While working for Monte & McGraw, Jen was able to assist in nearly all areas of the law, from criminal to workers’ compensation. In 2007, the managing partner asked Jen to join him when his practice merged with Fox Rothschild LLP, where she remains employed today.

At Fox Rothschild, Jen specializes in all phases of litigation and handles all transactions with the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board in her Montgomery County Office. She is a member of her firm’s E-Discovery Committee and is actively involved in planning charity events for her office throughout the year. Jen also plays second base for Fox’s softball team.

Jen joined the MCPA in 2009, becoming the organization’s 100<sup>th</sup> member. Jen recently moved to Aston, PA and enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, Jeff, and their French Bulldog, Stella.



## CYBER HELP

Helpful *locating* websites submitted by Michele Harris of Harris Investigations.

<a href="http://www.searchforancestors.com">www.searchforancestors.com</a>	locate ancestors
<a href="http://www.ancestralfindings.com/">http://www.ancestralfindings.com/</a>	Ancestry searches/geneology look ups
<a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a>	Social Security death index, ancestry search
<a href="http://www.anywho.com">www.anywho.com</a>	Locate people
<a href="http://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a>	Search for friends/people
<a href="http://www.familytreemaker.com">www.familytreemaker.com</a>	Ancestry search
<a href="http://www.infospace.com">www.infospace.com</a>	Person search
<a href="http://www.lostchildren.org">www.lostchildren.org</a>	Missing children network
<a href="http://www.masterfiles.com">www.masterfiles.com</a>	Locate people
<a href="http://www.myfamily.com">www.myfamily.com</a>	Ancestry search
<a href="http://www.myspace.com">www.myspace.com</a>	Search for friends
<a href="http://www.peoplefinders.com">www.peoplefinders.com</a>	Person search
<a href="http://www.peoplesearch.com">www.peoplesearch.com</a>	Advanced people search
<a href="http://www.voompeople.com">www.voompeople.com</a>	Person search
<a href="http://www.whowhere.com">www.whowhere.com</a>	Locate search
<a href="http://www.searches.rootweb.com">www.searches.rootweb.com</a>	Locating deceased
<a href="http://www.findgrave.com">www.findgrave.com</a>	Location deceased
<a href="http://www.deathspace.com">www.deathspace.com</a>	archived death info
<a href="http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com">http://ssdi.genealogy.rootsweb.com</a>	SS Death index search
<a href="http://www.zoombak.com">www.zoombak.com</a>	Personal GPS Locator
<a href="http://www.yoname.com">www.yoname.com</a>	social network finder
<a href="http://www.weddingbee.com/">http://www.weddingbee.com/</a>	Place to locate subject
<a href="http://www.marathonguide.com">www.marathonguide.com</a>	Place to find runners
<a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/stateweb.htm">http://www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/stateweb.htm</a>	SS# verification



Congratulations to Jennifer Ciminera on the birth of her son Anthony Luke!



**Attention: All Paralegal Students**

The Peirce College® Paralegal Student Association  
will be hosting the...

**Paralegal Studies Symposium and Networking Event**

**Tuesday, November 16, 2010**

**5:30 pm – 8:00 pm**

Peirce College

Main Campus Building

Symposium Rooms 51 and 52

Event Focus:

**Pro Bono Legal Assistance: The Role of the Paralegal and Providing  
Legal Services to those in Need**

**Guest speakers:**

**David Travaskis, Esquire, Pennsylvania Bar Association, Pro  
Bono Director**

**Marissa Bluestine, Esquire, Legal Director, Pennsylvania  
Innocence Project**

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

**Kindly RSVP by November 12, 2010 to [WCAE@peirce.edu](mailto:WCAE@peirce.edu)**

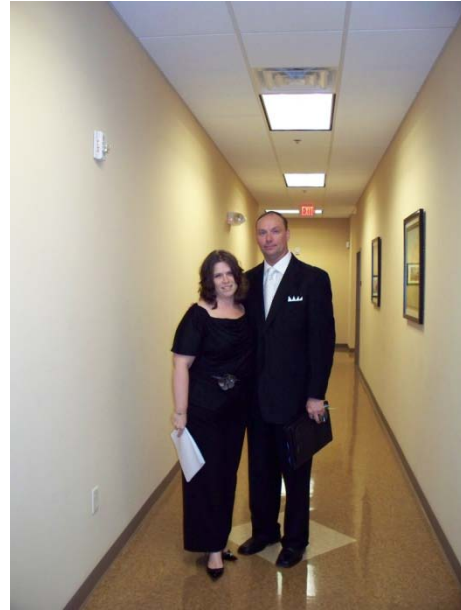
## “Road to Success”

By Dena Fernandez-Mitchell

On Tuesday, September 28, 2010, the Montgomery County Paralegal Association (MCPA) presented “Road to Success,” an event to inform and benefit students. The evening was hosted at Lansdale School of Business (LSB) and coordinated by LSB student and MCPA student liaison, Mary Kay Alt. Students from LSB, Pierce, Manor, and Villanova Colleges attended to hear several MCPA members present different topics of interest to aspiring paralegals. Harry Reichner, MCPA Vice President and acting moderator, began the evening by welcoming attendees and introducing the MCPA panel.

