

LPA News

Volume 3, Issue 1

Lafayette Paralegal Association, Inc.

February 2002

Federal Clerk to give overview of Federal Court Website at Annual Meeting

Cathy Carter will swear in newly elected Officers and discuss Federal Court Innovations

Attendees are in for a treat at LPA's Annual Meeting on February 28. In addition to swearing in newly elected LPA officers for 2002-2003, Catherine B. Carter, Deputy Clerk-in-Charge for the U.S. District Court, Western District of Louisiana, Lafayette Division, will give a hands-on presentation entitled "Case Management – Electronic Case Filing" (CM/ECF). Along with a computer-generated exhibit of the Federal Court Website, Ms. Carter will provide attendees with web site cards and booklets on the Constitution. Members will take this opportunity to meet and visit with Ms. Carter, who can become a great resource in assisting their maneuvering of the Federal Court system.

Job Bank and Salary Update

The LPA Job Bank is a service available to all LPA members. The "Bank" usually has several firms looking for Paralegals. It also contains the names of LPA members who are seeking employment. Any paralegal wishing to obtain information regarding one of these positions, or any entity seeking full-time, part-time, temporary, or contract employees, are asked to contact our Job Bank Chairperson, Cheryl Hoffpauir at 237-1660.

2002 Salary Survey

Wondering about salaries? LPA has recently conducted a salary survey among its members. The numbers have been compiled and submitted to UL Professor Zhiewi Zhu, Ph.D., who has put all the statistics together into a concise report. The Salary Surveys are available for purchase. Members will have first access to the results at a cost of \$5.00. Non-members may purchase the survey for \$10.00. We thank everyone for his or her input and look forward to sharing this valuable local resource with you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 26

GEOLOGY FOR THE LEGAL PROFESSIONAL
SEE NOTICE ON BACK PAGE

APRIL 23

WORKER COMPENSATION
PRESENTED BY ERIC WALTNER, ATTORNEY AT LAW

MAY 29

FAMILY LAW/HEARING OFFICER PROGRAM
PRESENTED BY PAUL LANDRY, HEARING OFFICER FOR
THE 16TH JDC FAMILY COURT

SUGGESTIONS NEEDED!

CONTINUING LPA'S GOAL TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTATIVE
AND EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS, SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS
AND SPEAKERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND NEEDED.
CALL KAYE POOLER AT 266-1190 TO SUBMIT YOUR
SPEAKER AND/OR TOPIC

2001-2002 Meetings and Seminars Great Success Thanks to Speakers and Board Members

CLE Seminars, Luncheons and Socials beneficial to all Members and Community Members.

Those attending events sponsored by LPA during the 2001-2002 year benefited from information provided by the following. Both informative and educational, LPA's Board put together some of the most exciting programs to date. The September *Paralegal Week Social and Membership Drive*, and the December *Christmas Luncheon and Social*, rounded out the year with camaraderie and a chance for members to network and to donate toys valued in excess of \$500.00 for young children at the Children's Shelter.

Many thanks to the following for sharing their expertise with us.

- March - "Grand Jury Subpoenas, FBI Interviews, Target Letters and Other Bad Dreams Come True", presented by Michael D. Skinner, Attorney at Law
- April - "Worker Compensation Update" – Mark L. Riley, Attorney at Law
- May – Honorable Frances M. Boullion – "City Court Procedure"
- June - "Origins of The Louisiana Civil Code" – Porteus R. Burke, Attorney at Law
- July - "U.M. Insurance Coverage: No Pay – No Play" – William H. Goforth, Attorney
- August - "Civil Rights and Wrongs" – Nora Stelly, Attorney at Law
- October – "Preparing for the Unexpected" – American Red Cross
- November - "Lafayette Parish Courthouse: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow" – Louis J. Perret, Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court
- January – "LPBA and LPA Working Together" – Gary McGoffin, Attorney, and President of The Lafayette Parish Bar Association

LPA BOARD MEMBERS 2001-2002

President – Savannah Stephan	291-1212
VP/Membership - Vacant	
Secretary – Molly Davenport	237-2660
Treasurer – Debbie Fontenot, CLA	237-0132
Kathy Dempsey, CLA – Education	233-0300
Parliamentarian – Michelle Moran, CLA	234-2355
Audit/Advisory Committee - Lupe Acosta	237-7135
Program/Social – Kaye Pooler	266-1190
Job Bank – Cheryl Hoffpauir	237-1660
LVL Liaison – Savannah Stephan	291-1212

Want Local Salary Info?

NOW AVAILABLE!

