



# THE PARAGRAPH

*Leading Georgia's Paralegals to Excellence Since 1973*

## *President's Message – GAP is Celebrating 40 Years!*



Happy New Year!!

It is hard to believe that, when Paezlé asked me to get involved last year as Vice-President in preparation for the 2013-2014 Presidency, the time to step into this role would come around so quickly. This new year and new position is very exciting, albeit a tad intimidating...I have some big (and fabulous) shoes to fill following in Paezlé's footsteps.

**Change is good, but it can be difficult.** You get used to seeing certain people, their styles and the way things have been over a period of time. I was introduced at a GAP event last fall as the incoming President when a member approached me and said, "So you are going to be GAP's President? Who are you and what are you about?" In that moment, I thought...whoa, this is going to be a big change for me and for GAP. I also thought it was a fair question...and one I have thought about a lot about over the past few months. I intend to answer that question over the next few months. Stay tuned.

**Change is good, but it can be scary.** All of us know that our profession is constantly changing. I am frequently reminded in my job that we need to continue to learn and evolve with the way things are changing in the legal field in order to stay competitive. I see paralegals struggle with this because they get set in their ways, think their way is the only way and are unwilling to change the way they do things...and I see them get passed over because of it. As paralegals, we are constantly changing the way we approach our job in order to meet clients' expectations and changes in the legal industry...this is especially true over the last couple of years. And it is true for GAP.

**Change is good.** For GAP in 2013, things are changing. I am hopeful that the changes will be embraced and welcomed by our members. We have a number of new board positions that have been created to better serve *our* association. We have a lot of new people on the board with new ideas and energy. For the first time, GAP is expanding

into other areas of Georgia: Columbus and Macon. We have four new board member positions overseeing the expansions into Columbus and Macon. Also new is our Vendor Relations Manager position, a vendor member who is going to serve as a liaison between *our* association and vendors to the legal community. Additionally, we now have two Vice-Presidents: a 1<sup>st</sup> VP of CLE and Communications and a 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Membership. Look for great things from the board members holding these positions. The Board of Directors recently had their board retreat and they have hit the ground running. This year you will see more CLEs, member meetings with speaker topics geared for broader appeal, more social media, a vendor expo, GAPpy hours, Casino de Jure II, a mission statement...just to name a few things.

*Are you ready for change?* The characteristic I like most about paralegals is that we are constantly working to improve ourselves, both professionally and personally. That is readily apparent in the participation we have had at CLE events over the last year, the number of paralegals seeking certification each year, and the number of paralegals that participate in pro bono activities giving back to the community. Successful paralegals are always changing and re-inventing themselves to be the best they can be in an ever changing legal industry. *Our* association must change and evolve to accommodate our members and the changes happening in the legal industry today. What worked for *our* association 35 years ago, 15 years ago, even 5 years ago...most likely does not work the same today. We all have to work to improve *our* association and what it has to offer its members. *You will only get out of GAP what you personally put into it.*

And therein lies the challenge. We have big plans this year, *GAP's 40<sup>th</sup> year*, but we can't do it without you. We need members to get involved and participate on planning committees, to attend events, and to provide feedback. I invite you to contact your [Board of Directors](#) and get involved with *our* association.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julia E. Lanford', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Julia E. Lanford**  
**President**

## 2013 GAP Board Retreat

--Tiffany Findlay  
Secretary

GAP is celebrating its 40th year in 2013! And what an exciting year it will be as we expand into Macon and Columbus! The new Board kicked off the 2013 GAP calendar at the annual Board Retreat, held on Saturday, January 5, 2013, at the offices of King & Spalding LLP.

**Craig Hardesty**, Manager of Paralegal Services for King & Spalding and President-elect of the International Paralegal Management Association, conducted a Leadership Development Seminar for the Board, where the Board learned how to work together to utilize the individual talents of our teams to pursue and achieve common goals. In one of the exercises Craig led – involving building a tower to support a raw egg with specified materials in a limited amount of time – he lauded us for being the only group he had ever led in this exercise that requested the use of outside materials. Takeaway: Paralegals are resourceful!

Also at the Retreat, the Board accomplished several things:

- Reviewed policies, procedures and practical information for new board members
- Reviewed our 2013 calendar
- Began planning our February member meeting – an event you won't want to miss! See an article below for details.
- Brainstormed our Macon and Columbus expansions
- Considered the importance of vendor relations
- Discussed revamping the GAP Mission Statement and developing a purpose statement for our organization.

Our directors and coordinators then went over their goals and objectives in break-out sessions.

To assist in our growth, we have **six new board positions**: a second Vice-President, two Macon Area Chairs, two Columbus Area Chairs, and a Vendor Relations Manager. What a productive day from this dedicated group of volunteers!



Back row left to right: Claire Rodriguez (New Member Coordinator), Elizabeth Boulware (Macon Area Chair 2), Dawn Hussey (Macon Area Chair 1), Sabrina Henry (2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Director of Membership and NFPA Secondary), Patrick Davis (Director of Pro Bono), Janet Williams, Patty Dietz-Selke (Student Outreach Coordinator), Monica Morris (Director of CLE). Front row left to right: Rhonda Donnelly (Columbus Area Chair 1), Julia Lanford (President and NFPA Primary), Mashon Valentine (Job Network Coordinator), Camille Goble (Speakers Coordinator), Suzette Corley (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Valerie Kavanaugh (Vendor Relations Manager), Paezle Harris (GAP Advisor), Nikki Sanders (Columbus Area Chair 2), Delores Vanstone (Pace Ambassador), Tiffany Findlay (Secretary).



Installation of the newest board members.



Leadership Development Seminar by Craig Hardesty.







Tiffany Findlay (Secretary) presents her group's version of "Map The GAP Experience."



Mashon Valentine (Job Network Coordinator) and Nikki Sanders (Columbus Area Chair 2) presenting their group's thoughts and images of the future.



A break-out session.



Suzette Corley (1<sup>st</sup> VP) leading the discussions with Monica Morris (Director of CLE) and Janet Williams (Director of Paralegal Certification)

For more photos from the retreat, visit us on Facebook and look for the photo album [GAP BOD RETREAT – January 5, 2013](#).

### 2013 Planned Events at a Glance:

February 19, 2013 - GAP Member Meeting (with Craig Hardesty - speaker) and Vendor Expo  
March 8-9, 2013 - Region III Meeting in Miami, FL  
March 12, 2013 - GAP Board Meeting at King & Spalding LLP  
April 2013 - Spring ½ day CLE and Member Meeting  
April 19-21, 2013 - NFPA Joint Conference in New Orleans  
May 14, 2013 - GAP Board Meeting at King & Spalding LLP  
June 2013 - Paralegal Week  
June 11, 2013 - GAP's Member Meeting (presentation by King & Spalding Human Resources, "How to Deal With Difficult People")  
July 2013 - Legal Summit at Newell Rubbermaid  
July 9, 2012 - GAP Board Meeting at King & Spalding LLP  
August 13, 2013 - Member Appreciation Night  
September 10, 2013 - GAP Board Meeting at King & Spalding LLP  
October 3-6, 2013 - NFPA Convention  
October 8, 2013 - GAP Member Meeting and Vendor Expo  
November 2013 - Fall ½ day CLE  
November 12, 2013 - GAP Board Meeting at King & Spalding LLP  
December 2013 - GAP Holiday Party and BOD Installation

### Introducing...The 2013 Board of Directors!

--Brenda King-Holley  
Director of Communications

So – you've seen the photos of the GAP Board of Directors in action at our annual planning retreat – and maybe wondered about those egg towers? Maybe you met us at some of the GAP events; maybe you have worked with us on committees or in our jobs. But maybe you're new to GAP, or you're seeing some new faces in these pictures – and you may be asking yourself, "Just who *are* these people? Where did they come from and where are they taking us?"

