



# Law in Motion

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2009 CALENDAR	3
TREASURES OF SUCCESS	4
SPRINGTIME MCLE PROGRAM	5
NEWS & ADS	7
10 TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING YOUR VENDOR RELATIONSHIPS	9
CLOSING THE REVOLVING DOOR	11
NALA NEWS	13
CAPA NEWS	16
ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS	17
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS	18

## Message from the President... By Debbie Reber

### *Our New Year*

has begun and with it comes the renewed spirit of not only the Santa Barbara Paralegal Association, but that of our own community and the country. With our economy in such bad straits, it takes a special type of individual to look into the face of adversity and search for the bright spots in the hopes of what lies ahead. We welcome our new Board Members this year knowing that they will bring renewed vigor to the SBPA energizing us all. I am very pleased to announce your 2008-2009 SBPA Board of Directors as follows:

- Tommie Josephson - VP Programs
- Elizabeth Seidel - VP Membership
- Barbara Liss - Secretary
- Rebecca Riggs - Treasurer
- Josefina Martinez - CAPA Primary
- Debra Wheels - CAPA Secondary
- April Henderson - NALA Liaison
- Rebecca Riggs - Parliamentarian
- Sandra Biesinger - Newsletter Editor
- Bea Dunn - Job Bank
- Matt Theule / Sandra Biesinger - Website Manager(s)

Having been re-elected as the President of the SBPA, I can only say how honored and grateful I am for all the support that the

(Continued on page 2)

## Message from the President...

By Debbie Reber

*(Continued from page 1)*

organization has given me during the past year. This year promises to be an even more exciting one than last year and I'm in hopes that many new ideas and projects will begin to take shape during the coming months.

As most, if not all, of you know our annual Springtime MCLE Conference (hosted in conjunction with the Ventura County Paralegal Association - VCPA) will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Four Points Sheraton hotel in Ventura, CA. This conference looks to be one of the best that we've had with topics of interest for just about everyone. This conference will enable you to receive up to five (5) hours of MCLE credit which include two (2) hours of Ethics credits. We also want to attract the student population who are embarking on a profession in the legal arena. We're hoping to have a large turnout and we'd welcome your input with ideas for possible vendors and sponsors. If you have someone or a business in mind that you feel would be interested, please contact me ([dr@ppplaw.com](mailto:dr@ppplaw.com)) or Josefina Martinez ([jmartinez@sbcourts.org](mailto:jmartinez@sbcourts.org)) with their contact information. I cannot stress enough how important this MCLE conference is, both to our organization but to you as paralegals. If you have not already registered, I urge you to do so at your earliest opportunity.

In addition, plans are in the works for the SBPA to support and assist the Santa Barbara Legal Secretary's Association (SBSLA) with their Second Annual Law Bowl, a fund raiser to benefit the Teen Court in Santa Barbara as part of the annual Law Day activities here in Santa Barbara. This function

is scheduled for Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Zodos Bowling Alley in Goleta. There will be more information forthcoming, but mark your calendars to come out and support the Teen Court as well as the SBPA. Several of the SBPA members helped out last year and it was a very worthwhile endeavor --- not to mention a whole lot of fun!

As many of you know, the Governor of California sets aside one day in the year as Paralegal Day. We plan to have another wonderful celebration later this year and hope that all of you will plan to attend. More to come so stay tuned.....

Our organization, the SBPA, exists because there are individuals dedicated to further the paralegal profession in our community. We are but one organization of several in California that strive to further our profession. Still, as hard as it may be to realize, there are still those employers that underutilize their paralegals within their organization because they simply are not informed. By our presence in and our support of the SBPA, we can better arm ourselves with the educational tools, expertise and knowledge to not only better ourselves but to better our employers as well. We have unique skills. We have a unique place within the realm of the legal world. All of you should be proud of your achievements and seek to make yourself known as being an integral part of your firm or organization.

As with any organization, it requires all of us working together to make things work. It cannot be left to the "few" to get the job done.

