



The Official Publication of the  
Montgomery County Paralegal  
Association  
[www.montcoparalegals.org](http://www.montcoparalegals.org)

April 2021

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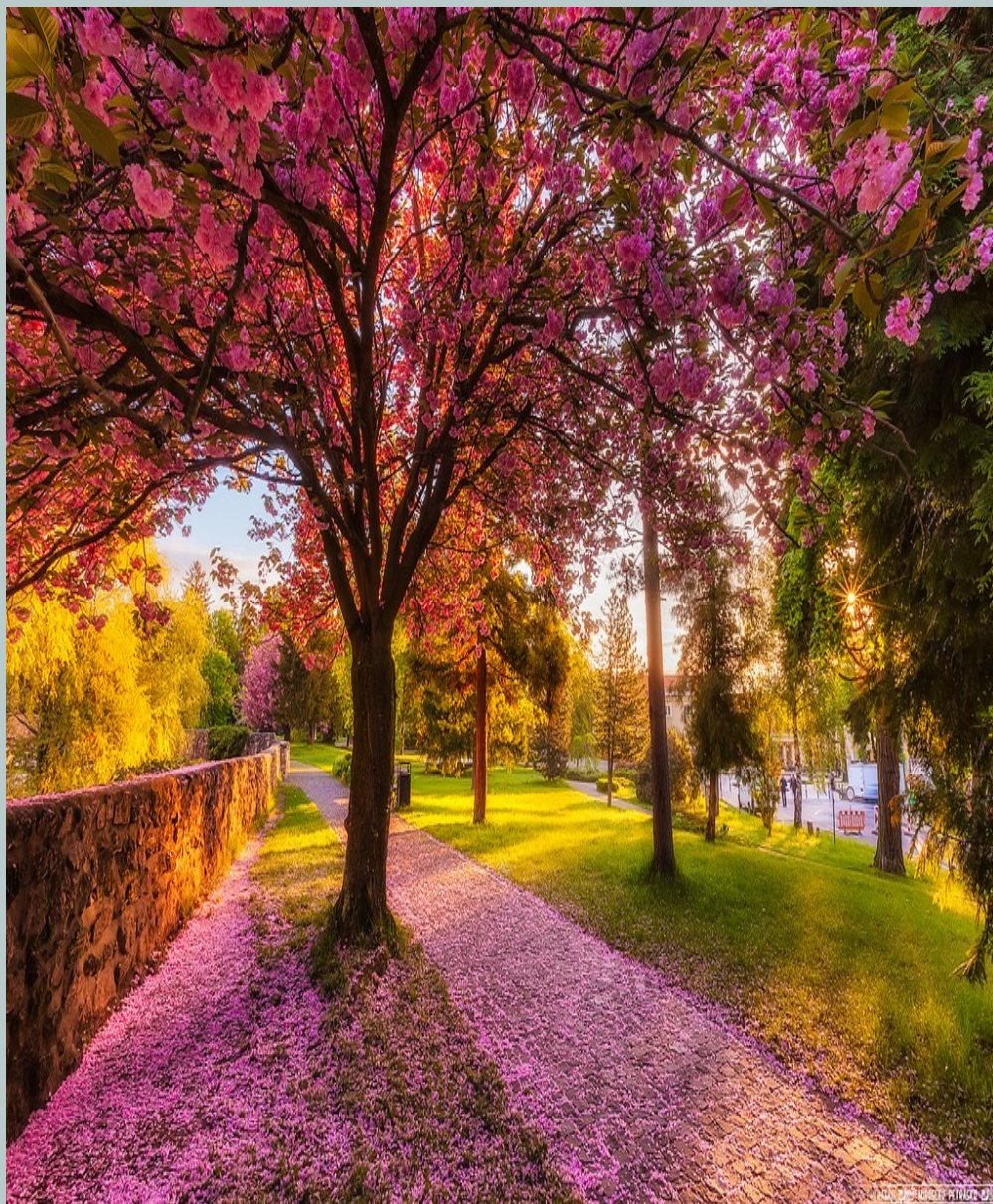
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**Editor**

Lisa Lagreca

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**HAPPY SPRING!**



Thanks to the March CLE, presented by Emily M. Cohen, Esquire and Mary Sims, Esquire, “What you need to know about representing Applicants for Naturalization/U.S. Citizenship”, I had a chance to learn more about American Immigration History.

Naturalization is the process by which a foreign-born person becomes a citizen of the United States (“U.S”) (<https://www.uscis.gov/n-400>). To become a citizen, immigrants must be at least 18 years old; have been lawful permanent residents of the U.S. for five years or three years if married to a U.S. citizen; demonstrate a basic knowledge of English, American Government and American History; and have good moral character. After submitting your client’s Naturalization application (N-400), the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) will contact the attorney of record and applicant to schedule an interview. At the scheduled interview, a USCIS officer will:

1. review your client’s application;
2. test applicant’s ability to speak, read, and write in English;
3. test applicant’s knowledge of U.S. history and government;
4. determine whether or not applicant is a person of good moral character; and
5. will make a decision on applicant’s eligibility for citizenship.

When your client is approved, he (or she) will take part in a naturalization ceremony.