Let us introduce ourselves. If you think you already do know us, read along and get to know us just a little bit better! You might even be surprised!



**Julia E. Lanford** is GAP's President and NFPA® Primary. She's a Senior Paralegal with King & Spalding LLP ("K&S"), supporting attorneys in the firm's Tort Litigation Practice. Her 22 years of trial experience, including 14 years with K&S, has seen her working in first party insurance defense and complex product liability litigation matters involving automotive manufacturers, pharmaceutical companies, and tobacco manufacturers, serving as lead trial paralegal in state and federal courts throughout the country.

No stranger to GAP, Julia has been a member since 1991 and has previously served on the GAP Board of Directors as Secretary (2008-2009), and NFPA® Secondary and Vice President in 2012.

Julia has a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Diego State University, and received her Paralegal Certificate with Honors (of course!) from the National Center for Paralegal Training in 1990.



**Suzette Corley**, our First Vice President and NFPA Secondary, is Corporate Governance and Securities Paralegal for the U.S. and Americas Region of United Parcel Service, Inc. She also has been a Corporate Paralegal and Trademark Paralegal with Alston & Bird LP. During her 25-year career as a paralegal, she has worked in various practice areas ranging from corporate to real estate to IP, among other areas. Recently, Suzette organized GAP's first annual (and very successful) Corporate Legal Summit, an event designed specifically for the paralegal who works in a corporation rather than in a law firm. Her past GAP experience includes serving as Director of CLE. She has an Associate of Applied Science degree in Legal Studies from Middlesex Community College and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Shorter University.



**Sabrina Henry**, Second Vice President and Director of Membership, brings over 12 years of immigration experience to her position as Senior Immigration Specialist with Nelson Mullins Riley Scarborough, LLP. She handled immigration matters for several Fortune 500 companies in her previous position as Senior Paralegal for a boutique immigration practice, a position she held for over six years. Sabrina has prepared nonimmigrant and immigrant visa cases for business executives, managers, and skilled/professional workers and also prepared family-based cases. Before she became a paralegal, Sabrina was a licensed Business Technology Teacher with the New York City Board of Education. Sabrina is multi-lingual, speaking Haitian-Creole, French, and Spanish. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Education, minoring in Black Studies, from Bernard M. Baruch College, City University of New York, as well as participating in an exchange program at University of Ghana at Legon and Kumasi Technical College.



Secretary **Tiffany Findlay** is a paralegal with Dow Lohnes PLLC. She specializes in eDiscovery, document collections and reviews, development and utilization of case management databases, complex-litigation case management and organization, and research of all kinds. Her group at Dow Lohnes is predominantly focused in agency compliance, coordinated and complex litigation, First Amendment rights, and Qui Tam actions. She worked in environmental litigation at Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp LLP in San Francisco for several years, mainly focusing on complex environmental litigation including toxic torts, regulatory compliance, and contract disputes over environmental clauses. Tiffany received her Paralegal Certificate from Emory University in 2007 and her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from Georgia State University in 2006.



**Steve Osheroff** is a Project Manager with an extensive IT background, and a new paralegal (2010). He has been a member of the GAP board since January 2011 and is currently the GAP Treasurer.





Our Director of CLE, [Monica Morris](#), began her GAP experience as a student member of GAP while she pursued her Associate of Applied Science degree in Paralegal Studies at Atlanta Technical College. She's no stranger to leadership – Monica served as Collegiate DECA President from 2010-2011 for Atlanta Technical College, and Collegiate DECA President for the State of Georgia in 2012. Collegiate DECA State of Georgia named her "Student of the Year" in 2012.

Monica has the following "guest speaker" credits: *Articulation* (Complete College Summit 2012 at University of Georgia); *Think Like a Paralegal* (Atlanta Technical College 2011); and *Reinvent Yourself* (Atlanta Technical College 2010).

Monica has a passion for those who cannot afford traditional legal services, and aspires to work with and establish community programs to offer assistance with literacy and the provision of legal services.



[Patrick L. Davis](#), our Director of Pro Bono, began his legal career when he landed an internship with the State Ethics Commission for the 2007 legislative session, while he was studying in Emory's Paralegal Certificate Program. Patrick found his first paralegal position at Henderson & Hundley, P.C. where he specialized in defending local municipalities in land use litigation. Since June of 2010 he has worked at Jackson Lewis, LLP as a litigation paralegal focusing on corporate defense in labor and employment law. Patrick earned a Bachelor of Arts. in History from the University of Georgia in 2005. He has been an active member of GAP since 2007, serving as the Community Service Coordinator from 2009-2010 and has served as the Director of Pro Bono since 2011.

[James Benson](#) has been assisting GAP in creating programs and opportunities to benefit nonprofits, volunteer organizations, and the community as a whole since being appointed Community Service Coordinator in 2011. James is a senior litigation paralegal in the Atlanta office of Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett and Brieske, LLP. He has over 18 years of experience in general law and legal proceedings pertaining to Civil Litigation, Insurance Defense, Insurance Subrogation, Public Sector Litigation, Business and Commercial Litigation, Negligence, Personal Injury, Malpractice, Real Estate and Criminal Law. James works closely with attorneys in assisting with a broad range of responsibilities that encompass the timely and complex preparation of various caseloads from discovery to trial. James received his paralegal certificate from Kennesaw State University. He also holds a certificate of Legal Studies from Clayton State University and is a candidate for a Bachelors of Science in Legal Studies from Clayton State later this year! James is a registered Notary Public in the State of Georgia. His professional affiliations include being a member of the Georgia Association of Professional Private Investigators, where he was certified as a private investigator in 2002 – and of course, being an active member of GAP.





**Claire Rodriguez**, our New Member Coordinator, works for Arnall Golden Gregory LLP in the Immigration Department. She has been a paralegal for two years, after completing Emory's Paralegal Certificate program. Claire reports that she has always been interested in the legal field; she enjoys conducting research, writing, and helping people. Attending Emory's program solidified her belief that the paralegal profession is the right career for her.

Claire hopes, through her position on the GAP Board, to encourage new members to become more active and involved in GAP. She plans to accomplish her goal by playing a more active role herself, reaching out to all new GAP members via e-mail or telephone to help them get to know fellow members and become acclimated to GAP's website, membership meetings, and various events.



**Camille Goble** has taken the position of Speaker's Coordinator with GAP, arranging for the great presentations we've all enjoyed at our Member's Meetings. She is a paralegal in the Tort & Environmental Litigation Practice Group at King & Spalding LLC. Her specialties are Product Liability and Mass Tort, and she has participated in all areas of pretrial work-up for complex product liability cases. She assists attorneys with scheduling and set-up of depositions and drafting case documents. Camille additionally is experienced in preparing *pro hac vice* admission applications for state and federal jurisdictions; preparing cases for mediation and settlement conferences which may include creating PowerPoint and other multimedia presentations; and summarizing deposition testimony. Camille is a Notary Public in Fulton County, Georgia. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Magazine Journalism with an Art History minor from the University of Georgia, and earned a Paralegal Certificate from Emory University.



Our Student Outreach Coordinator, **Patricia "Patty" Dietz-Selke, RP®**, is a Senior Paralegal in the Immigration Practice Group at Troutman Sanders LLP, handling primarily business immigration cases involving non-immigrant, immigrant, and US Citizenship matters. Patty is a national lecturer and speaker and has served as instructor for several Atlanta-area and online paralegal programs. She was the 2006 LAT/Legal Assistant Today Paralegal of the Year Runner-Up Award Winner, and was awarded the GAP 2010 PACE Scholarship. She has served in several positions on the GAP Board of Directors, beginning in 1993. Patty earned a Bachelors in International Studies, minoring in Management, from the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Florida. She also earned an ABA Paralegal Certificate with specialization in Litigation from the National Center for Paralegal Studies in Atlanta, Georgia. Both her degree and her paralegal certificate were awarded with honors!



