

Andrea Davis

From: Kate McAllister & Erica McAdoo [ncaj@ncaj.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 8:01 AM
To: Andrea Davis
Subject: What's Up with the Legal Assistants Division?!?



LEGAL ASSISTANTS DIVISION

Newsletter

September 2010

Fall Conference for Paralegals – Register Today!

Our Fall Conference for Paralegals will provide practical skills to help lighten the load of those working in a law office as well as to meet the annual continuing education requirements for certified paralegals, both through the North Carolina State Bar and the National Association of Legal Assistants. Whether you are a certified paralegal or someone in the legal field dedicated to the clients you work with, this seminar is for you. I hope you will join us for the Fall Conference for Paralegals 2010.

-- Rhonda Rodenbough, LAD Chair

Fall Conference for Paralegals - [Register Today!](#)

October 15, 2010

Grove Park Inn
Asheville

Nicole Dozier and the **Legal Assistants Division leadership** have put together an exceptional program on a variety of topics just for you.

Topics and Speakers

- **June L. Ray, Clerk of Superior Court, Haywood County**, *Proper Procedure for Filing*
- **R. Alfred Patrick, Lawyers East, Greenville**, *UM/UIM Considerations and Procedures*
- **Erica McAdoo & April McKee, HensonFuerst, P.A. Raleigh**, *Preserving Evidence: Get It Before It's Gone*
- **David Henson, HensonFuerst, P.A., Raleigh**, *Using Technology for Effect and Efficiency*
- **Tara Wilder, NC State Bar, Raleigh** *Ethics Issues for Paralegals*

Immediately following the Fall Conference is the Sunset Social Hour -- a great event to mingle and meet up with colleagues before dinner or a night out on the town!

Conference registration includes seminar materials on a flash drive, a plated luncheon and Sunset Social. Registrants will be emailed a link to the seminar materials prior to the program for viewing and downloading. Remember to bring your laptop to the seminar to view these documents. *If you prefer a printed copy of the seminar materials, please order by October 8th.*

[TO REGISTER](#)
[DETAILED BROCHURE](#)

Make the Most of Your Membership – Pick Your FREE Section!

Have you taken advantage of selecting your FREE Section yet? As a NCAJ Legal Assistants member you are entitled to one complimentary Section.

Membership within one or more of NCAJ's Sections is an invaluable professional resource to assist you with your day-to-day professional life. The ultimate benefit of Section membership is inclusion in a community of other NCAJ members who practice in the same area of law and who will provide professional support and idea exchange either in person, at events or virtually, through Section listservs. Through tailored CLEs, electronic newsletters, roundtables and meetings, you'll stay up-to-date on all the happenings in your areas of practice.

NCAJ Sections: Auto Torts, Civil Rights, Commercial Litigation, Consumer Areas of Practice, Criminal Defense, Disability Advocacy, Eminent Domain, Employment Law, Family Law, Juvenile Defense, Nursing Home Litigation, Products Liability, Professional Negligence, Small Office Practice, Workers Compensation.

Don't Delay - Take advantage of all that NCAJ has to offer -- [Click here](#) to enroll in a NCAJ Section.

Questions? Email AndreaD@ncaj.com.

The Pursuit of Certification – Part I

Submitted by **Erica McAdoo**

Why bother becoming certified? Why spend all that time and all that money? And why be a paralegal?

I presented these questions as well as a few others to current paralegal students **Haleigh Baker, Rebecca Corey, and Tammy Fox**. Their pursuit of certification officially began in August of 2010 upon commencement of classes in their chosen paralegal studies programs. My plan is to follow them throughout their paralegal studies programs, through the process of becoming certified, and through their transition into a new career.

All three plan to pursue certification upon completion of the paralegal program, and all seem to feel that certification would make them more marketable to potential employers. Paralegal student Tammy Fox stated, "I need the certification to market myself, especially in the current job market and also since my previous job title was not a 'paralegal', although it was in a related field."

The three students I will be following considered the various paralegal programs in our state before making a decision. Several factors were considered such as location, reputation of the program, time of day classes were offered, and whether the program was NC State Bar and ABA approved. For Rebecca Corey, "Location was a big factor. I also wanted a program that was mainly in the evenings." Rebecca is currently a stay-at-home mom, so evening classes are convenient for her. Her bachelor's degree was in Communication Studies. After college, she began working as an administrative assistant with a company that helps churches find funding for building. She left that career in 2006 to stay at home with her first son. Her second son was born in 2009. Now, she is interested in pursuing a new career.

