



The Paragraph

Georgia Association of Paralegals Quarterly Newsletter
Charter Member of the
National Federation of Paralegal Associations

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GAP REACHES A MILESTONE

This year, GAP will celebrate its 25th anniversary. In 1973, a group of Atlanta area paralegals joined together to form the Atlanta Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. Their objectives were to provide support for people entering this new field and to promote the profession to the legal community. They also wanted to create a forum for contributing to the discussions and decisions of both state and local bar associations regarding training and utilization of paralegals by attorneys.

“Paralegalism” soon extended across the state, and it became apparent that people outside Atlanta needed a voice as well. Membership was expanded to include all legal assistants in Georgia. In January, 1976, AALA became GALA - Georgia Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. In 1997, GALA became GAP - Georgia Association of Paralegals, Inc.

Today, GAP’s purposes remain the same as when first formulated 25 years ago:

- 1) to enhance the role of paralegals in the legal profession;
- 2) to improve the working conditions of paralegals; and
- 3) to maintain a continuing relationship with bar associations throughout the state.

**Save the date!!! At the request of your
Board of Directors, Governor Sonny Purdue has
proclaimed Saturday, June 21, 2008,
Paralegal Day.
Look for details regarding festivities to
celebrate the day!**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Chrissy Weeks

My how things change.

In the last letter that I wrote for the newsletter I talked about how I managed to keep all the things that I am juggling up in the air. Well, I finally got one ball too many going and managed to drop them all. So I am picking up and re-grouping.

I have resigned from my full time position at AVLf effective the end of April/beginning of May. The date is a little fuzzy as I am having trouble walking away from a job that I love. I am going to take a solid two-month break from working. Then I am going to really evaluate my career and my life. I plan to be back at AVLf as a volunteer by the end of the summer. But my official title will be "MOM" for the next few years. I bet right now the question is dawning on you... "What does that mean for GAP"?

I am hoping that nothing changes for GAP. I plan to continue on as your President. Since my situation is somewhat fluid and I am not forsaking the paralegal field, the Board is supportive of me remaining President for the remainder of my term. I hope that you, our members, will be supportive as well. However, I do encourage you to contact me or any other Board member with any thoughts or concerns you have on this or any other topic.

I hope to do some contract work when I can in addition to volunteering for AVLf. However as I am more apt to say these days, who knows what the future may bring? While all we can do is plan for what we want to happen, what actually happens can catch you off guard. I know that I am not the first mother (or parent) to be sitting at work missing the first few days of their child mastering the art of crawling, wishing that I could be there to see it. I have to admit that I was not ready for motherhood to impact my life and my personality the way that it has. In many ways I feel like a stronger, more well-grounded person. In other ways I feel like a total mess and a bit of a failure. But really all these feelings are a pretty normal part of life.

I hope that any of you who are struggling with a work/life balance can be at least comforted by the fact that your fearless leader actually has a few fears and flaws of her own. The thing that helped me the most in making this decision was having a supportive and, dare I say, loving work environment. It is a rare thing these days to feel like your co-workers actually care about you. Maybe it is because I work at a non-profit but I hope that each of you one day gets to experience a job that is truly a part of your life and is something that you can say that you love. I feel very fortunate that I am able to take such an opportunity to spend more of my time raising my lovely daughter.

Spring and summer are times of renewal and growth. I hope to spend the next few months growing into my new role as mom and renewing my commitment and involvement in GAP. I challenge you to take a look at your life and work and see where you can incorporate a little renewal or growth for yourself.

Sincerely,

Chrissy Weeks



2008 GAP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Anthony's Restaurant • 3109 Piedmont Rd • 5:00 cocktails • 6:00 dinner

June 10 GAP Membership

Appreciation Dinner Meeting

Speaker: **OPEN FOR NETWORKING**

Sponsors: **Legal Eagle**

Special Counsel

West Court Reporting

OPEN

Oct. 7 GAP Dinner Meeting

Speaker: **OPEN**

Sponsors: **OPEN**

Aug. 12 GAP Dinner Meeting

Speaker: **OPEN**

Sponsors: **OPEN**

Dec. 9 11th Annual GAP Holiday Party

Speaker: **OPEN FOR NETWORKING**

Sponsors: **OPEN**



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WELCOME NEW GAP MEMBERS!