Kathy Zamorski spoke first on behalf of the MCPA Student Scholarship Program. The program awards an annual scholarship of \$250 to three MCPA students enrolled in paralegal programs. Kathy encouraged all in attendance to take the time to apply, and spread the word to their fellow students.

Debbie Arbuckle discussed the Student Liaison Program, and highlighted the benefits of the position to students, schools, and the association. Lisa LaPenna, former MCPA Board Member and current Student Mentor Committee Chairperson, told her personal story of how she secured her first job as a paralegal. Lisa also stressed the importance of maximizing every opportunity to network and make connections with people in the profession.



Lindsay Tait, a current student herself described her transition from law firm receptionist to a paralegal in the same firm. She enlightened the students on how a golden opportunity may arise at any given moment, and it is up to them to take advantage of such an opportunity.

Last but certainly not least, Lisa McDermott from the recruiting firm of Everett Kelley Associates gave outstanding professional advice and insight on what firms are looking for in a paralegal. She spoke on

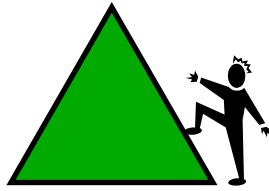
significant matters such as building a strong resume, making first impressions, and the importance of what to say and not to say when interviewing.

After the speeches, the evening continued in the student lounge where students had the opportunity to receive resume critique by Suzanne Cressman and Sharon O'Donnell. Students

were given individual attention and received valuable advice on how to strengthen their resumes. LSB provided an array of refreshments, which served as the perfect backdrop for socializing and networking amongst MCPA members and students.

All in all, the evening was a great success! The presenters were terrific and well received as they imparted words of wisdom derived from real life experiences. Students were given a wealth of useful information directly related to entry level paralegals. Putting the information into practical terms made the experience that much more valuable. I recommend that MCPA take this show on the road to all area schools that offer a paralegal program.





## **WANT TO BE THE NEXT STUDENT LIAISON???!!!**

We are pleased to announce the continuation of our Student Liaison Program--now in its third year. We are looking for students who are go-getters and members of the MCPA to fill Student Liaison positions to represent their schools at our monthly board meetings in 2011. This is a one year term.

We need representatives from Peirce College, Lansdale School of Business, Manor College, Villanova University, California University of PA, Community College of Philadelphia, etc. 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 by October 15, 2010. 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. We will announce the names of the 2011 Student Liaisons at our Election Meeting in November. 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



MONTGOMERY BAR ASSOCIATION  
☎ 610.279.9660, Norristown, Pennsylvania

## **Great Upcoming CLE Events - Coming to the MBA**

### **Civil Electronic Filing in Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas**

*This seminar is open to attorneys as well as staff members.*



Date: Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Time: 8:00am to 10:15am

Location: MBA CLE Room

Credit(s): 2.0 Hours Substantive

Moderator(s): Carolyn M. Dillon, Esq., O'Brien & Ryan, LLP

Speaker(s): Bonnie O'Kane, First Deputy Prothonotary and Joanne Popowicz, Supervisor

Topic(s): This seminar will provide a practical introduction as well as updated information to attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, and staff for electronic filing for civil matters in Montgomery County. Information regarding additional procedures and solutions that have been implemented will also be discussed.

Registration: 7:45 AM

Comments: Coffee and Danish Served. Paralegals pay the same as members with CLE.

[Register for this CLE at the MBA website](#)

***THE PARALEGAL  
MENTORING COMMITTEE  
IS CALLING YOUR NAME***

Want to be a Mentor?

Need a Mentor?

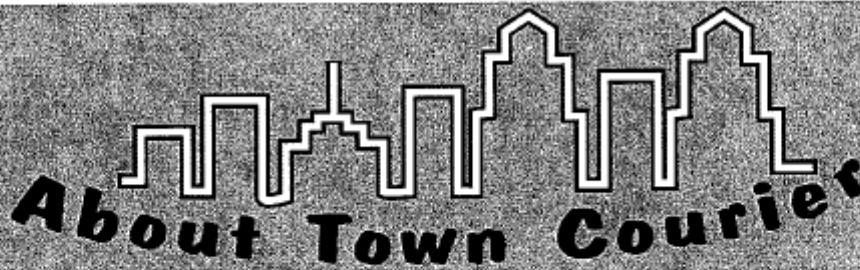
Want the Mentoring Committee at your next college event?

