

MCPATODAY NEWSLETTER

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Editor Lisa Lagreca <u>llagreca@dbdlaw.com</u>

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

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

appy September! It's hard to believe we are three quarters of the way through 2021. I hope that everyone was able to have an enjoyable summer filled with relaxation and quality family/ friend time. As we enter this last quarter of 2021 there are a few items worth noting as we head into 2022.

September marks the return of monthly Board meetings, as well as, monthly CLE meetings, both of which are open to all members. Phil Voorhees, Esquire will present a CLE on September 20, 2021, about real estate transactions in relation to family law. A flyer with the registration link should be out soon if it hasn't been distributed already. Out of an abundance of caution it has been decided that we will continue with virtual CLEs for the remainder of 2021. Possible topics for the remaining CLEs include appellate practice, license suspension and ethics for paralegals. If you have any ideas, topics, and/or speakers for 2022, please contact the Planning committee.

While we hoped to have an in-person December social it seems best to hold off for now and have our second annual virtual social. Different activities and prizes are being discussed.

In October, the NFPA's annual convention will take place. It runs from the 7th to the 10th. It will be a hybrid convention, allowing participants to attend in person or virtually. Our delegates have chosen to attend virtually. As in 2020, they will be able to participate as if they were there in person and vote in the best interests of the Association. If you are in need of CLEs, be sure to check out the Convention's CLE schedule for Thursday, October 7th. Session topics include eDiscovery-Certification, Data Security & Data Privacy, Privilege, Corporate Transparency Act, Juror Psychology, Tax Disputes, Effects of Stress and Discrimination, etc. Later that afternoon they are also putting on workshops that focus on student success, local association management and dealing with difficult people. As a member of MCPA you are also a member of Keystone Alliance and NFPA. Don't hesitate to take advantage of their resources. You do not need to hold any position within MCPA to become involved in their efforts.

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October is also the time for the annual Legal Aid's Golf Classic. This year it will be held on October 18th at Bluestone Country Club. As we do every year, MCPA has sponsored a hole.

The MBA is also selling raffle tickets in support of the event. By purchasing tickets, you are entered for a chance to win various prizes, including sports tickets, golf rounds or gift cards to local restaurants. You do not need to be present to win. As in previous years, there is a Section Challenge which includes paralegals.

While we are not selling physical tickets due to the "no in person 2021 events", we do encourage you to go to the MBA's website and purchase virtual tickets, making sure to select the paralegals' option. It has always been a friendly competition which we have been close to winning in years' past. See link below to purchase tickets for this great cause.

This years MCPA's 2021 Board Elections will take place during its November's general (CLE) meeting, if needed. The Board is currently working on language to amend its bylaws to

allow for electronic voting. That will be distributed to all members within the next few weeks for review and discussion.

As mentioned in an August Listserv post, we do have open Board positions within MCPA. Board members are expected to attend monthly Board meetings, minus July, and August. Board meetings are currently held on the first Thursday of each month. Positions are held for a two-year term. If you are interested in becoming a Board member or ever wondered what it looks like to be on the Board, feel free to attend one of our meetings. Our next meeting will be held on October 7, 2021, at 6:15 p.m. by way of Zoom. You can reach out to any current Board member for details.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for this position, kindly email me a short bio and headshot of yourself to <u>MCPAPres@gmail.com</u>. Your submission must be received no later than October 31st to be eligible. If you are interested, but have more questions, please let me know. □

Legal Aid Golf Classic Raffle Tickets Link

https://montgomerybar.org/events/event-details.php?id=10709&referrer=calendar



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MCPA Today Newsletter

ANNOUNCING

2021

OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

Interested in becoming a Board member?

Join us at our next meeting on October 7th at 6:15PM

Reach out to any current Board member for details.

Can't make it, send an email with a short bio and a headshot of yourself to MCPAPres@gmail.com.

Submissions must be received no later than October 31st to be eligible.