*(Continued on page 15)*

# 2009 CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px;"><b>X</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p>12- Lincoln's Birthday (Court Holiday)</p> <p>16- Presidents' Day (Court Holiday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MARCH</b></p> <p>7- 2pm Taste for Justice (Legal Aid Foundation)</p> <p>28- Springtime MCLE Program, Ventura, CA (Earn up to five hours of MCLE credit, including two hours of ethics)</p> <p>31- César Chávez Day (Court Holiday)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APRIL</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MAY</b></p> <p>SBPA Luncheon—TBA</p> <p>16- 2nd Annual Law Bowl to Benefit Teen Court event at Zodo's from 12:30pm-2:30pm (SBLSA)</p> <p>16- 50th Anniversary Grand Celebration, 5:30 pm, Sunken Garden of the Courthouse (Legal Aid Foundation)</p> <p>25- Memorial Day (Court Holiday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JUNE</b></p> <p>SBPA Happy Hour—Paralegal Day—TBA</p> <p>27- CAPA Conference: Treasures of Success, hosted by OCPA (Queen Mary, Long Beach)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JULY</b></p> <p>3- Independence Day (Court Holiday)</p> <p>8-11—NALA's 34th Annual Convention in the Gaslamp District of San Diego</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AUGUST</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p>7- Labor Day (Court Holiday)</p> <p>15- SBPA Luncheon</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <p>12- Columbus Day (Court Holiday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p>SBPA Luncheon—TBA</p> <p>11- Veteran's Day (Court Holiday)</p> <p>26- Thanksgiving (Court Holiday)</p> <p>27- Day after Thanksgiving (Court Holiday)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p>25- Christmas (Court Holiday)</p>

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS  
PRESENTS  
TREASURES OF SUCCESS  
JUNE 27, 2009



Hosted by:  
Orange County Paralegal Association  
All Aboard!  
Queen Mary, Long Beach, California

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration, Continental Breakfast & Networking
8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.	Morning Sessions
10:15 – 12:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Viewing/(Networking)
12:00 – 1 00 p.m.	Lunch; (Exhibitor Door Prizes)
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Keynote Speaker
1:45 – 2:45 p.m.	Afternoon Sessions
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Ethics
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	No Host Cocktail Party

-----tear here

REGISTRATION FORM

Please RSVP by mailing registration form to: Carolyn Yellis, ACP, 619 N. Zeyn Street, Anaheim, CA 92805 (or register online at www.caparalegal.org) NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CLA/CP \_\_\_ ACP \_\_\_ RP \_\_\_ Esq. \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_  
\_\_\_ member (\$155.00) \_\_\_ non – member (\$175.00) \_\_\_ student \$95.00

Early Bird Special:

member (\$135.00) \_\_\_ non-member (\$155.00) \_\_\_ student (\$75.00) By 05-15-08

Association: \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD EXP. DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CREDIT CARD#: \_\_\_\_\_ (VISA/MAST-circle one)

An additional fee of \$4.00 is charged for use of a credit card.

*Registration fees are transferable but not refundable.*

**ROOM RESERVATIONS:** Room reservations may be made on a first come, first served basis by calling the Hotel's reservation line, (562) 432-6964. Please reference "CAPA" (California Alliance of Paralegal Associations) when making your reservations to receive the conference room rates of \$129.00 double or king beds - plus applicable taxes, until May 27, 2009. All room rates, and other amenities are the sole responsibility of the Attendee.

*Registration Form.*

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Daytime Telephone

e-mail address

Paralegal  Attorney  Other Legal Professional

Breakout Session Selections:

Morning: 1A 2A 3A

Afternoon: 1P 2P 3P 4P

Conference Fees: \$40.00 Student Member  
 \$100.00 Early Bird  
 \$115.00 After 3/13/2009  
 \$125.00 At the door  
 \*\$30.00 Substance Abuse session only  
 (Attorney only rate\*)

**Nonrefunds after March 21, 2009**  
 PAYMENT BY CHECK ONLY, made payable to Ventura County Paralegal Association and sent to P O Box 24229, Ventura, CA, 93002. If any questions please e-mail: [springtime.conference@yahoo.com](mailto:springtime.conference@yahoo.com).

