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THE PARAGRAPH

Quarterly Newsletter

Georgia Association of Paralegals

Charter Member of the National Federation of Paralegal Associations

"***Be the change you want to see in the world.***"
Mahatma Ghandi

Change is Coming… Are You Ready?



The autumn season is upon us with its full color and glory! As all of us on GAP's Board embrace and welcome the diverse changes in nature, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you some new and exciting changes happening in our organization.

I hope you will enjoy the new look of our newsletter. If you would like to write an article for *The Paragraph,* please do! This is your newsletter; we want to hear from you. Look for new, informative and fun columns throughout this issue.

To be the change you want to see in GAP, you don't have to be loud. You don't have to be eloquent. You don't have to be selected. You don't even have to be particularly skilled. You do, however, have to be committed.

I'm committed and here to serve, let's make *The Paragraph* great together! Gappy reading.

Koren Saddler- Conrad
Communications Director

GAP Board Positions Available

Do you want to be a member of GAP's Board of Directors? There are many positions available at on our newly designed website at http://www.gaparalegals.org/boardvolunteer.html. If you are interested, please complete a statement of Interest, found on our



Great Things are GAPpening

Message from the President

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I do encourage you to contact me or any other Board member with any thoughts or concerns you have on this or any other topic by visiting us on the web at: http://www.gaparalegal.org/bod.html



35 YEARS YOUNG

I recently heard someone say that 40 is the new 18. Well that may be wishful thinking but for GAP, 35 is truly the year that we are blossoming. GAP's 35th Anniversary Party on August 22, 2008, was sold out in advance and was a huge success.

I enjoyed the opportunity to get to know many of our new members and many of our veteran members just a little bit better.

The event was organized by our NFPA Primary, Karen Prouty; thank you Karen for a wonderful event.

Additionally, those who attended the party had the opportunity to preview GAP's new website. The website was officially launched at our dinner meeting on October 7, 2008. Our goal was to have the website ready by the end of the year and we are blissfully ahead of schedule. We hope you enjoy the new site and the new life we are breathing into GAP at 35. Maybe 35 is the new 18 after all.



Christina Weeks, President
Georgia Association of Paralegals



GAP's NEW LOOK

Amadi Leaks
Web Design Coordinator

The jury is out and the verdict is in, the "*GAP website receives a new, fresh and much deserved makeover*!!!" If you missed the sneak preview and unveiling of the newly designed GAP website during the 35th Anniversary party, you are in for a treat! Our new & improved website features our new logo, a discussion blog, bright and bold color contrasts between webpage's, easy access and location of important paralegal resources and information. The newly designed website also provides a more consistent and professional appearance while offering a competitive edge among other paralegal organization websites across the country. As we strive to reach new levels of excellence with our website, we encourage members to forward your suggestions and thoughts about the newly designed website and other aspects of the organization that are important to you.



Feature Article

Barbie Kicks Butt… No Bratz

Jury awards Mattel Inc. $100 million in Bratz suit

By GILLIAN FLACCUS RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)

Barbie may have taken some of the sass out of her pouty-lipped rivals Yasmin, Jade, Cloe and Sasha with a $100 million verdict against Bratz-maker MGA Entertainment Inc., but no one's left the playground yet.



A federal jury awarded toy giant Mattel the damages Tuesday in their copyright infringement lawsuit against MGA, but lawyers for the two playtime powerhouses are still wrangling over whether MGA can continue to make the saucy Bratz line. U.S. District Judge Stephen Larson must also consider whether any of the damages are duplicative before setting a final amount to be paid to Mattel.

Still, Mattel hailed the jury's unanimous decision as a victory Tuesday, although the amount fell far short of the $1.8 billion that its attorneys had asked for.

"Mattel has pursued this case first and foremost as a matter of principle," Mattel CEO Robert A. Eckert said in a printed statement. "We have an obligation to defend ourselves against competitors who choose to engage in fraudulent activities against us."

MGA and its chief executive officer, Isaac Larian, were told to pay a combined $90 million in three causes of action related to Mattel's employment contract with designer Carter Bryant, who developed the Bratz concept. The jury also ordered MGA, Larian and subsidiary MGA Hong Kong to pay $10 million for copyright infringement.