Want us to talk to your students?



Contact Lisa LaPenna at [llapenna@kaplaw.com](mailto:llapenna@kaplaw.com); (610) 941-2523

# CUSTOMIZED SERVICE



*Your Locally Based Courier - Delivering On Time Everytime*

**Document & Package Delivery**

**Immediate Pickup • Fully Insured**

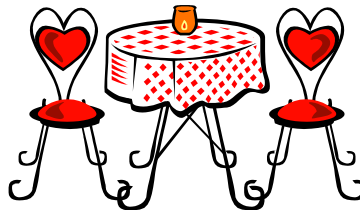
**Court Filings With Same Day Return**

**Medical Supplies And Equipment**

*Family Owned & Operated Since The Last Millennium*

**Serving The Mid-Atlantic Region**

# 215-572-5336



## 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 [ltait@millerturetsky.com](mailto:ltait@millerturetsky.com).



## NFPA UPDATE

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

The 2010 NFPA Convention/Policy Meeting was hosted by the Philadelphia Association of Paralegals (“PAP”) and held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Philadelphia/Cherry Hill October 7 through October 10, 2010. The schedule of educational seminars and speakers on Thursday was outstanding with topics ranging from “Risk Management for Paralegals” and “Advanced Legal Writing” to ‘Impact of Social Networking Sites on IP” and what I understand was a very popular seminar “Divorce in the Age of TMZ: The Challenges in Representing High Profile Clients”. The Keynote Presenter was veteran Philadelphia journalist, George Anastasia, who was entertaining and engaging at the luncheon on Thursday.

PAP is to be congratulated for their hard work in hosting this year’s convention. It is an incredible amount of work and requires mountains of organizational and logistical skills, and they did a stellar job.

Region Meetings were held on Friday, with each Region meeting separately to discuss various topics. It is always an eye opener for me, in that I am reminded that other associations have the same issues and dilemmas as MCPA when it comes to topics like member engagement and retention, how to stay viable as an association in today’s financial climate and the like. It is also good to have these round table discussions because you never know what another association is doing that might just work for your group. An example is that MCPA currently is the only Region IV association with a student liaison program. However, several associations have been in touch and are in the planning stages of instituting similar programs, based on our program. The exchange of ideas always energizes me. Just ask the Board how animated I was at the October Board Meeting when I reported on convention!

Friday was also sad in that Region IV said goodbye to Sandi Heintz, of the Pittsburgh Paralegal Association, our Region IV Director. Sandi decided to step down as Region Director and will be

greatly missed. However, the Region is in good hands as Jessica Swedenhjelm, RP, of the Central PA Paralegal Association, was elected as the new Region IV Director! Good luck, Jessica!

While I'm on the election topic, the new NFPA President is Tracey L. Young, RP of Empire State Alliance of Paralegal Associations. New VP & Director of Paralegal Certification is Suellen Honeychuck, RP of Paralegal Association of Northern Virginia and new VP and Director of Positions and Issues is Robert Hrouda, RP of Philadelphia Association of Paralegals. Both PANV and PAP are Region IV associations. Suellen and Bob have long been involved with their local associations and Bob and is a former Region IV Director. Many of you may remember that Bob spoke to MCPA a few years ago regarding paralegal regulation at one of MCPA's general membership meetings. Suellen has been intimately involved in the development of both PACE and the new PCC exams, and will add invaluable insight into those programs.

The policy meeting itself was rather abbreviated this year, as there were only two items on the agenda, both administrative. NFPA has extended their contract with PES which is the company NFPA has partnered with again to create and administer the new exam for the PCC –CORE exam. The new roll-out date for this exam is anticipated to be November 1, 2011 and those who pass will have the designation of “CORE Registered Paralegal” or CRP.

MCPA will host the spring region meeting, with the tentative date being Saturday, April 16, 2011. It is scheduled to be held at Kaplin Stewart and is open to all MCPA members. More information on this when we get closer to the date.

