GAP The Paragraph

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National Federation of Paralegal Associations

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FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Christina Weeks, Vice President, welcomes everyone to the meeting



Pro Bono of the Year Awarded to Connie White (r) shown here with GAP Vice President Christina Weeks (l) and GAP Director of Pro Bono Michael Misenheimer (c)



Camille Goble and Cary Kreugar (l-r) of King & Spalding network at dinner



(l-r) New Member Coordinator Kimberly Jenrette with new member Shawndra Cale-Adebayo and Sponsor Dotty Pritchett with Valentine gift



February 2007 GAP Speaker Nancy Kriseman tells GAP members that Aging is a Family Affair

More photos on page 10

2007 Board of Directors

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Gina S. Farley, CP, President



This is a very special issue of *The Paragraph* – an example of the teamwork of your Board of Directors. When we met for our Retreat in January, we were faced with the fact that no one has volunteered for the Director of Communications position; therefore, currently we have no newsletter editor for 2007 (*an issue I hope will be resolved by the time you are reading this*). Thanks to the suggestion of the GAP office, the Board decided to go forward with the first 2007 issue of *The Paragraph* by doing all the articles and having our Vice President, Christina Weeks, who served GAP as newsletter editor in 2003 and 2004, coordinate the publication. The result is a newsletter edition that introduces the Board of Directors and shares with you their goals and expectations for GAP in 2007.

As for my 2007 goals, I will share this one with you. The Board has already undertaken a state-outreach campaign, consisting of personal contact with firms and companies employing paralegals throughout Georgia and eventually "taking our show on the road", planning meetings in various locations. We hope to expand our membership base and develop a state-wide legal community of paralegals who can truly influence the future direction of our profession in Georgia.

During the first year of my term as President, I was so very fortunate to work with a strong Board of Directors, who truly invigorated the association and implemented new ideas that I believe will become standard for years to come. I am confident that the 2007 Board of Directors will continue that momentum and, with your help, continue to make GAP a valuable asset to Georgia paralegals.

Gina Farley

Gina S. Farley, CP
GAP President

GAP BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Christina Weeks, Vice President



When I was planning for 2007 I intended for this to be the year of doing less. However I have discovered that is just not my way of doing things. Not only do I have a very demanding job with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, I am also the Vice President, Website Coordinator and Interim Newsletter Editor for GAP. On top of all of those responsibilities, I have a baby on the way and due at the end of July.

I would like to thank all of our board members who manage to squeeze their commitment to GAP into their day between all of their work and personal responsibilities. I must admit some days it is hard to see how I will do it all or why I am even doing it. But most days it is rewarding and fulfilling, and I know that without GAP I would not be at the point in my career that I am today. It is a friendship I made through GAP that got me the job I have and another friendship is the reason I have stayed on the board. This is my fifth year as an active board member. And one of my main goals is to learn all I can about how GAP operates and what our members want so that when I do take on the position of being President of GAP I can live up to the standards that have been set by the great leaders who have come before me.

Please remember that GAP is run by people just like you that have busy lives. We want to make sure that GAP is all that you want it to be, but we are not mind readers and we could always use some more help. If you have comments or ideas please let one of your board members know how we can better serve you and how you are willing to help us do that.

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SMART CONFERENCING



GAP 2006 HOLIDAY PARTY

U.S. Marine Corps Toy Drive

By: Michael Misenheimer



Each year, the local division U.S. Marine Corps works diligently to collect new, unwrapped toys for the children of Atlanta who would otherwise have no gifts on Christmas Day. This year GAP was able to be part of that wonderful mission. With your help, GAP was able to collect a van full of toys including 12 bicycles which were donated by one of our sponsors, Alexander Gallo and Associates. Two members of the U.S. Marine Corps were on hand to collect donations and presented GAP with a Certificate of Appreciation. The toy drive was a great success as were all of our new community service events in 2006. We look forward to what 2007 brings with Angela Skeete as our new Community Service Coordinator. If you are interested in participating in a community service event please go to our website www.gaparalegal to check our calendar and to get in touch with Angela. She would love to hear from you.