LPA 2002 Salary Survey

Members \$5.00

Non-Members \$10.00

**Pick one up at next meeting
Or call Kathy at 233-0300**

President's Message

Savannah Stephan, CLA



On January 30, 2002, Lafayette Parish Bar Association President Gary McGoffin spoke to LPA about his vision for that organization in the coming year. As we visited during lunch, I had the opportunity to discuss with Gary some of the efforts we had made in the past, especially with the Lafayette Volunteer Lawyers, to work in conjunction with the Bar Association. I also had the pleasure of meeting the new executive director of LPBA, Susan Holliday, and the new marketing director, Jo Abshire. Gary, Susan, and Jo all approach their positions from new and fresh viewpoints, and are as eager to work with LPA as we are to work with LPBA. In fact, their enthusiasm was so infectious that I was moved to accept the position as LVL liaison that Molly Davenport has recently resigned after so ably serving for the last three years.

One of the first areas we have addressed is LPA's Saturday morning staffing of the law library, primarily to assist non-lawyers who might use it. A small and faithful group has filled this need for years. However, the demand for this assistance no longer seems to justify the expenditure of time. Susan and I are working on alternate ways LPA can assist with the library, such as organization of its resources.

In the past many of you participated in the LVL seminars on family law and social security administrative hearings, which were aimed at preparing paralegals to assist LVL attorneys in such matters. Unfortunately, this partnership never became a reality, primarily because of logistical problems with lawyers and paralegals working out of different firms. I am happy to report that LPBA, LVL, and LPA have all expressed a renewed commitment to working out the kinks and getting these programs up and running. There was real excitement at the February LVL Board meeting as we discussed how to best organize this cooperative effort. In the near future we can expect training opportunities (an hour or so at a time) to prepare the volunteer lawyers and paralegals to assist persons in our community who lack the means to secure the legal assistance they need.

As the paralegal profession gains stature in the community, we are privileged to have to opportunity to offer our expertise in service to the community. We look forward to seeing our membership take a more active roll in these endeavors, and know that we can expect a positive and enthusiastic response from the LPA membership!

THANKS TO SUSTAINING MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Preis, Kraft & Roy

James Kirk Piccione / Piccione & Piccione

Chip Romero - Hub Enterprises



Lafayette Paralegal Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 2775
Lafayette, LA 70502

NEXT MONTH:
"Geology for the Legal Professional"

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mark Your Calendars . . .

March 2002 Luncheon & Seminar

"Geology For The Legal Professional"

A Primer and Slide Show Presentation on working with Oil & Gas Litigation

Presented by

Denis C. Swords

Attorney at Law

Tuesday

March 26, 2002

12:00 Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Petroleum Club of Lafayette

CLE Credits available thru NALA

Buffet Lunch - \$13.50 Soup & Salad - \$11.00

Reservations Required by Noon, Monday, March 25 - Call Kaye at 266-1190



LPA NEWS

Lafayette Paralegal Association

News from Louisiana State Paralegal Association

Vol. 4, Issue 1
June, 2002

Free Internet Resources! Just log-on! Have you browsed the Louisiana State Paralegal Association website (www.la-paralegals.org) recently? If not, take a minute and log-on to the site and, among other things, you will find:

- LSPA Links to Louisiana Resources
- LSPA Links to Federal Resources
- LSPA Links to Medical Resources
- LSPA Links to General Research
- LSPA Links to Professional Associations
- Link to the Legal Assistant Today publication

Click on "Tech Tip" for invaluable information for those who use WordPerfect and check out "Upcoming Events" for information regarding seminars and certification testing.

After browsing LSPA's website, you may want to browse the National Association of Legal Assistants website (www.NALA.org). It provides automatic calculation of judicial interest, and you can visit the NALA Campus online to see the courses for Continuing Legal Education Credit being offered at a nominal fee.

These state and national websites are wonderful free resources. Take a minute to explore them and find out more about the organizations which support them.

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LPA Officers & Committee Chairpersons	3
Upcoming Events	4

Do we have your e-mail address?

In an effort to reduce our postage expenses, we would like to send future meeting notices by e-mail. If your e-mail address is not listed on the roster, please contact Savannah Stephan.



2002-2003 Officers; Right to Left:
President, Sandy Castille; Vice-President, Savannah Stephan; Treasurer, Belinda Sonnier; Secretary, Renatti Dupont

2002—2003 Officers and Board Members

During February, our membership elected officers for the 2002—2003 year. The new officers, pictured above, are:

- President: Sandy Castille
- Vice-President: Savannah Stephan
- Secretary: Renatti Dupont
- Treasurer: Belinda Sonnier
- Michelle Moran will continue to serve as Parliamentarian.

Committee chairs have been appointed as follows:

- Program/Social: Kaye Pooler
- Job Bank: Nancy McGinity
- Occupational Survey: Kathy Dempsey
- Education: Kathy Dempsey
- Newsletter: Deborah Fontenot
- Public Relations/Historian: Christine Laperouse

Membership Update

Active Renewals	62
Active New	1
Associate Renewals	6
Associate New	5
Total	74
Sustaining	5

LPA WORKING TOWARD WEB PAGE

The officers are working hard to get our web site up and running at the earliest possible date. In addition to many other benefits, future meeting notices and newsletters will be published on the web, as well as being available in the traditional format. Did you know that postage is one of our major expenses? As our membership becomes acclimated to the web site, we hope to reduce the number of notices and newsletters placed in the mail, thereby reducing our postage expenses.

