



WINTER 1999

GOV. FOSTER - WALTER COMEAUX PROCLAIM PARALEGAL WEEK

Governor Mike Foster and Lafayette City-Parish President, Walter Comeaux, both honored the paralegal profession by issuing proclamations designating September 13-17, 1999, as Paralegal Week. LPA celebrated with a social for all members at The Bank at 500 Jefferson.

The Lafayette Paralegal Association was organized in 1984 to identify common goals and objectives in the paralegal profession. LPA strives to promote the paralegal profession through continuing education, fellowship, and networking within the legal community, and encouragement of professional ethics. LPA works closely with and coordinates with local Bar Associations in various activities. The number of paralegals in the workforce has more than doubled in recent years, and so has LPA membership.

In the last few years, LPA has made great strides in promoting continuing education by encouraging certification and by providing guest speakers at monthly meetings. These speakers present varied topics of interest to members and continuing legal education (CLE) credits have been approved by NALA

(National Association of Legal Assistants) for most of our presentations.

Membership is open to all paralegals actively working under an attorney's supervision; associate membership for persons not actively working as paralegals; and student membership. Members live and work in Lafayette and the surrounding Parishes.

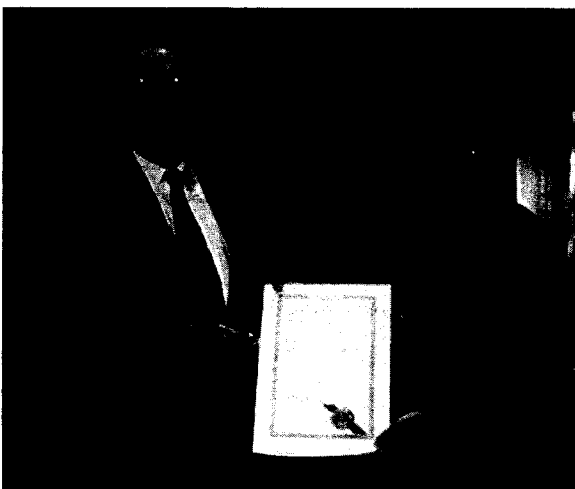
LPA offers attorneys, law firms, and other interested parties, an opportunity to support the organization through sustaining membership. LPA's sustaining members lend support both financially and professionally. Sustaining members are acknowledged in newsletters and have access to LPA's job bank. As an added bonus, representatives of those firms are given admission to all of seminars without charge.

LAFAYETTE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED!

After much discussion by the Lafayette Paralegal Association Board and research by Lupe Acosta into the pros and cons of incorporation, Articles of Incorporation and an Initial Report were prepared and filed with the Secretary of State. On March 2, 1999 we became Lafayette Paralegal Association, Inc.

Incorporation was a big step for LPA, the organization was formed in 1984 by a group of local paralegals whose goal was to identify common objectives of the paralegal profession. Incorporation will promote accomplishment of future goals. We will continue to strive, as an association and as individuals, to meet the challenges of our profession.

With the end of this Board's second term rapidly approaching, please consider your contribution to LPA. The result will be personal growth.



Walter Comeaux, Lafayette City-Parish President and Kaye Pooler, LPA President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kaye A. Pooler

Funny how time creeps up on you. It seems as though it was just yesterday that I wrote my last message to you, but in fact, it has been over a year! Although we get together for monthly meetings, we discuss only briefly happenings behind the scenes at LPA. So, here's an update on the changes in LPA since last year.

With the Board's decision to "streamline" paperwork, we jumped in feet first and reduced the contents of the 20+ boxes passed down to Board members since LPA's inception 13 years ago! We have "trimmed the fat" and now can put our hands on exactly where we have been, where we are, and where we are going.

Speaking of going — LPA is now a Corporation. This gives us protection as a business entity. Membership has increased and we have computerized our bookkeeping system, established a data base, and have easy retrieval and reference capabilities.

LPA's association with Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers and the Lafayette Parish Bar Association helps to promote professional recognition and provide members with a chance to "give back" to the community by volunteering for *pro bono* work.

The Job Bank has matched several members, both paralegals and employers, and the LBA library continues to be manned by LPA volunteers.

We are looking forward to holding the drawing for our raffle at our December social. Our membership dues and raffle monies pay for our continuing education programs and seminars. The monies brought in from the seminars is reinvested, along with the other funds, into membership certificates, correspondence, stamps, publication of this newsletter, and mail outs for our monthly seminars.

Speaking of seminars, I hope that you all have been as pleased as we have with this year's slate. Looking over the topics presented this year (and the wonderful Federal Court visit), I can't think of a better way for our members and guests to be exposed to such diverse areas of the law. We may never practice in those areas, but the knowledge adds to our personal development.