**Janet Wilson Williams**, our Director of Paralegal Certification, is a PACE Registered Paralegal® whose focus is to lead both newly-minted and experienced paralegals toward attaining national paralegal certification and to share in their development. She delights as well in meeting and working with leaders from other US paralegal associations. A three month stint on Grand Jury first sparked her interest in the law. She has spent the last 22 years as a commercial finance paralegal, starting her paralegal career at Minkin & Snyder, P.C., continuing with Greenberg Traurig, LLP

and currently with Andersen, Tate & Carr, P.C. Special projects have included historic Atlanta properties, assisting bankruptcy trustees, and working with attorneys in other parts of the country. Janet is the author of "My Journey to Becoming an RP," published in the *National Paralegal Reporter* in the February/March 2010 issue and was a featured speaker in the continuing legal education presentation, "The Paralegal's Role in the Real Estate Transaction in Georgia" (November 1999). This is her third consecutive year on the GAP Board of Directors. Janet is a graduate of the ABA-approved paralegal program at The National Center for Paralegal Training, formerly of Atlanta, Georgia.



Our Macon Area Chair 1, **Dawn Hussey**, is a paralegal for James-Bates-Brannan-Groover LLP, working in the area of litigation for plaintiffs and defendants in cases pertaining to trial practice, commercial litigation, personal injury, commercial transactions, tort litigation, and large receivership cases. She has been a litigation paralegal for 14 years. As the Workers' Compensation Coordinator at Piedmont Orthopaedics in Macon, she became interested in pursuing a paralegal career and started in a position working primarily on workers' compensation cases. Her expertise includes effective trial practice, commercial litigation, personal injury, commercial transactions, railroad cases, workers' compensation, tort litigation, and large receivership cases. Dawn received a paralegal certificate from Georgia College and State University.

Our Columbus Area Chair 1, **Rhonda Jones Donnelly**, has worked as a paralegal in many states and been part of several paralegal associations over her 20-year career. She began her career working for Legal Aid of North Carolina and is currently working in the Atlanta, Georgia office of Burr and Forman, LLP. Rhonda also serves on the Paralegal Advisory Board for Columbus Technical College's paralegal program. Rhonda attended Brevard College in Brevard, North Carolina, and the University of Houston. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Legal Studies *summa cum laude* through the National Paralegal College, where she also served on the college's Law Review staff.



**Nikki Sanders** is our Columbus Area Chair 2. She has been a paralegal for two years, working with personal injury cases. Nikki started her paralegal career after moving to Columbus from her lifelong home of Kentucky, where she had worked in Information Technology.

**Valerie Alerte Kavanagh, MBA**, is Vendor Relations Manager/Liaison. Valerie is currently not a practicing paralegal – she works for a privately held company that provides compliance and governance services to Fortune 100 and 500 companies in the Southeast. She has a certificate in Paralegal Studies, and was drawn to the paralegal profession because of her passion for the law and history and her interest in how the law, though static, has room for change and evolution. She previously had been an Assistant Corporate Secretary for 1,000 of AIG's US Domestic Subsidiaries, giving her insight into the manner in which corporations operate and their need for compliance and governance solutions. Valerie intends to expose GAP members to viable and reliable vendors who can assist paralegals in all practice areas to accomplish day-to-day tasks in a seamless manner. She also will work to allow GAP members to identify vendors as a resource to help educate members of trends, both technological and legal.

And then there's me. I'm [Brenda King-Holley](#), and I serve as GAP's Director of Communications and Publicity Coordinator. Like Monica Morris, I became involved in GAP as a student, working as a volunteer for the first Casino de Jure. I have been an executive assistant for most of my career and am pursuing employment as a paralegal as a second career. I earned a Bachelor's degree *summa cum laude* and an MBA in Management and Marketing from Mercer University in Atlanta, and received a Paralegal Certificate from Emory University in 2011.



My goal as Director of Communications is to expand *The ParaGraph* – beginning by producing five issues this year and hopefully moving to an every-other-month schedule for next year. We also will be expanding the content in each issue. What would *you* like to see in *The ParaGraph*?

## GAP's Anniversary Kick-Off – a Don't Miss Event!

--Camille Goble  
Speaker's Coordinator

It's not only a new year, but also a special one for GAP, since 2013 marks our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To build on those four decades of success, we'll kick off the year with our annual Town Hall meeting, an interactive session giving members to chance to voice their ideas and goals for GAP's future. [Craig Hardesty](#), Manager of Paralegal Services at King & Spalding, will once again join us to moderate the session and provide insight and feedback.

New this year, the Town Hall meeting will also feature a vendor showcase and exhibition, highlighting vendors from across the area who are ready to assist paralegals with everything from document productions to presentations. Our vendors are key to the ongoing success of our organization, and they're ready to show you how they can help you.

Our Town Hall meeting will also include introductions of your new board members and highlights for the upcoming year, including information about CLE and pro bono opportunities. This kick-off meeting is the perfect time to get more involved too - sign up for a committee and plan how you can contribute to another 40 years of GAP success.

## GAP's Annual Town Hall Meeting & Vendor Showcase

February 19, 2013

5:30 - 8:00p.m.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP

Atlantic Station

201 17th Street NW, Suite 1700

Atlanta, GA 30363

Member Cost: \$30

Non-Member Cost: \$40



## Columbus or Bust!

--Claire Rodriguez

New Member Coordinator



Look out! We're coming your way! GAP is expanding yet again to reach out to our fellow paralegals in Columbus. Last fall, GAP held its first GAPpy hour to initiate chapter expansion into Macon and the response was nothing short of overwhelming. News quickly spread about GAP looking into the possibility of starting additional chapters in Georgia, and, within 48 hours, [Rhonda Donnelly](#) had contacted [Sabrina Henry](#), Director of Membership, to let her know that Columbus already had over 24 paralegals interested in starting their own chapter.

As part of this exciting development, GAP will be holding its first kick off Columbus chapter meeting on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:30pm to 8:00pm at The Loft in downtown Columbus. Light appetizers and drinks will be served. Anyone interested in either learning more about GAP as the leading paralegal association in Georgia or wanting to become a part of the new Columbus chapter is strongly encouraged to attend!

An extra special congratulations to [Rhonda Donnelly](#) and [Nicole Sanders](#) who are GAP's first acting coordinators for the Columbus Chapter!

Please watch the next issue of *The Paragraph* for an update and pictures from our Columbus chapter meeting. We'll also post the pictures on our Facebook page – have you found us on Facebook yet?

*Map taken from Encarta.*





Sabrina Desruisseau Henry

--Janet Wilson Williams, RP®  
Director of Paralegal Certification

*Sabrina is an Immigration Paralegal with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP. She also serves GAP as the Second Vice President and Director of Membership.*

*A new member of GAP is often welcomed by this paralegal - a bundle of energy, enthusiasm and wit. She is skilled at throwing together a white water rafting trip or other fun event and even in coordinating a new GAP chapter in another Georgia city! **Sabrina D. Henry** is an asset to our organization and to the paralegal profession.*

**Tell us about your family background. Are you or your parents first-generation American? Your maiden name seems to be French – do you speak French or any other languages?**

I am a first-generation Haitian-American, and my parents are both from Haiti. The family migrated to the US in the early 70s. Both my parents had to drop out of school before completion due to family economic needs. My grandfather was an attorney in Haiti until he was imprisoned for speaking out against the government. My maiden name,

Desruisseau, is Haitian, meaning “of the river.” I am fluent in Haitian-Creole and French, with some fluency in Spanish as well.

