

SUMMER 1998

## LOUISIANA STATE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND SEMINAR

Lafayette will be the site of the Louisiana State Paralegal Association's Annual Meeting and Seminar to be held September 18 and 19 at Holiday Inn Central (Holidome), 2032 NE Evangeline Thway. The theme for the seminar is "Litigation Trends."

Speakers and their topics include, "Mass Tort Litigation" by Hunter W. Lundy, Lundy & Davis, Lake Charles; "Tobacco Litigation" by The Honorable Richard P. Ieyoub, Attorney General, State of Louisiana; "Keycite" by George Lato, Attorney with the West Group; "Mediation: An Overview" by David S. Cook, Attorney-Mediator, Lafayette; "Recent Tort Developments" by Thomas R. Hightower, Jr., Lafayette Attorney; "Appellate Procedure" by Robert L. Broussard, Clerk to Judge Michael Sullivan, Third Circuit Court of Appeal; and "Ethics" by George H. Robinson, Jr., Liskow & Lewis, Lafayette, Louisiana.

Also scheduled are focus group sessions on education, organization activities, and membership presented by and for LSPA members.

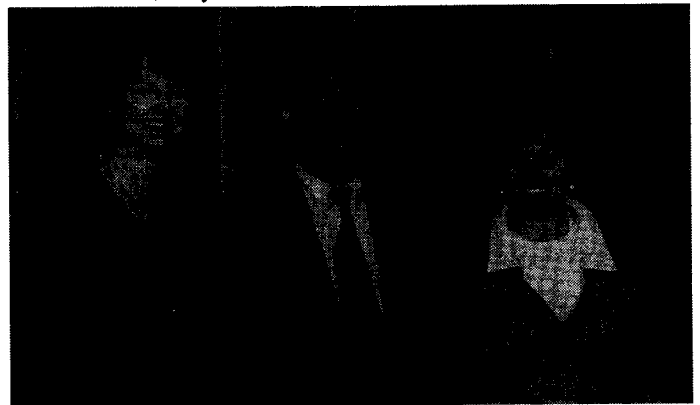
Registration fee is \$130 for LSPA members, \$160 for non-members, and \$65 for students. Registration will be from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. on Friday, March 18, at Holiday Inn Central. The annual meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. with the awards luncheon from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Speakers begin at 1:00 p.m.

This seminar has been approved for CLE credit and provides an excellent opportunity to promote the paralegal profession, the Lafayette area, and the Lafayette Paralegal Association.

For further information, including pre-registration forms, contact: **Michelle Moran, CLA, LSPA District II Director, (318) 234-2355** or **Angela Rayon, CLA, LSPA President, (318) 237-1660.**

## LPA Elects New Officers

Lafayette Paralegal Association elected officers for the 1998-1999 term. They are: President, Kaye Pooler; Vice President, Molly Davenport; Secretary, Savannah Stephan, CLA; and Treasurer, Wayne Lemoine.



*Pictured left to right are LPA present and past presidents Kaye Pooler, and Gary Lavallee, and Louisiana State Paralegal Association President, Angela Rayon, CLA.*

*Paralegals, Attorneys, Paralegal Students*

*are cordially invited*

*to a social hosted by*

*The Lafayette Paralegal Association*

*in celebration of*

***Paralegal Week***

*Don's Downtown*

*Friday, September 18, 1998*

*5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.*



# EDITOR'S CORNER

Mary Margaret Comeaux, CLA



She's ba-ack! Hello, again. Anyone wishing to be Newsletter Editor may apply here. Seriously, I really enjoy the job when I have the time. Uh-huh, who has time? As the LSPA tee shirt says, "Legal Assistants are Always Swamped."

Speaking of busy, LPA has been busy, also. The speakers at our meetings have been Grrr-e-at. We thank them for sharing their time and expertise. A recap of each speaker's presentation has been included in the newsletter.

Please remember, you may obtain CLE credit by attending these meetings. Check the Calendar of Events for a list of future speakers.

Hope to see you at the Paralegal Week Social on September 18 and at the next meeting where we will get an update on discovery.

## PRESIDENT'S

## MESSAGE



Kaye Pooler



Over the past few years, the Lafayette Paralegal Association has worked hard to become recognized in the community as an organization of professionals continually striving to improve. If you ask, "Why should I be a member? What will it do for me?" The three most important reasons for me are professional recognition, continuing education, and networking.

The Lafayette Paralegal Association is an organization of "professionals" within the legal community. LPA members continue their education in all aspects of the law through seminar/luncheon meetings. Most meetings provide free CLE hours to LPA members.