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MCPA Today Newsletter

2021 UPCOMING CLE's

PLATFORM: ZOOM

SEPTEMBER 20

TOPIC: How Real Estate Affects Family Law

OCTOBER 5

Lunch & Learn—Appellate Practice

***NOVEMBER**

Be Like Wonder Woman—Ethics for Paralegals

***DECEMBER**

Holiday Social Virtual Happy Hour

*Date to be determined





SEPTEMBER

JANE ZHANG DANA JORNA STEPHANIE DISE LISA BUGDA

PAMELA NELSON ROBIN WITHERSPOON GAIL SAYER SUZANNE HIMES

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MCPA Today Newsletter



<u>June</u>

CHRISTINA NOLDEN

KATHLEEN CROLL

LISA LAGRECA

SHERRI RUSSO

ROSEMARY BRINCKMAN

<u>August</u>

ALEXANDRA NIGRO

ANDREA CLEMENTE

RANIAH EYSHEH

KELLY BRESADOLA

NANCY PIECHOTA

DANIELLE HERRING

TAMMIE BLOCK

JUDY MOORE

<u>July</u>

BRITTNEY HOLDAN

CYNTHIA DINUNZIO

SARAH CASTNER

STACY JAEGER

JENNIFER GALLIANO

MACDONALD TAYLOR, JR.

NANCY MARCHESE

JUDY HEWITT

CAROLYN BOORSE





Sharon Jones Hofer, Esq., Enlight- I then introduced Sharon to the group. ens MCPA Members on the Mission, Functions and Impact of MCAP on Behalf of Children in Montgomery represents abused, neglected and traf-County

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

MCPA welcomed its former Founding advocacy activities. President, Sharon Jones - now Sharon Jones Hofer, Esquire - to educate our members about the Montgomery Child MCAP is a non-profit organization with Advocacy Project (MCAP) and the amaz- over 100 volunteer attorneys who have ing work they do in representing abused, been trained as advocates to assist neglected and trafficked children in MCAP in its mission to end and prevent Montgomery County. I had the honor of child abuse and neglect in Montgomery moderating the meeting - something I County. They are involved in criminal have not done for MCPA in a very long cases, juvenile court cases, trafficking time. I don't think I've lost my touch, but cases, medical needs cases and family I'll let you be the judge, LOL.



Wisnik, zanne from Gifts With a Twist 4 U. Suzanne shared her story of how she

got started with knitting projects that progressed to gift baskets and has now blossomed into a wide array of personal and corporate gifting ideas "where artistry and gifting connect." Suzanne shared photos of some of her gifting concepts. She also drew a name from the list of attendees and awarded the winner with a basket! Congratulations to the winner -Nancy Piechota.

In 2018, she joined the MCAP team as Senior Staff Attorney, where she not only ficked children, but manages the volunteer advocates and provides support for them with their cases. She also supports On Wednesday, April 28, 2021, the the Executive Director in education and

> law cases. These cases come to MCAP through "stakeholders" such as law en-Before turning the forcement, judges, the district attorney's mike over to Sha- office, Office of Children and Youth, ron, I introduced teachers, doctors, etc. MCAP does not our sponsor, Su- accept referrals from the public.



When an MCAP advocate is appointed a s Guardian ad Litem in a case, he/she must represent both the legal and best interests of the child at every stage of the proceedings.

