

# The Paraview



## Quarterly Publication of the Metrolina Paralegal Association Winter 2020 Edition



**President's message:**

## **Joyous Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas...Happy Holidays to All of our Members!**

I will admit that I am probably in the minority, but I LOVE it when fall and winter come around. Summer to me was always a chore of finding ways to keep cool when, let's face it, you can only take off but so many clothes and be publicly decent. Also, if I'm being honest, I seriously have not worn shorts out in the world since probably the late '90s. So I love when the crisp mornings and even colder full days start popping up more regularly...where I can finally look the part in my jeans and layers of fun and (somewhat) fashionable long sleeve shirts and sweaters. Plus, do not even get me started on the magnificently colorful leaves (burnt orange is my favorite...what is yours)? And...if we are lucky enough to see it, more than a couple of inches of snow...actually anything above a light dusting, makes the world seem like a magical place where anything is possible. It reminds me of simpler times, snow days off from school, hot chocolate with friends and family, and avoiding any semblance of actual school work or chores.

Nowadays, we are not as lucky as to be able to skip out of our paralegal work because of snow...especially now if we are lucky enough to still have a job, and luckier still to have an employer that is gracious and health conscious and allows us to work from home. But at least the changing views from home offer a sense of renewal and hope even as we continue to adjust to our ever evolving work life filled with Zoom meetings, calls instead of visits to others cubes or offices, and quarantining away from those coworkers that you now...*actually miss* seeing on a daily basis.

During this time of year, when holidays abound, my wish for each one of you is that you find at least one new tradition that can take the place of one of those empty holes of things we couldn't do because of the events of this year. No matter what holidays you do or do not celebrate, I wish you physically distanced and healthy times spent around true friends and beautiful family (whether related or carefully chosen) that remind you of what we still mean to those around us and especially what they mean to us. I hope that we find the humanity in each other, despite and also because of our differences.

I am sure many of us remember the random little acts of kindness that spread about four or five years ago (someone in front of you would buy your meal in the drive through and so you'd pay it forward, etc.) But I'm not as sure how many of us, including first and foremost myself, remember that kindness does not have to, nor should it, be random. Kindness shouldn't be reserved for only those who look like us, act like us, or believe like us. Not only does everyone deserve to be shown kindness, but you never truly know what the other person across from you, in front of you or behind you in line, or speeding around you in the carpool lane, is going through. So my final wish for each of you during this holiday season is that you get to both give and experience intentional kindness...maybe when it's not deserved, but may be also...when it is most desperately needed.

“We are paralegals....because even lawyers need heroes.”

—Unknown

See you in the brand new year of possibilities! Here's to 2021, Ali

Photo of one of my **THREE** Christmas trees this year. I decided to decorate early and enthusiastically! I've collected ornaments ever since I was a child and more recently from all of my friends and travels. Therefore, to hang all ornaments, I have a tall tree, this medium tree, and a tabletop tree. This is my travel tree (the golden teepee in the lower left is from the second NALA conference I attended in Oklahoma from a museum about the Trail of Tears). My tabletop tree [not shown] is for my App State alumni ornaments (one for every year from 2006-2019) and ornaments from the mountains in general. And then the large tree [not shown] is for my ornaments from my childhood, my mom's annual ornaments when she was still alive, and from all of my friends throughout the years.



### **MPA 2020-2021 Board Members:**

Alison E. Foster, NCCP – President  
Renaë Elam, CP, NCCP – 1st Vice President  
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OPEN – Student Liaison  
Carrie J. Marshall, NCCP – Paraview Editor/Parliamentarian

Tim Chamness, NCCP – Audit Chair  
Cupree Bowers, NCCP – Membership Committee member  
Donna Glenn – Program Committee member

Thanks to our Board members for all that you do!

## **Our virtual Fall Fest CLE Seminar was a success!**

On November 6, 2020, our wonderful friend, Patron Member and host for the day, Debbie Lawrence, along with her team at Veritext Legal Solutions, Gregg Holderman, Tom Towey and David Roberts, and our presenters listed below helped to make this all-day webinar an amazing event. Our presenters were:

Tom Towey, Vice President/South Region and David Roberts, Director of SC Operations, both of Veritext Legal Solutions discussed the Hot Topics in Deposition Technology and Remote Proceedings. They talked about the importance of security, simplicity and support. Their remote depositions have increased by 2000% since the pandemic started. If you are in litigation, and haven't done a remote deposition, you are missing out. They have the tools that you need to make it happen!

Brian S. Cromwell, Partner at Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP, Charlotte, NC presented on the important role a Paralegal has during a civil or criminal trial and the tasks leading up to trial. His advice: prepare, prepare, prepare...and always be cool.

Elizabeth Smithers the Assistant City Attorney at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport, gave a very interesting presentation on the ordinances, statutes and regulations with regard to the airport and the city. She talked about the challenges they are facing with regard to COVID-19, and she showed us a video of the design and construction that the airport is undergoing.