Larian said he would appeal the verdict and MGA attorney Thomas Nolan contended that the three awards related to the contract dispute were duplicative. Nolan said he planned to ask Larson at the upcoming hearing to set total damages at no more than $40 million.

Still, Nolan and Larian said they were pleased that the jury did not award any punitive damages and found that neither Larian nor MGA acted willfully when they used Bryant's drawings, which could have increased the damages.

"We are thrilled that this jury sent a strong message that they want these companies to compete in the marketplace and not the courtroom," Nolan said. Larian said he felt confident that MGA could continue to produce Bratz dolls despite the verdict. The same jury that decided the damages phase concluded last month that Bryant came up with the Bratz concept while working at Mattel. Jurors placed the value of Bryant's drawings at $31,500, and awarded that plus interest to Mattel.

In his closing arguments, Mattel attorney John Quinn said MGA owed Mattel at least $1 billion in Bratz profits and interest, while Larian aided in the breach of contract and owed nearly $800 million for his complicity. MGA attorneys countered that the jury should award Mattel as little as $30 million because the company had built the doll line's value with smart additions, branding and packaging.

(Continued on page 6

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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On August 22, 2008 GAP celebrated its 35th Anniversary at the Fernbank's Martinis & IMAX. GAP has been leading Georgia's Paralegals since 1973. Our objective still remains to provide support for persons entering the field, and to promote the profession to the legal community.

We thank all our members and the following sponsors for their support of and for sponsoring GAP's 35th Anniversary Party.

Daily Report dailyreportonline.com
Fellows Labriola
King & Spalding
lawjobs.com
Seyfarth Shaw Attorneys
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Membership Benefits

As a Georgia Association of Paralegals member, you will receive the following benefits:

- Dinner Meeting Discount
- CLE – Member Discount for all GAP sponsored Education seminars.
- PACE Scholarship Eligibility
- E-Member Directory
- Quarterly Newsletter & E-News
- Membership to NFP
- Subscription to NFPA's National Paralegal Reporter
- GAP Mentor Program
- Car Rental Discounts
- Community America Credit Union membership

For a detailed list of additional benefits visit our membership benefits page.

Barbie Kicks Butt

(Continued from page 4)

They also found that MGA owed Mattel $6 million for copyright infringement, while Larian owed $3 million in distributions he'd received from Bratz-related sales, and MGA Hong Kong owed $1 million.

After their introduction in 2001, the Bratz dolls exploded in popularity among "tweens" — girls 7 to 12. The highly stylized fashion dolls have oversized feet, heads and hands, curling lashes and huge almond-shaped eyes daubed with exotic-colored eyeshadow.

In the past seven years, MGA has built the popular brand to include more than 40 characters and expanded it with spin-offs such as Bratz Babyz, Bratz Petz, Bratz Boyz and items such as helmets, backpacks and bedsheets.

Sales of Barbie — a near rite-of-passage in American girlhood — have slid since Bratz came on the scene. Domestic sales of Barbie were down 15 percent in 2007 and 12 percent in the first quarter of 2008, while international sales increased 6 percent in 2008 as opposed to 12 percent the previous year.
Bryant settled with Mattel on the eve of trial. The terms of that settlement have not been made public.

Employer of the Year Award

Each year GAP honors a paralegal employer who encourages educational advancement and continued legal training for paralegals; encourages interest and active participation in GAP; and mentors paralegals to work toward establishing and achieving professional goals. The winner is an honored guest at GAP's Holiday Dinner, where the award is presented.

Applications for the 2008 Employer of the Year Award can be found on our website at: http://www.gaparalegal.com/files/Awards/Employer%20of%20the%20Year%202008.pdf and must be submitted no later than November 17, 2008.

GAP MEMBERS CELEBRATE 35th ANNIVERSARY
AUGUST 22, 2008













GAP ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 GAP Board of Directors

The deadline for submission of your statement of interest is October 15, 2008. All applicants please plan to attend out November 11, 2008 Board of Directors meeting, at 6:30 pm, location TBD. This will give you the opportunity to meet the current board and ask any questions you may have.

If we receive more than one qualified applicant for a position there will be an election. If we only receive one qualified applicant for a position the current GAP President with the advice of the Board may appoint interested members.