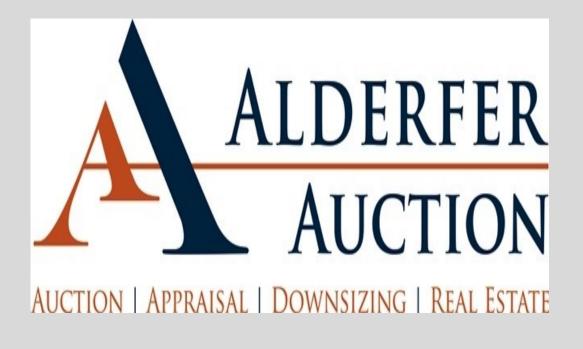
CLE Seminar

When:	sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign sign s	
Topic and	How Real Estate Affects Family Law	
Speaker:	Presented by	
	Phil Voorhees	
	Realtor/Partner – The Mark McGuire Team	
	Applying for approval of CLE 1.5 (E) by NFPA and Keystone Alliance	
Cost:	<u>Free</u> for MCPA Members	
	\$10.00 for NFPA affiliated members (evidence required) \$20.00 for non-members	
	This month's MCPA is spotlighting:	
	Between Friends Outreach	
	To learn more, please visit: https://www.bfoutreach.net/ourmission	
	To register please visit:	
RSVP:	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0od-msqTMpGtyFvRe4EmBygDnzOef-hAvg	
	For any questions, please contact:	
	Jennifer Echikson, Pa.C.P.	
	jechikson@dbdlaw.com	

Upon appointment, the Guardian ad Litem will meet regularly with the child for purposes of ascertaining the child's wishes and explaining the proceedings, to the extent appropriate for the child's age. The Guardian ad Litem will also be given access to relevant records and reports, participate in all proceedings, and conduct any necessary investigations or interviews as may be necessary to ascertain the facts and determine the best interests of the child. The Guardian ad Litem will then make specific recommendations to the court for the child's placement and necessary services.

There are many benefits to having an MCAP advocate to represent a child. The advocate is a trained lawyer who is also a neutral and friendly face representing the child. The advocate can help to voice the child's opinions and perspective. MCAP can also ensure communication among the various legal and social service arenas.

The MCPA is grateful to Sharon Hofer for her interesting and informative presentation. Thanks are also extended to Gifts With a Twist 4 U for sponsoring this event. It's this type of support that helps us to maintain our commitment of professional growth and development to our members and to the paralegal profession in general. \blacklozenge



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Alicia Ingiosi—Boston University Student

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

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When I was asked to provide my personal perspective on the immigrant experience in the US, I had mixed feelings. I am an immigration attorney and I work with immigrant clients on a daily basis, so I suppose I have some insight. I am however of white anglo-germanic decent, and both sides of my family have been in this country for many generations. This fact seems to distance my experience from the current immigrant experience. So, why is my perspective relevant to the larger immigrant narrative in this country? I believe the answer to that question speaks to what it means to be an 'immigrant'.

The story of immigrants in the U.S., is a story filled with contradictions. People have come to this continent in the millions over the past five hundred years. Many came willingly, many did not. Many came, and still come, fleeing repression of one kind or another. Many others came, and still come, to find opportunity for themselves and their families. When these migrants first began to arrive, they found a land not empty, but populated by diverse indigenous peoples, who they themselves arrived, it is believed, some 11,000 years previously.

The experience of all of these people upon arrival has been as varied as they themselves. Some arrived in a country that opened great new possibilities to them for personal, political, financial, social and spiritual growth and change. Many found struggle and conflict, as well as opportunity. Some found brutal subjugation, and cruel dehumanizing bondage. And yet, the blood of all, runs today in the veins of this nation. It circulates through the heart and flows to every extremity, each life making up the greater life of the country.

How those who came before have reacted to those who have arrived after them is also varied and conflicted. Varied, but often as not, the new comers have been met with suspicion and fear. Each successive wave of arrivals has brought it's own reaction from those already settled. This reaction has often expressed itself along racial and religious lines. The fear of the newcomer is enhanced if she looks and prays differently. Those who benefit from the status quo have used this fear to elevate themselves. A predominately white dominated power structure has jealously guarded it's power and privilege. Demonizing the 'stranger', and particularly racial and religious minorities, has long been a tool of those who seek to maintain a power structure that benefits themselves. The hope, ambition and determination of the immigrant to grow and prosper, threaten some who fear losing what they believe they have fought for.