It is said busy people get the job done. While membership in a professional association may look good on your resume, actual involvement, through committee work, or a board position, looks even better. We need ideas, suggestions, and people who want to continue the legacy that was begun 13 years ago and continues today. Any takers?

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend our welcome to the following new members:

Active

Karen Comeaux Barber	Janet J. Bergeron
Lisa M. Carpenter	Brenda Curtis
Glenda M. Davis	Jayne Lavergne Falk
Deborah P. Fontenot, CLA	Carol B. Gaudin
Susan Gautreaux	Denise Hayes
Cassie Hebert	Monique L. Lancon
Laura L. Lomenick	Carolyn Martin
Kathy Martin	Kim McDaniel
Andrea B. Mills	Michelle E. Neef, CLA
Darlene T. Pelletier	Linda L. Romero
Becky Sawyer, CLA	Rose Spell
Diana Suffern	Ginger S. Swan
Karla S. Thompson	Lori M. Willett
Marlene Ziegler	

Associate

Renee' L. Brasseaux	Mandie B. Breaux
Regina Dauphin	Helen Dischler
Trent A. Garrett	Anita H. Grossie
Dwana Landry	Lisa G. Minchew
Kathleen B. Mire	Denise L. Nesbitt
Pamela Ann Robertson	Frank Charles Smith, Jr.
Darlene O. Taylor-Young	Joanie Younie

Sustaining Members

Thanks to our sustaining members for their continued support.

The Onebane Firm	Preis, Kraft & Roy
The Andrus Law Firm	Jodi B. Bordelon
James Kirk Piccione / Piccione & Piccione	
Valerie Gaar-Ferrante/Scan Solutions	

Membership:	Active	59
	Associate	17
	Sustaining	<u>6</u>
Total Membership:		82

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please let LPA know when you work or home address changes. Send the information to: Secretary, LPA, 400 South Washington Street, Lafayette, LA 70501-5011.

KUDOS TO SPEAKERS

Thanks to the following luncheon/seminar speakers for sharing their expertise. The entire legal community has benefited from their generous sharing: paralegals, who are better informed, and attorneys who have improved legal assistance.

***Jimmie W. Murvin, CLAS, LCP** - Techniques in Interviewing, Investigation and Discovery*

***Joel P. Babineaux, Esq.** - Sexual Harrassment in the Workplace*

***Graham N. Smith, Esq.** - The Millennium Bug: Y2K*

***Patrick J. Briney, Esq.** - Ethics Update*

***Lawrence L. Lewis, III, Esq.** - Selected Provisions of The 1997 Successions Revision Act . . . A Legal Update and Practical Review*

***The Honorable Robert P. Shemwell** - Electronic Courtroom Training & Federal Courthouse Tour*

***William H. Parker, Esq.** - Medical Malpractice Checkup*

***Kim McDaniel** - Internet Strategies for The Law Office*

***Joseph R. Joy, III, Esq. and Kathy Martin, Paralegal** - Tales from The Trenches - Preparation and Trial Litigation in the New Federal Courthouse*

***Joel E. Gooch, Esq.** - Insurance Fraud*

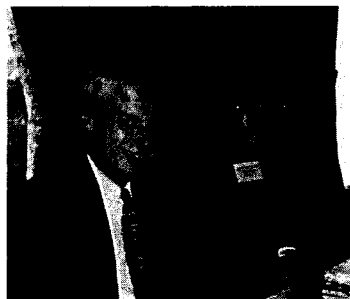
***Michelle M. Breaux, Assistant District Attorney, Lafayette Parish** - Juvenile Courts and Alternatives to Incarceration*



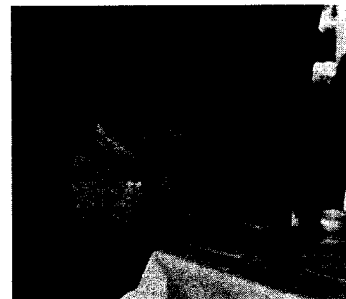
Kim McDaniel and Betty Johnson



Dr. Carolyn Norman and Mercedes Colomb



Graham Smith and Kaye Pooler



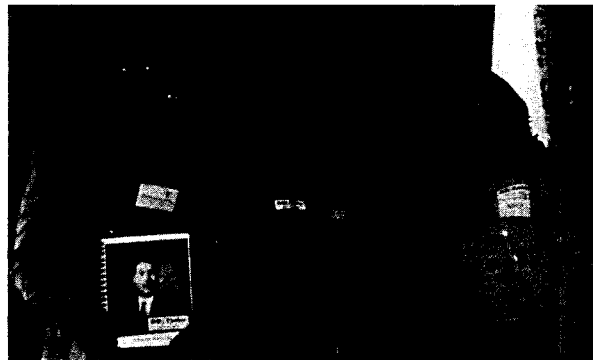
Nita Piccione and Joan Young



Social Securities Training

Billy Parker, Susan Gautreaux, Mary Margaret Comeaux, CLA, Andrea Mills, Connie Boudreaux, Savannah Stephan, CLA, Lisa Minchew