LPA members share tips and expertise with other paralegals and they network with members of the legal community throughout Lafayette and the surrounding parishes. On many occasions, I have picked up the telephone and reached someone who is well versed in say maritime law (I practice insurance defense—auto accidents mostly), and was able to obtain information which may have taken at least an hour for me to find otherwise.

The average attendance at our monthly Dutch-treat luncheon/seminar meetings is 30-40 members and guests. As our membership continues to grow, the ability to assist each other grows. I challenge each of you to encourage new memberships by bringing guests to our meetings, and especially to our September 18 social at Don's Downtown.

We continue to work with the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers and have an LPA member as a member of the LVL Advisory Board. We are looking forward to our annual raffle because last year's was a great success. Incorporating the raffle drawing with our annual Christmas dinner added to the evening of great fun and great food. A proposed scholarship program will be funded with proceeds from the raffle.

As Vice-President during the 1997-98 term and now as President, I have had the honor and privilege to work with an excellent Board of Directors, Officers, and Chairmen who continually strive to make LPA meet the needs of its members.

I look forward to the remainder of my term, and hope that each of you will continue to join us at meetings and socials. As you can see, the

calendar of events is full through the end of this year and are looking forward to greater things in 1999. Please promise yourself to make an effort to join us. You will be glad you made the effort and so shall we. Hope to see you soon.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend our welcome to the following persons who have become members since publication of our last newsletter:

### Active

Andrea Mills  
Linda L. Romero  
Dyan G. O'Halloran  
Tarra Melancon  
Katherine S. Martin  
Karen Fatheree  
Amanda Latiolais  
Sherry S. Eskind  
Stasia Herbert  
Giny Smith

### Associate

Kenny Thomas  
Rose Spell  
Susan Gautreaux  
Kelly D. Newcomb Blood

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Thanks to our sustaining members for their continued support.

Allen & Gooch  
Elizabeth Andrus  
Prejean's Restaurant  
Preis Kraft & Roy  
The Onebane Firm  
Gilbert H. Dozier  
Davidson, Meaux, Sonnier, McElligott & Swift  
Kirk Piccione  
Anderson & Broussard  
Lowry's Kwik Kopy Printing  
J. Minos Simon  
David S. Cook, APLC

## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

Membership:	Active	41
	Associate	34
	Sustaining	12
		87

## LPA RAFFLE

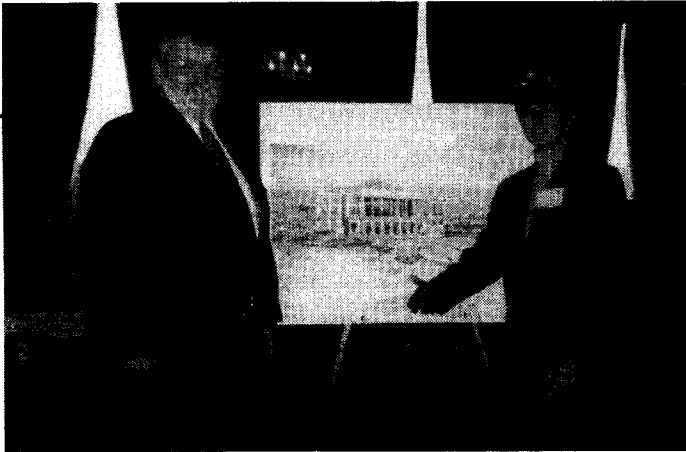
Local merchants again are generously donating prizes for Lafayette Paralegal Association's annual raffle. The prize drawing will be **December 10** at the Christmas Dinner. Tickets will be mailed to LPA members in the near future. Anyone wishing to purchase individual tickets or a book of tickets may contact any LPA member or call **(318) 266-1190**.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of the following merchants who donated prizes for our 1997 raffle.

Shades Ladies Only	\$ 79 ea.
Randol's Restaurant	\$ 25
A la Carte	\$ 25
Charlie G's	\$ 25
Golden Cleaners	\$ 25
Don's Downtown	\$ 25
Prejean's Restaurant	\$ 30
Ginny Smith Gift Baskets	\$ 35
Duke Ltd.	\$ 50
Cassandra M. Smith, Therapeutic Massage	\$ 50
Lee's Air Conditioning	\$ 50
The Dry Cleaning Store	\$ 50
Bridgitte Guidry w/ Frederick Hair Studio	\$ 58
Emily Broome w/ Frederick Hair Studio	\$ 58
Oil Center One Hour Cleaners	\$100
Red's	\$100
Gil Dozier, Weekend in St. Francisville	\$150
Lafayette Hilton, One Night in Deluxe Suite	\$125
Holidome, Night in Presidential Suite	\$350

## **ROBERT H. SHEMWELL SPEAKS TO LPA**

Robert H. Shemwell, Magistrate Judge and Clerk for the US District Court, Western District of Louisiana, was a speaker at a Lafayette Paralegal Association meeting. Mr. Shemwell reviewed a "Guide to Federal Practice" prepared by his office, and presented a videotape and explanation of the "electronic courtroom" to be installed at the new federal courthouse in Lafayette and presently in use at the courthouse in Shreveport.