**You studied to be a teacher in NYC. How long were you a teacher? What did you teach and where? How did you like teaching?**

Teaching and sharing knowledge runs through my blood. I realized in middle school that I wanted to teach. My mother was particularly upset – she thought I was too smart to be a teacher! She had hoped I would pursue law, medicine, or engineering. Despite family opposition, I majored in business education and received my license to teach, working in the Brooklyn High School system for over five years. I taught business and computer classes, initially keyboarding, word processing, business English, business law, then eventually, as technology became more accessible, graphic design, and desktop publishing. I also taught in the bilingual and special education programs. Those programs excited me - giving these exceptional students the opportunity to learn a skill! Once learned, a skill can never be taken away from the student.

When I moved to Georgia, I planned to continue teaching, but I found that I could not afford to teach here. When I taught in New York, I supplemented my teaching income by freelancing as a word processor/legal secretary at law firms. Unfortunately, law firms in Georgia do not lend themselves as readily to part-time work in evenings or on weekends. I have, however, been able to find teaching opportunities outside of the traditional classroom as a speaker/presenter, and I am currently an instructor at Kennesaw State University in the School of Continued and Professional Education's Paralegal program.

**Tell us what makes you an awesome immigration specialist. Do you think that speaking other languages is essential for immigration law? What are a few keys to immigration law? I'm sure entry-level paralegals will be interested to know how you got your start in the legal world and what you think is important in order to be a success in the paralegal profession.**

I enjoy sharing knowledge with people and I take pride in excellent customer service, which makes me a great paralegal. Immigration law is particularly fascinating to me, as it enables me to assist individuals who want to come to the US to be a part of the American dream. Knowledge of foreign languages can be helpful in this area of law, but it depends on the demographics of your client base. My language skills are not an essential part of my position, as our client base is composed of companies moving their business. More often, I use my background in sharing knowledge regarding new laws and regulations with the Haitian community. For example - a foreign visitor's authorized duration of stay in the US is governed by the expiration date on the I-94, departure and arrival record, not the visa expiration date on the visa in their passport. All too often, foreign visitors inaccurately believe they can remain in the US until their visa expires. Immigration law is a niche area of administrative law, and individuals interested in this area must be detailed oriented and organized, take ownership in their tasks, and learn from every situation.

### What do you enjoy when you are not working?

My hobbies are reading book series, cooking, and dancing.

### How long have you been at Nelson Mullins?

I began my career there in October 2008.

### How long have you been a member of GAP? How long have you served as a Board Member?

I first joined GAP in 1999 and have been a member off and on since then. I joined the Board of Directors in 2011.



2012 was a Banner Year for GAP's Pro Bono programs as we partnered with several legal aid organizations, including Atlanta Legal Aid, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers' Foundation, Georgia Appleseed, and the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network. Here's a sampling of our accomplishments this year:

- We worked with Atlanta Legal Aid to set up a short-lived but successful screening project in East Point with a dedicated team of three volunteers.
- At Atlanta Legal Aid's Cobb County office, our star volunteer [Monica Morris](#) impressed them so much with her work that they subsequently offered her a full-time position! GO Monica!
- [Kathy Malone](#), [Corey Lyles](#), [Keli Jones](#), [Eveth McPherson](#), and [Adam Kaddoura](#) worked to establish a core of dedicated paralegal volunteers to assist with AVFL's Saturday Lawyers' Program.

I want to say thanks to each and every GAP member who participated in making 2012 a success. I am looking forward both to introducing new volunteers to the Atlanta pro bono scene, and also to continuing our success in our established programs in 2013.

Let's kick off 2013 with a bang by getting involved! We have an exciting new collaboration with the Truancy Intervention Project getting started in January. TIP has pro bono opportunities for paralegals who are interested in family law or who want to

work with children. TIP is offering a training session on Wednesday, January 23rd at its offices downtown. Prospective volunteers will be trained to take on cases that come through Fulton County's Truancy Court. This is a great opportunity to obtain some hands-on legal experience and to help out the community. Contact me at [probono@gaparalegal.org](mailto:probono@gaparalegal.org) for more information.

Finally, please take our pro bono interest survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YNV6CB>, and stay tuned for additional Pro Bono news in the New Year – watch your GAPpenings and GAP's Facebook page for announcements!



Kathy Malone



Corey Lyles



Adam Kaddoura

## Paralegal Education – a brief summary

--Patty Dietz-Selke, RP<sup>®</sup>

The paralegal profession has been one of the fastest growing professions in the United States for many years. This positive forecast, as well as the recent struggling economy, has driven a long-term interest in the paralegal profession and resulted in the continuing enrollment of students in paralegal programs across the country. Paralegal students have a variety of choices for paralegal education ranging from non-degree certificate programs to Associate degrees to Bachelor degrees and beyond. All of these choices/options are fully represented in the metropolitan Atlanta area/market and across the state.

Choosing a paralegal program is an important step to a successful career and can directly impact the amount time it takes for a paralegal to obtain entry-level employment. A number of factors need to be considered to determine the right school, type of program, and delivery format (traditional classroom, online or hybrid). A newcomer to the paralegal field should take a good look at his or her situation, as well as both short-term and long-term goals, and plan on conducting a thorough investigation of the educational opportunities to make the right choice. Moreover, the paralegal student/candidate should also look at the employment opportunities in the local legal community to determine whether pursuing a paralegal position is the right decision.

The Georgia Association of Paralegals (GAP) is often asked for recommendations and assistance in making this difficult decision. GAP does not evaluate paralegal programs and provides no accreditation or other “stamp of approval” for paralegal programs. We do, however, maintain a list of schools which offer paralegal training in the Atlanta metropolitan area, both across the state and online, in an effort to provide assistance to those who wish to pursue paralegal studies. We strive to maintain an accurate listing so the list of schools has just been updated for 2013 and can be found on GAP’s website at - [http://gaparalegal.org/files/Paralegal\\_Programs\\_Listing.pdf](http://gaparalegal.org/files/Paralegal_Programs_Listing.pdf).

There are many good resources for answering common questions that arise when you are considering the pursuit of paralegal training. Organizations such as the American Bar Association’s (ABA) Standing Committee on Paralegals, the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA®), and the American Association for Paralegal Education®

---

*“Take a good look at your situation, as well as both short-term and long-term goals, and plan on conducting a thorough investigation of the educational opportunities to make the right choice.”*

---

(AAfPE) come readily to mind as these are some of the “major players” in the Paralegal profession and thus set the tone for Paralegal Education. Links to these organizations can be found on GAP’s website as well.

Since the paralegal profession is not regulated, there are no mandatory or enforceable standards in place for paralegal education, or for entry into the profession. This has been a hotly debated topic in the paralegal profession for many years. In 2011, GAP released its “Position Statements” which address the minimum standards that GAP

supports for entry-level paralegals as well as a statement regarding short-term paralegal programs. These statements can be found on GAP’s website at - [http://gaparalegal.org/files/GAP\\_Position\\_Statements\\_2010.pdf](http://gaparalegal.org/files/GAP_Position_Statements_2010.pdf).

Finding the right paralegal school/program for you will most likely be the result of doing your homework, reading up on the profession, researching the program(s) you are considering, and asking the right questions. In short, in determining your education, you will be employing the personal traits/characteristics which will also serve you well in your future paralegal career – diligence, thoroughness, inquisitiveness, determination, drive, reasoning/logic, discernment/assessment and judgment.

Regardless of which path of education eventually is decided upon, employment as a paralegal will prove to be rewarding and lead to an interesting and fulfilling career in an ever-changing, cutting-edge field.