Kim McDaniel



FEDERAL COURT SEMINAR

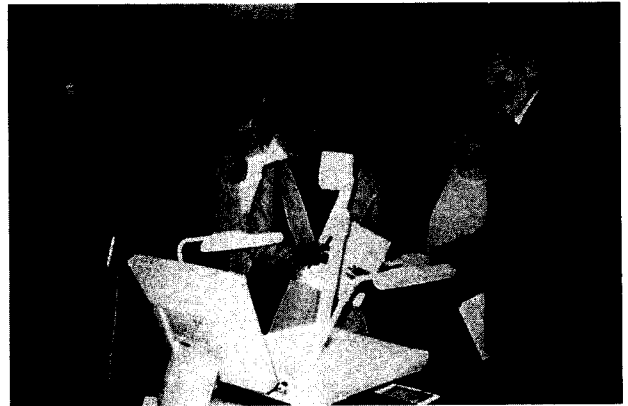
by Michelle Moran, CLA

The U.S. Courts of the Fifth Circuit have a new home. The new federal courthouse opened in Spring of 1999. The \$27 million dollar United States Courthouse located in downtown Lafayette encompasses approximately 200,000 square feet and is built on five levels. The building's classic facade faces Lafayette Street in an area targeted for continued downtown growth and development.

According to U.S. District Judge Rebecca F. Doherty, the building is equipped with the latest in courtroom technology. The technology allows projection from CD ROM of documents and objects for exhibits and enables witnesses to identify the projections on a computer screen. Also available is the immediate computer transcription known as real time. This technology gives the judge and attorneys the opportunity to observe on a computer screen the witness's testimony as it is being transcribed. Another advanced feature in the new courthouse is teleconferencing for remote proceedings or witness participation.

Judge Doherty said, "The Lafayette courthouse building is one of the first to have its courtrooms outfitted with state of the art electronic technology outside certain select pilot programs. The systems were designed to make the trying of cases more time and cost efficient and to make the presentation of evidence more effective."

The building was designed with one ceremonial, two magistrate, and four district courtrooms, as well as, office space for district and appeals court judges.



Robert Shemwell



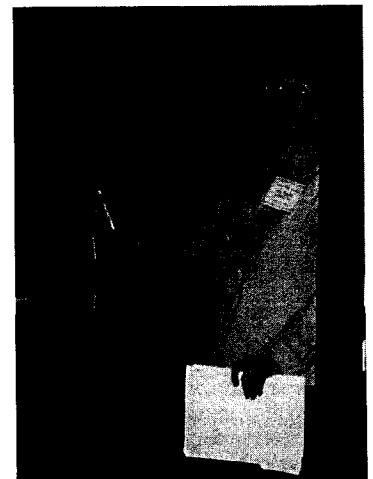
Robert Shemwell

The building will provide housing for the Clerk of Court, the U.S. Attorney, the U.S. Marshals Service, Probation, the General Services Administration, and the local offices of United State Senator John Breaux and United States Representative Chris Johns.

According to Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal Mike Moriarty, "A state of the art security system is in place and will operate 24 hours a day. Video surveillance will also be possible within a two block radius of the building."

According to U.S. District Judge John Shaw, a major force in the development of the courthouse project, the building's floor plan is well organized and will serve the needs of government well into the next century.

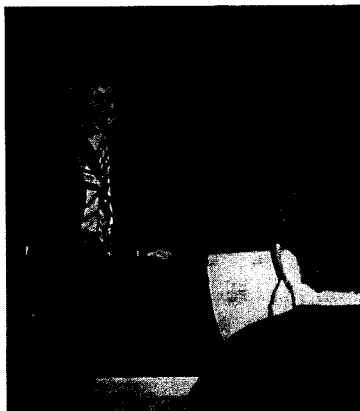
In May of 1999, the Lafayette Parish Paralegal Association sponsored two training/ orientation session for those in the community interested in learning about and using the facilities in the new federal courthouse.