Active Members

Angela E. Bass
 Kimberly J. Powell
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 Levette Bagwell
 Nicole Pasquarello
 Mark A. Ross
 Terri Benford O'Neil
 Beverly Gable
 Lori L. Oliver
 Barbara F. Edwards
 Monette J. Charles
 Sherri L. Parsons
 Olutayo NS Alston
 Sara Rogers
 Shelli H. Crowder
 Crystal Davis
 Donna Jack, CLA
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 Alexandra C. Kern
 Kristin L. Andreano
 Shawn Denise Andrews RP
 Geoff Taylor
 Melissa A. Bell
 Celeste D. Herring
 Tina Williams
 Sally W. Willis
 Deborah L. Walker
 Cliff Holt
 Vickie Amos
 Kimberly Jones

Robin Allen
 Alesia H. Hicks RP
 Tammy Walton
 Michelle T. Grant
 Tanya M. Norris
 Tammerly MacDonald
 Lisa Matthews
 Smita Daya
 Rachel Ferebee
 Latasha Simon Stanley
 Nachele Hemphill
 Sanchia Jeffers
 Michelle Anderson, RP
 Catherine B. Kohler, RP
 Kerstin Becker
 Marcia McWilliams
 Wanda L. Storey, CLA
 Kimberly A. Beckett
 Koren Conrad
 Linda Tipton
 Marcy Ruben, CLA
 Tara M. Downey
 Susy Ross, CLA
 Cynthia Brinkley
 Shanna Mello
 Tilaka Gray
 Anita Hairston
 Diane Hancock
 Courtney Sanders
 Theodis A. Pace, CLA
 Robin A. Taylor
 Chiquita Layne
 Gayla Moore

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 Angelo D. Hubbard
 Liliana R. Tschanett
 Amelia Alexander
 Kendrah Mathews
 Jean McCullough
 Sarah Ginnette Callahan

Sustaining Members

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 Laura E. Maurice

West Court Reporting
 Amanda Minino
 David Cochran

Corporate Creations
 Jennifer Dunkin

Elizabeth GalloCourt Reporting
 Elizabeth Gallo
 Susan Power

GAP “LUNCH & LEARN” SERIES BEGINS IN APRIL

April 16 **Litigation Resources from Complaint to Verdict**

Location: 1117 West Peachtree St, Atlanta
 Time: 12:00 - 1:00
 Lunch Provided by: Merrill Corporation
 RSVP: by April 11

May 7 **Topic TBA**

Location: Trois
 Time: 12:00 - 1:00
 Lunch Provided by: West Court Reporting
 RSVP: by May 2

July 23 **Topic TBA**

Location: 1117 West Peachtree St, Atlanta
 Time: 12:00 - 1:00
 Lunch Provided by: Merrill Corporation
 RSVP: by July 18

RSVP to
edwina.robinson@sablaw.com

KNOW: THE MAGAZINE FOR PARALEGALS

A new and exciting magazine for paralegals premiers. *KNOW: The Magazine for Paralegals*, is an outside-the-box, informative magazine balancing work, life and lifestyle balance for paralegals.

“We saw a need for a good, solid publication that addresses the needs of today’s paralegal,” says Jeannie Johnston, publisher. “Chere Estrin, who is the founder of Estrin LegalEd and the Paralegal SuperConferences, and I got into a conversation about that very need. Through ParalegalGateway.com and the Paralegal SuperConferences, we were meeting literally thousands of paralegals, not only throughout the U.S., but throughout the world. People were hungry for information that was specifically designed for their assignment area. We decided to launch this magazine to address both the ups and downs of the law firm and lifestyle balance.”

Designed for paralegals in today’s highly competitive market, the publication offers tools, tactics and strategies for a successful work, life and lifestyle balance. Written by leaders in the field, just a few of the upcoming stories include:

Famous TV Stars: What Fans Don’t Know About These Former Paralegals; Work Less, Earn More: Can You Ditch the 24/7 Stressful Routine? The 10 Most Influential Paralegals in the Country; Trends Guaranteed to Change the Paralegal Profession; Diversity’s Little Secret: Are Caucasian Paralegals Doing Enough to Support African-American Paralegals? Paralegals Succeeding Against All the Odds; Your Network is Your Net Worth; Wedding Cake Blues: When You Marry Your Job; Navigating a Male-Dominated Industry; New Case Law That Affects Your Career; Why Litigation Support Managers in Big Law Can Earn Up to \$200k Per Year; Can the IP Field Sustain Its Phenomenal Paralegal Growth?

You’ll love the regular columns such as: TechKNOW - Technology Paralegals Need; KNOW News is Good News - Happenings in the Paralegal Field; Offbeat Things Paralegals Do To Succeed; Advice from The Career Guru; The KNOW List: Books, Publications, Resources; The Stress Doc Talks- Putting Passion Back Into Your Job;

Corporate, IP, Investigative, Litigation, Personal Injury, BigFirm, SmallFirm, In-House, Technology, Compliance and much more!

KNOW delivers real stories of effective workstyle and lifestyle balance for busy paralegals with particular areas of concern, the latest news, trends, tips, important case law, and expert advice.

