

THE WRIT



A publication of the El Paso Paralegal Association

an Affiliate of The National Association of Legal Assistants ♦ Paralegals, Inc.

October 2022



Paralegal Day Virtual Seminar

Join us on Friday, October 21st,

to celebrate

Texas Paralegal Day

and attend our free virtual seminar

CIVIL LITIGATION UPDATE

MEMBERS ONLY: The first 40 members who register for the seminar will receive a special gift from EP-PA. The flyer and registration form can be found inside this edition.

Register Today!

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Paralegal Day Seminar

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El Paso Paralegal Asso...
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EL PASO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION'S PARALEGAL
VIRTUAL SEMINAR
OCTOBER 21, 2022 – 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

CIVIL LITIGATION UPDATE

SPEAKERS

- 8:30 - Gabe Perez - Discovery Changes and Rules**
- 9:30 - Connie Flores - New Employment Law changes on Sexual Harassment cases**
- 10:30- Milad Farah – Personal Injury Update**
- 11:30- Dan Hernandez - How to Work Up a Litigation File**



*(**4.0 hrs. CLE credit approval pending**)*

dreamstime.



Seminar Registration Form

2022 PARALEGAL DAY VIRTUAL SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM **EPPA MEMBERS ONLY**

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

RETURN REGISTRATION FORM BY EMAIL TO: LAGUILAR@BICKERSTAFF.COM.

To celebrate Paralegal Day, the first 40 members who return their registration forms before the seminar date (October 21, 2022) will receive a special gift from EPPA.

President's Message

Getting to Know Your President and Her Paralegal Career

Hello EPPA members and welcome to the Fall Season and last quarter of the year. I am not a huge fan of cold weather, but I am really excited about this time of year because of what our organization is doing. We are getting ready for our Charity Event at B-17 on November 12th. We are also bringing our members an awesome Civil Litigation Seminar with some superstar speakers for Paralegal Day. I hope you all attend and enjoy the seminar. Our Board of Directors have joined forces to make this happen for you all. I particularly love the topic because that is the type of law that I work in and have worked in for 25 years now.



I began my unintentional paralegal career in 1998. I had to get out of minimum wage work and get a “real Job”. I attended International Business College and studied to be a legal secretary. I was a 21-year old and a single mom of 2 girls who were 2 months and the other 2 years old. The daycare was next door to I.B.C., so I was able to check on my babies during classes and lunch while educating myself. I needed a job where the hours and the bosses were not so demanding.

The cases I was dealing with at Montes and Volk, PC were familiar to me. You see, when I was 10, my brother was killed in an accident involving an 18-wheeler and he was decapitated. My sister and my brother witnessed it all. He was riding his bicycle at age 12 on Alameda when he hit a man hold cover that made him fall onto the street and when the 18-wheeler came by, and it unintentionally took my brother with him. It was an accident. My family was shattered and needless to say I lived in a nightmare for a few years after that.

When I began working as a legal secretary, our clients would say you don't understand, I would respond oh yes, I do! I would respond, “do you want to know what mental anguish, pain and suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life were all about, go ahead ask me, I lived it”. I soon realized I was helping people like my family and siblings just like me, to cope through a difficult heartbreaking situation. I could relate to clients because I had been there. My work was my passion. I knew exactly what a tragic accident could do to a family in a split second. My paralegal job was my therapy. I got to help our clients and I knew this field was where I was meant to be. My girls would come to work with me and colored under conference rooms tables throughout the city. Law firms all over El Paso became their play rooms and homework stations while mom had to work late. Mr. Montes and Mr. Volk took a liking to me because I was motivated and hungry for knowledge. I am forever grateful to both as I was introduced to the Civil Litigation world. I recall doing courthouse runs at 4:58 to get documents filed before 5:00 pm deadlines because E-filing did not exist. Mr. Volk used to let me sit in on client interviews to listen to families discuss their tragedies and explain to them how we would help. I absorbed every word, every document, every filing that came across my hands and I asked tons of questions.

Continued on pg. 6

October Birthdays

Laura Juarez	10/14
Elisa Martinez	10/18
Lee Bass	10/30
Linda Gonzales	10/30



Minutes of September Meeting

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF EL PASO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION (September 15, 2022)

A regular meeting of the members of El Paso Paralegal Association (the “Association”) was duly called and held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 12:03 p.m. President Yvette Duran chaired the meeting and Secretary Griselda Lasky recorded the minutes of the meeting.

A quorum being present, President Duran called the meeting to order, and welcomed members and the guest speaker and thanked them for attending.

The first item of business was the discussion and approval of the June 2022 meeting minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Association’s members held June 16, 2022, as presented in *The Writ*, were unanimously approved.