*Robert H. Shemwell and Kaye Pooler display drawing of new Federal Courthouse under construction in Lafayette.*

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION PROGRAM PRESENTED TO LPA**

Diane Conery with the Lafayette City Prosecutor's office, and Tom L. Stagg, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, a non-profit agency coordinating Lafayette Parish's response to domestic violence, spoke to LPA about changes in the law and changes in law enforcement's response to victims and batterers.

Conery and Stagg were instrumental in reforming the local judicial system's handling of domestic abuse cases. Efforts have been coordinated to provide protection for victims and intervention for the batterers.

Anyone wishing more information may contact Diane Conery at (318) 291-5578 or Tom Stagg at (318)232-2440.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTIES**



Jesse Lambert, local attorney with the Onebane Firm, spoke to LPA on intellectual properties law. In today's technological society, this specialized field of law is rapidly advancing as it deals with issues of ownership, including internet sites and information, patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets.

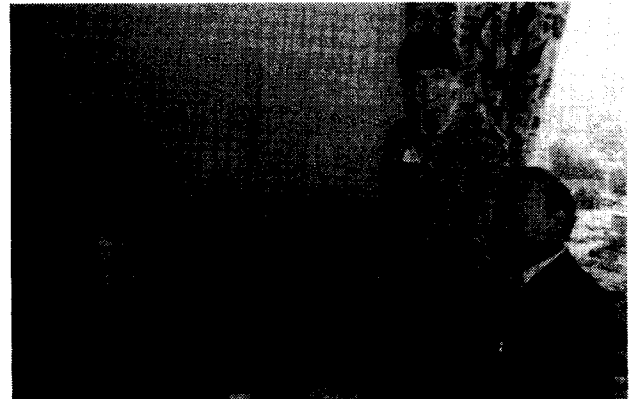
Mr. Lambert's presentation included how intellectual property rights are secured, maintained, and exploited and how to obtain relative information and publications.

## **LABOR LAW FROM A PLAINTIFF'S POINT OF VIEW**

Assistant City-Parish Attorney and immediate past president of the Lafayette Parish Bar Association, Michael D. Hebert, spoke to Lafayette Paralegal Association members and guests on labor law from a plaintiff's point of view. His presentation included employment law in the Louisiana Civil Code, exceptions to employment at will, sexual harassment, and procedural issues in employment litigation.

## **DAVID COOK, MEDIATOR**

Mediation and arbitration were the themes of David Cook's presentation to the Lafayette Paralegal Association. After years of practice, Mr. Cook became one of the first attorneys in this area to engage in mediation on a full time basis. His presentation included the benefits of mediation, the mediation procedure, the role of the mediator, types of settlements, satisfaction of the parties, benefits to attorneys, and suggestions for plaintiff and defense counsel mediation preparation.



*David Cook, Kaye Pooler and Glenn Armentor*

## **ELIZABETH G. ANDRUS SPEAKS TO LPA**

Bankruptcy trustee and local attorney, Elizabeth G. Andrus, presented an overview of the bankruptcy process from a trustee's perspective.

Ms. Andrus, a bankruptcy trustee for seven years, will present a "Nuts and Bolts Seminar" on September 11, 1998 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The seminar is open to attorneys, paralegals, legal secretaries, finance companies, lending institutions, and banks. For additional information call (318) 981-3858.



*Elizabeth Andrus and Karen Fatheree, CLA, LPA Social Chairman*

## LPA MEMBERS BECOME CRIME SMART

Member of the International Society of Crime Prevention Practitioners, assistant developer of the Crime Wise and Street Wise Seminar Programs, and graduate of the Texas Crime Prevention Institute, Ann Walsh, gave LPA members common sense precautions for personal safety and crime prevention.

With information from the FBI, Justice Department, Attorney General reports, local police departments, and other recognized authorities, Ms. Walsh discussed how criminals target victims at home, in the car, and on the street, how to make yourself less vulnerable, and when to fight and when to escape. Ann Walsh's humorous presentation made a serious and sometimes squeamish topic entertaining.

