



Ab Initio

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The official newsletter of the
Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia
an Affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc.

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.LAPSWV.ORG



From Your President

It's the beginning of a new fiscal year for LAPSWV, and I am so honored to be serving as your president. I know this is not how I or anyone else expected 2020 to go but I am trying to make the best of it. We have all had to adapt to the changes brought about by COVID but I am thankful to be safe and healthy and I wish that for all of you.

I am sure there will be some adjustments to our programs this year. We are working to bring you interesting seminars and help you earn your CLE's all while following the necessary guidelines. I want to make this the best year yet for LAPSWV and I would love input and participation from all of our members. We have already set tentative dates for our monthly Executive Committee meetings to be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. All of these meetings will be available for you to participate by telephone or computer, (*see Page 5 for more details*).

We hope to announce dates for upcoming Lunch and Learns soon. If you have any topics you would like covered or know someone who would be willing to speak, please feel free to email me anytime.

Just remember during these uncertain and challenging times, "Challenges are what makes life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." - Joshua J. Marine

I look forward to the upcoming year and I can't wait until I can see you all again!

Kelly Mullins
LAPSWV President

LAPSWV



Student Scholarship Winner!

Congratulations to Wendy Greene, the winner of the LAPSWV 2020 Student Scholarship! Wendy is currently enrolled at BridgeValley Community and Technical College pursuing a degree in Paralegal Studies, with an anticipated graduation date of May 2021. She has been a member of LAPSWV since 2019.

A cursory review of Wendy's resume' demonstrates the endless talents this young lady has! She holds down a full time job with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, as the assistant to the Deputy Director; she's a full-time single Mother; volunteers with the John Adams Middle School and George Washington High School Band Boosters; has an extensive background in the medical and administrative fields; enjoys gardening, hiking, camping, reading and visiting historical sites and museums.

LAPSWV is proud to have you as a member Wendy! Best of luck to you in all of your future endeavors.



Match the *Latin* Word on the Left with the
Correct Definition on the Right

1. **Quaere**

2. **In curia**

3. **Caveat**

4. **Animo**

5. **Scienter**

6. **Per diem**

7. **Res**

8. **Jus gentium**

9. **de novo**

10. **Instanter**

11. **Vivos**

12. **Ore tenus**

A. The law of nations, international law

B. Question, doubt

C. Anew, afresh

D. By the day

E. Immediately

F. By word of mouth, orally

G. Thing, object, subject matter

H. With intention, design, will

I. In court

J. Beware, a warning

K. Living

L. Knowledge, awareness



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar with these future dates and attend the Executive Committee Meetings:

September 8, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at The Masters Law Firm* **

November 10, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at The Masters Law Firm

January 12, 2021, 5:30 p.m. at The Masters Law Firm

February 9, 2021, 5:30 p.m. at The Masters Law Firm

March 9, 2021, 5:30 p.m., at The Masters Law Firm

May 11, 2021, 5:30 p.m., at The Masters Law Firm

* The Masters Law Firm, 181 Summers Street, Charleston, WV 25301

** Meetings may be by “Go To Meeting” video-conference. Dial-in information will be provided.

Save The Date!

Fall Meeting— October 13, 2020

Christmas Social— December 8, 2020

Spring Meeting— April 13, 2021

News from NALA

Patricia Schoolcraft, ACP, NALA Liaison for LAPSWV

Although I was looking forward to going to NALA's Annual Meeting and Seminar in Atlantic City, New Jersey this past July, my plans, like so many others, took a drastic turn on a very crooked COVID-19 road. This is a year that I want to forget as COVID-19 kept us quarantined in our home state and from attending everything from weddings to ballgames to birthday parties to seminars. Although the conference felt different, this year's virtual annual meeting and seminar went very smoothly because of NALA's excellent planning and execution.

One piece of exciting news that I bring to you from NALA is a reduction in its membership fees. If you have every wanted to become a NALA member, I hope this entices you to become a NALA member.

Beginning July 15, 2020, as a member of LAPSWV, YOU are eligible to receive 25% off YOUR NALA membership fee.

