



The Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Paralegal Association
www.montcoparalegals.org

March 2020

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Visit us at:



www.montcoparalegals.org

Newsletter Committee

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Editor

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alexandra Nigro—O'Brien & Ryan, LLP

ATTENTION Credential Renewal Reminder

**NFPA PACE Registered Paralegals
NFPA CRP Certified Registered Paralegals
Pa.C.P. Credentialed Paralegals**

*Do your Credential expire in
March, April, or May?*

*NOW is the time to submit your renewal application and
proof of CLE.*

For more information, visit:
RP and CRP – www.paralegals.org or
Pa.C.P. – www.keystoneparalegals.org

REMINDER

**Our Annual Breakfast Meeting is Saturday,
March 14, 2020 at 9:30 AM**



Presented by:

Randi Rubin, Esquire and Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg, LLP

Franconia Heritage Banquet & Conference Center

508 Harleysville Pike, Unit A, Telford, PA 18969

\$10.00 for Members and NFPA Affiliated Members (evidence required)

\$15.00 Non-Members or by check payable to MCPA

Sponsored by:

Morgan Wentworth & Harris Investigations

Don't forget to bring

***If you signed up and cannot make it please contact
Jennifer at jechikson@dischellbartle.com to open your
spot.***

Back to School Drive

The Montgomery County Office of Children and Youth (OCY) serves children who are at risk of, or have suffered abuse or neglect. Many of these children are in low-income families. Each year, OCY holds a Back to School Drive to provide needy kids in Montgomery County all the necessary tools to start the new school year.

During our CLE's we will be collecting the following items for donation:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Backpacks | Binders | Crayons | Colored Pencils |
| Combination Locks | Composition Books | Disinfectant Wipes | Erasers |
| Flash Drives | Glue/Glue Sticks | Hand Sanitizer | Headphones |
| Highlighters | Index Cards | Kleenex | Loose Leaf Paper |
| Flash Drives | Glue/Glue Sticks | Hand Sanitizer | Headphones |
| Highlighters | Index Cards | Kleenex | Loose Leaf Paper |
| Lunch Bags | Notebooks | Pencils | Pens |
| Pencil Cases | Pocket Folders | Rulers | |
| Safety Scissors | Scientific Calculators | | |

If you cannot join us for a CLE consider making a firm or personal donation.

Collection information below.

OCY requests all items be donated by August 15, 2019, so that children will have them in advance of the first day of school. If you have any questions, or would like to arrange for a donation pick-up, please contact Veronica Hilghman at 610-278-5885 or vhilghma@montcopa.org

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FEBRUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board met on February 6, 2020 in Lansdale, Pennsylvania.

Membership at the time of the meeting stands at 51 members.

The Board continued its discussion regarding the focus on student involvement. The Board is assembling a list of local schools (college and high school) information so contact can be made regarding career fairs. If you hear from your Alma Mater regarding a future career fair, please let a Board Member know.

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) or any Board Member.

The Board met again on March 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm at the Law Offices of Dischell, Bartle & Dooley. See next month's Newsletter for Board highlights.

Please join us for our next Board meetings!

April 2, 2020

May 7, 2020

June 4, 2020

September 3, 2020

October 1, 2020

November 5, 2020

December 3, 2020

Start times are 6PM



SAVE THE DATE!

The Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations

presents its

2020 Education Summit:
Legally Weird: Things That Make You Go Hmm

Saturday, May 2, 2020

at the Best Western Premier
The Central Hotel and Conference Center
800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111

Don't want to get up early to drive to the Summit? Come stay with us!

*Discounted Rooms are available at a rate of \$115.95 per night**

For reservations please call: (717) 561-2800 and mention you are with the Keystone Alliance

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

Want to make this a weekend getaway? For information on area attractions and fun for the whole family, please visit www.visithersheyharrisburg.org.

*4 CLE Credits available for paralegals
and attorneys*

(3 substantive; 1 ethics)

Breakfast and Lunch included

Registration Fees:

*\$50 early bird registration fee
for Keystone Alliance members*

\$65 after April 18, 2020

\$20 for students

\$85 for attorneys and non-members

Additional Sponsors:



On February 4, 2020, I was given the opportunity to serve as a volunteer juror for the Montgomery County Regional High School (“MCRHS”) Mock Trial Competition, held by the Young Lawyers Section of the Montgomery Bar Association. This event, which took a few weeks to complete, involved high school students throughout Montgomery County that competed as attorneys in a mock trial case. The students prepared to act as attorneys and paralegals.

Although the students were mainly acting as attorneys, much of their preparation work included paralegal duties.

During trial, I observed witness preparation. A paralegal can help witnesses form their testimonies before trial. This preparation includes reviewing previous testimonies, depositions, answers to interrogatories, written and oral statements, and any other material that could be used for impeachment. A paralegal can also review direct examination questions and possible cross-examination questions. This allows the witness to become familiar with their testimony and ensures that they are prepared.

In addition to witness preparation, I also noted exhibit organization. A paralegal reviews exhibits that witnesses will identify or authenticate during trial. They also ensure the exhibits for introduction are organized for trial. To identify these exhibits, the paralegal enlarges or marks them.

If you do not have experience with litigation, I suggest volunteering to sit on MCRHS’s Mock Trial panel as a juror, as they are always looking for volunteers.

Sarah B. Castner

For general information, visit <https://www.montgomerybar.org/events/special-events/mock-trials.php>

To register to volunteer, visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4dafac28a0fa7-2020>



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

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.



OFFICERS

***Dana Jorna, Pa.C.P.—President***

Kane, Pugh, Knoell, Troy & Kramer
(610) 275-2000
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.

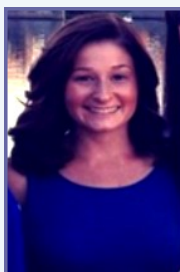
***Deborah L. Arbuckle, Pa.C.P.—Secretary***

Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein
(610) 941-2573
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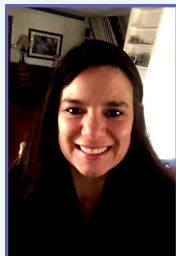
Deb is a Paralegal at the law firm Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein in its Blue Bell office. She has been a member of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association since 2003, serving as a board member from 2007 through 2011. Debbie has also co-chaired the MCPA Marketing Committee and currently co-chairs 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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