Proudly Sponsored by

**THE LAW OFFICE OF  
 KENNETH E. DEVORE & ASSOCIATES**  
 Certified Specialists in Estate Planning,  
 Trust and Probate Law  
 Telephone: (818) 338-3252

**SPRINGTIME  
 MCLE  
 PROGRAM**

**ABOUT US**

Santa Barbara Paralegal Association (formerly Legal Assistants Association of Santa Barbara) was founded in 1979 as an organization of professionals who share an interest in the field of law and in career advancement. It is an affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) and of the California Alliance of Paralegal Associations (CAPA) and serves the Santa Barbara area. The organization was formed in order to encourage and formalize continuing education and the exchange of ideas among persons in the paralegal profession, to encourage newcomers to the field, and to establish and continue good professional relationships between paralegals and other members of the legal community.

The Ventura County Paralegal Association (VCPA) (formerly the Ventura County Association of Legal Assistants--VALA) is committed to a high order of ethical and professional attainment. This incorporated association is highly determined to encourage its members to pursue further education in their profession. In addition to this, VCPA is actively engaged in cooperation with local and state Bar Associations. VCPA is devoted to supporting and carrying out the programs, purposes, aims and goals of the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc., and the California Alliance of Paralegal Associations.

*An Educational Conference  
 presented by  
 Santa Barbara Paralegal Association  
 Ventura County Paralegal Association*



**Saturday, March 28, 2009**  
 Four Points Sheraton  
 1050 Schooner Drive  
 Ventura, CA

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

Mail in your registration by March 13, 2009 for the lowest fee of \$100. Special Student Member rate of \$40, for Early Bird and Pre-Registration only. Registration confirmations by e-mail only.

## PRE-REGISTRATION

After March 13, 2009, mail in your registration and pay \$115.

**Mail your Early Bird or Pre-Registration to:  
Post Office Box 24229  
Ventura, CA 93002**

## REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR

Register between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. the morning of the conference and pay \$125.

**\*SPECIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE SESSION RATE** – Attorneys may attend the Substance Abuse session only (10:15-11:15am) for \$30.

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Discount hotel rate of \$109 to attendees. Make your reservations by February 25, 2009. Four Points Sheraton, 1050 Schooner Drive, Ventura, CA, 805-658-1212.

## MCLE

Earn up to five hours of MCLE credit, including at least three hour of ethics.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration, Vendor Viewing and Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker  
Judge Brian E. Hill  
(1 hour Ethics MCLE)

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Break and Vendor Viewing

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. “When a Cucumber becomes a Pickle”  
by Larry Labortle, Esq.  
(1 hour Ethics MCLE)\*

11:15 – 11:30 a.m. Break and Vendor Viewing

11:30 – 12:30 p.m. Morning Breakout Sessions  
(choose one of three topics)  
(1 hour MCLE)

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Vendor Viewing

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Calculating as a Risk  
Management Issue  
by Joseph Scott, Esq.  
(1 hour Ethics MCLE)

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. Break, Vendor Viewing and Solve the Puzzle Drawings

2:45 – 3:45 p.m. Afternoon Breakout Sessions  
(choose one of three topics)  
(1 hour MCLE)

- OR -

“Swimming with the Sharks”  
a panel discussion about how to become a valued employee & ensure you are prepared for the paralegal profession of the future (No MCLE Credit)

## BREAKOUT SESSION TOPICS

Select the programs you wish to attend from the following descriptions. (Note: one program per session.)