For more information, please contact Patty Dietz-Selke, GAP Student Outreach Coordinator, at 1-800-GAP-8108 Ext 39 or [students@gaparalegal.org](mailto:students@gaparalegal.org).



## Around and About With GAP

GAP celebrated 2012 with its annual Holiday Party in December, held at the offices of Nelson Mullins. Everyone had a great time – if you missed this one, don't miss the 2013 party!



GAP 2012 Board Members: Kevin Fogle, Suzette Corley, Paezlé Harris, Karen Prouty, Monica Morris, Stephen Osheroff, Claire Rodriguez, Janet Wilson Williams, Sabrina Henry, Julia Lanford, Patrick Davis



GAP 2013 Board Members: Back L-R: Paezlé Harris, Patrick Davis, Janet Wilson Williams, Stephen Osheroff, Julia Lanford, Monica Morris. Front L-R: Claire Rodriguez, Delores Vanstone, Tiffany Findlay, Suzette Corley, Camille Goble, Kevin Fogle



Alina Cox, Claire Rodriguez, Keli Jones, and Eveth McPherson



Julia Lanford, Paezlé Harris, Kevin Fogle



Lisa Cupp, Susan Beattie



2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President & Director of Membership Sabrina Henry with several new members and Paezlé Harris and Monica Morris.



No, those aren't gifts for US – attendees brought toys for the Truancy Intervention Project's Christmas Toy Drive, and warm new socks for the homeless at The Gateway Center and surrounding area.

## GAP/PARALEGAL ROUNDTABLE ...Coming Soon to a Location Near You! --Patty Dietz-Selke, RP®

GAP's Paralegal Roundtables are part of GAP's outreach efforts and involve speaking about the paralegal profession and the benefits of GAP membership. Specifically, GAP Paralegal Roundtables are Q&A or info sessions at which active GAP members volunteer to come and share their wisdom with the next generation of paralegals.

The GAP volunteers share their backgrounds – where they went to school, how they got into the profession and what they do currently. They also share general tips and tricks of the trade – what to do and what not to do, how to work with attorneys, job searching do's and don'ts as well as their knowledge and experience gained from actively working in the legal industry.

The students get to ask questions of the volunteers, but generally wish to hear about a paralegal's day-to-day responsibilities, how to successfully interact with attorneys, how to work with court staff and state agencies, how to find their first job and how GAP can benefit their job search and professional growth. In short, the students garner knowledge about the paralegal profession and how GAP can assist and benefit their career.

GAP offers the Roundtables to all paralegal programs in the metropolitan Atlanta and surrounding areas. If you are a paralegal student or a Paralegal Program Director/Coordinator and are interested in scheduling a GAP Paralegal Roundtable at your school/location, or a GAP member interested in volunteering at a Roundtable event, please contact GAP's Student Outreach Coordinator, Patty Dietz-Selke, at 1-800-GAP-8108 Ext 39 or [students@gaparalegal.org](mailto:students@gaparalegal.org).

MAKE THE CALL! Invite us to your school/program or come join our outreach efforts and experience the fun, excitement and lively interaction of GAP Paralegal Roundtables...*coming soon to a location near you!* Watch your GAPpenings email or our LinkedIn and Facebook pages for announcements of upcoming GAP Paralegal Roundtables!



Considering Taking the PACE<sup>®</sup> Exam? Good News!

--Taken from the NFPA<sup>®</sup> Website

The [PACE Application](#) (PDF) and [Candidate Handbook](#) (PDF) are now available as free downloads (*as of 11/7/2012*). Note the PDFs linked here have not yet been updated to reflect the **change in application fee from \$25 to \$0** and that all correspondence should now go to our street address, **not** the old P.O. Box. *[Editor's Note: Yes, you read that right – the application fee has been eliminated!]* The correct address for NFPA is:

NFPA  
23607 Highway 99, Suite 2-C  
Edmonds, WA 98026

Once the filled-in application and supporting documentation have been received by NFPA headquarters, the fee is processed and the bundle is forwarded to PES. After reviewing it and making arrangements with Prometric, a candidate eligibility statement is sent to the candidate informing them that they may schedule their appointment with a testing center near them. This series of events generally takes 20 to 30 days.

To schedule your appointment, click here: [Sylvan Technology Centers/Prometric testing site locator](#) (in Step 1 choose "National Federation of Paralegal Association" from the drop-down list).

Once the eligibility statement is sent, the candidate has 90 days to take the exam. Upon completion, the preliminary score will be shown immediately. It is important to note that, preliminary results notwithstanding, the RP<sup>®</sup> designation is not awarded until the results of the entire scoring run have been reviewed.

NFPA receives the scoring runs twice a year (February and August) and, pursuant to the procedures established by the PACE Standards Committee, audits 7% of the exam applications prior to mailing the RP certificates and credential maintenance instructions to the new Registered Paralegals. This stage of the process may take up to a month. NFPA maintains a list of active Registered Paralegals on the website.

If a candidate does not pass PACE, there is a six (6) month waiting period, from the date PACE is taken, before the paralegal becomes eligible to re-take PACE. Candidates must submit a completed application and \$225 NFPA member fee (or \$250 Non-member fee) to re-take PACE. PES will maintain support documentation for a period of two years.

## Not Yet Ready for the PACE<sup>®</sup> Exam? Try the PCCE<sup>™</sup> Instead!

--Taken from the NFPA<sup>®</sup> Website

The Paralegal CORE Competency Exam<sup>™</sup> (PCCE<sup>™</sup>) was developed to assess the knowledge, skills and ability of early-career and entry-level paralegals. It became available in November of 2011. The [handbook](#) is available as a PDF download. The exam is administered by computer at [Prometric Test Centers](#) throughout the United States and Canada. For full details, please refer to the [brochure](#). (PDF)

The PCCE Study Guide 1st Edition is now available! It can be [ordered from our online form](#) for addresses in the United States and Canada. Call NFPA headquarters for other destinations.

The application fee is \$215, payable by credit card (only) through the [application website](#). You have 90 days to take the test from the date your application is accepted. To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, special testing accommodations will be considered for individuals with disabilities recognized by the ADA. [Appendix D](#) of the handbook contains a form for these requests.

Scoring runs for the exam are processed quarterly, with individuals receiving their certificates and score reports approximately six to eight weeks after the scoring run is processed.

- Competent
- Organized
- Responsible
- Ethical

On June 11, 2011, 188 paralegals took the PCCE pilot test at 12 test sites across the country. Of the paralegals who completed the test, 146 achieved a passing score of 550 or better. Those paralegals are the very first CORE Registered Paralegals<sup>™</sup> and have earned the right to use the **CRP<sup>™</sup>** credential. Since then many more paralegals have