More Holiday Party photos on page16



GAP Sponsor Alexander Gallo contributed multiple bikes to Toys for Tots as a December 2006 Sponsor



GAP members collected Toys for Tots at the December 2006 Dinner



GAP BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Karen Prouty, PACE Coordinator & Secondary Representative



This year will be my second year serving as GAP's PACE Coordinator. In this position, I am responsible for promoting PACE, the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam, which is administrated by the National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA). Last year was my first year serving on a professional association board, and I found working with GAP's Board and our Members in 2006 very rewarding, both personally and professionally. I have made many new friends and look forward to working with the new members of the board this year. I feel very strongly about the benefits of Georgia's paralegals taking PACE and becoming registered. This coming year, I would like to create a library of study materials as a resource for GAP's paralegals who are studying for the exam. We will also be organizing a study group for 2007. If you are interested in being part of a study group, please contact me at (404) 586-2039 or e-mail me at kprouty@fjl-law.com. I will be available to any members who aspire to take the exam this year. I hope you all will share in my enthusiasm of how great it would be if it was the norm for GAP's paralegals to take the exam.

In 2007 I am also serving as GAP's Secondary Representative to NFPA. As GAP's Secondary, I will assist GAP's Primary, Kevin Fogle in representing GAP at the national level. For those of you who attended the Region III meeting which was hosted by GAP last fall, you got a first hand look at how being a member of GAP is to also be a member of NFPA and how we have a direct influence on our profession, not only in Georgia but also in the United States. I am very excited about representing GAP this year to NFPA and look forward to attending my first NFPA Convention in October.



Are you fully employed but unfulfilled?

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— Vicki Novak, Class of 2008
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GAP BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

Cristal Nader, Public Relations Coordinator



Helping the members of Georgia Association of Paralegals grow and develop a stronger organization is something I enjoy doing. I appreciate the opportunity to help raise awareness about the exceptional members of GAP and their great efforts that benefit so many worthy causes. Working within the GAP organization over the last year has allowed me to give a true gift of the heart by reaching out to and serving the needs of others while giving to the community.

Volunteerism is an enjoyable way to gain new experiences while sharing skills and talents to champion a cause. The act of giving of time and resources is something that my Grandfather, Gilmer Morris, taught me. He has been setting examples of what it means to care and to help others by volunteering in many ways for as long as I can remember. I always want to follow in his steps and create a positive impact on people and in the community.

While holding the position of Public Relations Coordinator, my main goals are to utilize my marketing capabilities to help accomplish an increased public knowledge of the GAP organization and induce greater involvement with its membership and community service projects.

Elizabeth "Libby" Martinez, Director of Membership



Happy 2007! I'm excited to report that GAP experienced tremendous growth in 2006 and is now 591 members strong! I wish to extend a warm WELCOME to all of our new members and I'm excited you are a part of our association. I also want to say THANK YOU to all of the members who decided to continue their membership. GAP would not be the fine organization it is today without the support of its members and corporate sponsors.

As last year's Student Growth Coordinator, I was blown away at the response I received from the paralegal program. We added over 100 new student members in 2006, which is a 300% increase from the previous year! I have volunteered to be your new Director of Membership because I want to see this growth continue. One of my goals for this year is to organize a membership drive in November. More details will follow in the coming months. Several committees will be created to assist in planning the event so please let me know if you are interested in volunteering. In an effort to reach out to paralegals across the state, we will be kicking off a State Outreach project to inform them of all the benefits a GAP membership has to offer. I'm excited to see if we can double or even triple the number of new members who joined in 2006! Get excited, get involved, and spread the word about GAP!

Paezle' Harris, Benefits Coordinator & Membership Retention Coordinator



Hello All! I enjoyed being your Benefits Coordinator in 2006 and am happy to continue with that position in addition to the position of Membership Retention Coordinator for 2007. My strong belief and support for our profession as PARALEGALS fuels my drive to volunteer on the Board of Directors for GAP. I am most excited about working on expanding our GAP member benefits and taking them to new heights this year. Not only do I want to be sure that each of you is aware of all the wonderful benefits you have at your disposal; I also want to make sure you take advantage of them! Check out your benefits at http://www.gaparalegals.org/benefits.html !