### Morning (11:30 – 12:30 p.m.):

**Estate Planning Issues** presented by Laurie Lewis, Esq.. Learn about how estate planning touches on almost all other areas of law, including elder abuse. (Session 1A)

**Family Law Experts** presented by Penny Clemmons, Ph.D., CFLS. Learn about the use of experts in family law matters. (Session 2A)

**Recent Developments in Employment Law** presented by Melissa J. Fassett, Esq.. Learn about the changes, developments, and cases affecting the work environment. (Session 3A)

### Afternoon (2:45 – 3:45 p.m.):

**Litigating an Elder Abuse Case: For the Defense** presented by Sean Cowdrey, Esq. Learn the steps necessary to investigate, evaluate, and settle or try an elder abuse case against a long-term care facility. (Session 1P)

**Discovery: The Key to Early Resolution** presented by Brenda Andrade, Esq. Learn how your discovery strategy can make the case. (Session 2P)

**Insolvent Estates** presented by Barbara Taaff, Esq. Learn about the duties of your firm and of your client even when your probate estate seems worthless. (Session 3P)

**Swimming with the Sharks** is a panel discussion led by Jill Jackman Sadler. Topics will focus on paralegals entering and surviving in the workplace. (Session 4P)

# NEWS & ADS

## Parking Enforcement Has New Tool

*Source: SBPD*

*Be aware that when you move your cars, they need to move specific distances and not just pulled into another space in the same block or to the other side of the same street.*



### **10.48.020 Restriction and Limitation on Parking.**

No person shall stop, stand or park any vehicle upon the street in any one (1) block for a period of time in excess of any restriction or limitation on such stopping or standing or parking posted on said block by the Transportation Engineer. Compliance requires that vehicles be removed from the block in which parked at the end of the allotted time so designated. (Ord. 4235, 1983; Ord. 4194, 1983; Ord. 2713 §1(part), 1959; prior Code §31.81.)

### **10.04.025 Block.**

Both sides of any street within a one hundred address designation. For example, the 000 Block, 100 Block, 200 Block of a street. (Ord. 4781, 1992)

SANTA BARBARA, CA 2/2/2009

On 02/02 the Santa Barbara Police Department began utilizing an electronic chalking system to monitor parking enforcement. The system named "autoChalk" is manufactured by Tannery Creek Systems, Inc. of Vaughan, Ontario, Canada. The system utilizes photographic, laser, and GPS orientation to identify parking violators. This system is currently installed on one of ten parking enforcement vehicles.

The autoChalk system utilizes color photographs to provide proof of an offense. These photographs are coupled with the system's unique technology to determine vehicle length, vehicle color, and survey quality GPS positioning. The system utilizes this information to determine the length of time a vehicle has been parked at a specific location. AutoChalk prompts the Parking Enforcement Officer that a violator has been identified so the officer can issue a citation. This system can be operated in inclement weather which further enhances the efficiency of parking enforcement.

In 2007 the Santa Barbara Police Department requested proposals from vendors utilizing this and similar technology in an on-going effort to reduce serious and repetitive stress injuries associated with traditional tire chalking methods. The autoChalk system permits Parking Enforcement Officers to electronically identify violators from the safety of their vehicle while traveling with the flow of traffic.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# NEWS & ADS

(Continued from page 7)

**The autoChalk system also possesses license plate reading technology to identify habitual parking offenders and stolen vehicles** through the California Law Enforcement Terminal System, (CLETS). The autoChalk system, which costs \$60,000, was paid for partially through auto theft grant funds as well as salary savings from unfilled positions in the Parking Enforcement Unit. The Santa Barbara Police Department will continue to use traditional chalking methods in addition to the autoChalk system.

The Santa Barbara Police department is committed to providing a safe environment for its employees while continuing to provide efficient and effective parking enforcement for the community. If anyone has further questions on the autoChalk system feel to contact Sergeant Lorenzo Duarte at (805) 897-2332 or by e-mail at [lduarte@sbpd.com](mailto:lduarte@sbpd.com)



If you would like to post your advertisement on the SBPA website and have it published in the SBPA newsletter, please e-mail your advertisement to Sandra Biesinger at [sb@ppplaw.com](mailto:sb@ppplaw.com) and mail your payment to SBPA, Post Office Box 2695, Santa Barbara, CA 93120. The cost is \$125 for January through December and the newsletter is published every other month. Your advertisement should be in a .jpg format and can be up to 4" by 4".