https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2019/11/25/history-violence-against-latinos; https://www.newyorker.com/news/qand-a/the-history-of-anti-asian-american-violence; https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/08/wilmingtonmassacre/536457/; Wilmington NC Coup 1898; https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ajes.12225 Tulsa OK massacre 1921; https://lynchinginamerica.eji.org/explore; Historical map of lynching in US; https://www.huffpost.com/ entry/black-church-attacks_n_7618022 Violence against black churches; https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/02/us/ porvenir-massacre-texas-mexicans.html Porvenir Massacre; https://newrepublic.com/article/149437/echoes-chineseexclusion Chinese exclusion; https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/injustice-japanese-americans-internment-camps -resonates-strongly-180961422/ Japanese internment 1942-1945.https://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/nativistriots-of-1844/; https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/10/brief-history-anti-semitic-violenceamerica/574228/; http://newamerica.org/in-depth/anti-muslim-activity/. https://www.newamerica.org/in-depth/antimuslim-activity/

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MCPA Today Newsletter

My perspective is, that this cannot be a zero sum game. The immigrant experience, is the human experience. People have moved across this globe as long as homosapiens have walked upright. Conflict has always been part of this movement, but the world today is growing smaller. We face many challenges that are global in nature. The reality that a people can carve out a corner of the globe as "theirs" is waning. We all share the destiny of this blue green orb and it's limited boundaries. We either learn to steward this common home together, or face the consequences of our division and selfishness.

Welcoming the immigrant, is recognizing our common humanity and the hard fact, that our destinies are intertwined. It is not only morally right to offer a hand to those who seek a better life, it is an imperative as we navigate the future of our world.

When we react from fear, we react from ignorance. When we open our hearts and minds, wisdom can enter in.

We are all immigrants.

Michael David Ahlert, Esquire Law Office of Marcia Binder Ibrahim, LLC



Thank you, Mr. Ahlert for sharing your perspective on immigration. Last Spring the MCPA held a CLE on immigration law. Join us at our upcoming CLEs and discover what you can learn. Feel free to share your experiences with our members by writing a short insert for our newsletter and send to llagreca@dbdlaw.com.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE

SEPTEMBER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board met on September 2, 2021 VIA ZOOM.

The Community Outreach Committee will be meeting in Fall to continue discussions for new ideas for 2021 and 2022. Anyone who would like to join the committee or has any additional ideas for outreach, please contact Dana Jorna.

Membership was at 94 as of the meeting.

As of the Board meeting, there were board positions open for 2022. If you are interested, please contact Dana Jorna or any board member.

NFPA has an upcoming hybrid Convention in October. This year's convention is being held in Oregon. Deborah Arbuckle and Dana Jorna as primary and secondary representatives, and Jennifer Echikson as an observer will be attending virtually.

There are four virtual CLE's planned for September, October and November of 2021 and a virtual holiday social to be held in early December. Details above.

All remaining CLE's, membership meetings, and Board Meetings will be held via Zoom.

MCPA will be promoting the sale of raffle tickets for the MBA/Legal Aid Golf Classic. As in years past they are having a section competition and included MCPA. We will not be selling physical tickets due to no in person CLEs the rest of this year. MCPA has also sponsored a hole for this event.

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.

Join us for our next Board of Directors Meetings

OCTOBER 7, 2021

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

DECEMBER 2, 2021

OFFICERS



Dana Jorna, Pa.C.P.—President

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



Trista Davis—Treasurer

Kozloff Stoudt Attorneys (610) 670-2552 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

Kaplin Stewart Meloff Reiter & Stein (610) 941-2573 MCPAsteno@gmail.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 three to 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 She has been two. а 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. Nancy also served as the past President of the MCPA.



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. Page 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

MCPA Today Newsletter

CONTRACT & PRO BONO	Annette M. Long-Tulio, CRP, Pa.C.P. amlong83@gmail.com
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