For general information about the board and to see a listing of position please go to: http://www.gaparalegals.com/boardvolunteer.html

For specific questions please contact Chrissy Weeks, GAP President, cweeks404@gmail.com.

Lifelong Learning

The Emory Center for Lifelong Learning's Paralegal Program is hosting a roundtable discussion series. The remaining dates for 2008 are: Friday, 11/7 between 9am-12pm, and Tuesday, 12/2 between 6pm-9pm. The roundtables are always fun for both students and paralegals. The students get to ask questions of experienced paralegals. We need 3-5 paralegals in different areas of law (law firm, in-house, government, litigation, transactional, criminal, etc.) for each discussion group. If you have at least one year of paralegal experience and would like to be participate in the Emory Paralegal Roundtables, please contact Nola Sayne, Student Member Coordinator at nsayne@seyfarth.com.

Lorman Education Services Offers Discount

www.lorman.com/partner/GAP/
Discount Code: J3301036

GAP has teamed up with Lorman Education Services, a provider of continuing education seminars for paralegals in the United States and Canada, to provide our members with a 10 percent discount off of all Lorman seminars, teleconferences, books and other materials. Lorman seminars present the latest information to keep paralegals updated on the laws and regulations that are critical to their organization's success. Lorman offers a vast array of seminars that meet the needs of many industry professionals with various experience levels. Lorman seminars allow you to fulfill your continuing education requirements, while meeting your training needs. Lorman also offers a wide variety of CDs and manuals in the Lorman Bookstore if a full day seminar doesn't fit your needs. This partnership is a great opportunity for paralegals to learn from professionals in the field, at a price you can better afford.



Keep an eye out for clues about GAP's new look as you read the *GAPpenings E-News* and *The Paragraph*…

- Have you been looking for Legal Word Power… wells its back check out page # 11 for a chance to win a great prize.
- Our new & improved website will also feature a "Members Only" login area.
- If you love to blog we'll have something for you too!

WELCOME NEW GAP MEMBERS!

Active Members

Dionne Bowman
YKK Corporation of America
Jonathan Bullen
Michelle Wilbanks
Caudell & Hotard LLC
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Caleta Carr Smith
Georgia Association of Educators
Christina Millan
Arris Group, Inc.
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Shannon Hodges
Crystal Minchew
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Trilby Johnson
Courtney Revere
Elinore B. Meadows
Michelle Nauris
Khadija Saadiq
Korie Schmidt

Sustaining Members

Esquire Deposition Services
Craig Saunders
Rachel Galindo

SO WHAT'S NEXT?

ATTEND A DINNER MEETING

The next dinner meeting will be on December 9th, 2008.

Get to know other GAP members, network and learn what GAP's all about.

GAP is your professional organization. Get involved, join a committee.



ATTEND A GAP BOARD MEETING

The GAP board encourages member participation and invites you to attend its board meetings.

Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

The board meets at the various locations, visit us at www.gaparalegal.org for updates and the latest news.

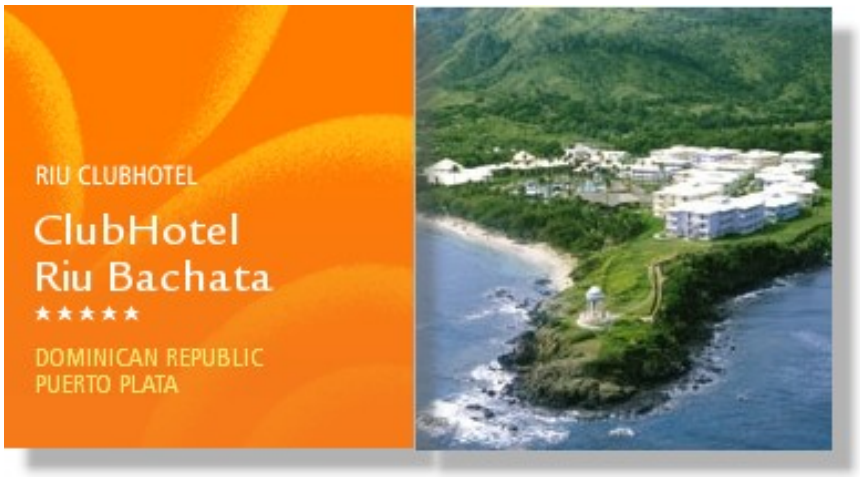
Let's GAP-A-WAY

The 2008 GAP-A-Way was such a success we have decided to do it again in 2009 - April 16th to the 19th. This time the destination is Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic.

Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic

April 16, 2009 - 3 nights

- All Meals and Snacks
- All Alcoholic Beverages
- Sports and Activities
- Entertainment/Shows
- Night Club
- more details



Standard Room Double Occupancy	RATES: $1159.00 per-person	$150.00 per-person deposit Oct 16, 2008 $150.00 per-person add. Jan 8, 2009 Final payment due Feb 13, 2009

Contact Bonnie at 770-729-1881 or bonnie@cruisenationwide.com
go to **Nationwide Cruises & Vacations** *Home Page*

Beautiful Riu Bachata is an extraordinary getaway on the spectacular shores of Maimon Bay, overlooking a lush tropical mountainside. The 610 bungalow-style guestrooms offer deluxe accommodations with Riu's unique amenities, such as a mini-bar and liquor dispenser. The hotel features a relaxed atmosphere and a wide array of dining and leisure options, all complemented by the renowned Caribbean Street promenade and the exchange privileges program with Riu's two sister properties within the resort. This friendly fun-filled resort is a wonderful choice for fabulous holidays set in breathtaking, tropical surroundings.

* Located on the beach in Maimon Bay
* Complimentary sun loungers on the beach
* Inside the Riu Resort, along with ClubHotels Riu Merengue and Riu Mambo
* Main building plus 1 and 2-storey bungalows
* Surrounded by 50,000 m2 of tropical gardens

* 9 km / 5.5 miles from Puerto Plata
* 25 m / 81 ft. from Caribbean Street
* 25 km / 15.5 miles from Puerto Plata Int'l. Airport
* 500 m / 1650 ft. from a bus stop

LEGAL WORD POWER

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters and fax your answers to 888-677-5650 --The first respondent with the most correct answers will win an Editors Gift Pack.

B T R A D E S M A N O R D I N A R Y H H M L Z D I
D I V E R S I T Y O F C I T I Z E N S H I P M N C
E M H B T N E I C I F F U S Y L L A I C A F D M I
G G X B S T Y O D Q O U R R X T B O L R L U C T S
B M A L I C E A F O R E T H O U G H T N C R T N S
E I J T Z S W L R U C D N P S T A D N T D Z O E A
L T L U N Z F P T O P A D E M B C N I C E I Z U V
Z I D L V E F I U S I Y O Y I X N O Y G T T V T N
A G R D A O R P G R I F H T C W N I D A A S T R A
I A L V R B M A A H D S A B G O K T M S D N Q A C
N T Y E T E L R P I T N E M U G R A G N I S O L C
A E F Z N M B E S R D I E D K F L N S O U R Q S U
M F I T I I Q C H R E R N P D C L I E B Q T U K S
O C L Y L N R F E O S D W G C N R L E R I W O J A
T H L Y Z E X P C P U G I A W L A C L F L R F C T
P I U T T N U T N W O R G S C O Y E P A N L A T R
E C N I N T E T A O H C V Y P M R D S U U X T N I
L A O L E D E R N T G T U I O O B D E A E J Y A X
K N I A M O Q K E Y N U M B E R S Y S T E M I V N
J E S G E M D X T A I Q I N V A D I A R E C M E Q
R R S E T A L P R E L I O B M R O B T C M L P L U
U Y E L I I A G U B L T C I D R E T N I J F U E N
U Z C L C N G D P R E D A E L P U A E B O T T R Y
A B C I N A T E P C W P O Y F O U R C O R N E R S
D T A S I H T I A F D A B Z S O V I V R E T N I M

