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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Dana Jorna, Pa.C.P.

Dear fellow members,

**T**

Thank you for allowing me to serve as the President of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association for 2020-21. It is a privilege to have the trust of my fellow officers, board members, and the association as I guide this organization into a new decade. I am excited to build off of the great work done by past presidents and boards before me.

During this upcoming year we will continue to coordinate monthly CLE meetings; striving to identify new and relevant topics that will best keep our 100 plus members well-versed and up-to-date. It is my hope that we continue to expand our organization's presence in the local community and pro bono communities while maintaining longstanding connections with other legal and non-legal organizations. Our student membership has been on the rise and we feel it is important to encourage that growth however we can. Our focus will be to identify local area high schools, community colleges, and universities where we can share our members experiences and knowledge through career fairs and in classroom visits.

It is our mission to provide a network of communication and support to all of our members, to act as a forum for the interchange of ideas, and take an effective role in the development and growth of the paralegal profession. To accomplish this, the MCPA is continually seeking to include a wide range of members on our various committees. If you or someone you know has ideas or thoughts on how to improve or grow, we encourage you to contact the committee chair and get involved.

I look forward to working with and for you throughout the year.



Visit us at:  
[www.montcoparalegals.org](http://www.montcoparalegals.org)

**Newsletter Committee**

Sarah B. Castner

**Editor**

Lisa Lagreca

[llagreca@dischellbartle.com](mailto:llagreca@dischellbartle.com)

# MEET THE BOARD



On January 27th, 2020, the Honorable Stanley Ott presided over the MCPA's induction ceremony and administered the oath of office for its officers and board members. Left to right we have Trista Davis, Noreen Messmer, Karen Manzanares, Tracey Barnes, Judge Stanley Ott, Dana Jorna, Chris Gregg, Deborah Arbuckle, Lisa Lagreca, and Jennifer Echikson.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Stinnard—Dischell Bartle & Dooley P.C.

## ATTENTION

### Credential Renewal Reminder

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## Why Paralegals Should Understand A.I. and Analytics in Today's Legal Field

Written by Nova Levante, and reprinted with her permission

In the battle of tech, who will win in the end, A.I. or paralegals?



In today's digital age, the question of how artificial intelligence (A.I.) will shift industries, particularly the legal realm, has been heavily debated.

As a licensed attorney and technology enthusiast who is immersed in A.I., I found it interesting when my 65-year-old mother came out of retirement as an English professor to work as a paralegal in a law firm for the first time.

Like many today, my mother was curious on how A.I., legal research, and time efficiency can fit into one picture.

### How A.I. Can Transform Your Law Firm

The background of how paralegals can be valuable to firms is rooted in the evolution of A.I., as applied to legal research. In theory, the integration of A.I. in the workplace will drastically change or even eliminate a plethora of jobs in the short-term.

A.I. has great potential in the medical, legal, and educational fields. But, the legal field in particular, is one in which A.I. will significantly impact and transform, maybe not always in the most positive way. Why do you ask?

It is very possible that holistic legal intelligence created by A.I. may limit or eliminate the need for paralegals. One application would include the application of legal contracts and other documents for transactional law. The efficiency provided would allow firms to attract more clients, process documents and research faster, and provide cheaper services.

However, there would be an elimination of an entire sector. This elimination, along with other job sector eliminations could result in American policy changes to protect jobs.

### How A.I. Impacts Economic Policy

However, one issue is that those making decisions about A.I. are political representatives whose constituents may not fully understand A.I.'s ultimate benefit. Just as those living in Flint and Detroit were understandably unhappy with the micro-economy when the automotive industry left Michigan, many Americans will be unhappy with the micro-economies A.I. harms.

In theory, an afraid and unhappy population could convince legislators to put barriers up against A.I. implementation. However, it is also foreseeable that the business leaders in America will also have a pull with the legislature and stymie such interference with technological innovation. Therefore, if paperwork, researching, and call center jobs could be replaced by A.I. many people would need to be retrained for the new market place.

*continued on next page*

### So, What's a Paralegal To Do?

My advice, if you can't beat them, join them.

There is only one sure way to ride the wave of constant change technology is bringing — continue educating yourself. The more educational resources paralegals have accessible to them, the better. Why? They almost wholly depend upon technology to help make the partner's and associate attorney's lives easier, which in turn, makes their lives in the office easier. Or should.

Whether you are utilizing legal research platforms such as LexisNexis, Westlaw, FastCase, or even Google Scholar, A.I. is changing the ways by which the legal field conducts their legal research, especially when we are talking about analytics. The more research you can do, the longer you can boast about job security.

This idea can be intimidating for someone who is uncomfortable with computers or is training to become a paralegal for the first time. What does the average person know about artificial intelligence? Thankfully, a lot more than you'd think!