Renaë Elam, NCCP & NALA Certified Paralegal with the U.S. Attorney's Office discussed 28 U.S.C. § 2410 – Where State Meets Federal. Her presentation about action affecting property on which the United States has a lien included the character Rachel Zane (played by Meghan, Duchess of Sussex) from the show *Suits*. Renaë asked “What would Rachel do?” and played the theme song from *Suits* to keep us entertained after our lunch hour.

Heather Carty Ward, Esq. from the Law Office of Heather Carty Ward, P.C. presented on Guardianship and Alternatives: Protecting our Elders. She discussed the North Carolina guardianship laws, how a guardian is appointed by the Court, and the role of the guardians.

Simon Massie, J.D. of Sussman Law Firm, PLLC was our Ethics presenter. He discussed Rule 1.14 - Clients with Diminished Capacity which covered the parameters of a client with diminished capacity, how to tell if the client has diminished capacity, and understanding the balance between keeping attorney-client privilege and getting the client the assistance they need to be represented.

For the CLE credits, Ali Foster came up with the fun code words from the movie *Office Space*.



Hello Peter, what's happening?

Photos of our CLE presenters:



>What are the lyrics to the *Suits* theme song?

- > See the money wanna stay, for your meal,
- > Get another piece of pie, for your wife,
- > Everybody wanna know, how it feel,
- > Everybody wanna see, what it's like,
- > I'll even eat a bean pie, I don't mind,
- > Me and Missy is so early busy busy makin' money,
- > All right,
- > All step back, I'm 'bout to dance,
- > The greenback boogie.



## **Honoring our Past President, Renae Elam, CP, NCCP**

Additionally, on November 6, 2020 during the CLE seminar, we acknowledged, honored and thanked our past MPA president, Renae Elam, who presided over the Metrolina Paralegal Association from May 2018 – May 2020.

Renae, thank you so much for your dedication and leadership!



## **MPA makes a donation to charity**

The MPA Board unanimously approved a motion to give a donation to A Child's Place for \$250.

“A Child's Place began in **1989** when several women were walking through Settlers Cemetery in Uptown Charlotte and noticed children playing there during school hours. At that time, children were not allowed to enroll in public schools without a permanent address. The women decided to take action and with their support, A Child's Place was started with 27 homeless children in a room provided by First Presbyterian Church. Around the same time, Congress passed the McKinney-Vento Act (MCV) protecting the educational rights of homeless children, shifting the mission of A Child's Place to support homeless children enrolled in public school. Since 1989, ACP has transformed into a leading organization and has been working to improve the wellbeing of children and families experiencing homelessness in Charlotte.” To find out more about this organization, please visit: <https://achildsplace.org/>

## **Additional donation to charity/holiday event**

For our next donation, we are considering a \$250 donation to Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. This organization sends gifts in shoe boxes to children around the world for Christmas. We encourage you, our members, to donate an online box and send us your screenshots to be featured in the next quarter's Paraview. For more information go to: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/>

Of course, if there is another charity you wish to donate to, whether it be Hanukah, Kwanzaa, Bodhi Day, Pancha Ganapati, or Chinese New Year related, send us a screen shot of those to be included in the next Paraview.

We know that Diwali has passed recently, but feel free to send in your holiday photos from any celebration from this Fall or Winter season. We'd love to include them in our next Paraview. Submissions can be sent to [carriemarshall@parkerpoe.com](mailto:carriemarshall@parkerpoe.com)

## **Save the date!**

The Annual Spring Seminar has been tentatively set for March 26, 2021, and more details will follow as we get closer to the date. If you have any speaker suggestions, please send their name and contact information to [metrolinaparalegal@gmail.com](mailto:metrolinaparalegal@gmail.com) so that we can reach out to them to inquire their interest in presenting at the seminar.

Reminder: If you are a student, or if you know a paralegal student, please see below:

## **MPA PARALEGAL STUDENT ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT**

Due Date for Submissions: March 31, 2021, 5:00 p.m. EST

### **Scholarship Description**

The MPA PARALEGAL STUDENT ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP is awarded to a paralegal student with a minimum 2.5 GPA who is attending (or has attended) an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical paralegal program in the Charlotte area between the dates of May 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021 (“Qualification Period”).

The 2021 award is based on submission of an essay on the topic as stated in this announcement, proof of enrollment during the Qualification Period, and valid GPA standing. The First Place award is \$500 cash, plus a one-year associate membership in the Metrolina Paralegal Association (“MPA”). All submitted essays are reviewed by an anonymous panel selected by the Executive Board of the MPA.

The scholarship winner will be notified by April 30, 2021 and recognized either at the next MPA membership meeting or by an email announcement to the MPA membership, at the sole discretion of the MPA Executive Board.