Please remember to visit the NFPA website for CLE opportunities, member benefits and updates.  
<http://www.paralegals.org/>





## Harris Investigations, LLC

**Bonded, Licensed and Insured Investigators**

All Services Nationwide:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Household Checks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asset Searches	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Police Reports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scene Photos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Product Liability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Background Checks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DMV Nationwide	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surveillance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Litigation Support
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Photos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process Serving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other

*Large enough to serve, yet small enough to care*

**Call Toll Free: 1-888-484-9827**

E-Mail: [mharrisinvestigations@msn.com](mailto:mharrisinvestigations@msn.com)

---

<small>PO Box 304 Lansdale, PA 19446 Tel: 215-368-1760 Fax: 215-368-1762</small>	<small>PO Box 1512 Cranberry Twp, PA 16066 Tel: 724-779-2097 Fax: 724-778-8272</small>	<small>PO Box 30047 Wilmington DE 19805 Tel: 302-655-2554</small>
--	--	---

Michele and Charles Harris, Members

[www.harrisinvestigations.net](http://www.harrisinvestigations.net)



GLOBAL ONLINE

## Educational Programs with a Unique Degree of Character.

### 100% ONLINE BS and MS in Legal Studies:

- Law and Public Policy
  - Criminal Justice
  - Homeland Security Track
    - Certificate in Homeland Security also available

The 100% online curriculum provides students with a strong foundation in criminal, family, real estate, administrative and business law. It also includes a set of competencies in legal research and writing, litigation, estates and trusts, bankruptcy, ethics and constitutional law.

Cal U's Web-based format allows students the opportunity to pursue their interests in a variety of legal topics, preparing them for a host of different career options.

To learn more about the 100% online BS and MS in Legal Studies: Law & Public Policy, Homeland Security, Criminal Justice programs or other unique online opportunities, visit Cal U's website at [www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu) or call 724-597-7400.

California University of Pennsylvania  
Building Character. Building Careers.

[www.calu.edu](http://www.calu.edu)

A proud member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.

# CALU



## ***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 Christine Horace at [chorace@good-lawyer.com](mailto:chorace@good-lawyer.com).



## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Ro Fedorka, Chairperson

COC seeking "Wrappers" with holiday spirit to help the less fortunate. Come "Wrap" with us at Holiday Gift Wrapping event at BCS Office, 588 N. Gulph Road, King of Prussia, Tuesday 12/14 and/or Wednesday 12/15 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Wrappers please bring scissors & tape dispensers. Beverages & light bites will be provided by DiscoveryWorks.





## 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](http://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](mailto:chealy@sattinronca.com)  
610-278-2630



# Legal Studies at Manor College

Take the next step  
on the *fast track* to  
a *career in law*...

*Get Credentialed*

*Refresh/Update* Your Skills

*Learn* New Skills

*Prepare* for a New Career

*Enhance* Your Current Career

Associate Degree and  
Post-Baccalaureate  
Certificate Programs

Day, Evening,  
Weekend and Online Classes

All  
programs  
approved  
by the  
American  
Bar  
Association



700 Fox Chase Road  
Jenkintown, PA 19046

phone 215.884.2360  
fax 215.576.6564  
web [www.manor.edu](http://www.manor.edu)

For more information, contact  
Diane Pevar, J.D., Legal Studies program  
director, at 215.885.2360, ext. 259 or email  
[dpevar@manor.edu](mailto:dpevar@manor.edu) or visit [www.manor.edu/legal](http://www.manor.edu/legal)

ATTENTION ALL LAWYERS, ADMINISTRATORS, PARALEGALS and LAW OFFICE STAFF  
THE MOST BUZZWORTHY EVENT IN OUR REGION'S LEGAL COMMUNITY IS BACK!

# Delaware Valley LEGAL EXPO 2010

*at*  
*Presidential Caterers*  
Rte. 202 and Germantown Pike - East Norriton, PA

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2010**  
3 pm to 7 pm

*"...well organized, fun and informative. We make it a priority to attend every year."*

*"...a valuable resource for connecting with new vendors."*

*"...a great event! Great prizes, great location and great food."*



**REGISTER FREE TODAY**  
**FOR A CHANCE TO WIN ONE of TWO FREE iPADS\***

Plus Other Portable Electronics, Gift Cards, Event Tickets and Dozens of Other GREAT PRIZES!

\*must attend to win

Register **FREE** today at [montgomerybar.org](http://montgomerybar.org)  
or Call 610-279-9660, Ext. 200 for more INFO

Presented by the ALA, Independence Chapter and the Montgomery Bar Association

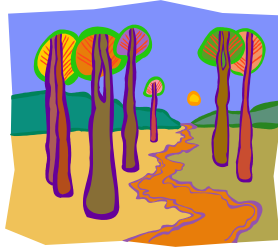
**TWO  
INTERACTIVE  
EXHIBIT HALLS**

Featuring Hundreds of  
Products and Services to  
Improve Your Practice!