I would also like to mention that as your Membership Retention Coordinator, I would like to partner with you to help get those paralegals in your firm or company that have fallen by the wayside back with GAP. Let them know what they're missing and bring them to the next meeting to see me. I'll take it from there! Many thanks!!

THE POWERFUL PARALEGAL

by: Dorothy Pritchett

What power do you have as a paralegal? We will share Powerful Paralegal stories of GAP members in each issue of The Paragraph – each article focusing on new GAP members.



Kimberly Jenrette, a Family Law paralegal at Kessler Schwarz and Solominy, is also the GAP New Member Coordinator for 2007.

1. Name 1 powerful person that you admire.
   Chief Justice Leah Sears

2. What power do you have as a paralegal?
   Power of knowledge in my practice area.
   Power of being able to get the client to understand the attorney's approach to handling their case.
   Power to communicate the client's needs to the attorney.
   Power to work well under pressure and meet all deadlines.
   Power to be organized.

3. When you ignite that power, what happens?
   I command respect from others. When I am able to show that I really know what I am talking about, that is power.

4. How do you energize yourself?
   Reading. I also play bingo and spend time with family and friends.

5. How do you empower other paralegals?
   I am a very positive person and am the one that always looks on the bright side of things.
   I believe we are all team players and I do whatever I can to assist those currently working in the field and those with aspirations of working in the field.

6. What have you done that was powerful for you but not many people know about?
   I went back to school to obtain my Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies and graduated with honors. Because of my determination and dedication I recently became a member of the Alpha Beta Kappa National Honor Society.

Please contact Dorothy Pritchett at dpritchett@andrewgraceassociates.com or call 770-939-4499 if you would like to share your **Powerful Paralegal** story.

WELCOME NEW GAP MEMBERS!

David Albers
Tammy Brittain Barnes
Patricia Shawver Boles
Shawndra N. Cale-Adebayo
Susan D. Campbell
Eleanor Cheatham
Jenise Clark
Jewel M. Clay
Catherine Cox
Cynthia A. Davenport
Georgia Davidson
Olesa Duncan
L. Michaelle Fell
Steven A. Gielazyn
Joanna Haynes
Kasy Khaikham
Connie McClung
Kalen Tusillo Redmon
Shatorah N. Roberson
Sheri Rosenthal
Anna S. Rucker
Tom Simpson
Monica Smith
Tiffany B. Smith
Kimberly F. Stokes
Mashon Valentine
Ardene Whittlesey

Answers Private Detective Agency, Inc.
Debra Mulder

Arnall Golden Gregory LLP
Delmont A. Early III
Carolyn Farris
Kathryn Hughes
Carol A. Stewart
Regina York

Atlanta Gas Light Company
Neka Hines

Atlanta Housing Authority
Janella Barner

Atlanta Technical College
Alvin Lindsay
Karen Wheel-Carter

Bank of America
Julie A. Stobbe

Barrickman, Allred & Young, LLC
Erika Washburn

Barry Staples, P.C.
Lori G. McHugh

BellSouth Corporation
Jackie Begue

Burr & Forman LLP
Krissa A. Gualano

CanopyLegal Corp.
Lyza L. Sandgren
Jeannie Johnston

Carlton Fields, P.A.
Gregory H. Gaugler
Toni Cherise Gyandoh
Lisa Mitchell
Kathryn S. Pickral
Nicola Wages

Casey Gilson Leibel, P.C.
Laura C. McGowan

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Katie Voss

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Kevin Hampton
Amanda Minino

Fellows Johnson & La Briola, LLP
Allison Luka

FirstPro, Inc.
Chris Cole

Florida Metropolitan University
Mona Lord

Georgia Pacific Corporation
Claressia A. Leaks
Kathi Lewis
Linda Reyes

Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett & Brieske, LLP
Laura M. Bass
Libby Daigle
Amy M. Grizzell
Rhonda Gargis Mitschele
Sherry Rosen
LaKeya Wheaton