Working as a paralegal will be a career change for Haleigh Baker and Tammy Fox as well. Haleigh currently works for a pediatric clinic, and Tammy was working for a financial services company, mostly in the Regulatory Compliance Division. Unfortunately, Tammy's position with that company was recently eliminated due to a merger, but she is hoping to use and broaden her background and experience through a new career as a paralegal in a corporate legal department. Haleigh is currently interested in working in a corporate legal department, too, but is also considering international law.

But why the legal field? There are so many less daunting, less demanding and less stressful careers from which to choose. When presented with this question, Haleigh, Rebecca and Tammy were ready with answers that seemed certain, thoroughly contemplated and inspiring. In her previous career in Regulatory Compliance, Tammy often worked with paralegals and attorneys. When asked why she is now choosing to pursue a career in the legal field, Tammy replied, "I always imagined if I had to make a change that I would transition to a paralegal role to utilize my research and communication skills, which I enjoy, to assist attorneys." Rebecca Corey stated, "The law is where the change in society can take place." She feels a career as a paralegal would be filled with change, challenge, and would never be boring. Haleigh Baker enjoys the law and sees working in the legal field as an opportunity "to contribute to seeing [the law] carried out." She believes that, "The law is such an imperative part of

our society; without it, our country would look totally different."

As we follow Haleigh, Rebecca and Tammy through their paralegal studies programs and certification, we will look at what they learn along the way, their biggest challenges, and will also follow their job search. Beginning a paralegal program and pursuing certification requires money, time and a willingness to add a little more stress into your, likely already, demanding life. But for Haleigh, Rebecca, Tammy and other aspiring paralegals, this will also likely be an endeavor filled with welcome challenges, fun, inspiration, and a sense of accomplishment.

Updates on their progress to follow in subsequent newsletters!

Statewide Paralegal Programs – Call for Information/Volunteers

NCAJ is extremely supportive of its paralegal student members by offering students complimentary membership (including the choice of one NCAJ Section for FREE!). NCAJ is very supportive, overall, of its legal assistant members being the only organization in the nation to provide a legal assistants group voting rights on its governing board and to have legal assistants serving as committee chairs in its practice area groups. At NCAJ, LAD members definitely have a voice!

LAD leadership is making a concerted effort during the upcoming year to promote these great NCAJ membership benefits to paralegal students statewide and LAD leadership is requesting your assistance.

Please email AndreaD@ncaj.com with information on any paralegal programs being offered in your area of the state, or, to volunteer to talk to paralegal students in your local area.

Thanks so much, in advance, for your participation!

Volunteer for the Division CLE Committee!

Nicole Dozier, LAD Committee Chair, requests that you join the LAD CLE Committee! Participation in the LAD CLE Committee is fun and provides you with the opportunity to network and meet colleagues statewide!

As a LAD CLE Committee Member, you would work with the Committee Chair and other Committee members on planning the Summer Conference for Paralegals (at Convention), Fall Conference for Paralegals (at Mountain Magic) and the Spring Seminar for Paralegals. Specifically, you would brainstorm with other LAD leaders to determine topics/speakers for these LAD programs; invite these speakers to participate in the program; and work with the NCAJ CLE staff on program deadlines, marketing, etc. Travel to these conferences may be required.

To volunteer or for more information, email AndreaD@ncaj.com.

Nicole and the entire LAD leadership look forward to your participation in the CLE Committee!

Are You Stressed?? Check Out These Tips!

Submitted by **Erica McAdoo**

Working as a paralegal or legal assistant is a job that is usually filled with excitement, deadlines, variety, and challenge. With all of that often comes stress. Sometimes it is easy to get caught up in a project or a deadline and forget to take a moment to re-group. Sometimes, too, we have our usual ways of managing stress but need something new. With that in mind, I have put together a list of a couple ways colleagues deal with stress.

Stress Management Tip #1: Get out of the office. Meet a friend for lunch, eat at the cafe next door, or go for a walk at a nearby park. If you can't get out for a full hour at lunch, try taking a lap outside around the building during a 10 or 15 minute break.