**FREE**

**HAPPY HOUR  
RECEPTION  
GIVEAWAYS  
ENTERTAINMENT  
EXPO PASS  
PRACTICE TIPS  
NETWORKING  
and MORE!**



## Certification: Is It the Path for You?

By Vicki Voisin, ACP

Submitted by Terri Hall

**The issue of certification has long been debated.** Here are a few questions I'm frequently asked:

- I graduated from a paralegal program, why should I sit for a certification exam?
- I have a paralegal certificate from a university, doesn't that make me 'certified'?
- I have a good job and several years of experience, how will being certified make a difference?
- What will those letters after my name really do for me?
- My boss doesn't care if I'm certified so why should I bother?

I wholeheartedly support the certification process for paralegals and believe that it is an important professional goal. Please consider the following points:

**Having a certificate does not mean you are certified.** A certificate is issued upon completion of an educational program, at which time you are *certificated*. Certification involves passing an examination established by a sponsoring organization that usually has specific requirements of education and experience for persons taking the exam. Upon completion of the examination, you are certified.

**The American Bar Association defines certification as:** 'a process by which a non-governmental agency or association grants recognition to an individual who has met certain predetermined qualifications specified by that agency or association.'

I am certainly not minimizing the importance of completing a paralegal program and obtaining your certificate or your degree. In fact, I view paralegal education as essential. I am merely pointing out that there is an additional step you can take that will increase your professional profile. That step is certification.

**Credential = credibility.** Certification is a voluntary process and is not a prerequisite for paralegal employment. However, certification gives you credibility. It demonstrates that you have the knowledge base and the skill required to pass the examination. It may also make you more marketable and may increase your income potential.

**Certification takes you off the level playing field.** Graduation from a paralegal program (and, thus, being certificated) is the primary avenue by which people enter the paralegal profession. If everyone has a certificate, how is a potential employer to judge the best candidate for the job? Think about the following:

Two paralegals standing side by side with the same certificate from the same school and the same amount of experience. How can one be distinguished from the other? The answer is certification. The certified paralegal demonstrates that he or she is a multi-skilled professional with diverse knowledge and effective communication skills.

**Certification provides paralegals an avenue for self-regulation.** The issue of licensure for paralegals is old news...it's been discussed ad nauseum for more than a quarter century. Paralegals work under the supervision of a licensed attorney and do not provide their services directly to the public. For this reason, licensure of paralegals is not required.

**Further, licensure says a person is 'qualified' to do work.** It does not demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills. An example is a hair dresser (and I have the highest regard for my hair dresser, believe me!). Hair dressers are allowed to enter the profession when they are licensed by a state agency. The license does not say they have fantastic skills, it only says that they can perform the services. The certification credential is awarded to people who prove their advanced knowledge and skills by meeting the standards of the credentialing organization.

**Certification will do much for you personally.** Ask anyone who has a credential and they will tell you that the achievement made them walk a little taller, made them feel stronger professionally, gave them incredible personal satisfaction and increased their level of professional confidence. They set a goal and they achieved it. They took a risk and they survived it. They have the credibility that the credential provides. They literally stand out above the crowd. Their accomplishment gave them great pride. You, too, can have all that with professional certification.

**One additional benefit you will reap from the certification exam:** the learning that takes place in the preparation for the examination. Even the most experienced paralegal will learn something new and benefit from the intense review.

You will usually be required to participate in continuing education programs to maintain your certification. This requirement will help you keep up to date with changes in the profession and in the legal arena. Also, the credentialing organization will usually set high ethical standards for those using the credential. Unethical behavior will result in the loss of the credential.

**Certification may give you a 'leg up' when you're searching for a job.** In today's economy, you need all the ammunition you can muster to prove that you are the person for the job. Having the certification credential behind you exhibits not only the advanced knowledge I mentioned earlier, it also shows discipline, ambition, motivation and willingness to accept a challenge.

**Which certification examination/credential is right for you?** That's a personal decision. Many paralegal associations provide certification examinations (ie NALA, NFPA, NALS, and AAPI). There are also voluntary certification programs offered by some states...examples are North Carolina and Florida, but there are others. All have different structure and eligibility requirements, as well as different continuing education and re-certification requirements.

What is important is that the credentialing organization you choose is a bona fide entity, that the exam is administered under rules and regulations in accordance with governmental acts and in accordance with such issues as anti-trust and fairness.

It is essential that the organization agrees to keep applications and records confidential. It is crucial that the organization prepares an examination under the guidance of professional testing consultants, that the exam be continually reviewed for accuracy, and that it be updated on a regular basis.

**Usually the certification designation is a certification mark duly registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.** Claims of certified status must be verifiable...in other words, if a paralegal claims to be certified, he or she must have the credential to prove it.