Since 1778 emigration to the United States has gone through multiple stages which resulted in multiple factors, both within the United States and for the immigrants' country of origin. There are multiple factors that cause emigration, including war or other social upheaval, lack of employment, economic instability, and natural disasters. The U.S.’ policy on immigration has varied widely throughout its history, which has created continual change in immigration law. The Federal government’s policy has alternately been guided by public sentiment, but has also driven the public’s perception of immigrants and immigration in the United States.

The U.S. and the colonial society that preceded it, were created by successive waves of immigration from all corners of the globe, however, public and political attitudes towards immigrants have always been ambivalent and contradictory, and sometimes hostile. The early immigrants to Colonial America (England, France, Germany, and Europe) came in search of economic opportunity and political freedom. **By Joyce Nam**

[\[Opportunity and Exclusion: A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy | American Immigration Council\]](#)

If you have specific questions, please contact

Emily M. Cohen, Esquire [ecohen@manor.edu](mailto:ecohen@manor.edu) or Mary Simms, Esquire [msims@manor.edu](mailto:msims@manor.edu).

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Judy Hewitt—Bort Law**

**Susan Brower—Yergey, Daylor, Allebach, Scheffey, Picardi**

**Cynthia Dinunzio—Student at Lansdale School of Business**

## **MCPA Professional and Student members enjoy these benefits:**

- ◇ Receive MCPA's bi-monthly newsletter MCPA Today;
- ◇ Access the MCPA job bank;
- ◇ Access MCPA List Serv where paralegals can get advice and assistance in all areas of practice;
- ◇ Monthly meetings or Seminars\* dealing with topics that affect paralegals today;
- ◇ Obtain the annual MCPA Membership Directory;
- ◇ Automatic membership in the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA);
- ◇ Subscription to the National Paralegal Reporter, the official bi-monthly magazine of the NFPA;
- ◇ Network with paralegals and other members of the legal community.
- ◇ Stay on top of local and national trends in your career! Join MCPA today by visiting

**[www.MCPA -BECOME A MEMBER.org](http://www.MCPA-BECOME A MEMBER.org)**

## ***Join us for our next Board of Directors Meetings***

**MAY 6, 2021**

**OCTOBER 7, 2021**

**JUNE 4, 2021**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

**DECEMBER 2, 2021**





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- Mobile Notary (In some locations)
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**WONDERING HOW  
YOU  
CAN BE MORE INVOLVED IN MCPA?**

**We are currently seeking someone to chair the  
Student Affairs & Mentoring.**

**If interested contact Dana Jorna**

[MCPAPres@gmail.com](mailto:MCPAPres@gmail.com)

**ATTENTION**  
**Credential Renewal Reminder**

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

***Are your Credential expiring  
in February, March or April?***

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

***For more information, visit:***

***RP and CRP – [www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org) or Pa.C.P. – [www.keystoneparalegals.org](http://www.keystoneparalegals.org)***

## Upcoming CLE Seminar

### *Montgomery Child Advocacy Project*

*Representing Abused, Neglected, and Trafficked Children in Montgomery County*

Presented by:

Mary Pugh, Esquire, and Sharon Jones Hofer, Esquire

***\*\*Applying for approval of CLE 1.5 (S) by NFPA and Keystone Alliance\*\****

**April 28, 2021**

**6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

To register please visit:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYudOyuqj0tHNTW6-vdQTLivWGAfnA9FcC9>

For any questions, please contact:

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

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

**Free for MCPA Members**

**\$10.00 for NFPA affiliated members (evidence required)**

**\$20.00 for non-members**

This month, MCPA will be collecting for the Montgomery Child Advocate Project.  
Please visit the link below to donate:

<https://www.mcapkids.org/donate/>



## OFFICERS

**Dana Jorna, Pa.C.P.—President**

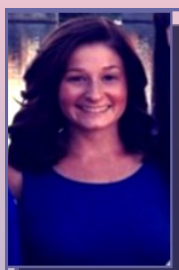
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*Dana is a Litigation Paralegal at the law firm Kane Pugh Knoell Troy & Kramer, LLP. She has been a member of the Montgomery County Paralegal Association since 2013, and a board member since 2018. More recently, she has become the MCPA's Job Bank Coordinator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

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

Dischell Bartle & Dooley P.C.  
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MCPAvp@gmail.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 organization's inception in 1999 and has been a Board Member, Secretary, Treasurer and President. Currently, she is the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Association's Credentialing Chair, and VP since 2019. In 2017, she was appointed as the CLE-Associations Co-Coordinator for the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA).*

**Trista Davis Pa.C.P.—Treasurer**

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MCPAbursar@gmail.com

*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.*

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

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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.*

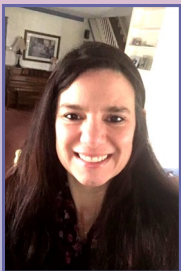


## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**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.



**Lisa Effrig Lagreca**

Lisa is a Paralegal at the law firm of Dischell Bartle & Dooley P.C. in its Lansdale office. She recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from BCCC Paralegal Program and currently attends Pierce College. Lisa is a mother of four and grandmother of two. She has been a member of the MCPA since 2018 and is its newsletter editor.



**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.



**Nancy Piechota, Pa.C.P.**

Nancy is a Certified Paralegal at the law firm of Mannion Prior, LLP in King of Prussia. Nancy sits on the Board of Directors and also serves as Chair of the Marketing Committee. She was the past Vice President of Keystone Alliance and is the Primary Delegate to the Keystone Alliance for Montgomery County Paralegal Association..



**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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