## SBPA LUNCHEONS

All luncheon membership meetings are held at Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, located at 1021 Anacapa Street, Santa Barbara. The cost of the catered buffet luncheon is \$18 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Please note that the cost of the luncheon is for the CLE credit and the food is gratuitous. If you would like to attend the meeting, please RSVP to Tommie ([tjosephson@hardincoffin.com](mailto:tjosephson@hardincoffin.com)). Every person in attendance must pay the member or non-member fee, whether you wish to eat or not. When you make your reservation, please indicate if you would like to eat lunch.

## 10 Tips for Maximizing Your Vendor Relationships

*It's* the beginning of a new

year; a time when many of us are evaluating our daily routines and habits in an attempt to improve our lives. Why not start by developing some work habits that can save you time and relieve stress? Parasec, a nationwide document filing and retrieval company, has developed 10 tips for cultivating your vendor relationships. We suggest that you print this out and use this as a guide for helping you maintain a happy, beneficial relationship with all your vendors. This is one New Year's resolution that pays to keep!

### **1. Understand That Service is Not "Selling"** –

Don't fall into the trap of vendors who are obviously just trying to sell you more services than you need. Take the time to communicate your needs and expectations – a truly service-oriented vendor will be genuinely interested in understanding your needs so he or she can successfully address them in an appropriate manner.

**2. Establish a Partnership** - Talk about your basic expectations and educate your vendor about your firm's culture and your own work process. This will help establish clarity in your working relationship. Get any questions or concerns addressed up front, and communicate that teamwork between the two of you is key in getting the job done.

### **3. Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!**

Legal professionals must provide vendors sufficient information to get the job done

adequately. Share information with your vendor so they will understand how they can best serve you, even if you don't think a particular detail will make a difference. Ask your vendor to reiterate your request back to you to make sure what you have said has been heard correctly.

### **4. Be Honest, and Expect Honesty in Return** -

Provide honest details in establishing true, accurate deadlines whenever possible and giving precise details as to what the finished product or solution should look like. This will ensure that your vendors can assess whether they can help and under what terms. By the same token, you'll want your vendor to be honest enough with you to bring up possible problems, limitations, or alternatives – even if it means referring you to another resource if necessary to meet your parameters.

**5. Plan Ahead** - Either out of skepticism, lack of time or inexperience, many legal professionals don't get their vendors involved early enough in the process. Planning ahead can help ensure that your project goes smoothly and that important deadlines can be met.

**6. Don't Be Afraid to Ask Questions** - Some legal professionals don't realize that as much experience as they might have, vendors often have more experience and knowledge in their specific specialized areas. Vendors' knowledge can be invaluable because they deal with certain situations daily that some legal professionals encounter much less frequently – say only once a week, once a month or even once a year.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## 10 Tips for Maximizing Your Vendor Relationships

*(Continued from page 9)*

**7. Demand Quality Control** – Your vendor should have a quality-control process in place. Even the slightest error on documents submitted to agencies may result in delays and unexpected results. Inquire as to what kind of quality assurance your vendor offers.

**8. Expect Pro-Active Error Resolution** – Even with systems in place to ensure a job well done, mistakes occasionally do happen. Any vendor that says otherwise is being unrealistic, and is unprepared or reluctant to be flexible when an error occurs. It's important that your vendor handles the situation properly. A vendor should practice pro-active problem solving with clients, and have procedures in place that allow its staff to make amends for any problem resulting from a mistake.

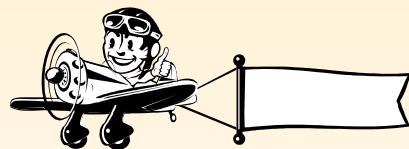
**9. Rely on Your Vendor For New Resources** - Ask your vendors to remind you of their other services that you might not need as frequently, or that you currently fulfill via a different vendor. If you have established trust with them, and they know how you like to work, it's easier for you to work with fewer vendors. Often times if your vendor can't provide the service themselves, they will happily suggest another resource who can. If you trust your vendor, chances are good that you can trust their recommendations.