Stress Management Tip #2: Take a moment for yourself after work. When you leave work or as you're in your driveway getting ready to go inside your home, sit in the car for a couple minutes. Listen to your favorite song or just sit in silence. Taking this time can help you re-group, rejuvenate, and hopefully release some of the stress that has built up during the day.

Stress Management Tip #3: Find time for yourself. Set aside time, even if only on the weekends, to read a book, go for a run, or have lunch with a friend.

If you have other ideas to combat stress, please email them to me at emcadoo@lawmed.com and I'll share them with Division members in upcoming issues of the LAD e-newsletter!

Upcoming Events...Calendar These Dates!

SECTION SOCIALS - RSVP TODAY!

The Socials listed below are open and free of charge to all NCAJ members and non-NCAJ members. Appetizers are courtesy of Section leadership. For more details or to RSVP, email AndreaD@ncaj.com.

Third Annual Civil Rights Section Fall Networking Social

October 7, 2010, 6 to 8 PM

*Tyler's Tap Room & Restaurant
Durham*

Family Law Section Triangle Networking Social

October 13, 2010, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

*Special Guest: Tom Eagen, Eagen & Eagen
Bocci Trattoria (The Venetian Room)
Durham*

Auto Torts Section Triangle Networking Social

October 20, 2010, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

*Natty Greene's Pub (The Game Room)
Raleigh*

Auto Torts Section Charlotte Networking Social

October 26, 2010, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

*Zen Asian Fusion
Charlotte*

NCAJ PAC RECEPTIONS - RSVP TODAY!

As NCAJ prepares for the 2010 election season, NCAJ cordially invites all members to regional PAC Receptions. The 2010 election is critical to NCAJ's mission of Protecting People's Rights. NCAJ PAC needs your help to support those candidates who will fight for justice and protect your clients' rights.

Plan to attend any or all of these PAC Receptions!

September 23, 2010, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

*Bonterra Dining and Wine Room
Charlotte*

September 30, 2010, 5:30 to 7:30 PM

*The Law Offices of Comerford and Britt
Winston-Salem*

If you are interested in sponsoring one of these events, email Todd@ncaj.com. To RSVP, email Kelly@ncaj.com.

Join the Division Listserv Today!

If you have not joined the LAD listserv, you are missing one of the best membership benefits of being a Legal Assistants Division member. The listserv is a great way to receive responses, 24/7, to legal practice matters and issues, distribute information on important topics and to survey Division members. Check out these topics that were recently discussed on the LAD listserv:

- Litigation Paralegal Needed
- Difficult e-Discovery Question
- WC Question
- Court Reporter in New Bern
- Default Judgment against State of NC
- Mountain Magic - NCAJ Fall Conference
- Traffic attorney in Yemassee SC
- Motion to incorporate Separation Agreement after Divorce Decree Entered
- Position in Winston-Salem
- Mediator in Charlotte Area
- Real estate question
- Anyone have example of a Charge and Verdict Sheet?
- Med Rec Copying Statute
- IC Form
- "Go-by" Complaint against car rental agency and at-fault driver
- traffic attorney in Onslow Co
- Question re: collecting on a judgment
- court costs are going up AGAIN
- Estate question
- Insurance Company Codes
- OT - Civil Court
- Service on USAA
- Conference Room, etc.
- Traffic Ticket in Stanly County
- Alamance County - Simple Divorce
- Sample Discovery for Minor Injured at Water Park
- Discovery Request for a Dog Bite Case
- Medical Bill/Medical Lien Question
- Foreclosure Question

Don't Delay - Email AndreaD@ncaj.com to set-up your listserv account.

2010-11 Legal Assistants Division Officers



LAD Officers at the Summer Conference for Paralegals (Convention 2010, Wilmington). From left, **Erica McAdoo**, **Debbie Boggess**, **Rhonda Rodenbough**, **Kate McAllister**, **Debi Welsh**

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Membership Co-Chair: [Anne Holland](#) (Kernersville)

Public Education Chair: [Crystal Reading](#) (Fayetteville)

Publications Co-Chair: [Kathryn McAllister](#) (Durham)

Publications Co-Chair: [Erica McAdoo](#) (Raleigh)

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