Harben & Hartley, LLP
Amanda Swafford

Herman Mathis Casey Kitchens & Gerel
Joy E. Shaver

Hudson Legal
Nicole Andres

Ikon Office Solutions
Hinton Davis
Kevin Melville

Kelly Law Registry
Monica Maxwell

Kennesaw State University
Frances Ziemian

Kilpatrick Stockton LLP
Catherine M. Crane

King & Spalding LLP
Mary Helen Canaday
Annette de Varennes
Angela Davis-Robinson
Natasha Gadsden
Camille Goble
Caroline Krueger
Tatyana Kvasnina
Jenny Manzer
Kristin McKinney
Jennifer Pierson
Edward Sellers
Dawn Tregre

Lodgain, Inc.
Robin Lane

Lyle Detling, LLC
Jennifer Allgood



Director of Membership Libby Martinez sits with new members at the February 2007 GAP dinner meeting

more New Members on page 11

FEBRUARY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

continued from page 1



Approximately 14 New Members attended the Mixer and GAP Dinner on February 6, 2007 getting to meet GAP Board. Gap added 100+ new members in January and February!



Shell Goulding of Legal Eagle presents Josh Grogan concert tickets to GAP Member LaToya Edison-Brown of Victoria Wuestohoff & Associates.



Amy Huffaker of Robert Half Legal (r) presents a $100 gift card to Joy Shaver



Cristal Nadar returns to GAP in 2007 at a new firm, RoadOne, and continues to offer courier services to GAP members.Cristal brought her boss to the February GAP Dinner, and he was so impressed that the firm not only became a Sustaining GAP member, they also signed up to be a Sponsor at the June 2007 GAP Member Appreciation Dinner!



EMag Solutions presents a Godiva Tower door prize to Jenny Manzer



Catherine Rouzer (l) was invited to the GAP dinner as the guest of Jackson Dodsworth (r) of Brown & Gallo - a new GAP Corporate Sponsor firm created with the merger of Brown Reporting and Alexander Gallo & Associates. GAP appreciates our Sponsors bringing potential members to GAP dinners.



GAP Director of CLE Shana Elliott networks with Virgil Costley of Dekalb Tech - Virgil offered to host some GAP CLE events on his campus!

WELCOME NEW GAP MEMBERS

continued from page 9

McCallum & Associates
Angela L. Lynch

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP
Nan Morgan

Mimms Enterprises
Jyll Foy

Mirant Corporation
Jenni Ferguson

Morris, Manning & Martin LLP
Pia-Bianca Eberhart

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP
Leigh Ann Millican
Cheryl Sargent
Motorya Westbrook

New York Career Institute
Carol Angela Williams-Foster

OfficeTeam
Audra Schwarz

Ogletree Deakins Nash Smook & Stewart, P.C.
Tenitra Adams

Ogletree Deakins Nash Smook & Stewart, P.C.
Tenitra Adams

PRG-Schultz International, Inc.
Melinda D. Jackson

Prosecuting Attorney Council of Georgia
Mary Ann Gallaher

RoadOne Express
Tony Monteiro

Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP
Ronald L. Baker
Jeffrey P. Butterworth

Schreeder, Wheeler & Flint, LLP
Renee D. Williams

Scientific Games International Inc.
Sharon L. Crout
Karen Gaskill

Seyfarth Shaw LLP
Anna Fincher
Kathy Hoshstrasser
Marcia Isom
Amadi E. Leaks
Rebekah McCorvey
Kathleen McGarrigle
Kim Mellen
Ginella Tolliver

Special Counsel, Inc.
Phoebe Palmer

Spencer Pest Control
Thomas Lowell Honeycutt

St. Joseph's Hospital
Angela M. Schwaller

State of Georgia
Patrick Luke Davis

Superior Essex Inc.
Pamela T. Shukis

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan
Faustina Chavers-Bell
Terri A. Hendley

