

# *In Brief 3d*

**July/August 2011**

**NOPA P. O. Box 30604**

**New Orleans, Louisiana 70190**

The Official Publication of the  
New Orleans Paralegal Association  
Member of the National Federation  
of Paralegal Associations

**NOPA Mission Statement :** To maintain a high standard of performance in the paralegal profession; To inform members of new developments in the paralegal profession; To encourage and provide continuing legal education for paralegals. NOPA's goal is to promote awareness, and to educate the community regarding use of paralegals.

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## **THANKS TO NOPA'S SUSTAINING MEMBERS AND SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING NOPA'S ANNUAL SEMINAR**

Its that time of year again! The New Orleans Paralegal Association's Annual Educational Seminar is on **October 7, 2011, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Inn on Bourbon.** NOPA is very pleased with this year's venue which offers two adjacent classrooms on the first floor, a larger vendor space, and a **\$7.00 day rate for parking!**

This year NOPA worked hard to increase attendance by reaching out to students at paralegal studies programs at Tulane University, Herzing University, LSU, McNeese State University and Nunez Community College. We offered students partial scholarships to help with the costs of their registration. So far, there is an increase of 30% of student paralegals who expressed interest in attending this year! NOPA also encouraged our fellow paralegal associations in Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Mississippi to join us at the seminar and offered them a special hotel rate to spend the night in New Orleans.

Full day registration is \$130 for non-members, \$110 for members, \$100 for 3 or more paralegals from the same firm, and \$90 for students. This year NOPA also made half day registrations available at \$75 that includes the luncheon, an ethics presentation by Keynote speaker, Former Congressman Joseph Cao, and two afternoon classes.

So far 15 of our vendors have agreed to participate in our seminar by having a vendor booth, sponsoring a meal or contributing to our scholarship fund. **Without these sponsors we would be unable to bring you this seminar! Some of the vendors who support the seminar are sustaining members (see page 4) and some also pay for our general membership meeting lunches or sponsor our socials.**

**NOPA members need to realize that in speaking with other NFPA representatives, we are very unique in getting all this support from our sustaining members and sponsors. Please, whenever possible, give these vendors your business. They certainly support us!**

**Becky Rolland, R.P., NFPA Primary Representative**

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**NOPA NEXT SOCIAL IS ON  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011**

**Join NOPA at Allegros from 5:00 to  
7:00 p. m. on Wednesday, August 28th  
at Allegros at 1100 Poydras Street.**

**Come find out about NOPA's Annual  
Educational Seminar on October 7, 2011  
and the new Paralegal Core Competency  
Exam. NOPA's Social will be sponsored by  
Kay Donnelly and Associates.**

## NOPA'S SOCIAL ON JUNE 29, 2011

On June 29th, NOPA and Crescent Bank and Trust sponsored a social at Rotolo's Pizza at 1100 Rampart St., from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For the first time ever, NOPA asked someone to speak at our social. **Ralph C. Freibert, III, President, MBA, CLU, CFP of Planning Associates** spoke on "How to Make Your Money Grow". He provided members with great information regarding saving for retirement and allocating 401K investments in the current economy. Thanks to Crescent Bank who co-sponsored the event with NOPA. Crescent Bank purchased the first round of beverages for everyone and NOPA purchased the pizzas and salad. **Special thanks to Pam Angel, NOPA's social coordinator who arranged this event and lined up such a great speaker!**

### SPOTLIGHT ON NOPA'S MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

1. How many members are on the committee? **2**
2. Is the committee in need of helpers/assistants/committee members? **Yes, both of us hold NOPA board positions and we would like to train (2) new members to co-chair this position in 2012. The most time consuming task is preparing new member packets when members join or renew.**
3. What can the members do to help the committee achieve its goal? **NOPA's new membership webpage will make it easier for members to make changes to their personal information, ensuring that they do not miss out on news, events and their Paralegal Reporter.**
4. How and when do you meet? formal? informal? via email or teleconference only? **We discuss membership additions, changes and approvals in person, telephone by email.**
5. What are the 2011 Goals for the committee? How will you achieve them? **To find (2) membership co-chairs and train them by the end of the year.**

By Co-Membership Chairs: Jennifer Lasseigne,  
Vice President and Crissi Moseley, NFPA Secondary Representative

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO NOPA VOTING MEMBERS

At NOPA's August monthly membership meeting held on August 17, 2011, several important issues were discussed: Jennifer Lasseigne, Vice President, gave a presentation on **Membership Benefits**. Crissi Moseley, NFPA Secondary Primary Representative, told us about the new **Paralegal Core Competency (PCC) Exam** and congratulated members **Alison Juge and Karen Davis for taking and passing the PCC Exam**. Becky Rolland, NFPA Primary Representative, gave a presentation on the proposed **Amended By Laws** and Suzanne Fontan, discussed the **Voting and Proxy Instructions** for the **September 21, 2011 meeting** in which **NOPA members will vote on the Amended By-Laws**.

The NFPA **Paralegal Core Competency Exam (PCC)** pilot test was held on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 12 locations across the country. Candidates who successfully passed the exam, including Allison Juge and Karen Davis, **earned the CORE Registered Paralegal (CRP) credential**. Online registration for the PCCE Exam and a study guide will be available on **December 1, 2011 at [www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org)**.