For example, the reason utilizing search engines such as Google or Amazon is beneficial today is because of the updated analytics and A.I. running in the background to scrape as much data as possible, tailored to your search.

In my tenure with LexisNexis, the company utilizes "research and solutions consultants," who are often licensed and practicing attorneys who already know how to research, to then assist other paralegals and attorneys with their search techniques through a 'Paralegal Mastery Program.'

Thompson Reuters Westlaw Edge platform also gives lawyers, paralegals, and law students a competitive-edge integrating new analytics into its research-based platform.

Yet, the biggest struggle for most people from that point is where to begin training on using A.I. in their legal research. But this is not something any paralegal should worry about because legal research providers offer those services free of charge.

### Choose a Side

While retraining on technology may seem intimidating, that fear shouldn't stand in anyone's way of retraining for the workforce. No longer can we resist the age of technology. It could just result in serious malpractice issues for those in the legal field.

A wonderful aspect of technology is it is a great equalizer of people because we are all learning every day. We all, paralegals and lawyers, have to be humble enough to learn and smart enough to join artificial intelligence in conducting legal research.





# SAVE THE DATE!

The Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations

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*\*must book by April 3, 2020 to receive discounted rate*

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*\$65 after April 18, 2020*

*\$20 for students*

*\$85 for attorneys and non-members*

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service  
by Sarah B. Castner

This January marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s National Day of Service. This day celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. King as a civil rights leader. Martin Luther King Day is the only federal holiday elected as a national day of service to inspire Americans to give back by volunteering to help improve their communities.

This year, two half-day projects were organized at the Interfaith Housing Alliance and the Wissahickon Valley Boys & Girls Club, both coordinated by the Young Lawyers Section of Montgomery County. I had the opportunity to ask Mike Lyon, former chair of the Young Lawyers Section, about his recent volunteer experience. Mr. Lyon's and his family participated in activities which consisted of hanging Valentine's Day decorations, new blinds, and bulletin boards. Rocks were decorated by children with words of inspiration.

The Interfaith Housing Alliance is a nonprofit organization that provides emergency and transitional shelter to families with children, along with emergency food relief, intensive case management, and support services. The Wissahickon Valley Boys & Girls Club is a nonprofit organization that offers recreational, afterschool, and summer activities to young people, particularly those in need. Its mission is dedicated to giving low income students from the greater Ambler area a safe place outside of school hours to complete schoolwork, learn new things, meet other fun and interesting children, and enrich their own lives. The club is organized, in large part but not exclusively, by an outstanding local family, and its employees and teachers are dedicated and friendly.

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s example remains one of the most incredible figures. Dr. King's life and tireless advocacy is inspiring. Dr. King was dedicated to improving the lives of others and he encouraged others to do the same. As Americans and paralegals we should aspire to have this attitude. Paralegals are grassroots advocates, we should strive to better the lives of others by participating in giving back to our communities.

If you would like to donate, host a drive or become a volunteer for the Interfaith Housing Alliance, please visit <https://www.i-fha.org/get-involved/#volunteer> for more information.

If you would like to donate or volunteer for the Wissahickon Valley Boys & Girls Club, please visit <https://www.npvcclub.org/volunteer/> for more information.

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## JANUARY CLE RECAP

OUR JANUARY CLE WAS PRESENTED BY ERIC FREY, ESQUIRE, FROM DISCHELL BARTLE & DOOLEY, HE SPOKE REGARDING THE BASICS OF REAL ESTATE LAW.

TOPICS INCLUDED TITLE SEARCHES, TRANSFER TAX ISSUES CYBER SECURITY, AGREEMENTS OF SALE, CONDOMINIUM OWNERSHIPS, PROPERTY CLOSINGS, ESTATES, AND LITIGATION.

IT WAS AN INFORMATIVE EVENING AND FUN WAS HAD BY ALL. DON'T MISS OUR NEXT CLE.



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**THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION  
FEBRUARY 2020 CLE Seminar**