The Margelis Law Firm
Christina Williams

The Norcross Group
Steve Jones

Thomas, Kayden, Horstemeyer & Risley, LLP
Coco M. Bailey

Troutman Sanders LLP
Chhaya Patel
Hanna Shimelis

Unisource Worldwide, Inc.
Kathy S. Allen

Verizon
Stacy Jackson

Victoria Wuesthoff and Associates
LaToya N. Edison-Brown

Williamson Intellectual Property Law, LLC
Shannon Kraiger

Wilson, Morton & Downs, LLC
Linda M. Weaver



GAP Student Growth Coordinator, Nola Sayne, with New GAP Members: (l-r) Robin Lane, Shawndra Cale-Adebayo, Anna Rucker and Cindy Davenport, who came early to the February 2007 New Member Mixer for a brief orientation on GAP - the idea of GAP New Member Coordinator Kimberly Jenrette

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RoadOne is the newest courier service member - Ted Asher and Cristal Nader are shown with GAP Vice President Christina Weeks (l)

2007 PACE EXPERIENCE

by: K. Paezle' Harris, RP



The morning that I took the PACE exam went like any other morning of my life. I got up at 5AM, got dressed, dropped my daughter off at a neighbor's, and headed up to 400 North.

I had chosen to take the test at the Prometric Tester Center on Peachtree Dunwoody because it is right down the street from my job; however, I was given the choice of any Sylvan Learning Center, any Prometric Center, or even a Georgia State University location.

I entered the location around 7:45AM, showed 2 forms of identification, locked everything in my possession in a locker, and sat in the waiting room waiting for my name to be called. As I looked around the waiting room, I realized that the close to 20 individuals who also waited nervously seemed to be there for different reasons. Too nervous to talk, I listened to what I deduced to be engineers, CPAs, and government related employees talk amongst themselves.

When my name was called at 8:15AM, I was taken into an intake room where I had to show identification again and then be escorted to the testing room. Armed with two No.2 pencils and scratch paper, I sat down in front of a computer that welcomed me to the National Federation Associations (NFPA) - PACE Tier 1 Examination.

My heart beat fast as the first multiple choice question that appeared on the screen looked to be in Latin when surely I'd only studied Greek! (Just joking! Don't study Greek!) After a brief bout with hyperventilation, I went on to spend 2 hours answering 200 questions and then 2 more hours going back over the 200 questions and second guessing my every choice.

The emotions I went through during those 4 hours were not unlike the birth of my first and only child: fear, excitement, regret, fear again, pain, horror and finally happiness! Yes, once you tell the computer that you are done, it will calculate your score right on the spot and tell you if you have a brand new baby or if you need to come back because they were just Braxton Hicks contractions! Before you leave, you're given a letter congratulating you and giving you your final testing scores. Although I'd intended on going to work afterwards, the whole event was so intense that I went straight home and slept for two hours in order to restore my brain cells which had certainly been burned to a crisp during the test.

I have to say that the PACE exam is not at all an easy feat; however, it was worth every emotion that overtook me. I hope you'll take the rollercoaster ride too! The gift is worth the labor.

BOARD POSITION OPEN

GAP has had great success in recruiting and and retaining a dedicated board of directors. We only have a couple of openings on the board right now. However the most important position that needs to be filled is for our Director of Communications.

If you are interested in this position please contact Christina Weeks, Vice President at 404-521-0790 ext.30

For a description of this position please go to www.gaparalegal.org/boardvolunteer.html.

2007 GAP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 6, 2007 **GAP Membership Dinner Meeting at Anthony's**
New Member Mixer Sponsor: Andrew Grace Associates
Speaker: **Nancy Kriseman on Elder Care Issues**
Sponsor: **EMAG Solutions**
Sponsor: **Robert Half Legal**
Sponsor: **Legal Eagle**

April 10, 2007 **GAP Membership Dinner Meeting at Anthony's**
Speaker: **Laurie Dugoniths, Esq. of Fellows, Johnson & LaBriola on Insurance Defense / Maritime Law**
Sponsor: **Esquire Litigation Solutions**
Sponsor: **OPEN**