The second item of business was the discussion of benefit concert to raise funds for the Association’s scholarships and its charity at B-17. The benefit will be held on November 12, 2022. President Duran has secured the venue and one band. President Duran also extended an invitation to all members to participate and reach out if they would like to assist with the benefit.

The last item of business was the announcement of board vacancies and next year’s board members. President Duran encouraged members to get involved.

President Duran introduced the guest speaker, Judge Bill Hicks, who gave an educational presentation on the lawsuit filed against District Attorney Rosales. Judge Hicks answered questions from members after the presentation. President Duran then extended the Association’s thanks to Judge Hicks for his presentation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

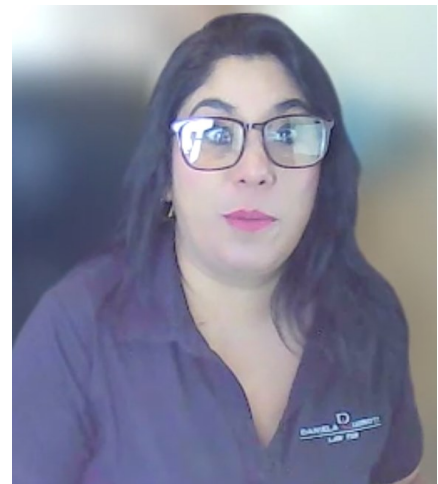
/s/ Griselda Lasky
Griselda Lasky, Secretary



Highlights from September Meeting



Speaker Bill Hicks



President's Message *(cont'd.)*

I have since worked at a variety of PI firms such as Azar and Loncar, PC. (now know as Loncar Lyon Jenkins). I managed Gage & Kennedy Law Firm (now know as Kennedy Law firm). I was a supervisor for the Personal Injury department at Manuel Solis' office (now the Holocaust Museum). I even was asked to go help Mounce, Green, Myers when one of their paralegals was injured. I was willing and ready to step in and cover her spot. I worked for Scherr Legate for 10 years and went to manage the litigation team at Ruhmann Law firm for a couple of years. Now I am a remote paralegal at Labinoti Law firm. I am currently training my daughter Jizelle to do all the work and deal with clients as I love to do. The same little girl that had fashion shows on the conference room table at Azar and Loncar (while I worked late nights) is now assisting me in my daily tasks at work.

I love all the attorneys and paralegal mentors who have educated me and filled me with knowledge over the years. Daniela Labinoti recently took our entire firm to New York to thank us for our hard work. The job comes with many different types of rewards. I personally live for the faces of our clients when cases are resolved and closed compared to when they come in so broken. I receive hugs and expressions of appreciation and that has become my paycheck. Some days are tougher than others as a paralegal but I believe I am blessed to be where I am today. I enjoy being silly with my daughter, now 27 years old, when we have to do a video conference. Strangely, my daughter always said she did not like my job because I was always working too much. Now I have to throw her out of the office at 7:00 pm and tell her to go home. God knew exactly what he was doing when I landed in this field. Students ask me, how do you know what type of law to go into, I share my story and say "Civil Litigation chose me"!

I hope to see more EPPA faces later this month. Let's blow the attendance history on this Paralegal Day Seminar. If you would like to get involved in the charity planning event at B-17, please call me. We have need some EPPA members to help with registration, raffle sales and overall organization of the event on October 12th. Please feel free to reach out to me.

-Yvette Duran
President

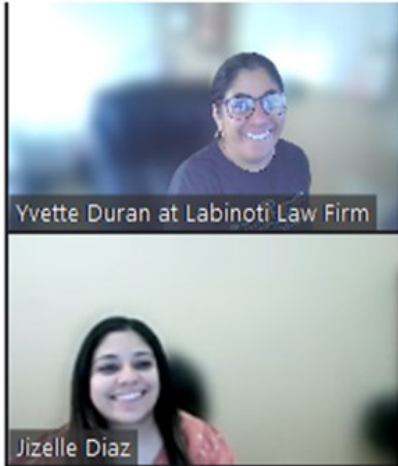


Photo of me joking around with my daughter
Jizelle while on zoom this week at work



Photo of my brother Charlie and I.
I miss him everyday



Photo of my girls in my early Paralegal Days.

EL PISO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

EPPA CHARITY ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Donations needed:
Sweatpants, tops, slippers
bedding items such as sheets and pillow cases, detergent, personal hygiene items for male and females in all sizes. Please contact anyone on the Board of Directors for pick up and drop off information.

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Please contact Yvette Duran for further information.

Wish List for Male and Females

- clothing- sweats, slippers, underwear (new) socks
- personal care items
- cleaning supplies
- linens

Start collecting items now for our Charity Event in November!

