



*lpa-la.org*

## Lafayette Paralegal Association, Inc.

Post Office Box 2775  
Lafayette, LA 70502-2775

*Summer 2003*

### LOUISIANA STATE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND CLE SEMINAR

New Orleans, Louisiana, will be the site of the Louisiana State Paralegal Association Annual Meeting and CLE Seminar to be held September 19 and 20, 2003, at the Doubletree Hotel in the heart of New Orleans on Canal Street, directly across from the French Quarter.

The topic of the seminar is Toxic Mold Litigation.

#### **Seminar Schedule**

Friday, September 19, 2003:

- 1:15-2:15 p.m. Westlaw-National Litigation Library
- 2:15-2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Michael Lebas, P.C. - Moisture & Mold in Buildings (Causes and Effects and Defects in Buildings)
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. Emma Daschbash, Esq. - Effective use of an Expert and ADR Techniques
- 6:30 p.m. Awards Banquet

Saturday, September 20, 2003:

- 8:00-8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. Charles Taylor, Esq., NBSP – HIPAA Releases of Medical Records
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. Michael J. Remondet, Jr., Esq. Insurance & Mold--Is it all in water? (Legal and insurance issues)
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. Break
- 10:45-11:45 a.m. Yul O. Lorio, Esq, NBSP Pre-litigation Strategies and Techniques

The Awards Banquet acknowledges those members who have rendered outstanding service and/or achievement in support of the Louisiana State Paralegal Association. The Outstanding Paralegal of the Year will be recognized and presented with a plaque and a traditional Mont Blanc pen.

Entertainment will be provided by Robbie Williams, lead singer and guitarist of Central City. Robbie has performed with artists such as Vern Gosdin, Daryle Singletary, John Conlee and Rhett Akins.

### THE HONORABLE ROBERT P. SHEMWELL TO SPEAK TO LPA ON ELECTRONIC FILING

Those attending the August luncheon meeting of the Lafayette Paralegal Association will have an opportunity for hands-on application of electronic filing thanks to United States District Court Clerk, Robert P. Shemwell, and Deputy in Charge, Catherine B. Carter, who will give a seminar to LPA on August 20 and 21.

The seminar each day will begin at noon at the Federal Courthouse. Those attending will have the choice of either day and will have to "brown bag" it or will have to order lunch to be delivered to the courthouse. The seminar will continue until 2 p.m. with areas available for participants to experiment with electronic filing.

#### **Mark your Calendars . . .**

##### August Luncheon Seminar

#### **SPEAKERS:**

**The Honorable Robert Shemwell**  
Clerk of US District Court  
and  
**Catherine B. Carter**  
Deputy in Charge

#### **Electronic Case Filing in Federal Court**

Wed. & Thurs., August 20 & 21, 2003  
12:00—2:00 p.m.  
United States Federal Courthouse  
Lafayette, Louisiana

NALA CLE Credits Available

**For Reservations call Kaye Pooler @ 266-1190**  
**Reservations Required By Noon Tuesday**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We extend our welcome to the following new members:

<u>Active</u>	<u>Associate</u>
Tammy Goodrich	Angela Dugas
Jessica Guillory	Becky Plummer
Jennifer Lambuth	Amanda Peterson
Stephanie Roberts	
Demetrie Ross	
Kayla Trahan	
JoAnn Lefleur	

Membership:	Active	69
	Associate	9
	Sustaining	<u>5</u>
Total Membership:		82

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Thanks to our sustaining members for their continued support.

Allen & Gooch  
The Onebane Firm  
Diane Sorola, A PLC  
Daniel M. Landry, III, A PLC  
Jean C. Breaux, Jr., & Associates

## MEMBER CERTIFICATES

If you have not received your membership certificate, please contact membership chairperson, **Carolyn Martin, at 232-9700.**

### PARALEGAL OCCUPATIONAL SURVEY

Lafayette Paralegal Association Occupational Survey is available to members for \$5 and to non-members for \$10. For your copy, please contact chairperson **Kathy Dempsey at 337-237-4070**

## 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. LPA would like to assist its members and the legal community in filling available paralegal positions.

The job bank is confidential! LPA members may obtain information regarding available positions by calling the Job Bank Chairperson at **233-3033**. Employers may not be given the names of job bank applicants. As positions become available, the Job Bank Chairperson will contact applicants who meet an employer's job qualifications.

We encourage all members seeking a position to fill out the application and return it along with a resume' to: **Peggy Monette, CLA, LPA Job Bank Chairperson, Post Office Drawer 3668, Lafayette, LA 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## 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, 402 W. Convent Street, Lafayette, LA 70501; 337-234-2355.**

## NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 10 & 21 Luncheon Seminar  
Electronic Case Filing in Federal Court  
Hon. Robert Shemwell and Cathy Carter  
Federal Courthouse, Lafayette, Louisiana

Sept. 19 & 20 Louisiana State Paralegal Association  
Annual Meeting and CLE Seminar

Sept. 17 Paralegal Week Social  
SideBar 5:30 p.m.

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

More national certifications are becoming available as additional organizations throw their hat into the certification ring.