June 12, 2007 **GAP Free Networking Dinner** at Anthony's
"Member Appreciation Night" - What's On Your Mind?
Free Dinner and cash bar
New Member Mixer Sponsor: **Andrew Grace Associates**
SIX Sponsors make this free event possible!
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(4) Sponsor: **OPEN**
(5) Sponsor: **OPEN**
(6) Sponsor: **OPEN**

Aug. 7, 2007 **GAP Membership Dinner Meeting at Anthony's**
Speaker: **Gail Stowers, Georgia Perimeter College, Instructor and State of Georgia as an Administrative Law Paralegal on Administrative Law**
Sponsor: **Counsel On Call**
Sponsor: **OPEN**

Oct. 9, 2007 **GAP Membership Dinner Meeting at Anthony's**
(5:00 - 6:00) New Member Mixer Sponsor: **Andrew Grace Associates**
Speaker: **Patty Dietz-Selke "Ethics"**
Sponsor: **LawStaff Group**
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Dec. 4, 2007 **10th Annual GAP Holiday Party at Anthony's**
Installation of the 2008 Board of Directors
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GAP 2006 HOLIDAY PARTY

continued from page 4



Employer of the Year Laura Bass (l) with GAP President Gina Farley and GAP member Dean Gunnells



Angela Skeete, GAP Volunteer of the Year, with her husband, Andre



GAP Member Sylvia Baxter wins tickets to the High Museum, compliments of The Norcross Group



Beth Magee won the Spa Sydell gift from DTI



GAP member Eleanor Cheatham with iPod Shuffle, doorprize of DTI



GAP member Lakeya Wheaton won Kimberly Lusink of Paramount Staffing's Aquarium tickets door prize!



GAP MEMBERS "NEWS AND NOTES"

In October GAP member Pamela J. Starr of Miller & Martin PLLC sat for, and ***passed***, the Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants (ABJA) Certified Bankruptcy Assistant ("CBA") exam. Congratulations, Pamela! Pamela has even been asked to serve on a planning committee for next year's ABJA conference!

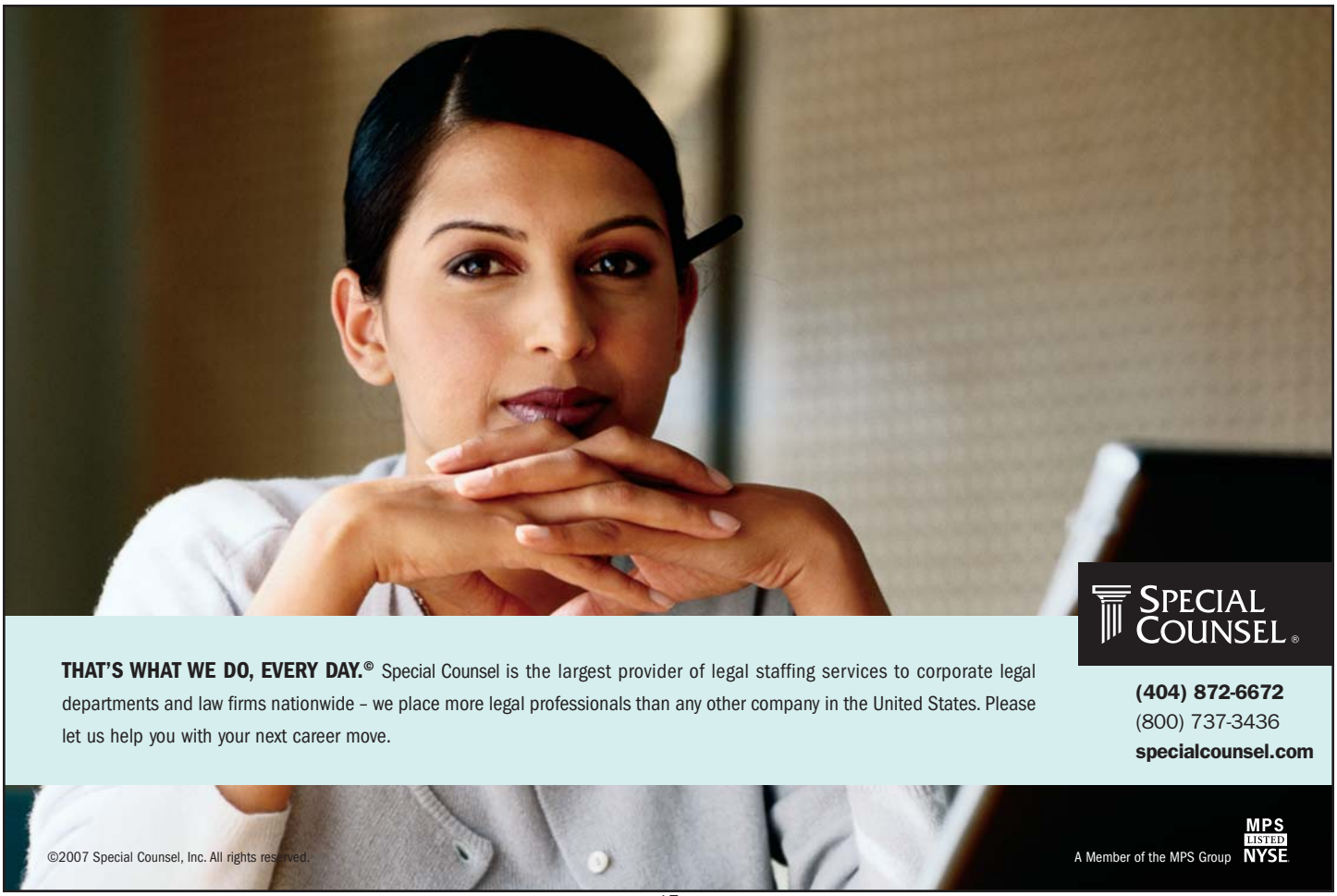
Merrill Legal Solutions is the new name for two GAP Corporate Sponsor firms we once knew as LegaLink and Document Resources! Kim Kepler and Deena Popwell are the two GAP members from Merrill Legal Solutions carrying the relationship forward in 2007!