In Memorium



Hector M. Zavaleta 1943 - 2022

Hector M. Zavaleta, age 79, entered into eternal rest on Friday, September 23, 2022 in El Paso, Texas. He was a wonderful son, husband, father, "Tito" and friend and will be greatly missed. Hector is preceded in death by his loving parents; Maria Consuelo and Pete Zavaleta Jr. He is survived by his loving wife of 52 years; Gloria I. Zavaleta; his dearest children; Melissa Perez Zavaleta (Manuel Perez) and Hector A. Zavaleta (Cristina) and his wonderful grandchildren; Hector Andres Zavaleta, Alek Flavian, Lucia Zavaleta, Ryan Flavian and Drew Hector Flavian. He is also survived by many extended friends and family to cherish and honor his memory.

Hector was a proud graduate of Cathedral High School ('61, Outstanding Ex-Student), University of Texas at El Paso ('69) and St. Mary's University School of Law ('72, outstanding Senior Award) and served the United States Marine Corps as a Corporal ('61-'64).

Hector was licensed to practice law in 1972 in Texas, for the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit; and the United States Supreme Court. He was appointed by Federal District Court Judge William S. Sessions (former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington D.C.) to serve on the Admissions Testing Committee for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. Hector was also an Assistant Professor of Business Law at UTEP ('72-'77) and served as a Municipal Judge for the City of El Paso ('77-'81). Hector received the Presidential Citation Award from the State Bar of Texas in 2004, was recognized as an outstanding Senior Lawyer for the El Paso Bar Association in 2005, and was also notably named Mediator of the Year from the El Paso Bar Association in 2012. He has received many more accolades over the course of his life for his upmost integrity and professionalism.

He served his community as Director/President of the State Bar of Texas, El Paso Bar Association, El Paso Mexican-American Bar Association, El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board, El Paso Zoological Society, Lighthouse for the Blind, El Paso Symphony Orchestra, El Paso Legal Assistance Society, and the El Paso Museum of Art.





Advertising Law 101

CLE: 1 • SUBSTANTIVE • BASIC

Advertising has evolved into a vastly complex form of communication, with thousands of different ways to get a message to a consumer. This course will focus on what constitutes advertising claims, what substantiation is, and what type of substantiation is necessary for a claim.



Remote Online Notarization (RON) and Estate Planning Best Practices

CLE: 1 • NON-SUBSTANTIVE • BASIC

In this course, you will learn the difference between a Remote Online Notary for general legal documents and for estate planning documents, what can make an e-will self-proving in Florida, and what a Qualified Custodian of an e-Will is.



Litigation Tech Tools for the Modern Legal Practice

CLE: 1 • NON-SUBSTANTIVE • BASIC

Paralegals are becoming the most valuable members of the office when they understand the tech tools needed to run a modern litigation practice. In this course, we will cover the types of tools used by top law firms of all sizes to manage litigation.



WEBINAR RATES

1.0 HR \$45 for NALA Members \$65 for Non-members	1.5 HRs \$45 for NALA Members \$65 for Non-members	2.0 HRs \$55 for NALA Members \$75 for Non-members
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Go to <https://portal.nalamember.com/live-webinars> for more details.

October 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 	11	12	13	14	15
16 	17	18	19	20	21 <i>Paralegal Day Virtual Seminar (8:30-12:30)</i>	22
23 <i>Official Texas Paralegal Day</i>	24	25	26	27 <i>Deadline for Submissions to November Writ</i>	28	29
30	31 					

Out Mission Statement



Thanks for being a member of
El Paso Paralegal Association

AN AFFILIATE OF



El Paso Paralegal Association serves as a resource for paralegals to further its members' development and advancement in the legal profession through higher paralegal standards, continuing legal education and self-regulation for all El Paso paralegals. El Paso Paralegal Association awards scholarships to students enrolled in the paralegal program at El Paso Community College, and offers reimbursement awards for members taking the National Association of Legal Assistants' Certification Exam and the Texas Board of Legal Specialization Certification Exam. Through its various efforts throughout the year, El Paso Paralegal Association also strives to encourage its members to participate in community service and charitable work opportunities through El Paso Paralegal Association's adopted charity, which is chosen each year by its members.

Our Board

President	Yvette Duran (<i>paralegalDL@labinotilaw.com</i>)
President Elect	vacant
VP of Programs	<i>vacant</i>
VP of Membership	Jessica Lucero (<i>jlucero@epcounty.com</i>)
VP of Public Relations	Louise Elorreaga (<i>lelo9228@aol.com</i>)
Secretary	Griselda Lasky (<i>glasky@epcounty.com</i>)
Treasurer	Laura T. Juarez, CP (<i>ltjuarez1007@gmail.com</i>)
Parliamentarian	Sandra Espinoza (<i>sespinoza@umcelpaso.org</i>)
NALA Liaison	Laura T. Juarez, CP (<i>ltjuarez1007@gmail.com</i>)
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Contact Us

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