**10. No-Surprise Pricing** – There should never be surprises when it comes to what services you're getting for the price you are paying. Make sure your vendor is providing you with an itemized invoice, so it's clear what you (and ultimately

your client) are paying for – including document fees and service charges. A breakdown approach to invoicing can save you from paying for services you may not have used.

*Author Bio: Lynn Conner has been with Parasec, a public records research company, for more than 20 years, and has been the president for 16 years. Her background includes a Bachelor of Science in Botany and a Masters in Business Administration.*

*As president, Lynn oversees the direction and growth of Parasec. Her philosophy has always been that outstanding service wins customers for life, and Parasec works hard to adhere to that philosophy.*





## COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE



Teen Court News

January 2009

Volume 1, Issue 3

### “Closing the Revolving Door”



Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge Thomas R. Adams, founder of Santa Barbara Teen Court

By Eduardo Cue

Teen Court Project Director

Judge Thomas Adams was the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge of Santa Barbara in the summer of 1992, when he became aware of a Teen Court program operating out of Odessa, Texas. He contacted the director of the Texas program, to learn more about Teen Court.

He was motivated by the concept of Teen Court that provided real consequences to first time misdemeanor offenders. It involved teen volunteers and former Teen Court defendants in the court process. As a judge he was tired of

seeing the same faces appearing before his bench, and was impressed with the successful outcomes attributed to the Texas Teen Court. He was ready and committed to introduce Teen Court as an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system in Santa Barbara.

To understand what motivated Judge Thomas Adams to start Teen Court, you have to know a little about the man. First, Thomas Adams is a father who loves his children. He became a Boy Scout Master to help at least one son become an Eagle Scout. Tom's love for children propelled him to start a "Children in the Middle" program out of family court. This program supports children and families going through difficult divorces.

In August of 1993, the first Teen Court hearing took place in Santa Barbara Superior Court. It took Judge Adams one year to convince his colleagues from the bench, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, and community leaders to take a chance on what was at the time a revolutionary concept.

In the last 16 years Judge Adams has seen Teen Court expand to courts across Santa Barbara County. Over 5,500 cases have been heard in Teen Court. Judge Adams states: "Teen Court puts an end to the 'revolving door' and empowers our young people to take responsibility for their actions and the actions of their peers".

### SERVING DILIGENTLY THROUGH TEEN COURT



By Marilyn Luna

Teen Court Program Manager

Through Teen Court we see the potential and aptitude of every youth to succeed and become productive adults in our community. We are also aware that without guidance or direction these same youth will become further involved in misconduct in their home, school and community.

One of the strongest components of Teen Court is Jury Duty. All youth who go through Teen Court must serve on the jury as part of their sentence.

They are more perceptive and firm on the other youth than adults would be. Adolescents that serve Teen Court through jury duty positively influence their peers by motivating them to participate in intervention and treatment services.

An open dialogue takes place between the jury of peers and the respondent answering questions from the witness stand. It is difficult for teens to lie or hide the facts from their peers. Through this process we often see what might otherwise remain concealed, the underlying causes for the way teens choose to cope.

Jury Duty helps teens gain insight into their own behavior by analyzing the criminal acts of others. It is my core belief that Teen Court is much more than a punitive option forcing behavioral change. Teen Court stimulates positive behavioral change through open dialogue in court, classes and groups.