<b>When:</b>	<b>Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:00 p.m.</b>																								
<b>Where:</b>	<b>O'Brien &amp; Ryan, LLP Hickory Pointe 2250 Hickory Road, Suite 300 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462</b>																								
<b>Topic and Speaker:</b>	<p><b>Political Subdivision Tort Claims Act and Municipal Liability (Part One of a Two-Part Series)</b></p> <p>Presented by <b>Christopher M. Horn, Esquire Fowler Hirtzel McNulty &amp; Spauling LLP</b></p> <p><b>**Applying for approval of CLE 1.5 (S) by NFPA and Keystone Alliance**</b></p>																								
<b>Cost:</b>	<p><b>Free</b> for MCPA Members <b>\$10.00</b> for NFPA affiliated members (evidence required) <b>\$20.00</b> for non-members</p>																								
<b>Collection:</b>	<p><b>MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF CHILDREN &amp; YOUTH</b></p> <p>While we appreciate all donations, the following goods are especially needed right now:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Backpacks</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Disinfectant Wipes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Highlighters</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pencils / Pens</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Binders</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Erasers</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Index Cards</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pocket Folders</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Crayons</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Flash Drives</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Loose Leaf Paper</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Rulers</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Colored Pencils</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Glue/Glue Sticks</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Lunchbags</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Scientific Calculators</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Combination Locks</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Hand Sanitizer</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Notebooks</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Scissors/Safety Scissors</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Composition Books</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Headphones</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Pencil Cases</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Tissues</td> </tr> </table>	Backpacks	Disinfectant Wipes	Highlighters	Pencils / Pens	Binders	Erasers	Index Cards	Pocket Folders	Crayons	Flash Drives	Loose Leaf Paper	Rulers	Colored Pencils	Glue/Glue Sticks	Lunchbags	Scientific Calculators	Combination Locks	Hand Sanitizer	Notebooks	Scissors/Safety Scissors	Composition Books	Headphones	Pencil Cases	Tissues
Backpacks	Disinfectant Wipes	Highlighters	Pencils / Pens																						
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Crayons	Flash Drives	Loose Leaf Paper	Rulers																						
Colored Pencils	Glue/Glue Sticks	Lunchbags	Scientific Calculators																						
Combination Locks	Hand Sanitizer	Notebooks	Scissors/Safety Scissors																						
Composition Books	Headphones	Pencil Cases	Tissues																						
<b>Menu:</b>	<b>Light Bites and Beverages provided by MCPA</b>																								
<b>RSVP:</b>	<p>Please RSVP by February 17, 2020 to Jennifer Echikson, Pa.C.P. <a href="mailto:jechikson@dischellbartle.com">jechikson@dischellbartle.com</a></p>																								

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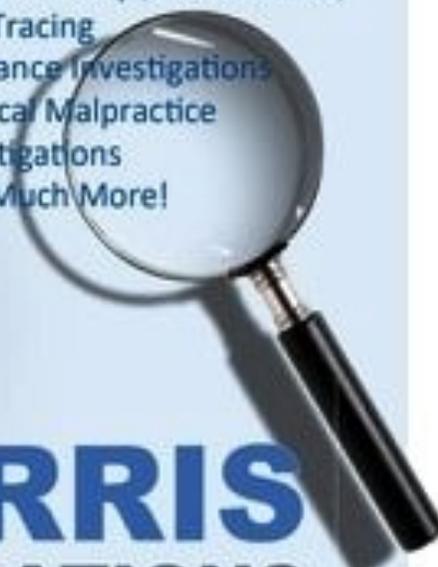
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## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board met on January 7, 2020 in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

The first order of business was the election of the Officers. All votes were unanimous and the following were voted in as officers for 2020: Dana Jorna, Pa.C.P.—President; Tracey L. Barnes, RP, Pa.C.P.—Vice President; Deborah Arbuckle, Pa.C.P.—Secretary; and Christopher Gregg—Treasurer.

It was discussed that there were a few committee chair openings, namely Newsletter and Planning. Christine Gordon has volunteered to lead the Planning Committee and Jenn Echikson volunteered to assist. Lisa Lagreca volunteered to lead the Newsletter Committee. Anyone willing to assist in any committee, including the ones aforementioned, should reach out to the committee chair or a Board Member through their contacts listed on page 18 of the Newsletter.

Tracey was happy to report that membership at the end of 2019 stood at 115 members.

*Continued on next page*



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## HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

Deb Arbuckle reported regarding the status of NFPA. NFPA has hired a new Management Company. Deb, as appointed Region IV Representative, would also be participating on a conference call with the membership Chair for NFPA.

The Board discussed having a focus this year on bringing in more students and more student involvement. The Board will be inquiring regarding having CLE's on college campuses and offering mentoring to our students, i.e., a student could call one of MCPA's members for advice on the profession or a MCPA member could meet one of the student members to advise on the profession. The Board is also considering volunteer members attend college career fairs and/or high school career fairs.

The Board also discussed having events and CLE's at locations that are closer to the boundaries of surrounding counties which do not have paralegal associations such as Bucks County and Berks County. Locations that were suggested were Boyertown, Pottstown, and Horsham.

It was agreed that Board meetings will continue to be on the first Thursday of every month (except July and August) and meetings will be held at the office of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley in Lansdale. All are welcome to attend.

If you have any questions or comments regarding any of the Board items mentioned above, or any items you would like the Board to discuss, please contact Dana Jorna ([djorna@kanepugh.com](mailto:djorna@kanepugh.com)) or any Board Member.