Brown & Gallo is the name of the GAP Corporate Sponsor firm following the merger of two previous GAP Sponsor members: Alexander Gallo & Associates and Brown Reporting!

GAP Membership Retention Coordinator, K. Paezle' Harris, RP – took the PACE exam and ***passed*** it - thus the RP initials following her name for "Registered Paralegal". Congratulations, Paezle'! You can read an interesting article in this newsletter in which Paezle' shares the experience of sitting for this exam.

Aaron Anderson returns as a GAP member with GAP Corporate Sponsor firm, Esquire Litigation Solutions**,** where he is the Managing Director of Georgia. We remember Aaron as an active member of GAP when he was with another Corporate Sponsor member years ago, Xact Duplicating.

Lyza Sandgren and Jeannie Johnston (two GAP paralegal members) have teamed up as Canopy Legal**.** As CEO, Lyza merged her firm, SIPPS, into Canopy Legal, which will have a paralegal and docketing services division and Paralegal Gateway, Jeannie's company will fall under the Canopy umbrella. The official launch of the new company is March 1st, but Canopy Legal has already joined GAP as a Corporate Sponsor firm for 2007. Watch for details and make sure to attend the April 10th GAP dinner, when these paralegals on the move will bring an IPOD Nano as an extra door prize!



BREAST CANCER LEGAL PROJECT

by: Michael Misenheimer, Director of Pro Bono

The Georgia Association of Paralegals is proud to team with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society for a new and exciting pro bono opportunity. The Atlanta Legal Aid Society's Breast Cancer Legal Project addresses the obstacles that low-income women face in diagnosis and treatment. The Breast Cancer Legal Project wants to ensure that the patients obtain medical care and have handled cases involving private health insurance and Medicaid issues. The Project also handles many cases for patients ranging from divorces, child support recovery, debt relief, and eviction just to name a few. Although these issues are not necessarily a direct issue stemming from the cancer, they are issues that affect the treatment and recovery of the patient.