ABCINATE
ABUSEOFDISCRETION
ACCESSION
ACCLAMATION
ACCUSATRIX
ADEU
APPURTENANCE
BADFAITH
BEAUPLEADER
BILLABLEHOUR
BOILERPLATE
CANVASS
CEASEANDDESISTLETTER
CHICANERY
CHOATE
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FACIALLYSUFFICIENT
FIGHTINGWORDS
FOURCORNERS
GRANT
HABITANDREPUTE
ILLEGALITY
IMPUTE
INCITEMENT
INDUCTION
INTERDICT
INTERVIVOS
INTRA
INVADIARE
IRRELEVANT
URISDOCTOR
KEYNUMBERSYSTEM
KLEPTOMANIA
LIBRARIAN
MALICEAFORETHOUGHT
MITIGATE
NEUTRAL
NULLIFY
OFFEROFPROOF
ORDINARY
PARENTAGE
PREDISPOSITION
RECOUPMENT
TRADESMAN
UNLIQUIDATEDCLAIM

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2008

Date: October 15, 2008
Event: Deadline: Statement of Interest forms for the 2009 Board of Directors
Time: www.paralegals.org
Location: www.paralegals.org
Description: Statement of Interest forms for the 2009 Board of Directors.

Date: October 16, 2008
Event: Deadline: 1st Gap-Away Deposit due.
Location: Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic
Description: April 16, 2009 - 3 nights, Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic visit the host website at: http://www.cruisenationwide.com/gp.htm
For more details.

Date: October 20, 2008
Event: Seminar: International Law, Legal Writing and Ethics for Paralegals
Time: www.paralegals.org
Location: www.paralegals.org
Description: NFPA CLE Opportunity.

Date: October 25, 2008
Event: American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer
Time: 8:00am
Location: Atlantic Station
Description: Join us for our annual participation in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk.

November 2008

Date: November 2, 2008
Event: WoofStock
Time: TBD (approx 6pm -10pm)
Location: LITKitchen, Atlanta, GA 30318
Description: Hosted by Atlanta's no-kill animal shelter and sponsored by PAWS Atlanta(formerly Dekalb Humane Society).

Date: November 8, 2008
Event: Atlanta Legal Aid Run for Justice
Time: 7:30am - 11:30am
Location: Decatur, GA
Description: Become a race day volunteer! Monitor the course and register participants for the 5-K race/walk to benefit Atlanta Legal Aid.

Date: November 11, 2008
Event: GAP Board Meeting
Time: 6:30pm
Location: TBD
Description: For Details contact President, Chrissy Weeks.

Date: November 17, 2008
Event: Employer of the Year Award
Description: Deadline: Applications for the 2008 Employer of the Year are due.

December 2008

Date: December 9, 2008
Event: GAP Holiday Party
Time: TBD
Location: TBD
Description: 11th Annual GAP Holiday Party sponsored by Brown & Gallo and The LawStaff Group.

Date: December 9, 2008
Event: Toys for Tots
Time: TBD
Location: TBD
Description: Community Service Project.





NOVEMBER 4th 2008

Ways to vote:

- Mail-in Ballot
- Early Voting
- Election Day
- Uniform and Overseas

9/22/08	Start of Early Voting for the General Election
10/27-10/31/08	Advance Voting week for General Election
11/4/08	General Election

For Information about Election Day please call:
(877) 725-9797,
(404) 656-2881, or
(478) 207-2440.

Find your polling place by visiting the GA SOS's website at: http://sos.georgia.gov/elections/polllocator/PollLocator.aspx



The National Federation of Paralegal Associations

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc., promotes a global presence for the paralegal profession and leadership in the legal community.

NFPA's Online CLE Needs You!!

.

You may have already noticed, NFPA's online CLE website has grown. They have added numerous seminars presented by AIPS, along with their own seminars. However, NFPA still needs writers!!

Contact Amy Frohwirth for a copy of the official Online CLE Guidelines. Then simply submit your draf1t materials to Amy for review at (apfrohwirth@bryantstratton.edu). Once complete and posted, you will earn up to 12 CLE credits for writing your seminar (4 credits for every contact hour of an online CLE seminar).

So what do you say? Help out NFPA's online CLE *website!! Be a writer …. start today!!!*

GAP NFPA CONTACTS:

NFPA Primary	Karen Prouty
NFPA Secondary	LaShonda Dilllard
PACE Ambassador	K. Paezlè Harris

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- establish credentials; and
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- offers the profession a national standard of evaluation; and
- offered at multiple locations on numerous dates and at various times.



For highlights of the NFPA 2008 Annual Convention and to find out about the available benefits of being a member, please visit NFPA online at: http://www.paralegals.org