Additional benefits of the web site include quick access to information concerning postings to the job bank, a bulletin board for current news and information relevant to our membership, information regarding upcoming speakers and social events, and other benefits to our members that we haven't realized yet! Another great benefit is that non-members can find out about our wonderful organization and what we offer to our members.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

We began our 2002-03 year on March 1st with the induction of new officers. Our past president graciously accepted duties as vice presi-



dent which gave all of us new kids on the block the understanding of the role of the officers which greatly assisted us to make it through the transition.

Our new board has been working diligently to get information for setting up a website for LPA. We will continue to strive toward our goal in this regard. Our membership drive thus far has surpassed last year's totals and we continue to welcome new members.

Our speakers in our first quarter included Catherine Carter, U.S. District Clerk of Court's Chief Deputy. She gave us an informative slide presentation of the new computer technology available and the court's implementation of "paperless" trial presentations. She provided information on the PACER system for accessing the federal court's database of records.

Mr. Denis Swords of the Gordon, Arata firm discussed the evolution of our natural resources and the formation of sands and fault lines. He gave us a visual view of extraction of these natural resources through a very thorough and entertaining slide presentation.

Mr. Eric Waltner of the Allen, Gooch law firm enlightened us with the core concepts of the Louisiana Worker's Compensation Act which included requirements for filing and defending claims under the Act.

Mr. Paul Landry, the 16th JDC family court hearing officer, provided us with information on the newly adopted program in Iberia and St. Mary Parishes.

To all of our speakers this past quarter, we extend many thanks. As we move into our second quarter, our plans are to continue to strive for implementing our website, and to continue our commitment to God, family, our association and our profession.

CERTIFICATION

Are you interested in obtaining your CLA or LCP designation? According to NALA, as of January 2002, of the 11,164 CLAs in the U.S. only 142 are in Louisiana.

The next testing date for the CLA exam is December 6-7, 2002. The application filing deadline is October 1. For more information, log on to www.nala.org.

The next testing date for the LCP exam is October 4-5, 2002. The application deadline is August 23, 2002. For more information, go to www.la-paralegals.org.

Remember, although you can take the LCP exam prior to the CLA, you cannot use the LCP designation if you have not obtained your CLA.

THANKS TO OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT:

The Onebane Firm

Allen & Gooch

Hub Enterprises, Inc.

The Andrus Law Firm

Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan

PARALEGAL JOB BANK

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

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

LPA would like to assist its members and the legal community in filling available paralegal positions. We encourage all members seeking a position to fill out the application and return it along with a resume to: Nancy McGinity, Job Bank Chairperson, Lafayette Paralegal Association, Post Office Box 3507, Lafayette, Louisiana, 70502.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Paralegal Certificate: Yes ___ No ___ CLA: Yes ___ No ___

College Degree: Yes ___ No ___ Major: _____

Institution: _____

Paralegal Experience: Years _____

Area(s) of Specialty: _____

Special Skills: _____

June Speaker: Sam Masur Topic: Uniform Local Rules for Louisiana District Courts

Sam Masur, of Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, L.L.P., will speak at our luncheon seminar on Wednesday, June 26th.

Sam's practice is concentrated in the areas of oil and gas litigation, general commercial litigation, oil and gas titles, and general business law.

Our monthly seminar presentation will be "The New Uniform Local Rules for the

Louisiana District Courts," and it promises to

be both interesting and informative. As most of us know, the new rules, although effective since April 1st, are not yet available as a printed publication.

Join us and get a heads up, as we explore this very timely topic – a must-attend for all paralegals. Sam will discuss what's new and what remains the same, how to print your own copy of the new rules for free from the internet, and provide a general overview of the new rules. We hope to see you there!



Samuel E. Masur
Gordon, Arata, McCollam,
Duplantis & Eagan, LLP

Mark your Calendars . . .
June 2002
Luncheon & Seminar

Wednesday
June 26, 2002
12:00—1:30 p.m.
Petroleum Club of Lafayette

NALA CLE Credits Available

Buffet Lunch—\$13.50
Soup & Salad—\$11.00

**For Reservations call 266-1190
(Kaye Pooler)**

**Reservations Required
By Noon Tuesday**

JULY SPEAKER: RANDY GUIDRY PARALEGAL TO ATTORNEY ... EXPLORING THE TRANSITION

Randy Guidry will be the guest speaker at our July 24th meeting. Mr. Guidry is a Lafayette native and graduated from St. Thomas More Catholic High School in 1983. He received his Certificate in Paralegal Studies from Southern Technical College in 1991, and began his paralegal career in October of 1991 at Mercier & Duhon. In April of 1992, he began working at Durio, McGoffin & Stagg. He attended UL-Lafayette (formerly USL) in the evenings and graduated in 1997 with a Bachelors Degree in General Studies and a minor in English. In the Fall of 1997, he was accepted into law school at Southern University, where he graduated at the top of his class in May of 2000. That same year, he was admitted to practice law in the State of Louisiana, and returned as an associate to the very law firm where he had worked as a paralegal for over five years, Durio, McGoffin, Stagg & Ackermann. Mr. Guidry's practice includes personal injury, property damage, breach of contract, bad faith insurance practices, domestic matters, etc.