### **How to apply:**

Submit a cover letter, essay on the topic as stated in this announcement, and proof of enrollment by 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2021 to [MPAStudentScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:MPAStudentScholarship@gmail.com). The cover page should include your name, personal email address, telephone number and school (“Contact Information”). **DO NOT INCLUDE** your Contact Information on any of the essay pages. Any submitted essay must contain a minimum of 500 words to be considered for this scholarship.

### **Essay Topic:**

As a practicing paralegal, you will be required to multi-task and handle large caseloads and/or legal matters with decorum and finesse. What experiences can you share that show you are up to the task?

### **Have questions?**

Submit any questions or inquiries to [MPAStudentScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:MPAStudentScholarship@gmail.com)

## National Days – Mark your Calendar!

I think some of these are hilarious! (This is not a complete list.)

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>  | National Pie Day<br>World AIDS Day<br>Rosa Parks Day<br>National Day of Giving                            |
| December 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | National Fritters Day<br>National Mutt Day (Awww, pups!)<br>Special Education Day                         |
| December 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | National Roof Over Your Head Day<br>National Package Protection Day                                       |
| December 4 <sup>th</sup>  | National Cookie Day<br>National Dice Day<br>National Sock Day   |
| December 5 <sup>th</sup>  | International Ninja Day<br>National Rhubarb Vodka Day   |
| December 6 <sup>th</sup>  | National Microwave Oven Day<br>St. Nicholas Day<br>National Miners' Day                                   |
| December 7 <sup>th</sup>  | National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day<br>National Illinois Day<br>National Cotton Candy Day               |
| December 8 <sup>th</sup>  | National Brownie Day<br>Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day   |
| December 9 <sup>th</sup>  | National Pastry Day<br>Weary Willie Day   |
| December 10 <sup>th</sup> | Human Rights Day<br>Nobel Prize Day<br>Chanukah Begins  |
| December 11 <sup>th</sup> | National App Day<br>National Noodle Ring Day<br>National Salesperson Day                                  |
| December 12 <sup>th</sup> | National Ambrosia Day<br>Gingerbread House day<br>Poinsettia Day  |
| December 13 <sup>th</sup> | National Cocoa Day (Yummy!)<br>National Violin Day<br>National Guard Day<br>Worldwide Candle Lighting Day |
| December 14 <sup>th</sup> | National Bouillabaisse Day<br>National Alabama Day<br>Monkey Day  |
| December 15 <sup>th</sup> | National Cupcake Day<br>Bill of Rights Day<br>National Wear Your Pearls Day                               |

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| December 16 <sup>th</sup> | National Chocolate-covered Anything Day<br>Barbie and Barney Backlash Day (Really??!!)  |
| December 17 <sup>th</sup> | National Maple Syrup Day<br>Wright Brothers Day<br>National Re-Gifting Day  |
| December 18 <sup>th</sup> | National Twin Day<br>Answer the Telephone like Buddy the Elf Day (I'm SO doing this!!)<br>National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day<br>Underdog Day |
| December 19 <sup>th</sup> | National Hard Candy Day<br>National Oatmeal Muffin Day<br>National Wreaths Across America Day   |
| December 20 <sup>th</sup> | National Sangria Day<br>Mudd Day  |
| December 21 <sup>st</sup> | Crossword Puzzle Day<br>Humbug Day<br>Winter Solstice<br>National Homeless Persons' Remembrance Day<br>Yule<br>Ann & Samantha Day             |
| December 22 <sup>nd</sup> | National Date Nut Bread Day   |
| December 23 <sup>rd</sup> | National Pfeffernusse Day<br>National Roots Day<br>Festivus<br>Forefathers Day  |
| December 24 <sup>th</sup> | National Eggnog Day<br>Christmas Eve  |
| December 25 <sup>th</sup> | National Pumpkin Pie Day<br>A'phabet Day or No "L" Day<br>Christmas Day   |
| December 26 <sup>th</sup> | National Candy Cane Day<br>National Thank you note day<br>Boxing Day<br>Kwanzaa   |
| December 27 <sup>th</sup> | National Fruitcake Day  |
| December 28 <sup>th</sup> | National Short Film Day<br>National Chocolate Candy Day<br>Holy Innocents Day<br>Pledge of Allegiance Day                                     |
| December 29 <sup>th</sup> | National Hero Day<br>Tick Tock Day  |
| December 30 <sup>th</sup> | National Bicarbonate of Soda Day<br>Bacon Day   |
| December 31 <sup>st</sup> | National Champagne Day<br>New Year's Eve  |

Source: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/december/>

## Note from the Editor

Hi MPA Members and Patrons - I thoroughly enjoy being the Paraview Editor! I hope you find the Paraview informative and enjoyable to read. If there is any content you'd like to see in our publication, please let me know. I hope that you have a wonderful holiday season.

See you at our next meeting!

Carrie J. Marshall, Paraview Editor  
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Thanks to all of our Patron Sponsors!



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