#### In this Issue:

Judge Thomas Adams "Closing the Revolving Door"	1
"Serving Diligently through Teen Court"	1
"A Preventive Measure Towards Gangs"	2
Teen Court "Rebuilding Families"	2

#### Future Stories:

- Judges who have influenced Teen Court
- Santa Barbara Fighting Back Against Program
- Group Gang Dynamics
- Teen Story





## A Preventative Measure Towards Gangs



### Teen Court News

232 E. Canon Perdido  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
 Tel: 805 963 1433  
 Fax: 805 963-4099  
 E-mail: [ecourt@cadastb.org](mailto:ecourt@cadastb.org)

We're on the Web!  
[www.cadastb.org](http://www.cadastb.org)

**By Eduardo Cue,**  
 Teen Court Project Director

The communities that lie within the borders of Santa Barbara County, like many communities across the United States, are affected by the influence gangs have on our children. Teens across the nation are seduced to mimic the bravado lifestyle and attitudes of gangsters. They are confused by mixed messages provided through music and movies that glorify violence, validate disrespect to women, and normalize the use of alcohol and drugs. Gangs are seductive in the sense that they appear to our children, to be fun, exciting, and an attraction to the opposite sex. Thus, a perceived influence on personal popularity.

Gangs have crossed all economic, ethnic and social groups. At one time it was easy to identify gang members by their uniform attire. Today, gang attire is popular amongst a large cross section of America's youth and is a profitable commodity. This is not to state that all youth are gang members, but that gangs influence a large population of youth.

We recognize that the phenomenon of gangs is an issue we face in Teen Courts across Santa Barbara County. Although, we are addressing the behaviors of teens that have committed their first minor offense of the law, we recognize the potential for a sub-group of this population due to a destructive peer group association, to

become involved in more serious criminal activity.

Denial, fear, ignorance, and shame are obstacles to intervention and treatment of substance abuse. These obstacles often prevent teens from getting better educated and aware of the dangers and consequences of gang involvement.

Santa Maria Teen Court has implemented a new workshop to enhance awareness of the dangers experienced by gang influenced youth. By design, the workshop is not exclusive to gang identified youth. We believe that a larger group of teens need to have answers about gangs from an alternative source, other than the gang members themselves.

Gang Awareness "What Your Homie's Won't Tell You" is designed to provide participating teens an alternative perspective of gangs. It is our intent to facilitate a respectful dialogue with teens about the impact of gangs on their parents, siblings, education, jobs, juvenile justice, and institutionalization. It is our goal to help influence positive choices by participating teens, by making them aware of the negative consequences associated with the gang lifestyle. The gang awareness workshop will compliment the plethora of education interventions provided by Teen Courts across Santa Barbara County.

## Teen Court "Rebuilding Families"

Christy was caught with Marijuana paraphernalia at school. It was this initially difficult incident that opened the doors for her family to receive some critically needed support, counseling and guidance. A resentful and angry 15 year old, Christy had practically no communication nor emotional attachment with her mother, step father, or her two younger siblings. While Christy spent her time at home locked away alone in her bedroom, her entire family slept under a roof harboring silence, pain and a hopeless sentiment for the family's future.

When Christy was referred to participate in Teen Court for her offense, it did not sit well with her Mother that she would also be required to participate in a parenting component of the program. She felt she was being punished for Christy's mistake, which was brought on by her own rebellious attitude. It was explained to her that by simply witnessing her mother participate in the Teen

Court process right by her side, Christy would greatly benefit in her emotional healing and development.

The Teen Court jury mandated Christy to complete the following in order to close her case: Alcohol and Drug Awareness Groups with random drug testing, 15 hours of on-campus tutoring as community service to raise her grades at school, a letter of apology to her Mother, a Life Choices Class to help with her self motivation, decision making, and goal setting; two nights of Teen Court jury duty and the mandatory completion of the Parent Program.

Christy accepted her consequences and impending responsibilities with a positive attitude. Her mother, however, continued to resent the Teen Court program structure and the commitment she was now being required to make for her daughter's offense.

In their exit interview, Christy and

her Mother appeared to be cheerful and rejuvenated versions of themselves from just three months before. It was also exciting to witness them joking with each other about the differences in their taste in music and dress.

The Teen Court jury's sentencing design was crucial to this turnaround in their relationship. The letter of apology was the opportunity she needed to become closer to her Mother. She was finally able to express how sorry she was for her behavior. More importantly Christy took this as her opportunity to tell her Mother that she loves her, that she appreciates her and that she is thankful for such a wonderful Mother – things she was never able to put in words before. They both offered their gratitude and appreciation of the opportunity they were extended to participate in Teen Court.