LPA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2002-2003

(AND HOW TO REACH US)

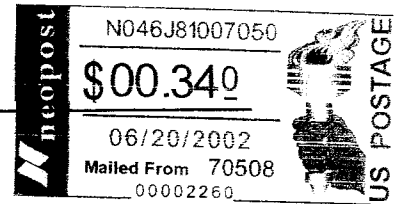
President: Sandy Castille	castills@onebane.com	237-2660
Vice President: Savannah Stephan, CLA	savannahstephan@allengooch.com	291-1212
Secretary: Renatti Dupont	r.s.dupont@worldnet.att.net	233-4447
Treasurer: Belinda Sonnier	sonnierbf@onebane.com	237-2660
Parliamentarian: Michelle Moran		235-6241
Program/Social: Kaye Pooler	poolerk@onebane.com	237-2660
Occupation Survey/ Education: Kathy Dempsey	Kathy@dmsfirm.com	233-0300
Job Bank: Nancy McGinity	Mcginityn@onebane.com	237-2660
Public Relations/Historian: Christine Laperouse	cmltat@aol.com	394-5565
Newsletter: Deborah P. Fontenot, CLA	dfontenot@gamde.com	237-0132

LPA NEWS

Lafayette Paralegal Association

Post Office Box 2775

Lafayette, LA 70502-2775



**LAFAYETTE
PARALEGAL
ASSOCIATION**

PARALEGAL OCCUPATIONAL SURVEY

The Lafayette Paralegal Association Occupational Survey is available to members for \$5.00 and to non-members for \$10.00. For your copy, please call Kathy Dempsey at 233-0300.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 26	Uniform Local Rules for Louisiana District Courts	Samuel E. Masur Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, LLP
July 24	Paralegal to Attorney ... Exploring the Transition	Randy Guidry
Aug 29	Living Wills, Life-Sustaining Wills, Powers of Attorney and other Necessities	Nick Gachassin III
Sept 15—21	Paralegal Week	
Sept 18	LPA Paralegal Week Social & Membership Drive	
Sept 20—21	Annual Meeting and Seminar in Baton Rouge	

Suggestions for Topics and Speakers are Always Welcome and Needed.
Call Kaye Pooler at 266-1190 to Submit your Speaker and/or Topic.



LPA NEWS

Lafayette Paralegal Association

Vol. 4, Issue 2

August, 2002

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

Over the past few months your Executive Board has noted several possible changes to the By Laws that we are considering for the ballot at our Annual Meeting in February, 2003. The most important one concerns membership classifications. We would like to solicit your input in this matter.

As you know, LPA has active (voting) members, associate members (non-voting), and sustaining members (non-voting). The qualifications for each category are set forth in the By Laws and are printed on the back of the membership application we complete annually. The principal change which has been suggested is in the active category. As it stands now, an applicant must be currently working as a paralegal, and must have graduated from an ABA accredited paralegal program with a required number of hours, OR must have achieved certification from NALA or NFPA. Those persons who graduated from non-accredited schools, or have fewer hours of paralegal studies, or who have not graduated from any paralegal program but hold bachelor's degrees, must have varying terms of work experience as a paralegal in addition to their schooling in order to qualify as an active member. Complicated, isn't it?

Some of us would propose a much simpler, and we feel more practical, approach. We would consider that any person currently employed as a paralegal, who has graduated from any paralegal program, or a person who is certified by NALA, NFPA, or the State Association, should qualify for active membership. Additionally, any person who has been working **AS A PARALEGAL** for 5 years or more, whether he/she completed a paralegal program or not, should qualify for active membership. Those persons who are paralegal students, or who are

paralegals but not currently working as paralegals, should be associate members. As always, legal secretary experience would not substitute for paralegal experience. Of course, sustaining membership would continue to be offered to businesses or individuals who are not paralegals but wish to support the profession. Most of these are law firms and legal support services.

We need your input. Please let us know via email how you feel about the proposed changes. Do you favor them?

Would you like to see changes, but would recommend something a little different? Would you like to see the qualifications remain as they are?

Please respond to us at savannahstephan@allengooch.com as soon as you've had time to give thoughtful consideration to the question. Remember, LPA is here to support the paralegal profession and to be of the greatest possible service to the greatest number of area paralegals. Help us determine the best way to accomplish that goal. We'll have the survey results ready for the Paralegal Week Social in September. Let us hear from all of you!