## NOPA'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON JUNE 15, 2011 THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CSI/NCIS MEDIA FANTASY V. REALITY!

NOPA's June general membership was held at Hailey McNamara was sponsored by Venue Docket. Brian Roux showed us the reality of what computer forensics can and cannot do by using examples from the popular CSI and NCIS crime dramas on television. Mr. Roux's presentation was very interesting especially when he utilized live television clips to show whether the dramas were close to reality or far fetched. Venue is no longer in business, however Brian has started his own company, Digital Inquest, LLC.

**PLEASE NOTE:** NOPA was recently approved for **.50 Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits from NFPA for our May and June Seminars**. Any member who attended these seminars, and would like a letter from NOPA acknowledging your attendance, please contact any of the NOPA board members. We thank you for your patience in this matter, NFPA had a waiting list for CLE approvals of 60 days. We are already approved for our CLE's for the Annual Educational Seminar and have already submitted approval for our November CLE.

## SPOTLIGHT ON NOPA'S NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

1. How many members are on the committee? **2**
2. Is the committee in need of helpers/assistants/committee members?  
**YES!!!!. Any member is welcome to write an article, or suggest an article and we will obtain the rights from the author for reprint in the newsletter.**
3. What can the members do to help the committee achieve its goal? **We would love more member participation. If you like to participate, you can start by taking notes and/or photos at our next membership meeting.**
4. How and when do you meet? formal? informal? via email or teleconference only? **We basically work through emails regarding suggestions and drafts.**
5. What are the 2011 Goals for the committee? How will you achieve them?  
**The goal is to have the newsletter return to monthly instead of bi-monthly in 2012 but we can only do this with more help!**

By: Becky Rolland, R. P., Editor and NFPA Primary Representative

## DATES TO WATCH

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| <b>September 21, 2011</b>  | <b>NOPA'S MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING and BY-LAWS VOTE</b> at Baker Donelson from 12 to 1 pm                |
| <b>September 28, 2011</b>  | <b>NOPA SOCIAL</b> at Allegros at 1100 Poydras St., from 5 to 7 pm   |
| <b>October 5, 2011</b>     | <b>NOPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING</b> at LSBA from 12 to 1 pm   |
| <b>October 7, 2011</b>     | <b>NOPA'S ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR</b> at The Bourbon Inn, New Orleans, LA, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm           |
| <b>October 13-16, 2011</b> | <b>NFPA'S CONVENTION</b> in Minneapolis, MN  |
| <b>November 16, 2011</b>   | <b>NOPA'S MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING</b> at Centurion Risk Associates, LLC from 12-1, Sponsored by Avansic |
| <b>December 1, 2011</b>    | <b>PARALEGAL CORE COMPETENCY EXAM</b> will go live.  |

## NOPA COMMITTEES

**Bar Association Liaison Committee:**  
*Germaine Galjour, Chair*

**Budget and Finance Committee:**  
*Sheela Babu, Treasurer*

**By-Laws Committee:**  
*Kathy Williams, Chair*

**Job Bank Coordinator:**  
*Sandra Cantrell*

**Marketing Committee:** open

**Membership Committee:**  
*Jennifer Lasseigne, Co-Chair*  
*Crissi Moseley, Co-Chair*

**Military Paralegal Outreach Committee:** *Jill Neumann, Co-Chair*  
*Kathy Williams, Co-Chair*

**Newsletter Committee:**  
*Becky Rolland, Editor*

**Community Service Committee:**  
*Tomoro Wilson, Sandra Cantrell, Co-Chairs*

**Regional Outreach Committee:**  
*Lisa Patterson, Chair*

**Social Committee:** *Pam Angel*

**Social Media Committee:** Open

**Student Liaison Committee:** Open

**Strategic Planning Committee:**  
Open

**Survey/Standards Committee:**  
*Sheela Babu, Chair*

**Website Committee:** *Sue Pundt, Webmaster*

*If you are interested in any of NOPA's committees, please contact Becky Rolland at bro978@aol.com*

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO VENDORS FROM NOPA**

Special thanks to **Choice Copy Service** for printing our *Save the Date* flyer and to **Magnolia Legal Support** for printing our brochure and registration forms regarding the New Orleans Paralegal Association's Annual Educational Seminar.