To put it in prospective, anyone who is not a member of a NALA affiliated association will pay \$154.00. **However**, as a member of LAPSWV you are eligible for a 25% discount on the membership fee. That means you will pay only \$115.50. What do you get with your NALA membership?

- **Utilization and Compensation Report**- a valuable tool that you can use to negotiate your compensation and benefits successfully
- **NALA Career Center** - where members can access new job opportunities that are posted daily
- **Subscription to *Facts & Findings*** - our associations' journal featuring educational and informative articles for paralegals

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- **NALA Commons** - a private member-only collaboration site to learn and engage with fellow paralegals
- **Access to SimpleLaw** - where NALA members can grow their contract income opportunities for free
- **Discounted Rates** - save money on NALA continuing education programs and select products
- **Affinity Discounts** - special local and national discounts on affinity products and services such as office supplies, car rentals, and identity theft protection
- **Select Complimentary Member Education**
- **\$80 Gift Certificate** - to be used towards NALA continuing education offerings

When you think about it, your \$40 membership with LAPSWV has been recouped. You have access to free and low-cost on-line education opportunities. You can use your \$80 Gift Certificate for many of NALA's on-line education events.

How do you get the discount? Log into NALA.org to purchase a NALA active membership. The discount will automatically be applied. If you have never logged into a NALA account, you may do so by entering the email you submitted to LAPSWV and use the password: Password1. You will be instructed to change your password and then you can complete the NALA active membership registration. If you have trouble logging in to NALA, please call or email NALA for assistance. The telephone number is 918-587-6828 and email is nalanet@nala.org.

Unfortunately, if you have already renewed your membership with NALA, the 25% discount cannot be retroactively given. But when you do renew your NALA membership, you will be eligible for the 25% discount.

I've been a member of NALA since 1998 and have enjoyed getting to know many of its members. Think about the networking and career opportunities that may come out of your membership.



Wishing LAPSWV Members A Happy Birthday

May Birthdays

- Teresa Evans
Cynthia Kline
Shelly Shaffer

June Birthdays

July Birthdays

- Nicole Dingess
Michael Edwards
Wendy Green
Alexandra Harris
Robin R. Martin
Pat Schoolcraft

August Birthdays

- Lisa Casdorff
Walter S. Ice

Word Match Answers: 1-B, 2-I, 3-J, 4-H, 5-L, 6-D, 7-G, 8-A, 9-C, 10-E, 11-K, 12-F

Upcoming Events

NALA CONFERENCE & EXPO JULY 22-24, 2021 LOUISVILLE, KY THE LARGEST LEADING PARALEGAL CONFERENCE



NALA THE PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION Upcoming Webinars Webinars are a fast, convenient and now an even more affordable way to get the education you need. These dates and times don't work for your schedule but you still need CLE? How about taking one of NALA's On-Demand Webinars? Learn whenever it is convenient for you. NALA | 7666 E. 61st St., #315 | Tulsa | OK | 74133

LIVE WEBINAR CANNABIS 101 - SPECIAL INDUSTRY RISKS AND CONSIDERATIONS CLE: 1 | NOV. 11 | 1:00 PM CT ON-DEMAND WEBINAR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION CLE: 1 | NON-SUB | FREE FOR MEMBERS! INTERESTED IN BECOMING A CONFERENCE SPEAKER? Conference proposals are due no later than 11:59 p.m. CT on August 31, 2020, to be considered for 2021. SUBMIT PROPOSALS

View the full NALA Campus LIVE! Schedule at http://www.nala.org

2020-2021 LAPSWV Executive Committee



Kelly Mullins
President
 The Masters Law Firm LC
president@lapswv.org



Sara Hardman
Vice President
 Giatris Law Firm
vicepresident@lapswv.org



Lisa Casdorff
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Stephanie Green, ACP
Secretary
 Jackson Kelly, PLLC
secretary@lapswv.org



Tammy Welch, ACP
Parliamentarian
 West Virginia Mutual Insurance Company
parliamentarian@lapswv.org