Our members are invited to participate by conducting client intake interviews at various cancer treatment centers around Atlanta including the Cancer Center for Excellence at Grady Memorial Hospital. Paralegals will be trained to conduct these interviews and report the results back to Atlanta Legal Aid. The attorneys with the Breast Cancer Legal Project will then review the intake and see if they can provide legal assistance to the patients.

There is a minimal time commitment involved with this project. In fact, you can make a difference by volunteering 2-4 hours semi-monthly. Shifts are available the 1st Monday of each month from 9:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. as well as the 4th Monday of each month from 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.at the Cancer Center for Excellence at Grady Memorial Hospital.

A training session was held on January 11, 2007 at the downtown office of Atlanta Legal Aid Society whereby GAP had 22 members on hand. If you were not able to make the training but are interested in this project, please contact me at mbm@sicay-perrow.org.

I would like to thank Haley Schwartz with the Breast Cancer Legal Project for all of her hard work with helping make this project a reality and inspiring me and others to continue to do good work for their communities.



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PRO BONO GOALS FOR 2007

by: Michael Misenheimer, Director of Pro Bono

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile" Albert Einstein

The pro bono committee has set specific goals to kick off 2007. The first and most important goal is increasing member participation in pro bono opportunities. There are many great ways GAP members can get involved and give back to their communities. Current GAP opportunities include the Breast Cancer Legal Outreach Project, Project Liberty and the Truancy Intervention Project. Engaging in pro bono work not only allows paralegals to learn new skills or increase skills but also provides a great sense of giving back. "Very gratifying" is how Connie White describes using her legal skills to provide someone with a service in which they would not have benefited from. "Everybody is qualified to help build a Habitat house," says White, recipient of GAP's Pro Bono Award for 2006. "But paralegals are uniquely qualified to do things that not everybody can do." GAP encourages each member to commit 24 hours per year to pro bono work.

The next goal of the committee is to increase member awareness of the Hours Reporting Form. If you are a member who is participating in pro bono work, you should complete this form and fax it to Michael Misenheimer, Director of Pro Bono at (404) 589-1833 quarterly. The form is used to track member involvement and is available on the pro bono section of the GAP website located at www.paralegals.org. The form is also used to see in what types of pro bono work members are involved and\or interested. As a charter member of the NFPA, we also report member hours on a national level. Starting at the April 2007 dinner meeting, members who submit an Hours Reporting Form will be eligible to win a prize. Speaking of the website, the committee intends to have the pro bono section of the website updated very shortly. Please check GAP's website to find out the latest on pro bono.

The committee will also be working to design and implement an internship directory for student members. This directory will list opportunities in which students can gain hands on experience by volunteering with not-for-profit organizations and projects which cater to people who would not otherwise have access to the legal system. The directory will also be useful to members looking to learn a new area of law. Our hope is that by providing members with this directory, it will increase their willingness to make a continuous effort to conduct pro bono work.

Finally, we will be working to put on a pro bono seminar for members, which will educate paralegals on the importance of conducting pro bono work and tracking pro bono hours. The seminar will also introduce members to the growing number of pro bono opportunities in the community and allow paralegals to network with other paralegals that may have the same pro bono interests.

As you can see it will be a very busy year for the pro bono committee and we are excited about the things to come. We encourage you all to send us your feedback, ideas and suggestions. Most importantly, we urge you all to get involved in pro bono work if you are not already doing so. It only takes a few hours a month to make a huge difference in someone's life.

Upcoming NFPA events

For more detailed information go to www.paralegal.org

NFPA 2007 Regulation Conference, Saturday, March 17, Dallas, TX*

NFPA 2007 Pro Bono Conference, March 24-25, Denver, CO*

NFPA National Leadership Conference, May 4-5, Atlanta, GA*

NFPA 2007 PACE Ambassadors' Conference, May 19-20, Cleveland OH

NFPA National Tech Institute July 19-20, 2007, Pittsburgh, PA

NFPA Annual Convention, "Soakin' it Up in Tampa Bay", October 18-21, Tampa, FL
Details Coming Soon

*there is no registration fee, this event is free to all NFPA members

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