The magazine premiers in June. Charter subscriptions are available now at <http://www.knowparalegal.com>. Charter members of the magazine will receive one free issue and their name prominently displayed in the premier issue.



ABOUT THE FOUNDERS:

Founding Editor

Chere B. Estrin is the CEO of Estrin LegalEd and Founder of The Paralegal SuperConferences. She is the author of ten books including *The Paralegal Career Guide 3rd Edition* and *Hot Jobs & Amazing Careers: Smart Moves for Paralegals*. The former Career Columnist for *Legal Assistant Today* magazine, she is a co-founding member of the International Paralegal Management Association and has been interviewed by *Newsweek*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and other prestigious publications.

Founding Publisher

Jeannie Johnston is the Founder of ParalegalGateway.com, the largest paralegal information portal on the World Wide Web, and MyParalegalSpace, an online social networking site for paralegals. A paralegal for over sixteen years, she has written articles for *Legal Assistant Today* and *The Paralegal Reporter*, and has been a guest lecturer at paralegal conferences across the United States. She is also a member of the Georgia Association of Paralegals.


COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

We are looking for enthusiastic and service-minded members to join the Community Service Committee. Please contact Jenny Manzer, Community Service Coordinator, at jmanzer@kslaw.com or 404-572-3421 for more information.

Fun and exciting community service projects are being planned. Please visit the GAP website's community service page for more details on how to get involved.

Current and Upcoming Projects

Ongoing	LegalMen Project
April 19, 2008	Parkwood Farms Therapy Center - Snellville, GA
May 16-17, 2008	American Cancer Society Relay for Life - Atlanta, GA
May 31, 2008	Atlanta Community Food Bank - Atlanta GA
June 10, 2008	Genesis Shelter Donation Drive - June GAP Member Appreciation Meeting
June 28, 2008	Hands on Atlanta's 9th Annual ServisJuris - Atlanta, GA
October 2008	American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk - Atlanta, GA
December 9, 2008	Toys for Tots - December GAP Holiday Party



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2008 NFPA EVENTS

2008 Regulation and Leadership Conference

Friday, April 25 through Sunday, April 27

Indianapolis, Indiana

The regulation portion will include the following topics:

- Regulation Writing Workshop
- Status of Regulation Efforts
- Types of Regulation
- Working with Bar Associations
- Understanding the Legislative Process
- Lobbyists - Do You Need One?
- Selling Regulation - What to Say to the Naysayers

Attendees will:

- Review and analyze prior regulation and begin to draft some of their own
- Exchange ideas and information with paralegals from across the United States
- Learn to work with local and/or state Bar Association(s) to make regulation a reality
- Gain an understanding of the legislative process

The leadership portion of the conference is designed specifically for NFPA members who want to be leaders or those who want to be better leaders!

Topics to be Covered Include:

- The Art of Representing Your Association
- Making Presentations
- Developing a Marketing Plan
- Fund Raising and Vendor Relations
- Leadership and Effective Communication Skills

Designed specifically for NFPA members who want to be leaders or those who want to be better leaders!

- Discover the keys to effective leadership as recognized leaders share their tips, experience and insights
- Gain valuable skills in a hands-on, challenging, and rewarding learning experience
- Make connections and exchange ideas with peers from around the country
- Return to your job more knowledgeable and inspired about your profession

If you want to be a paralegal of influence ...or you are already, but stronger leadership skills would help you to be even more successful ... this is the conference for you!

2008 Pro Bono Conference

May 10-11, 2008

Minneapolis, Minnesota

2008 Spring Region III Meeting

May 16-17, 2008

Nashville, Tennessee

2008 PACE Ambassadors Conference

May 17-18

Atlanta, Georgia

Kilpatrick Stockton LLP will be hosting

The PACE Ambassadors Conference is the best opportunity to learn more about PACE, meet some of the PACE Coordinators and the VPDP, to learn how to get your local PACE program up and running, to improve what you already have, and most importantly, to network and meet other paralegals.

Tentative agenda topics include: How to plan a PACE overview seminar, how to pick speakers, how to develop course material and what you will need to make this happen. We will also have a seminar on developing a PACE scholarship, how to get it started, why and how it works, and how to establish criteria for your scholarship. We will also talk about PACE Study Groups – getting them up and running and how to make them work. We will also discuss the new Study Manual and the new exam, and provide an update on the test results.

2008 NFPA Convention

October 9-12

Runin' Wild in Arkansas

Embassy Suites, Rogers, Arkansas

The 2008 Annual Convention will be held October 9-12, 2008 at the Embassy Suites in Rogers, Arkansas.



Georgia Association of Paralegals, Inc.

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