-Savannah Stephan

PARALEGAL WEEK SOCIAL & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Wednesday,
September 18, 2002
5:00—7:30 p.m.
@ The Sidebar

Bring Potential
New Members
RSVP: Kaye Pooler
266-1190

Inside this issue:

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Membership Update

Active Renewals	63
Active New	1
Associate Renewals	6
Associate New	5
Total	75
Sustaining	5

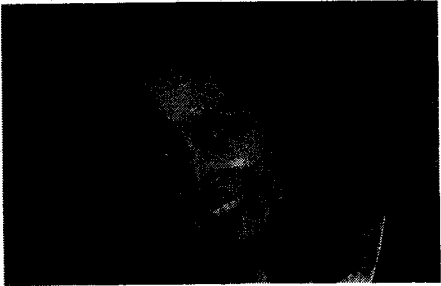
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PRESIDENT'S NOTE

We've made it through a long hot summer and Fall is soon upon us. We had great speakers this quarter and we in fact did something a little different at our last meeting. Our round table discussion with Mr. Durio and Mr. Randy Guidry was very interesting and informative.



Plans for our social in September are underway and every effort is being made to make it the best yet. We hope to see you there.

Plans for future speakers will include Mr. Greg Moroux with whom I have had the pleasure of working with for a number of years. If any of you have any ideas for speakers or topics, please let me know. The more we learn the better we are in our profession. Bless you and see you soon.

Sandy

LAW & LAGNIAPPE . . .

is the topic of the Louisiana State Paralegal Association's seminar scheduled for September 20-21, 2002. Scheduled topics will include the Newest West Technologies for the Busy Paralegal, Medicaid/Medicare and the Civil Practice, Paralegals and the Unauthorized Practice of Law (ethics), and Evidence and the Louisiana Paralegal. The faculty will include Julie B. White, an attorney with the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board, Joseph E. Kopsa, section chief with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals in their Medicaid and Medicare Fraud Department, and Michael A. Patterson, who recently earned his Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution. CLE credit is available for those attending.

In addition to the education offered, the following events will take place on Friday, September 20, 2002:

2002 LSPA Annual Meeting

Luncheon honoring all CLA's and LCP's

LSPA Awards Banquet with entertainment provided by Sue Ann Jaffarian, author of the book Too Big To Miss.

The seminar and all other events will be held at the Sheraton Baton Rouge Convention Centre Hotel on France Street. For more information you may contact Michele Moran (234-2355) or check out the LSPA website at: la-paralegals.org.

-Michelle Moran

Mark your Calendars . . .
August 2002
Luncheon & Seminar

**SPEAKER: NICHOLAS
GACHASSIN, III**

**LIVING WILLS, LIFE-SUSTAINING
WILLS, POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND
OTHER NECESSITIES**

Thursday
August 29, 2002
12:00—1:30 p.m.
Petroleum Club of Lafayette

NALA CLE Credits Available

Buffet Lunch—\$13.50
Soup & Salad—\$11.00

For Reservations call 266-1190
(Kaye Pooler)

Reservations Required By Noon Tuesday

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Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: Home _____ Work _____
 Paralegal Certificate: Yes ___ No ___ CLA: Yes ___ No ___
 College Degree: Yes ___ No ___ Major: _____
 Institution: _____
 Paralegal Experience: Years _____
 Area(s) of Specialty: _____

 Special Skills: _____

UPCOMING SPEAKERS: NICHOLAS GACHASSIN, III and GREGORY K. MOROUX



NICHOLAS GACHASSIN, III of Gachassin Law Firm will speak at our luncheon seminar on Thursday, **August 29, 2002**. Mr. Gachassin is a native of Lafayette and a graduate of St. Stanislaus College High School. He received a B.A. from Tulane University, his law degree (J.D.) from Loyola University School of Law in New Orleans, and his Masters in Health Law (LL.M.) from Loyola University School of Law in Chicago. He is a member of the American Health Lawyers Association, the Healthcare Financial Management Association, the Medical Group Management Association, the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Mississippi Bar. His practice is concentrated in the areas of health law and medical malpractice defense.

Mr. Gachassin's presentation will be on **Living Wills, Life-Sustaining Wills, Powers of Attorney and Other Necessities**. In addition to his practice, Nick teaches a course on legal issues in health care administration for the University of Louisiana - Lafayette MBA program.



GREGORY K. MOROUX of the law firm of Onebane, Bernard, Torian, Diaz, McNamara & Abell will present a **Labor & Employment Law Overview** at our luncheon seminar on **October 24, 2002**. Mr. Moroux received his B.A. from the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1973 and his juris doctorate from Louisiana State University in 1979. He is a member of the Acadiana Society for Human Resources Management; Society for Human Resources Management; Louisiana Bar Association; American Bar Association and is admitted to practice before the United

States Supreme Court. He is a former Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana. His practice focuses on federal and state court litigation and jury trials, including all aspects of labor and employment law, including, but not limited to, privacy in the workplace, drug and alcohol testing, wage and hour litigation under the FLSA, sexual harassment defense, employment contracts, and employment discrimination litigation.