The National Association for Legal Professionals, formerly National Association of Legal Secretaries (NALS), now offers the Certified Paralegal Professional (CCP) designation. The examination is divided into four parts: legal knowledge and skills, ethics and judgment skills, written communications, and substantive law. The certification is valid for five years and requires 75 hours of CLE for re-certification. Non-members may sit for the exam. Candidates must have one of the following: (1) five years of legal experience; (2) post secondary degree, other certification or a paralegal certificate and four years of legal experience; and (3) paralegal degree with three years experience.

The National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) continues to offer its Certified Legal Assistant (CLA) designation. The criteria for sitting for the examination have not been changed. However, candidates successfully completing certification may choose between the CLA designation or the CP, Certified Paralegal, designation. While NALA feels the terms "legal assistant" and "paralegal" are interchangeable, such as "attorney" and "lawyer", the change is to accommodate preferences emerging in various regions of the country. The designations may not be used together, CLA/CP, as this may indicate two certifications.

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) has changed the requirements for sitting for its PACE examination: (1) associate degree in paralegal studies from an institutionally accredited or ABA-approved paralegal education program with six years experience; (2) bachelor's degree in any field with three years experience; (3) bachelor's degree and completion of a paralegal program at an institutionally accredited school that may be embodied in the bachelor's degree, with two years experience; and (4) four years of experience by December 31, 2000. Candidates successfully completing the examination may use the designation Registered Paralegal (RP).

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### PASSE PARTOUT

North Carolina has introduced the Paralegal profession Act, HB 957, to the state legislature which would create a 19-member paralegal regulation board with broad authority over the state's paralegals. The bill delineates educational qualifications for paralegals and grants power to the board to establish continuing educational requirements.

The New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on Regulation has recommended creation of a state agency to oversee legal assistant practice and has recommended ethics rule changes and minimum hour and course-content standards for licensure.

South Carolina is debating minimum requirements for those designated as paralegals.

D. Jeffrey Campbell has been serving as chairman of the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistants (SCOLA) and is convinced that paralegals are a precious resource. So convinced is he that he has been instrumental in his firm's hiring more paralegals than attorneys, 75 paralegals and 69 attorneys.

On January 22, 2003, a new national paralegal association was incorporated. The American Alliance of Paralegals membership is available to anyone currently employed as a paralegal with a minimum of six years of formal education and/or paralegal experience, with associate and sustaining memberships to those not meeting the minimum membership requirements. For more: [www.legalassistanttoday.com/assoc\\_links.htm](http://www.legalassistanttoday.com/assoc_links.htm).

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### NATIONAL CERTIFICATION AND YOU

Are you planning to sit for a nationally certified examination? Would like to contact others preparing for the examinations? LPA would like to help its members attain certification. Call **Kathy Dempsey, CLA** at 237-4070.



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### NEW ORLEANS PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION 2003 SEMINAR

The New Orleans Paralegal Association will hold its 2003 Education Seminar on Friday, September 12, 2003, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Wyndham Canal Place Hotel located at Canal Place, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Registration fee for members is \$100, non-members \$120, and paralegal students \$80, and includes continental breakfast, hot luncheon, and breaks.

#### Seminar Schedule

9:00-10:30 a.m. Family Law  
 Marc D. Winsberg, Esq.

10:30 to 12:00 noon Medical Malpractice  
 Thomas A. Gennusa, II, Esq.  
*or*  
 Trial Preparation  
 Mark R. Wolfe, Esq.

*LUNCH* [ noon to 1:30 pm.]

1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Products Liability  
 John F. Olinde, Esq.  
*or*  
 Medical Records  
 Jean M. Farquharson, Esq.

3:00-4:30 p.m. Ethics  
 Lindsay A. Larson, III, Esq.

The seminar has been approved for 6 hrs. of CLE credit. **Please contact NOPA at 504-467-3136.**

#### LPA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2003-2004

<b>President:</b>	Mary Margaret Comeaux, CLA	<a href="mailto:marymargaret@allengooch.com">marymargaret@allengooch.com</a>	291-1242
<b>Vice President:</b>	Carolyn Martin	<a href="mailto:carolyn@volalaw.com">carolyn@volalaw.com</a>	232-9700
	(Membership Chairperson)		
<b>Secretary:</b>	Renatti Dupont	<a href="mailto:r.s.dupont@worldnet.att.net">r.s.dupont@worldnet.att.net</a>	233-4447
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Molly Davenport	<a href="mailto:davenportm@onebane.com">davenportm@onebane.com</a>	266-1166
	(Fund Raising Chairperson)		
<b>Parliamentarian:</b>	Lupe Acosta	<a href="mailto:gmllope@aol.com">gmllope@aol.com</a>	237-7135
<b>Program/Social:</b>	Kaye Pooler	<a href="mailto:poolerk@onebane.com">poolerk@onebane.com</a>	266-1190
<b>Education/Survey:</b>	Kathy Dempsey, CLA	<a href="mailto:krdempsey@brineyforet.com">krdempsey@brineyforet.com</a>	237-4070
<b>Job Bank:</b>	Peggy Monette, CLA	<a href="mailto:peggym@wrightroy.com">peggym@wrightroy.com</a>	233-3033
<b>Website:</b>	Linda Moncla, CLA	<a href="mailto:lindamoncla@allengooch.com">lindamoncla@allengooch.com</a>	291-1292
<b>LSPA Liason:</b>	Michelle Moran, CLA	<a href="mailto:mm@sorolalaw.com">mm@sorolalaw.com</a>	234-2355