The Board will meet on the following dates:

<b>February 6, 2020</b>	<b>September 3, 2020</b>
<b>March 5, 2020</b>	<b>October 1, 2020</b>
<b>April 2, 2020</b>	<b>November 5, 2020</b>
<b>May 7, 2020</b>	<b>December 3, 2020</b>
<b>June 4, 2020</b>	

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### WORD OF THE MONTH

#### PANGRAMS

The other day I was talking with a co-worker about the advances in technology. Specifically, things from the past which are no longer being taught in schools; the typewriter. When first learning to type, my high school teacher told us to type these words “The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog”; this is a pangram, also known as a holoalphabetic sentence. A Pangram is a verse or sentence that contain all the letters in the alphabet. These were used to assist the typist in learning how to position their hands in order to reach all the letters. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Western Union used pangrams to test data communication equipment used for telegrams to ensure the machines were accurately and reliably processing different letters of the alphabet. Even though typewriters may be a thing of the past, pangrams however, are not. You can improve your typing skills by practicing these fun and creative pangrams.



Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs.

Two driven jocks help fax my big quiz.

Jack, love my big wad of sphinx quartz!

Bright vixens jump; dozy fowl quack.

The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

Crazy Fredrick bought many very exquisite opal jewels.



# THE MCPA NEWSLETTER

The MCPA newsletter is a valuable tool and reaches a large and diverse audience each month including all its members, sponsors, and vendors, providing current news and information. The Newsletter Committee is always looking for content, specifically articles pertaining to paralegals or the paralegal profession. If you would like to contribute to the publication of the newsletter, now is the time!

For more information and to send any content ideas, completed articles, or general suggestions/feedback please contact:

Lisa Lagreca at [llagreca@dischellbartle.com](mailto:llagreca@dischellbartle.com)

## **SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

**ARE DUE BY THE FIRST OF EACH MONTH.**

**If you are interested in contributing on a regular basis, please consider joining the Newsletter Committee.**





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**OFFICERS*****Dana Jorna, Pa.C.P.—President***

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DJorna@kanepugh.com

*Dana is a Litigation Paralegal at the law firm Kane Pugh Knoell Troy & Kramer, LLP. She has been a member of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association since 2013, and a board member since 2018. More recently, she has become the MCPA's Job Bank Coordinator and co-chair of the Community Outreach & Pro Bono committee.*

***Tracey Barnes, Pa.C.P.—Vice President***

Dischell Bartle & Dooley P.C.  
(215)362-2474  
tbarnes@dischellbartle.com

*Tracey is a Paralegal at the law firm of Dischell Bartle & Dooley P.C. in its Lansdale office. She has been an active member since the organizations inception in 1999 and has been a Board Member, Secretary, Treasurer and President. She is currently the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations Credentialing Chair. In 2017, she was appointed as the CLE-Associations Co-Coordinator for the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA).*

***Christopher Gregg—Treasurer***

Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer  
(610) 275-2000  
cgregg@kanepugh.com

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

***Deborah L. Arbuckle, Pa.C.P.—Secretary***

Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein  
(610) 941-2573  
DArbuckle@kaplaw.com

*Deb is a Paralegal at the law firm Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein in its Blue Bell office. She has been a member of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association since 2003, serving as a board member from 2007 through 2011. Debbie has also co-chaired the MCPA Marketing Committee and currently co-chairs the Pro Bono and Community Outreach Committee. She has served as the primary delegate for the MCPA to the National Federation of Paralegal Associations for 10 years.*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### **Noreen Messmer, Pa.C.P.**

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

### **Trista L. Davis, Pa.C.P.**



*Trista is an Estates Administration Paralegal at Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys in Wyomissing. She attended Central Pennsylvania College completing the Paralegal Program and graduated in 2009. In 2014, she received her Pa.C.P. certification through the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Association. Trista lives in Douglassville with her husband and son.*



### **Lisa Effrig Lagreca**

*Lisa is a Municipal Paralegal at the law firm of Dischell Bartle & Dooley P.C. in its Lansdale office. She recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Bucks County Community College's Paralegal Program and plans to attend Pierce College in the fall. Lisa is a mother of four and grandmother and has been a member of the MCPA since 2018.*



### **Jennifer L. Echikson, Pa.C.P.**

*Jenn is a Family Law Paralegal at the law firm of Dischell Bartle & Dooley P.C. in its Lansdale office. She graduated from Peirce College in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Paralegal Studies. She became a certified paralegal through the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Association in 2015. Jenn is on the planning and outreach committees for the MCPA and is also membership chair of the Family Law Paralegals of Pennsylvania.*



### **Karen D. Manzanares**

*Karen is a Law Clerk for Attorney Michelle A. Fioravanti and recently became a realtor. After graduating from Villanova University she spent 22 years as a law clerk for the Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Chief Counsel in King of Prussia.*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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