Can you ethically use the credential after your name? Yes! Whether it is CLA, CP, PP, RP, AACP, ACP, PLS, AVA, ALS, NCCP etc. you can use it. The U.S. Supreme Court has addressed the issue concerning the utilization of credentials awarded by private organizations. In *Peal v Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Committee of Illinois*, 110 S.Ct. 2281 (1990), the Court suggested that a claim of certification is truthful and not misleading if:

- The claim itself is true
- The bases on which certification was awarded are factual and verifiable
- The certification in question is available to all professionals in the field who meet relevant, objective and consistently applied standards
- The certification claim does not suggest any greater degree of professional qualification than reasonably may be inferred from an evaluation of the certification program's requirements.
- There is a qualified organization behind the certification process

Of course, the credential cannot be used to mislead the public and represent something you are not.

**How do you prepare for a certification examination?** The thought of all that study may sound overwhelming. The idea of taking such a critical examination may be frightening. The key to success is in the preparation and planning. The best thing to do is to break the process into steps:

- Decide which examination you will take.
- Decide when you will take the examination
- Working backward from the examination date, block a period of time for study and determine a study schedule (I recommend three months but that is an individual decision)
- Plan how you will study and what reference materials you will need (these may be available from the credentialing organization)
- Join a study group and enlist 'study buddies' to hold you accountable
- Take advantage of preparation and educational opportunities offered by the credentialing organization, as well as your professional association. For instance, NALA offers a three-day intense CLA review course, as well as CLA preparation courses at its convention.

**Your challenge: If you already have a professional credential, congratulations!** If you don't, please put that at the top of your list. Follow the steps above and begin planning for the examination. You will never regret the time and effort it takes. You will always feel immense professional pride when you put those initials after your name!

=====

©2010 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 [www.paralegalmentor.com](http://www.paralegalmentor.com).

## 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)*



STREHLOW & ASSOCIATES, INC.  
FULL SERVICE COURT REPORTING AGENCY



### **Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations (KAPA)** **News of Note**

The MCPA is a member of the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations (“KAPA”), a professional organization comprised of paralegal organizations located throughout Pennsylvania. The member associations represent in excess of 1,400 paralegals of varying backgrounds, experience, education, and job responsibilities, reflecting the diversity of the paralegal profession. The Keystone Alliance was formally established in 1995 from groundwork laid in the 1980's by the paralegal associations in Pennsylvania.

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



## 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](http://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](http://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://ww12.1800flowers.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](http://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.

# **BECOMING A PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFIED PARALEGAL (Pa.C.P.)**

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

**To become a Pennsylvania Certified Paralegal you must fulfill the following qualifications and grandfathering or the educational requirements set forth below:**

1. Applicant must be a member in good standing of a Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations member association;
2. Applicant must be a legal resident of the United States of America;
3. Applicant must satisfy Education/Experience or Grandfathering requirements;
4. Applicant must submit declarations from one (1) attorney in good standing with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania who will attest to his/her direct knowledge of the Applicant's skill level and his/her work as a Paralegal;
5. A Paralegal making application under work experience only must submit declarations from two (2) attorneys; and
6. Certified copy of Applicant's official transcript(s) from the educational institution(s) attended OR a letter from the education institution(s) attended indicating the dates of the Applicant's attendance and the date(s) of the Applicant's graduation OR a copy of the Diploma/Certificate received by the Applicant from the education's institution(s) attended. Certified Legal Assistants ("CLA"), Certified Paralegals ("CP"), Registered Paralegals ("RP"), or Paralegals holding another Paralegal credential approved and recognized by the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations need only submit a copy of their original credential certification and their current letter of good standing. Applicants who are making application for certification under work experience only, do not need to submit transcripts or Diplomas/Certificates.

## **GRANDFATHERING PROVISION:**

**Prior to June 30, 2012, Applicant must meet one (1) of the following criteria:**

1. Bachelor's Degree in Paralegal Studies from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND one (1) year of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
2. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND a Certificate/Associate's Degree from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND one (1) year of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
3. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND three (3) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
4. Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies AND three (3) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
5. Certificate from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND three (3) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
6. Associate's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND five (5) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
7. Certificate from a non-ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND five (5) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
8. Seven (7) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
9. Designation of CLA, CP or RP or other Paralegal credential approved and recognized by the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations AND two (2) years of substantive Paralegal experience.