## NOPA'S SUSTAINING MEMBERS!!

**Amy Shanks - Strategic Recruiting Solutions**

[www.srslegal.com](http://www.srslegal.com)

**Fred Richissin - Magnolia Legal Support**

[www.magnolialegalsupport.net](http://www.magnolialegalsupport.net)

**Charles Sellers - Deep South Investigations**

[www.deepsouthinvestigations.com](http://www.deepsouthinvestigations.com)

**Cheryl Rodrigue - Brooke Companies**

[www.brookecompanies.com](http://www.brookecompanies.com)

**Julie Hackler - Avansic Digital Forensics  
and E-Discovery**

[www.avansic.com](http://www.avansic.com)

**Sallie Davis - Tulane Paralegal Studies**

[http://www.tulane.edu/~uc/  
degrees\\_programs/paralegal.htm](http://www.tulane.edu/~uc/degrees_programs/paralegal.htm)

**Marie Estenzo Pettit—Crescent Bank and Trust**

[www.cbtno.com/](http://www.cbtno.com/)

**Darnell Schoen - Shuart & Associates, Inc.**

[www.shuart.com](http://www.shuart.com)

**Celeste O'Keefe — Dancel**

<http://dancel.com/>

**Professional Shorthand Reporters, Inc.**

<http://www.psrdocs.com/>

**Myeshia Ambrose**

<http://www.herzing.edu/neworleans>

## NFPA INSIDE REPORT

Submitted August 15, 2011

**By: Becky Rolland,  
NFPA Primary Representative**

On June 15, 2011, NOPA's general membership meeting at held Hailey McNamara in Metairie, Louisiana. Brian Roux, formally of Venue Docket, explained to us the difference between CSI/NCIS Media Fantasy v. Reality! By using video clips from the popular television shows, Mr. Roux explained what computer Forensics can and cannot do. It was an informative and entertaining presentation.

NOPA's Annual Dinner Meeting and Silent Auction held on July 21st was a great success! Jefferson Parish Attorney Debra Foshee had nothing but praise for her first paralegal, Allison Juge who incidentally was one of Louisiana's two members to pass the Paralegal Core Competency Exam (the other being NOPA member Karen Davis) and her current paralegal, Zelda Gillian. In the topic, "Why Your Paralegal Certificate Matters", Ms. Foshee explained that a Jefferson Parish ordinance requires paralegals to have their paralegal certificates. It was unfortunate that she had to fire three paralegals who had not earned their paralegal certificates when she first took office, but she said she would re-hire them once they did so. Ms. Foshee was excited to learn of the local and national paralegal organizations and is looking to New Orleans Paralegal Association to keep her updated on the status of national certification exams such as the PACE and PCCE. A raffle was held at the end of the dinner to allow the proceeds of the silent auction to go towards a scholarship for the PACE or PCCE. Newest member Debbie Desselle won the raffle and also the silent auction bidding for the PACE study manual (she got the \$90 manual for only \$35!).

After much discussion and many meetings, NOPA's board approved the changes suggested by the Bylaw Committee. At the general membership meeting on August 17, 2011, the By Law committee will present the changes to membership and prepare members to vote on the amended by laws on September 21.

***In Brief 3d* encourages members to contribute to the newsletter. If you wish to share or see an article published, submit it to the NOPA newsletter by contacting Becky Rolland at [broll978@aol.com](mailto:broll978@aol.com). We will assist in getting reprint permission.**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

1. Official Name of the Committee and who chairs it. **Social Committee, Pamela Angel, Chairman**
2. How many members are on the committee? **2**
3. Is the committee in need of helpers/assistants/committee members? **Yes**
4. What can the members do to help the committee achieve its goal? **Suggest and/or recruit sponsors, suggests venues for events and socials. Currently, NOPA is looking for a place to have our Christmas luncheon.**
5. How and when do you meet? formal? informal? via email or teleconference only?  
**We communicated by telephone and e-mail.**
6. What are the 2011 Goals for the committee? How will you achieve them? **Hard work**  
**Pamela Angel, Social Committee, Chair**

**IF YOU ARE NOT A NOPA MEMBER  
HERE IS WHAT YOU ARE MISSING!!!**



Suzanne Fontanne, President



Jennifer Lasseigne, Vice President

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Did You Know That NOPA  
Doubled in Only 2 Years?**

2008 December Membership Tally: 70 members

2009 December Membership Tally: 130 members

2010 December Membership Tally: 141 members

2011 Membership Tally: 145 members (and counting)

**We Are The Premier Paralegal Network in the New  
Orleans Area**

Join Today

[www.neworleansparalegals.org](http://www.neworleansparalegals.org)



Michelle Craig, Esq. gives a presentation on Social Media at Adams & Reese at the May General Membership Meeting



Kathy Williams and Helena Moreno at the 2011 Annual Educational Seminar



**Photos from NOPA's  
2010 Annual  
Educational Seminar  
Register NOW for  
this year's seminar !!!**



# HAPPY PARALEGAL WEEK FROM NOPA !!!!



Governor  
**Bobby Jindal**

## Proclamation

WHEREAS, the paralegal profession provides an invaluable service to the legal profession as well as to the general public who utilize legal services; and

WHEREAS, many qualified paralegals are able to reduce the workloads of their employers and reduce the costs incurred on behalf of their employers' clients during the course and scope of legal representation; and

WHEREAS, the paralegal profession encourages the continuing growth and education of paralegals in both the field of law and technology in order to better assist both their employers and their employers' clients; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana citizens should become aware of the paralegal profession and the benefits paralegals have to offer to the legal community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim September 11-17, 2011, as

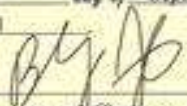
**PARALEGAL WEEK**  
in the State of Louisiana.



Attest By  
The Governor

  
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September  
A.D., 2011*

  
Governor of Louisiana