

Ab Initio

a publication of

Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia

an Affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.

Volume I, No. 4

October 2005

Congratulations Newest CLAs

(July 2005 Examinees)

Nodgie Kennedy, CLA

The Tinney Law Firm

Lorena Shingleton, CLA

Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC

Suzette Smalls, CLA

Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC

Loretta Stevens, CLA

Kay Casto & Chaney PLLC

Shannon Todd, CLA

Huddleston Bolen LLP (Charleston)

CLA EXAM SCHEDULE

Exam - December 2-3 2005

Application Deadline - October 1

Late Application Deadline - October 17

Exam - March 24-25 2006

Application Deadline - January 15

Late Application Deadline - January 30

Interested? Contact Cindy Lowther, Paralegal, STEPTOE & JOHNSON, PLLC, at (304) 556-8226 or lowtherc@steptoe-johnson.com for study group information for exams and retakes.

“Lunch & Learn” Meeting

LAPSWV will host a “Lunch and Learn” on Thursday, October 20, from noon until 1:00 p.m. at Jackson Kelly PLLC in the West Virginia Room on 16th floor of Laidley Tower. Guest Speaker will be Ann L. Haight, Esquire, Charleston member of Kay Casto & Chaney PLLC. Ms. Haight will be present a discussion regarding Advance Directives. The meeting qualifies for one (1) hour CLAE for participating paralegals. Lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP to twelch@jacksonkelly.com by Monday, October 17.

The Short Course - CLA/CP Preparation
October 20-22
Charlotte NC

LexisNexis Paralegal Mastery Program

**** November 5, 2005 ****

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Hampton Inn - Teays Valley, WV
Breigh Marling, LexisNexis Representative

This seminar is FREE, and lunch will be provided. CLAE credit is available.

Please RSVP to knurekn@steptoe-johnson.com by Friday, October 28.

“Making a Difference”

NALA President’s Message, Deb Monke, CLAS

(reprinted from “Facts & Findings” August 2005

The Journal for Legal Assistants

Volume XXXII Issue 2

“The story of the beachcomber and the starfish comes to mind when encouraging others to do their part in any endeavor. The way the story goes is that a man walking on the beach saw a boy throwing a starfish back into the surf. When asked what he was doing, the boy replied that he was saving the starfish.

“The man looked around, shook his head, and explained to the boy that the beach was littered with starfish. The man asked how what he was doing would make a difference. The boy looked sincerely at the man and said, “It made a difference to that one.”

“Sometimes it takes a child to point out the obvious, or a small part of a universal truth.

“This past spring we asked members to share stories with us. We asked because as NALA volunteers travel the country making visits to organizations, we witness wonderful volunteer work, and we wanted to hear about their contributions to improving our profession.

“We discovered that most members take what they do in stride. They don’t make a big deal out of it, and they believe that what they do is just a routine part of serving our profession. They did, however, want to share their stories about what they remembered from NALA events. That was nice to hear, and it demonstrates the relationships we form at association activities, whether at national or local levels.

“These modest members are what keep our profession growing. They are making a significant difference, often just one person at a time.

“One person at a time, we can help shape this young and progressive profession. While the paralegal profession is more than thirty years old now, we still need to educate attorneys about what we can do. One attorney at a time can make a big difference in how an office or legal department functions. Often it is a legal assistant that works with management to develop a true team concept of attorney-paralegal-legal secretary.

“Often the team will involve other support staff with the paralegal as the team leader. This frees up the attorney to handle matters that should be done at that level. This is making a difference.

“One person at a time we can mentor students and help them understand the challenges and rewards of our profession. We can help them understand the importance of belonging to professional associations and giving back to the community.

“Things such as *pro bono* work or other community projects are making a difference, often one student at a time. One person at a time, we can assist in teaching the public and corporate departments the role of paralegals. You might also want to remind them that according to the various statutes, ethical opinions, and cases, that “legal assistant” and “paralegal” are synonymous terms. This is making a difference.

“There are many ways that we can assist others one at a time, or perhaps even a group at a time. Everything we do every day impacts someone. It may be one person at a time, but just like the little boy saving the starfish...it makes a difference to that one.”

CONSIDER YOUR ROLE IN LAPSWV

It’s your organization.

And check out

http://www.nala.org/Facts_Findings.htm#Reprints
for additional article reprints from former issues of “Facts and Findings”—official publication of NALA.

**LAPSWV TO BE REPRESENTED AT
WEST VIRGINIA STATE BAR
REGIONAL MEETINGS**

**NALA 30TH ANNIVERSARY
CONVENTION UPDATE**

State Bar President, Thomas Tinder, has extended an invitation to the NALA-affiliates in West Virginia (AWVP, LAPSWV, and the Ohio Valley Paralegal Organization) to prepare "Presentations on Legal Ethics Matter, Issues Affecting the Legal Profession and Utilization of Legal Assistants/Paralegals by Lawyers" at each of the ten (10) Regional Meetings of the West Virginia State Bar.

Thanks to Cindy Lowther, LAPSWV will be represented as follows:

**11/01/05 Huntington - Four Seasons
Attorney Luke A. Lafferre and
Jill Francisco, CLA (Huddleston
Bolen)**

**11/03/05 Bluefield - Holiday Inn
Attorney Jessica Rodecker and a
paralegal (Jackson Kelly)**

**11/09/05 Logan - Chief Logan
State Park
Attorney John H. Johnston and Lorena
Shingleton, CLA (Steptoe & Johnson)**

**11/10/05 Charleston - Marriott
Attorney Jason D. Stevens, Nancy
Knurek, CLA and Cindy Lowther
(Steptoe & Johnson)**

**Encourage the attorney and non-
attorney members of your firm to
attend where and when possible.
Thanks, Cindy, for effectuating this
significant opportunity for LAPSWV!**

President Jill Francisco attended the NALA 30th Annual Meeting and Seminar in Kansas City in July 2005. Jill represented LAPSWV at the NALA Affiliates meeting. She also prepared a table at the NALA Affiliates exhibit. Please check out www.lapswv.org for photographs from the event.

**NALA CAMPUS
LIVE! CONTINUES
Real Time CLE Online
with Live Presentations
FALL PROGRAM CONTINUES AT
<http://www.nalacampus.com/>**

Estate Administration, Pt 2	Nov 2
Judgment & Analysis	Nov 4
Real Estate Closing Statements & HUD Settlement Statements	Nov 9
Electronic Healthcare Documents (EHI)	Nov 14

"O, Come, All Ye Faithful"

LAPSWV CHRISTMAS PARTY
Thursday, December 8, 2005
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Teays Valley Hampton Inn
More details to follow.

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Latin for "from the beginning."

Ab Initio is a quarterly publication of Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia (LAPSWV). None of the information contained herein is intended nor should it be construed as legal advice.

LAPSWV
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