THANKS TO OUR SUSTAINING MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT:

The Onebane Firm
Allen & Gooch
Hub Enterprises, Inc.
The Andrus Law Firm
Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan

LPA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2002-2003

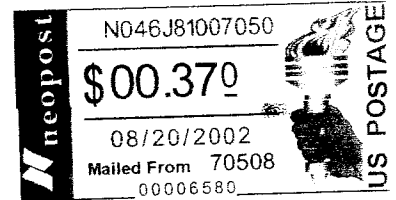
(AND HOW TO REACH US)

President: Sandy Castille	castills@onebane.com	237-2660
Vice President: Savannah Stephan, CLA	savannahstephan@allengooch.com	291-1212
Secretary: Renatti Dupont	r.s.dupont@worldnet.att.net	233-4447
Treasurer: Belinda Sonnier	sonnierbf@onebane.com	237-2660
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Job Bank: Nancy McGinity	ncaglemcginity@aol.com	233-8600
Public Relations/Historian: Christine Laperouse	cmltat@aol.com	394-5565
Newsletter: Deborah P. Fontenot, CLA	dfontenot@gamde.com	237-0132

LPA NEWS

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Lafayette, LA 70502-2775



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ASSOCIATION**

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Sept 20—21	Annual Meeting and Seminar in Baton Rouge	
Oct 24	Labor and Employment Law Overview	Gregory K. Moroux Onebane, Bernard, Torian, Diaz, McNamara & Abell

Suggestions for Topics and Speakers are Always Welcome and Needed.
Call Kaye Pooler at 266-1190 to Submit your Speaker and/or Topic.



LPA NEWS

Lafayette Paralegal Association

LPA is on the Web – *MAKE IT YOUR HOME PAGE!*

Vol. 4, Issue 3

November, 2002

Welcome to the World Wide Web! On November 12th, LPA made its long-awaited and much-anticipated entry into cyberspace, thanks to the efforts of the current administration, led by our President, Sandy Castille.

If you haven't yet checked out our new site, log on to www.lpa-la.org and take a look around. As members of LPA, this is *your* website. It was designed in an effort to accommodate the needs of, and be a valuable resource to, each of the paralegal members of our organization – which, when you think about it, is a mighty tall order, considering the diversity in our areas of practice, as demonstrated by the topics of our monthly luncheon seminars.

With those goals in mind, I have created the “beta” version of our website, with the hope that, through the input and participation of the membership, it will evolve into a valuable and vital tool for each and every member – and that each of us will want to make it our home page!

Now that I've discussed what I envision for LPA's website, let's take a brief tour. On our **Home** page, you'll notice that we've revamped our logo to complement the color scheme. Our logo is featured prominently, alongside our written Purposes. Also on the **Home** page are links to other pages of our website, as well as links to several documents: the latest edition of our Newsletter, our Membership Application, our Code of Ethics, and a list of our Committees and Committee Chairs. Our Sustaining Members are also featured prominently on the **Home** page, with hyperlinks to their websites, if any.

Centrally located on our **Home** page is a section featuring our next upcoming event (usually, our monthly luncheon seminar). A news, information, and current events section is in the works. Look for a few goodies at the bottom of the **Home** page, including links to Google™ and Merriam-Webster's Dictionary™, and a special treat that I hope you will enjoy.

The **History** page features LPA's history, and will also reflect our Mission Statement when it is adopted (this, too, is in the works). The third page of our website is our **Photo Album**, which includes photos of our officers, as well as those taken at recent events. I'd like to see our **Photo**

Album changed from a page on our website to a link to a virtual photo album at some point, in order to free a whole page of web space. But, to launch the site and introduce ourselves to the world, I chose to post photos of our officers and some of our members and guests directly on a web page.

Next is the **Officers** page, which contains contact information and e-mail links for LPA and its officers. There's also a fill-in e-mail submission form for questions and comments to LPA.

The last, but by no means least, stop on our tour is our **Links** page. The **Links** page represents a first step toward making our website the valuable and vital tool I've described – the one that, it is my hope, is going to make you want to make it your home page. I've compiled 50 links, each to a free online legal resource. Although our practices are indeed wide and varied, the statutes and the courts are a common denominator among us all. Thus, the extensive links to most of the Louisiana and federal court systems. A member survey may help to narrow (or maybe even broaden) the scope of our links so that they more accurately address the needs of the membership.

Finally, an added benefit of having a website is the e-mail capability that goes along with having a domain. I anticipate that this sideline benefit alone will have a significant impact on communications between LPA and its members and on LPA's presence in the community. Remember, saving stamps is a great way to conserve LPA's resources.