## MEDICINE IN THE LAW OFFICE

Charlene Reynolds, R.N., and paralegal with the Onebane Firm, spoke to the Lafayette Paralegal Association about obtaining and interpreting medical records. Ms. Reynolds' thirteen years' practice as a registered nurse made her an expert in interpreting medical records. She gave LPA members an invaluable resource — a list of medical abbreviations.

## JUDGE DOMENGEAUX SPEAKS TO LAFAYETTE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Jerome E. Domengeaux, former Chief Justice of the Third Circuit Court of Appeal and former Mayor of Lafayette, entertained and informed those attending the LPA meeting with the history and behind-the-scene operation of the Court.

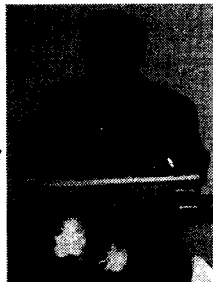
Judge Domengeaux served on the Court of Appeal from 1970 until his retirement in 1994.



*Gary Lavallee, Kathy Dempsey, CLA, Judge Domengeaux, Lupe Acosta, Liz Guidry, and Al Thomas*

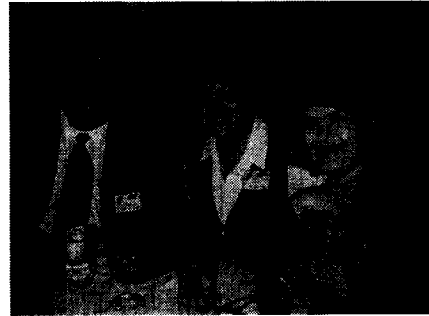


*Michelle Moran, CLA and Diane Sorola enjoy Judge Domengeaux's barbs.*



## Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!

Scenes from the LPA Christmas Social



*Nobie and Lupe Acosta and Gail Dubois-Broussard*

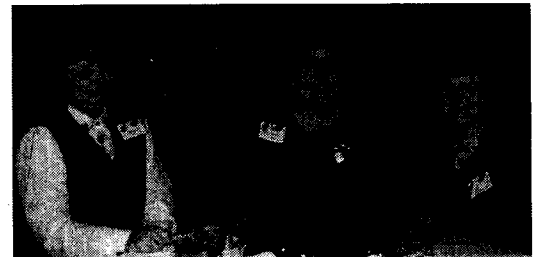


*Ben and Kaye Pooler and Jesse Lambert*



*Wayne and Colleen Lemoine*

*Jessie Cormier, CLA, Burgundy Olivier and Viola Courville*



*Al Thomas, Mary Margaret Comeaux, CLA, and Michelle Moran, CLA*

## INTERNET INFO

Need experts? Try the following web sites. Experts by category, including court reporters at *expertpages.com*. The National Directory of Experts offers free referrals at *claims.com*. DRI Expert Witness Bank has over 47,000 experts listed for a fee of \$5 to \$20 per listing at *dri.org/ewbintro.html*. Consolidated Consultants Co. at *freereferral.com*. Also, try *expert-market.com*. The AMA provides doctors' medical school training, residency training, specialties, address and phone at *ama-assn.org*.

Martindale-Hubbell provides information on attorneys organized by individual, firm, location, practice area, corporation, or government agency at *abanet.org/martindale.html*.

Courthouses in each county, including address and telephone number, are available by clicking on the map for each state at *familytreemaker.com/00000229.html*.

Product safety information regarding injuries reported to Congressional Product Safety Commission and a list of products being recalled, including press releases and publications, are available at *cpsc.gov*.

Zip codes and related information can be found at *www.usps.gov/npsc*.

## AFFILIATE WITH ASSOCIATION OF TRIAL LAWYERS OF AMERICA

Paralegals may become affiliated with the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. For an annual fee, paralegals receive subscriptions to TRIAL magazine, the *ATLA Law Reporter*, and the *ATLA Advocate*, the *Paralegal Source* quarterly newsletter, opportunities to attend educational seminars, conventions, and four specialized paralegal programs held yearly, access to ATLASearch research, writing and litigation support services, discounts, insurance plans, financial plans including Gold Mastercard and money market programs, and the opportunity to join specialized sections such as products liability, admiralty, family law, commercial litigation, civil rights, and criminal.

ATLA maintains a Paralegal Advisory Committee and believes in the growing importance of the attorney/paralegal team and hopes to place more paralegal-attorney teams as faculty at its seminars for attorneys.