2020-2021 LAPSWV Standing and Special Committees

Bylaw Review
 Tammy Welch, ACP – Chair
 Wendy Green
 Melanie Hicks, ACP
 Walter Ice
 Rhonda Swartz, ACP

CLA Study Group
 Stephanie Green, ACP – Chair
 Rhonda Swartz, ACP
 Walter Ice

Community Service
 Susan Black
 Walter Ice
 Angela Kelley
 Susan Knight
 Shelly Shaffer
 Mica Spratt
 Tonya Taylor

Educational
 Sara Hardman – Chair
 Teresa Evans
 Melanie Hicks, ACP
 Mica Spratt
 Tonya Taylor

Ethics
 Tammy Welch, ACP – Chair
 Melanie Hicks, ACP
 Sherri Rasmussen

Finance
 Lisa Casdorff – Chair
 Sherri Rasmussen
 Linda Quillen
 Walter Ice
 Mica Spratt

Fund-Raising
 Lisa Casdorff – Chair
 Sherri Rasmussen
 Susan Black
 Wendy Green
 Linda Quillen
 Paula Smith

Legislative/Regulatory
 Tammy Welch ACP – Chair
 Patricia Schoolcraft, ACP
 Kelly Mullins

Membership
 Sara Hardman – Chair
 Susan Black
 Angela Kelley
 Linda Quillen
 Shelly Shaffer
 Tonya Taylor

Newsletter
 Sherri Rasmussen – Chair
 Wendy Green
 Melanie Hicks, ACP
 Angela Kelley
 Shelly Shaffer
 Paula Smith
 Tonya Taylor

Public Relations
 Angela Kelley
 Shelly Shaffer
 Tonya Taylor

Seminar Planning
 Executive Committee – Chair
 Debbie Estep
 Walter Ice
 Angela Kelley
 Paula Smith
 Mica Spratt
 Rhonda Swartz, ACP
 Tonya Taylor

Standing Rules
 Tammy Welch, ACP – Chair
 Wendy Green
 Rhonda Swartz, ACP

Website
 Melanie Hicks, ACP – Chair
 Shelly Shaffer
 Tonya Taylor

Meet & Greets
 Susan Black (H)

LAPSWV is Always Seeking Volunteers for the Standing and Special Committees

Just Contact Any Member of the Executive Committee to Volunteer!

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Active Members:	37
Sustaining Members:	2
Student Members:	2
Provisional Members:	0
TOTAL:	41
Pending Renewals:	0
Pending Student Applications:	0
ACPs:	6
CLAs and CPs:	4

About Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern WV

Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia (“LAPSWV”) is a non-profit organization established in 2004 in Charleston and Huntington, West Virginia.

LAPSWV promotes high standards in the legal assistant profession, establishes networking resources for legal assistants/paralegals, and provides integrity in the legal community. LAPSWV also contributes to the community by participating in a number of charitable programs. LAPSWV strives to raise professional standards in the legal assistant/paralegal profession by providing opportunities for personal growth and development through educational experiences and the networking with other professionals.

Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia was founded:

- **To further education among members of the legal assistant/paralegal profession;**
- **To provide a forum for the exchange of viewpoints on matters involving the legal assistant/paralegal profession;**
- **To promote and involve the legal assistant/paralegal in the development of guidelines on the standardization of the legal assistant profession;**
- **To establish good fellowship among association members, the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. (“NALA”), and members of the legal community;**
- **To encourage a high order of ethical and professional attainment;**
- **To cooperate with bar associations and other law related organizations; and**
- **To support and carry out the programs, purposes, aims and goals of NALA.**

**Legal Assistants/Paralegals
Of Southern West Virginia**
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Direct Comments/Questions
concerning this newsletter to:
editor@lapswv.org

Sherri L. Rasmussen



Ab Initio is a quarterly publication of Legal Assistants/Paralegals of Southern West Virginia (LAPSWV).

None of the information contained herein is intended to be, nor should it be construed as legal advice.