In closing, I would like to thank our President, Sandy Castille, who appointed me to chair this committee, and the officers, Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, and members who contributed to and helped me with this project, my first website design. Special kudos for hand-holding in times of need go to Savannah Stephan, our Vice President, and Debbie Fontenot, our Newsletter Committee Chair. Their help (and more Diet Coke and of those itty-bitty, little, tiny Snickers bars than I'd rather remember or mention) got me through this challenging, fun, and very gratifying project.

Where the site goes from here is up to you. *Enjoy your website!*

Kim Plonsky
Website Design Committee Chair

To set your Home Page:
In Internet Explorer, from the Tools menu, choose Internet Options > General > Home Page. In the “Address” field, type: www.lpa-la.org. Choose Accept > OK. In Netscape Navigator, from the Edit menu, choose Preferences. In the “Location” field, type: www.lpa-la.org. Choose OK.

LPA NEWS

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

As promised, our website is on line. Our committee appointed to oversee the design of the website has worked hard to get a site that will promote new membership and inform the legal community of our activities.

As you know, our Social was held September 18th at Sidebar during Paralegal Week. Mr. Comeaux, Parish President signed and presented our proclamation which we displayed at the Social. The Social gave all who attended a chance to visit with past friends and make new ones. Don't forget our Christmas social will be held in December. Look for your invitation coming soon.

Our speakers this quarter were by far two of my favorites. Nick Gachassin, III provided us with an overview of Living Wills, Powers of Attorney and medical issues which all of us were able to relate to our personal situations. Mr. Greg Moroux gave us insight into labor and em-

ployment laws. Personal thanks go to both Mr. Gachassin and Mr. Moroux for taking the time to provide us with their presentation.

Our membership continues to grow with LPA having the most members, having surpassed last years goals. Thanks to all who promote LPA and thanks to its members. LPA was organized 18 years ago with dedicated Paralegals who felt that it was LPA's purpose to promote the profession, promote continuing legal education, provide fellowship, and maintain and honor a code of ethics. Were it not for their dedication and involvement in the Association, LPA would not be able to fulfill its purpose set out by its founding members. Thanks to its founding members and to our present members for being a part of what makes LPA what it is. We continue to strive for excellence.

-Sandy

Mark your Calendars . . .
November 2002 Luncheon & Seminar

SPEAKER:
Mary T. Miller,
Certified Public Accountant,
Qualified Pension Administrator

**Retirement - It Starts with a Plan:
Qualified Plans and
Their ERISA Requirements**

Thursday, November 21, 2002
12:00—1:30 p.m.
Petroleum Club of Lafayette

NALA CLE Credits Available

Buffet Lunch—\$13.50
Soup & Salad—\$11.00

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

**THANKS,
KIM!**

*For all of your
hard work in
getting us
online!*

CONGRATULATIONS

to LPA members that have been elected/appointed to serve on the Louisiana State Paralegal Association Board. They are:

Angelle LaGrange-Hebert - President Elect
Michele Moran, CLA - District II Director
Lupe Acosta - Parliamentarian
Angella Rayon, CLA - Job Bank

PARALEGAL JOB BANK

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

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

LPA would like to assist its members and the legal community in filling available paralegal positions. We encourage all members seeking a position to fill out the application and return it along with a resume to: Nancy McGinity, Job Bank Chairperson, Lafayette Paralegal Association, 403 Digby Ave., Lafayette, Louisiana, 70508.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: Home _____ Work _____
Paralegal Certificate: Yes _____ No _____ CLA: Yes _____ No _____
College Degree: Yes _____ No _____ Major: _____
Institution: _____
Paralegal Experience: Years _____
Area(s) of Specialty: _____
Special Skills: _____

**THANKS TO OUR SUSTAINING
MEMBERS FOR THEIR
CONTINUED SUPPORT:**

The Onebane Firm
Allen & Gooch
Hub Enterprises, Inc.
The Andrus Law Firm
Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan

UPCOMING SPEAKERS: MARY T. MILLER, CPA, QPA and MAE E. EWING

RETIREMENT - IT STARTS WITH A PLAN: QUALIFIED PLANS AND THEIR ERISA REQUIREMENTS



The speaker for our November Luncheon Seminar is **Mary T. Miller, CPA, QPA**. Ms. Miller is a manager in the tax department of Broussard, Poché, Lewis & Breaux, LLP, where she has specialized in retirement plan design and implementation since 1993. Her presentation is entitled Retirement - It Starts with a Plan: Qualified Plans and their ERISA Requirements.

Ms. Miller received a B.S. in Medical Technology from Louisiana Tech before acquiring status as a Certified Public Accountant from the Louisiana Society of CPAs. Additional certification includes Qualified Pension Administrator (QPA) from the American Society of Pension Actuaries (ASPA). Professional affiliations include membership in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Louisiana Society of CPAs and the American Society of Pension Actuaries.