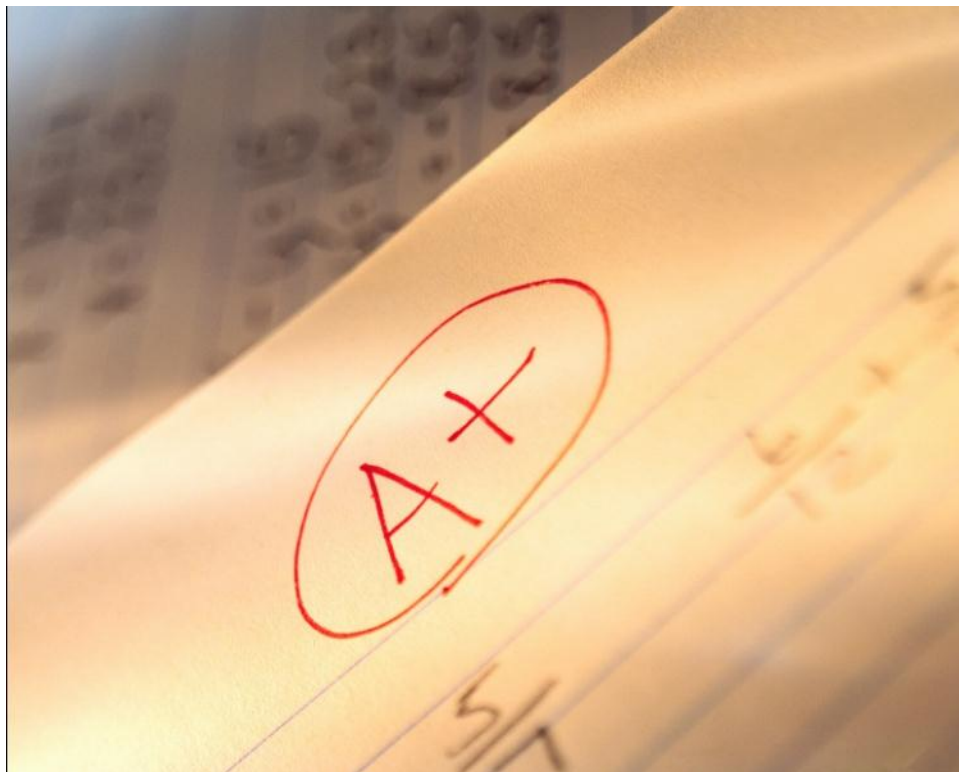


joined their ranks. Congratulations to all who passed! (Georgia's CPRs include [Ellen Wright](#), [Delores Vanstone](#), and [Deborah Reese](#).)

### PCCE Review Course by API

The on-line PCCE Review Course is jointly offered by NFPA and the Advanced Paralegal Institute (API) and is provided through Computer Mediated Distance Learning. The seven week on-line course prepares candidates to sit for the PCCE. For more information, and/or to register, [click here](#).

For more information about PACE, PCCE, and how GAP can help *you* obtain your certification, contact Janet Wilson Williams, RP<sup>®</sup>, at [certification@gaparalegal.org](mailto:certification@gaparalegal.org). See next page for information on GAP's upcoming study group!





**WOO HOO - IT'S THE NEW YEAR AND  
TIME TO GET TO THAT BUCKET LIST!**

**MAKE 2013 YOUR YEAR TO EARN A  
NATIONAL PARALEGAL CERTIFICATION!**

**PACE (Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam®)  
FOR ADVANCED PARALEGALS**

**OR**

**PCCE (Paralegal Core Competency Exam™)  
FOR ENTRY LEVEL OR NEW PARALEGALS**

**After successful completion of PACE, you may use the exclusive  
PACE REGISTERED PARALEGAL (RP®) credential!**

**After successful completion of PCCE, you may use the exclusive  
CORE REGISTERED PARALEGAL (CRP™) credential!**

**For GAP qualified\* members only, GAP will hold a FREE Study Group:**

**TIME: Eight week period on Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**DATES: February 17 – April 14, 2013**

**(The last meeting is a Q&A session with GAP RPs.)**

**WHERE: TBA**

**The study group will be led by:**

**Janet Wilson Williams, RP®  
Director of Paralegal Certification**

**Delores Vanstone, CRP®  
Certification Ambassador**

**To reserve your spot, email [dpc@gaparalegal.org](mailto:dpc@gaparalegal.org) and [pace@gaparalegal.org](mailto:pace@gaparalegal.org) by  
FEBRUARY 4, 2013.**

**\* Important: Before signing up, please review the PACE and PCCE requirements in detail  
at [www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org).**

**NOTE: Order the 2012 6<sup>th</sup> edition PACE Study Manual or the new PCC Study Manual  
through the GAP link below – GAP receives credit for all books ordered *through this link*  
*only*.**



## Welcome, New Members!

Mechelle Adamson  
Melanne Anthony  
Rebecca A. Apter  
Janay A. Austin  
Monica Bernstein  
Elizabeth Boulware  
Melinda Boyd  
Nora Carter-Wright  
Lorri Chalk  
Beth Cummings

Brenda Daube  
Karen Ford  
Margaret Harden  
Dawn M. Hussey  
Rebecca Jaber  
Linda Jackson  
Imogene Jones  
Ann T. Kreager  
Cicily Mitchell  
Cara A. Murphy

Jim Osterman  
Camelia Portillo  
Gena V. Quarles  
Nikki Sanders  
Joanne E. Schwartz  
Sandy Sullivan  
Kenisha B. Wade  
Andrew Walker  
Kathleen Zaretsky



## Congratulations, 20+ Members!

We'd like to recognize our longest-term members – we're celebrating **GAP's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** this year and these members have been with us for at least half that time!

### Celebrating during 2013:

**28 (Joined in 1985)**  
Charles L. Mingle, RP<sup>®</sup>

**27 (Joined in 1986)**  
Beth Magee, RP<sup>®</sup>

**23 (Joined in 1990)**  
Teresa S. Knight, RP<sup>®</sup>  
Mary Cay Long

**22 (Joined in 1991)**  
Julia Lanford

**21 (Joined in 1992)**  
Franice Bowles-Callier

**20 (Joined in 1993)**  
Patricia Dietz-Selke  
Matt Marks

## Learning From the Past – Lessons From An Ancient Queen

--Janet Wilson Williams, RP®

GAP Director of Paralegal Certification



Biblical principles can apply in today's challenging and competitive business world as shown in the must-read *What Queen Esther Knew*, by Connie Glaser and Barbara Smalley.

Esther's story began in Persia in approximately 400 B.C.B. when King Ahasuerus decided to throw a lavish banquet and commanded Queen Vashti to appear to demonstrate her beauty for all to see! Much to his surprise, his queen refused to attend. The King then angrily banished her and looked throughout his kingdom for another to replace her. The maid Esther subsequently became his beloved queen, despite her lower born, politically incorrect background, by using considerable wisdom and skill – and of course great faith.

So ... how can *you* be a modern day Queen Esther? Read on...

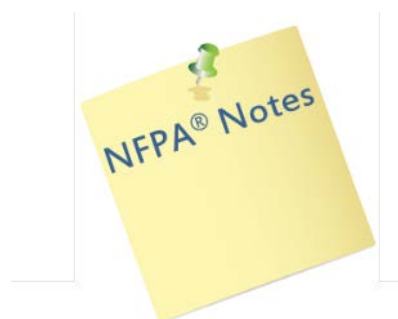
1. **Make a royal impression.** Impress others with poise, composure, impeccable manners and dress, add competence and honor, and you are simply an irresistible package.
2. **Learn palace protocol.** Each organization has its own particular culture – use that insight to strengthen your position within that environment. Coming in to a new place and trying to completely change it to suit yourself is not a good strategy. Also, be a team player. Get along with others. Don't fall apart and snip at others when a deadline looms or when it is inconvenient to work after hours. Find a way to make things work.
3. **Find mentors to open eyes and doors.** Mentors can provide the much needed frank insight to guide you to a higher path and even introduce you to others to open other avenues and opportunities. Look for mentors both inside and outside your firm and organizations. Having an outside person who can zero in on a situation to provide a fresh viewpoint is a plus! And don't neglect to be a mentor yourself!