Michelle Moran and Mary Margaret Comeaux



Mary Margaret Comeaux and Becky Sawyer

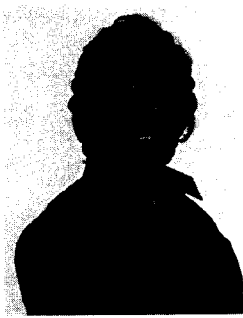


Judge Rebecca Doherty and Kathleen Mire

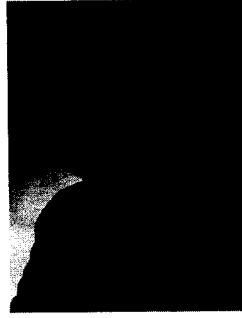
LPA MEMBERS HONORED

Congratulations to two LPA members who were honored at the Louisiana State Paralegal Association annual meeting in Alexandria on Sept. 17.

The Outstanding Paralegal of the Year award was presented to Angelle LaGrange Hebert and the Meritorious Service Achievement Award was presented to Angella B. Rayon, CLA.



Angella B. Rayon, CLA



Angelle LaGrange Hebert

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 M. Moran, CLA, LSPA District II Director, c/o Diane Sorola, APLC, 402 W. Convent St., Lafayette, LA 70501, (337) 234-2355, or Fax (337) 237-3572.**

LAFAYETTE VOLUNTEER PARALEGALS

Paralegals may earn CLE hours for their participation in Lafayette Volunteer Lawyer projects. If you would like to increase your knowledge, gain experience, and earn CLE hours, contact the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers at **(337) 237-4700.**

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 **(337) 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. We encourage all members seeking a position to fill out the application and return it along with a resume' to: **Peggy Connick Drennan, Job Bank Chairperson, Lafayette Paralegal Association, Post Office Drawer 3507, Lafayette, Louisiana 70502.**

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: _____

PARALEGAL JOB BANK UPDATE

The Job Bank has been very active this year. Registering with the Job Bank were 9 paralegals and 18 law firms. The Job Bank also received inquiries regarding work opportunities in the legal field, in general.

Please remember that your application stays on file with the Job Bank for only 6 months. The Job Bank Chairperson must be contacted after 6 months, for renewal.

LPA members wishing to obtain information regarding available positions, please call Job Bank Chairperson, **Peggy C. Drennan at (337) 266-1152.**

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 16 * Christmas Social, 6:30 p.m.
 Petroleum Club of Lafayette
 Raffle Drawing
 * Bring a present for a child at the Children's Shelter; identify girl or boy
- Jan. TBA Luncheon Seminar Meeting, noon - 1:30 p.m.
 City Club of Lafayette
 Speaker: Chitimacha Tribal Judge & Clerk
 Topic: Rules, Procedures, and Trial in Chitimacha Indian Tribal Court
- Feb. 16 Luncheon & Seminar, noon - 1:30 p.m.
 City Club of Lafayette
 Annual Meeting and Swearing in of Officers By Harry Connick, Sr.
- Mar. TBA Luncheon Seminar Meeting, noon - 1:30 p.m.
 City Club of Lafayette
 Speaker: Edwin G. Preis, Jr.
 Topic: Securing an Accident Scene

Other Seminars Tentatively Scheduled for 2000

- Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Family Law
- Legislative Update
- Community Affairs
- Workers Compensation

Contact Kaye Pooler at 266-1190 or 984-7751 with questions, or if you have suggestions for meeting speakers and topics.

LAW LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

The Lafayette Parish Bar Association has requested volunteer help with monitoring the Law Library on Tuesday evenings and Saturday morning and in daily shelving and maintaining publications.

To volunteer, please call the **Lafayette Parish Law Library at (337) 237-4700** or **Wayne Lemoine at (337) 233-1471**.

LPA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 1999-2000

- Kaye A. Pooler, President 266-1190
- Angella B. Rayon, CLA,
 Vice President/Membership 237-1660
- Savannah Stephan, CLA, Secretary 291-1212
- Michelle M. Moran, CLA, LSPA Liaison
 Corresponding Secretary 234-2355
- Kathy R. Dempsey, CLA, Treasurer 289-9555
- Viola Courville, Interim Treasurer
- Lupe L Acosta, Parliamentarian 237-7135
- Martha LeJeune, Fund-Raising 233-2247
- Cheryl Myers Hoffpauir, Programs/Socials 237-1660
- Elizabeth Robin Guidry, Programs/Socials 233-4424
- Peggy Connick Drennan, Job Bank 291-1242
- Mary Margaret Comeaux, Education/Newsletter 291-1242
- Molly Davenport Fabacher, LPA Liaison 266-1166

Lafayette Paralegal Association

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