## **EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

**After July 1, 2012, Applicant must meet one (1) of the following criteria:**

1. Bachelor's Degree in Paralegal Studies from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND one (1) year of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
2. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND a Certificate/Associate's Degree from an ABA-approved Paralegal Program AND one (1) year of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
3. Bachelor's Degree in any discipline from an accredited institution AND three (3) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
4. Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies from a Paralegal Program AND five (5) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
5. Certificate from a Paralegal Program AND five (5) years of substantive Paralegal experience; OR
6. Designation of CLA, CP or RP or other Paralegal credential approved and recognized by the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations AND two (2) years of substantive Paralegal experience.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Requirements – Twelve (12) hours with two (2) hours being in ethics for every two (2) years' renewal.
- Examination – No exam at this time.
- Fees – Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars non-refundable Processing Fee for initial two (2) year period. Twenty-Five (\$25.00) Dollars non-refundable Processing Fee for each renewal period of two (2) years. Fees subject to change.

**Visit [www.keystoneparalegals.org](http://www.keystoneparalegals.org) for forms and additional information**





**REALTIME REPORTING • VIDEOTAPING  
CONFERENCE ROOMS • MIN-U-SCRIPT • ASCII DISK  
WORLD WIDE VIDEOCONFERENCING**

---

***High Tech***

Cutting edge technology offered by a professional staff.

***Full Service***

Whether it's videotaping, conference rooms, realtime reporting, videoconferencing, or litigation support, we're there for you.

***Cooperative, friendly atmosphere***

This is a family - owned business and our staff reflects that fact by their willingness to go that extra mile to help you achieve the results you desire, no matter which of our services you require. So visit either of our offices; we're waiting for you.

**High tech. Full service. Cooperative, friendly atmosphere.  
*That's US!***

---



**V A R A L L O A L F E  
R E P O R T I N G**

---

229 N. Olive Street Media PA 19063 <b>Ph: 610-565-6150</b> <b>Fax: 610-565-2020</b>	790 E. Market Street, Suite 195 West Chester PA 19382 <b>Ph: 610-429-3556</b> <b>Fax: 610-429-3557</b>
--	---

Why Take PACE®?

## **Paralegals receive two major benefits by taking PACE. The exam**

( [www.paralegals.org](http://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.

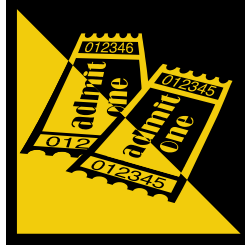
PACE presents a bold opportunity to all paralegals to advance the profession. This exam provides hard facts about the competency of experienced paralegals. While PACE does not address all the issues of regulation, including certification and licensing, it does provide the legal service industry with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

Please join us on Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 6:30pm at Bucks County Community College for a presentation by Lisa Shearman of Plotnick & Ellis P.C., an Estate Planning firm. Lisa will talk about "Wills for Heroes" which is a program co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Young Lawyers Division which provides free basic estate planning documents to first responders in Pennsylvania such as police, fire and emergency medical personnel. Each program is staffed by lawyer, paralegal, and notary volunteers. To read more about "Wills for Heroes" visit [www.pabar.org/.../Wills%20for%20Heroes%20Flyer%20Volunteers.pdf](http://www.pabar.org/.../Wills%20for%20Heroes%20Flyer%20Volunteers.pdf).

#### **Please check out our website for details on upcoming events:**

Thursday, January 20, 2010 - Victoria Stavish and court reporter, Sue Allen, from Love Court Reporting to give us a court reporting demonstration and information on reporting options and careers.

Wednesday, March 16, 2010 - Uva Coles, Career Development Services, Peirce College, will hold a workshop on Resume Do's and Dont's

Thursday, April 22, 2010 - 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.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:Tbarnes@dbyd.com)

## **Job Bank**

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

-

Stephanie Dise, Pa. C.P.  
[sad@elliottgreenleaf.com](mailto:sad@elliottgreenleaf.com)

## **Marketing**

Solicit sponsors and advertisers for MCPA

-

Deborah A. Long, Pa., C.P.  
[dlong@dbyd.com](mailto:dlong@dbyd.com)  
Deborah A. Arbuckle,  
[darbuckle@kaplaw.com](mailto:darbuckle@kaplaw.com)

## **Public Relations**

Promote the MCPA in the legal and general Community

-

Annette Long  
[along@kanepugh.com](mailto:along@kanepugh.com)

## **Planning**

Plan and schedule upcoming MCPA presentations, meetings and social events

-

Lindsey Tait  
[ltait@millerturetsky.com](mailto:ltait@millerturetsky.com)  
Terri Hall  
[thall@streamlight.com](mailto:thall@streamlight.com)

## **Community Outreach**

Plan and schedule MCPA charitable and community events

-

Roberta Fedorka  
[rfedorka@obrlaw.com](mailto:rfedorka@obrlaw.com)