4. **It pays to know palace gossip.** What is being said around the proverbial office water cooler? While you should not participate in idle or destructive gossip, know what is going on. Make sure that you are part of the group rather than being in an exclusive clique. Remember, too, that junior executives of today are the senior executives of tomorrow and these people will move around in the job market in the years to come. Never burn bridges.
5. **Fight for what you believe in.** Know how to stand your ground in a positive manner when it is important to do so. Remember, managers cannot be too meek and mild lest they be judged “ineffective.” On the other hand, conduct cannot be “too over the top.” Seek that balance.
6. **Map out your plan of attack.** Have a tentative plan to make your mark but be flexible enough to go with a change if it is warranted.
7. **Communicate with the clout of a queen.** Are you an effective communicator, both in writing and verbally? If you don’t have great skills in both areas, make it your mission to develop them. Take courses or seek out articles and books for help.
8. **Deal with life’s “Hamans.”** Think of the toxic people in your work place – and trickily, these can even be clients. You must learn how to be cordial but effective and professional with these types because this is the stuff management is made of.
9. **Keep the faith.** Having faith in yourself is paramount. You must also be willing to take risks – just don’t confuse these with failures if they don’t work out. Remember the adage, “Nothing ventured, nothing gained.”
10. **Let the story be told.** Self-promotion is not really about vanity. It is about selling yourself and having confidence. The key is knowing the appropriate way to convey it. Linked-In and its networks can be a great tool for this. Even writing a bio for an organization that you participate in or for an article you authored can be good self-promotion. Just don’t ever exaggerate your accomplishments or education. That’s simply not honorable and can even result in dismissal.
11. **Celebrating your personal Purim.** In all of the chaos of today’s world, make sure you are taking the time to celebrate and nurture yourself. Be well-rounded. Build in some time each week for R & R with family and friends. You will be a better person for it!

GAP Members: Seek out this book for more advice!

Thank you, [Paezlé Harris](#), for loaning me this fabulous book.





## --A Compilation Of NFPA<sup>®</sup> Announcements

### NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS ANNOUNCES MOVING PRO BONO MONTH FROM MAY TO OCTOBER

Edmonds, WA - November 2, 2012 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. (NFPA) is pleased to announce that the delegates of NFPA voted to move its celebration of Pro Bono Month from May to October beginning in 2013. The move coincides with the American Bar Association's "Celebration of Pro Bono Month". The change will allow NFPA and the ABA to continue to foster their relationship by the coordination of pro bono events and activities during the month of October. Currently NFPA is the only national paralegal association to work with the ABA Standing Committee for Pro Bono and Public Service to advocate pro bono activities for the members of both associations.

### NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS (NFPA<sup>®</sup>) ANNOUNCES THOMSON REUTERS/NFPA PARALEGAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Edmonds, WA - December 14, 2012 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. ("NFPA") is pleased to announce that Melissa Jurik of Fox Lake, IL has been selected as a Thomson Reuters/NFPA Paralegal Student Scholarship Winner. Ms. Jurik returned to college in fall of 2010 to be a role model for her children. As a working wife and mother of three, she has served as the President of the Pupils of Paralegal Studies (POPS) Club, the Co-Vice President of Membership in the Alpha Alpha Pi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, and completed the Emerging Leaders program at the College of Lake County. Taking advantage of a second chance at college, Ms. Jurik has maintained a 3.9 concentrated GPA. Graduating with an A.A.S. in Paralegal Studies in December of 2012, she will be transferring to Roosevelt University to pursue a Bachelors' Degree.



## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS (NFPA®) ANNOUNCES THOMSON REUTERS/NFPA PARALEGAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

Edmonds, WA - December 14, 2012 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. ("NFPA") is pleased to announce that Anne "Caitlin" Griffin of Raleigh, NC has been selected as a Thomson Reuters/NFPA Paralegal Student Scholarship Winner.

Anne "Caitlin" Griffin is a 23-year-old graduate of Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. Ms. Griffin spent one academic year studying abroad in Mendoza, Argentina, where she conducted her honors thesis research. Caitlin returned to Meredith fluent in Spanish and graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in May 2011. In August of 2011, Caitlin entered the Meredith College Paralegal Program and chose Civil Litigation as her specialty track. This past May 2012, she earned her paralegal certificate. Caitlin is a member of four paralegal professional associations, and next year, she will serve as the co-2nd Vice President of Education in the Raleigh Wake Paralegal Association. She is a North Carolina State Bar Certified Paralegal and plans to pursue national certification.



Caitlin feels extremely fortunate to have been hired as a full-time bilingual paralegal in the Wage and Hour Division of Martin & Jones, PLLC shortly before graduating from the Meredith program.

## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS (NFPA®) ANNOUNCES 2012 CERTIFICATION AMBASSADOR AWARD WINNER**

Edmonds, WA - December 14, 2012 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. ("NFPA") is pleased to announce that Vivian Luckiewicz of Haddonfield, NJ has been selected as NFPA's 2012 Certification Ambassador Award Winner.

Vivian Luckiewicz, RP, Pa.C.P., is a member of the Board of Directors of The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals and also serves as its Paralegal Certification Ambassador, Website Coordinator, Primary Delegate to the Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations and Secondary Representative to the National Federation of Paralegal Associations. Ms. Luckiewicz is also the 2013 Regulation Review Coordinator for the NFPA, and formerly the Technology Coordinator and Roles and Responsibilities Coordinator. She is also an Associate Member of the Philadelphia Bar Association and a Paralegal Member of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Ms. Luckiewicz is employed as a Paralegal with the law firm of Archer & Greiner, P.C. in Haddonfield, New Jersey. She has considerable experience in corporate law, with an emphasis on business financing, securities offerings and compliance and mergers and acquisitions.

Ms. Luckiewicz graduated with a B.S. in Paralegal Studies (magna cum laude) from Peirce College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a Paralegal Certificate from Blackstone Career Institute in Allentown, Pennsylvania. She is a member of the Peirce College Chapter of Lambda Epsilon Chi, a national academic honor society for paralegal students. Ms. Luckiewicz is qualified as a Pennsylvania Certified Paralegal with the

Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations, a New Jersey Certified Paralegal with the South Jersey Paralegal Association and earned her Registered Paralegal (RP®) designation by passing the Paralegal Advanced Competency Examination (PACE®) sponsored by the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA®). Ms. Luckiewicz has written articles of interest to legal professionals that have been published in The Philadelphia Forum, The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals' newsletter; the National Paralegal Reporter, a bi-monthly publication of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, and The Legal Intelligencer.

## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS (NFPA®) ANNOUNCES 2012 OUTSTANDING LOCAL LEADER AWARD**

Edmonds, WA - December 14, 2012 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. ("NFPA") is pleased to announce that Mianne Besser of Denver, CO has been selected as NFPA's 2012 Outstanding Local Leader Award.

This award recognizes an individual NFPA member for "outstanding leadership contributions to their local association." The plaque that was presented to Mianne is appropriately inscribed: "For dedication and service to the paralegal profession."

Ms. Besser is currently serving as President of the Rocky Mountain Paralegal Association ("RMPA"); a position she also held from 2007-2010. Mianne has previously served the Association through the elected positions of President, NFPA Secondary and Director-at-Large. Ms. Besser is a native of Colorado and has been a litigation paralegal convening her 16th year of paralegal service beginning in 2012. She is currently a senior litigation paralegal at Otten Johnson Robinson Neff & Ragonetti P.C., located in Denver, Colorado. She is also an adjunct professor of paralegal studies at Community College of Aurora.



Ms. Besser graduated from the University of Phoenix with a Bachelor of Arts in Management and Business Administration. In 1996, she earned her paralegal certification from the Denver Paralegal Institute. Mianne's current practice area is Real Estate and Transactional law; however, she has experience in Plaintiffs Personal Injury as well as Products Liability; she also has experience in the areas of Family Law, Foreclosure, and Defense / Construction Defect.

## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS (NFPA®) ANNOUNCES 2012 PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Edmonds, WA - December 20, 2012 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. ("NFPA") is pleased to announce that Kimberly Major of Golden, CO, has been selected as the NFPA Paralegal of the Year.