For more contact ATLA at *atlanet.org*, or call 800/424-2725 or 202/965-3500 or write to ATLA, 1050 31st Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007-4499.

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LOUISIANA STATE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

The Louisiana State Paralegal Association invites you to join with other paralegals throughout the state for the opportunity to network and keep up-to-date on current statewide news of interest to our profession.

Among the reasons for joining LSPA are: Continuing legal education through seminars and workshops, quarterly newsletter, statewide job bank, scholarships, legislative lobbying committee, and professional enhancement.

For further information on LSPA, a membership application, and the latest copy of the LSPA newsletter contact: **Michelle Moran, CLA, LSPA District II Director, (318) 234-2355.**

## ONLINE CAMPUS

National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) has an online address for CLA exam preparation, for CLE hours, or for brushing up on paralegal skills. The web site *www.NALACampus.com* is the combined effort of West Paralegal Publishing and NALA.

The following fifteen courses are available: Legal Research, Bankruptcy, Administrative Law, Contracts, Litigation, Real Estate, Family Law, Probate and Estate Planning, Criminal Law and Procedure, Business Organizations, Judgment and Legal Analysis, Ethics, American Legal System, Communications, and Human Relations and Interviewing Techniques. The cost for each course is \$99, or four courses for \$325. NALA members receive a 20% discount.

For more information, call Mary Ellen Mullen, representative for the South Central Region at **(800) 998-7498, extension 7076.**

## PARALEGAL JOB BANK

The Lafayette Paralegal Association maintains a job bank service available to all LPA members seeking part time, temporary, or contract paralegal positions. Each year LPA sends a letter to every attorney/firm in the Lafayette area informing them of this service.

The job bank is confidential! LPA members may obtain information regarding available positions by contacting the Job Bank Chairperson at **(318) 266-1152**. An employer seeking a paralegal may not be given the names of job bank applicants. As positions become available, the Job Bank Chairperson will contact applicants meeting an employer's job qualifications.

LPA would like to assist its members and the legal community in filling available paralegal positions. Since January 1, 1998, fifteen law firms and several paralegals have registered with the job bank.

We encourage all members seeking a position to fill out the application and return it along with a resumé to: **Peggy Connick, Job Bank Chairperson, Lafayette Paralegal Association, Post Office Drawer 3507, Lafayette, Louisiana 70502.** Applications must be renewed every six months.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Paralegal Certificate: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

ABA approved: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Paralegal Experience: \_\_\_\_\_ Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

College Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar of Events

- Sept. 18**     **Paralegal Week Social**  
Don's Downtown  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 28**     **Meeting\***  
Jimmie Murvin, Speaker  
Topic: Discovery
- Nov. 19**     **Meeting\***  
Joel Babineaux, Speaker  
Topic: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Dec. 10**     **Christmas Social and Raffle Drawing**  
Petroleum Club  
7:00 p.m.

\* All meetings begin at noon at City Club of Lafayette.

Affidavits verifying attendance at any previous meeting may be obtained from Mary Margaret Comeaux, CLA, at (318) 291-1242.

### PRO BONO WORK

Need a challenge? Want to try a different area of law? Consider pro bono work with the Lafayette Parish Bar Association. Molly Davenport is LPA's representative to the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers Board of Directors. Contact Molly at (318) 266-1161 or Stasia Herbert, LVL Coordinator, at (318) 237-4700.

### LAW LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

The Lafayette Parish Bar Association has requested volunteer help with monitoring the Law Library on Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings and in daily shelving and maintaining publications. To volunteer, please call the **Lafayette Parish Law Library** at (318) 237-4700 or **Wayne Lemoine** at (318) 233-1471.

### CLA® AND LCP® EXAM INFORMATION

Need information regarding the Certified Legal Assistant or Louisiana Certified Paralegal exams? Contact **Mary Margaret Comeaux, CLA** at (318) 291-1242.

### LPA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 1998-1999

Kaye Pooler, President.....	266-1190
Molly Davenport, Vice President/Membership.....	266-1166
Savannah Stephan, CLA, Secretary.....	291-1212
Wayne Lemoine, Treasurer.....	233-1471
Karen Fatheree, CLA, Program/Social Co-Chair.....	261-1200
Mac Ewing, Program/Social Co-Chair.....	233-1100
Peggy Connick, Public Relations/Job Bank.....	266-1152
Mary Margaret Comeaux, CLA, Newsletter.....	291-1242
Lupe Acosta, Parliamentarian.....	237-7135

## Lafayette Paralegal Association

P. O. Box 2775  
Lafayette, LA 70502