## **Fundraising**

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

-

Christine Horace  
[chorace@good-lawyer.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dlong@dbyd.com) or Debbie Arbuckle at [darbuckle@kaplaw.com](mailto: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](mailto: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

## Officers

Deborah A. Long, Pa. C.P., President (215) 362-2474  
[dlong@dbyd.com](mailto:dlong@dbyd.com)

Deborah Arbuckle, Pa. C.P., Vice President (610) 941-2523  
[darbuckle@kaplaw.com](mailto:darbuckle@kaplaw.com)

Harry Reichner, Vice President (610) 205-1560  
[hreichner@mmclaw.com](mailto:hreichner@mmclaw.com)

Ro Fedorka, Treasurer (610) 834-8800  
[rfedorka@obrlaw.com](mailto:rfedorka@obrlaw.com)

Linda Brearey, Secretary (267) 305-6123  
[Linda\\_breary@merck.com](mailto:Linda_breary@merck.com)

## Board Members

Christine Horace (215) 362-2478  
[chorace@good-lawyer.com](mailto:chorace@good-lawyer.com)

Sherry Barag, Pa. C.P. (610) 397-4431  
[sbarag@foxrothschild.com](mailto:sbarag@foxrothschild.com)

Annette Long (610) 275-2000  
[along@kanepugh.com](mailto:along@kanepugh.com)

Terri Hall (610) 631-0600  
[thall@streamlight.com](mailto:thall@streamlight.com)

## Student Liaisons

Mary Kay Alt [mkayalt@comcast.net](mailto:mkayalt@comcast.net)

Mark D'Annunzio [dannunzio.mark@gmail.com](mailto:dannunzio.mark@gmail.com)

[www.montcoparalegals.org](http://www.montcoparalegals.org)



# 2010 MCPA Committee Contact List

## 2010 Committee Chairs:

### Planning Chair

Terri Hall – [thall@streamlight.com](mailto:thall@streamlight.com)  
Lindsay Tait – [ltait@millerturetsky.com](mailto:ltait@millerturetsky.com)

### Marketing Co-Chairs

Debbie Long, Pa. C.P.– [dlong@dbyd.com](mailto:dlong@dbyd.com)  
Debbie Arbuckle, Pa. C.P. –  
[darbuckle@kaplaw.com](mailto:darbuckle@kaplaw.com)

### Membership Chair

Tracey Barnes, RP, Pa.. C.P. –  
[tbarnes@dbyd.com](mailto:tbarnes@dbyd.com)

### Community Outreach Chair

Ro Fedorka  
[rfedorka@obrlaw.com](mailto:rfedorka@obrlaw.com)

### Newsletter Editor

Tracey Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.  
[tbarnes@dbyd.com](mailto:tbarnes@dbyd.com)

### Mentoring Chair

Lisa LaPenna, Pa. C.P.  
[llapenna@kaplaw.com](mailto:llapenna@kaplaw.com)

### Fundraising Chair

Christine Horace  
[chorace@good-lawyer.com](mailto:chorace@good-lawyer.com)

### Publicity Chair

Annette Long  
[along@kanepugh.com](mailto:along@kanepugh.com)

### Scholarship Committee Chair

Beth Breckenridge  
[bbreckenridge@highswartz.com](mailto:bbreckenridge@highswartz.com)

## 2010 Representatives and Coordinators:

### NFPA Primary Delegate

Debbie Arbuckle, Pa. C.P.  
[darbuckle@kaplaw.com](mailto:darbuckle@kaplaw.com)

### NFPA Secondary Delegate

Sherry Barag, Pa. C.P. –  
[Sbarag@foxrothschild.com](mailto:Sbarag@foxrothschild.com)

### Keystone Alliance Primary Delegate

Harry Reichner  
[Hreichner@mmclaw.com](mailto:Hreichner@mmclaw.com)

### Keystone Alliance Secondary Delegate

Tracey Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P. –  
[tbarnes@dbyd.com](mailto:tbarnes@dbyd.com)

### PACE Coordinator

Dawn Cinaglia, RP –  
[dcinaglia@nldhlaw.com](mailto:dcinaglia@nldhlaw.com)

### Bar Liaison

Lisa LaPenna, Pa. C.P.  
[llapenna@kaplaw.com](mailto:llapenna@kaplaw.com)

### CLE Coordinator

Tracey Barnes, RP, Pa. C.P.  
[tbarnes@dbyd.com](mailto:tbarnes@dbyd.com)

### Job Bank Coordinator

Stephanie Dise, Pa. C.P.  
[sad@elliottgreenleaf.com](mailto:sad@elliottgreenleaf.com)

### Webmaster

Harry A. Reichner  
[Hreichner@mmclaw.com](mailto:Hreichner@mmclaw.com)