Kimberly Major is a Commercial Paralegal with MillerCoors LLC in Golden, Colorado, specializing in marketing/promotion and intellectual property and has been a paralegal for over 20 years. Ms. Major volunteers numerous hours with several



local agencies and programs, including a role of a Victim Advocate with a local police department, Emergency Medical Technician and Response Team member, Project Homeless Connect, Relay for Life and the Susan G. Komen Foundation. She has been a member of the Rocky Mountain Paralegal Association ("RMPA") since 2008. Ms. Major received a Bachelor of Science degree (Criminal Justice) from Metropolitan State College and her Paralegal Certificate from the Community College of Denver.

## **NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS (NFPA®) ANNOUNCES 2012 INDIVIDUAL PRO BONO AWARD WINNER**

Edmonds, WA - December 20, 2012 - The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc. ("NFPA") is pleased to announce that Kristin Mattes of Burlington, VT has been selected as the 2012 Individual Pro Bono Award Winner.

Kristin Mattes is currently employed by Sheehey Furlong & Behm, P.C., in Burlington, Vermont, where she works in the areas of civil litigation, regulatory litigation, and wills and estates. Prior to her employment with Sheehey Furlong & Behm, she worked at Jarvis & Kaplan, the Law Office of Attorney Todd D. Schlossberg, and Joseph F. Obuchowski & Associates where she practiced in the areas of criminal defense, family law, personal injury, worker's compensation, civil litigation, and environmental litigation. Kristin received her Bachelor's of Science Degree in Paralegal Studies from Champlain College in 2007.



Ms. Mattes is Chair of the Pro Bono Committee for the Vermont Paralegal Organization ("VPO"). As Chair, she has assisted the VPO achieve many goals including legal clinics in Barre and Burlington, Vermont, which support women of domestic violence, designation by the Vermont Probate Judge Association as probate court designees for the purpose of executing advance directives, serving meals to over 500 low-income and homeless Vermonters at the Salvation Army, donating gifts for the holiday season to Women Helping Battered Women and the Ronald McDonald House. She also assisted her firm in providing pro bono services to a victim of domestic violence that allowed the victim to obtain full custody of her son.

NFPA is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 9,000 paralegals and is headquartered in Edmonds, WA. NFPA's core purpose is the advancement of the paralegal profession. NFPA promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community.

*NFPA - The Leader of the Paralegal Profession®*

[www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org)

NFPA and NFPA - The Leader of the Paralegal Profession are registered trademarks of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations. PACE and RP are registered trademarks of the National Federation of the Paralegal Associations.

## NY Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services Recommends Pilot Program

In the November 2012 report to the Chief Judge of the State of NY, the Task Force's Non-Lawyer Involvement Working Group advocates further development of the role of non-lawyer, particularly given the level of non-lawyer assistance that is already being provided with limited or no oversight and regulation. The Non-Lawyer Involvement Working Group recommends implementation of a pilot program to permit appropriately trained non-lawyer advocates to provide out-of-court assistance in a discrete substantive area.

Download the full report from the link below. The Task Force's Non-Lawyer Involvement Working Group piece begins at the bottom of page 36.

[http://www.courts.state.ny.us/ip/access-civil-legal-services/PDF/CLS-TaskForceREPORT\\_Nov-2012.pdf](http://www.courts.state.ny.us/ip/access-civil-legal-services/PDF/CLS-TaskForceREPORT_Nov-2012.pdf)

GAP extends congratulations to Melissa Jurik, Anne "Caitlin" Griffin, Vivian Luckiewicz, Mianne Besser, Kimberly Major, and Kristin Mattes on their awards!



### Mark Your Calendars!



### GAP Anniversary Kick-Off/Vendor Expo

DATE:	February 19, 2013
TIME:	5:30pm – 8:00 pm
LOCATION:	Offices of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP Atlantic Station 201 17th Street NW, Suite 1700 Atlanta, GA 30363
COST:	Members \$30; Non-Members \$40



### Region III Meeting – Miami, FL

DATE: March 8-9, 2013  
TIME: TBA  
LOCATION: Miami, FL  
MORE INFORMATION: See NFPA website, [www.paralegal.org](http://www.paralegal.org).

### Spring ½ Day CLE & Member Meeting

DATE: TBA  
TIME: TBA  
LOCATION: TBA  
MORE INFORMATION: Watch your GAPpenings email!

### NFPA® Joint Conference

DATE: April 19-21, 2013  
TIME: TBA  
LOCATION: Downtown Marriott, Convention Center  
New Orleans, LA  
MORE INFORMATION: Registration opens in January. Visit NFPA website, [www.paralegal.org](http://www.paralegal.org).

***Stay informed – watch your GAPpenings emails! Link up with us on LinkedIn, and be sure to “like” us on Facebook !***



## 2013 GAP Board of Directors

Position	Current Position Holder	E-Mail Address @gaparalegal.org	800-GAP-8108, Ext. #
GAP Office, Exec. Administrator	Gina Farley, CP <sup>®</sup>	admin	2
President*	Julia Lanford	president	21
First Vice President*	Suzette Corley	vpresident	22
Second Vice President*	Sabrina Henry	svpresident	22
Secretary*	Tiffany Findlay	secretary	23
Treasurer	Steve Osheroff	treasurer	24
NFPA Primary*	Julia Lanford	nfpapr	25
NFPA Secondary*	Suzette Corley	nfpasr	26
Director of CLE	Monica Morris	cle	27
Director of Communications	Brenda King-Holley	communications	28
Director of Membership	Sabrina Henry	membership	29
Director of Pro Bono	Patrick Davis, RP <sup>®</sup>	probono	30
Bar Liaison	Amanda Donalson	barliaison	31
Benefits Coordinator	OPEN	benefits	32
Community Service Coordinator	James Benson	volunteer	33
New Member Coordinator	Claire Rodriguez	newmembers	35
Certifications Ambassador	Delores Vanstone	pace	36
Public Relations Coordinator	Brenda King-Holley	publicrelations	37
Speaker's Coordinator	Camille Goble	sSpeakers	38
Student Outreach Coordinator	Patricia "Patty" Dietz-Selke, RP <sup>®</sup>	students	39
Director of Paralegal Certification	Janet Williams, RP <sup>®</sup>	certification	40
Job Network Coordinator	Mashon Valentine	jobs	43
Historian	Charles Mingle, RP <sup>®</sup>	historian	44
Vendor Liaison	Valerie Kavanaugh	vendors	45
Board Advisor 1	Kevin Fogle, AACP <sup>®</sup>	gapadvisor	41
Board Advisor 2	K. Paezle Harris, RP <sup>®</sup> , CP <sup>®</sup>	gapadvisor	42
Columbus Area Chair 1	Rhonda Donnelly	columbus1	48
Columbus Area Chair 2	Nikki Sanders	columbus2	49
Macon Area Chair 1	Dawn Hussey	macon1	46
Macon Area Chair 2	Elizabeth Boulware	macon2	47

\*2-year commitment

# Earn your Paralegal Certificate from UGA.

If you're looking for a career as a paralegal or need to reach the next level of expertise and productivity, the University of Georgia offers the most flexible and affordable program available anywhere. UGA's Paralegal Certificate course is taught by experienced legal and educational professionals selected by the Center for Legal Studies, the oldest Paralegal Education Training Center in the country. This intensive program focuses on interviewing, investigation, research, legal documents and litigation assistance. ONLINE SESSIONS begin every other month.

CLASSROOM SESSIONS are offered periodically at UGA's Gwinnett Campus.

For complete course details and registration information, visit **UGAGetSmart.com**.



The University of Georgia  
*Center for Continuing Education*