THE PARALEGAL'S ROLE IN REAL ESTATE CLOSINGS

The Paralegal can greatly assist the attorney in the area of real estate. Duties include contact with clients to gather information, ordering abstracts, surveys and lender packets, the tracking of files, as well as preparing drafts of the closing documents for the attorney to review. A Paralegal can assist the attorney in facilitating smooth transfers of real estate for all parties involved. **Please join us in January as we discuss the Paralegal's role in Real Estate closings.**

Mae E. Ewing has been employed at Oats & Hudson since 1989 as their Real Estate Administrator. Her duties include the management of the closing department, handling of the files from the initial order, through completion, by working with the attorneys, abstractors, surveyors, lenders, realtors, and clients to obtain information, review abstracts, probate, and suit files, prepare curative documents, prepare drafts of wills and probates, prepare closing packages, attend and notarize documents at closings, prepare title insurance commitments, policies and reports, disburse and balance escrow funds, record documents, pay and cancel prior mortgages, supervise other closers, and also to do marketing to realtors, lenders, and builders. Prior to her employment with Oats & Hudson, she worked as an abstractor in the Acadiana area.

Her education includes a Paralegal Certificate and Bachelor of General Studies Degree from University of Louisiana at Lafayette (formerly University of Southwestern Louisiana). Prior to that she had obtained her Associate of Science degree from Frontier Community College. She continues her education with seminars and other continuing education classes.

Mae is currently the secretary for the Acadiana Mortgage Lenders Association and the PTO at Myrtle Place Elementary. Mae also is involved assisting with several of the children's programs at her church. She is married and has two children and enjoys assisting with their activities.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Thursday,
December 12, 2002
12:00—1:30 p.m.
@ Gentry's

Bring a gift for
Acadiana Youth

RSVP: Kaye Pooler
266-1190

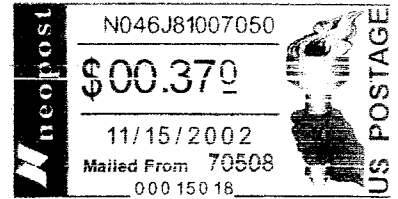
LPA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS FOR 2002-2003

(AND HOW TO REACH US)

President: Sandy Castille	castills@onebane.com	237-2660
Vice President (Membership): Savannah Stephan, CLA	savannahstephan@allengooch.com	291-1212
Secretary: Renatti Dupont	r.s.dupont@worldnet.att.net	233-4447
Treasurer (Fund Raising): Belinda Sonnier	sonnierbf@onebane.com	237-2660
Parliamentarian: Lupe Acosta	gmllope@aol.com	237-7135
Program/Social: Kaye Pooler	poolerk@onebane.com	237-2660
Occupation Survey/ Education: Kathy Dempsey	Kathy@dmsfirm.com	233-0300
Job Bank: Nancy McGinity	ncaglemcginity@aol.com	233-8600
Public Relations/Historian: Christine Laperouse	claperouse@cox-internet.com	394-5565
Website: Kim Plonsky	kplonsky@gamde.com	237-0132
Newsletter: Deborah P. Fontenot, CLA	dfontenot@gamde.com	237-0132

LPA NEWS

Lafayette Paralegal Association
 Post Office Box 2775
 Lafayette, LA 70502-2775



LAFAYETTE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

Welcome new Members:

- Shanna Ray - Jeansonne & Remondet
- Jackie L. Landry - Oats & Hudson
- Terri Hubbard - Gachassin Law Firm
- Nancy Hartwell - Briney & Foret
- Lesley T. Simon - Briney & Foret
- Scott Broussard - Briney & Foret
- Lori Willis - Briney & Foret
- Richard M. Prevost - Self

Do we have your e-mail address?
 If your e-mail address is not listed on the roster, please contact Savannah Stephan.

Membership Update	
Active Renewals	67
Active New	13
Associate Renewals	9
Associate New	3
Total	92
Sustaining	5

PARALEGAL OCCUPATIONAL SURVEY
 The Lafayette Paralegal Association Occupational Survey is available to members for \$5.00 and to non-members for \$10.00. For your copy, please call Kathy Dempsey at 233-0300.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 21	ERISA	Mary T. Miller Broussard, Poche, Lewis & Breaux, LLP
Dec. 12	Christmas Luncheon @ Gentry's	
Jan. 23	Real Estate Closings	Mae E. Ewing Oats & Hudson
Feb. 26	Installation of New Officers & ETHICS Seminar	Jimmie Murvin, CLA LSPA President
Mar. 26	Internet Strategies for the Legal Professional	Kim Plonsky Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis & Eagan, LLP

Suggestions for Topics and Speakers are Always Welcome and Needed.
 Call Kaye Pooler at 266-1190 to Submit your Speaker and/or Topic.