# NALA NEWS

NALA's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
 July 8 to 11, 2009  
 At the Weston Gaslamp Quarter  
 in San Diego, CA

Educational sessions are slated to include:

<p><b>Institutes:</b>                  Litigation: Mock Trial                  Human Resources</p> <p><b>Educational Tracks:</b>                  Entertainment/Sports/Branding                  Family Law                  Hot Topics:                      Maritime/Admiralty                      Energy/Environmental                      Immigration</p>	<p>The Educational programs of the NALA Convention run each morning from 8:30 or 9:00 a.m. until noon.</p> <p>Institutes are 3 day programs, each day builds on the material covered the previous day.</p> <p>Tracks sessions are different each day, all related to the general subject matter.</p>
---	--

Essential Skills: a condensed version of the CLA/CP Short Course for persons preparing for the CP Exam, and those teaching review programs for their associations.

Room Rates: \$179 Single or Double (plus applicable taxes) (discount available until 6/5/09)

NALA District 9 will be hosting an Early Bird Reception on July 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. at the Westin Gaslamp. SBPA will be participating in this Reception. District 9 decided on a cruise theme and SBPA will have a Port of Call. We will be providing a poster board with various pictures of Santa Barbara and donating two centerpieces for the tables. Lisa Carter of Behind the Scenes has generously offered to donate 2 beautiful centerpieces for our tables that will represent SBPA. So please drop Lisa an email at [behindthescenes@aol.com](mailto:behindthescenes@aol.com) if you have the need for any floral arrangements for future personal or firm events. She does amazing work.

More details when they become available.

# NALA NEWS

(Continued from page 13)

## NALA Campus Live

### Studying for the CLA/CP exam or need CLE credit?

NALA Campus LIVE! Spring 2009 begins Friday, February 6th. These presentations offer real-time instruction by acknowledged educators on various topics ranging from CLA/CP review courses to advanced courses in substantive law areas. Don't forget the phone call is TOLL FREE.

For more a complete schedule, course information, and registration links please visit [www.nalacampus.com](http://www.nalacampus.com). The cost of a NALA Campus LIVE! course is \$80 for NALA members and \$105 for non-NALA members.

### February

**Thursday, February 19th**-Basic Ethics with Vicki Voisin, ACP, at Noon Central Time.

**Thursday, February 19th**-Civil Litigation: Part 1 with Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD, at 3 p.m. Central Time.

**Friday, February 20th**-Written Communications with Virginia Koerselman, Attorney, at 11 a.m. Central Time.

**Tuesday, February 24th**-Civil Litigation: Part 2 with Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD, at 3 p.m. Central Time.

**Thursday, February 26th**-Civil Litigation: Part 3 with Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD, at 3 p.m. Central Time.

**Discount for Group Registrations** – A minimum of two people from the same site is required to qualify as a group. Group members must use the same telephone line and same computer. The first registrant is full price (\$80 for NALA members and \$105 for non-NALA members) and each additional registrant is \$45. To register your group or if you have questions concerning group registration contact Mariah Williams ([mwilliams@nala.org](mailto:mwilliams@nala.org)) at NALA Headquarters.

**CLE Credit**- Many of these courses are approved by the NALA Certifying Board toward maintaining the CLA/CP credential. Most courses have also been approved by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Montana State Bar, State Bar of California, the North Carolina State Bar, and for

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Florida Registered Paralegals. For more information please visit [www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org) or contact NALA at 918-587-6828 or [nalanet@nala.org](mailto:nalanet@nala.org).

**Need your CLE credit recap?** You can request your CLE recap form be e-mailed to you from the NALA web site at [http://www.nala.org/cle\\_recap\\_request\\_form.htm](http://www.nala.org/cle_recap_request_form.htm).

### **NALA Headquarters**

This program is designed so that a reply to this message ends up in never-never land. To contact us about this newsletter, write to [nalanet@nala.org](mailto:nalanet@nala.org) or call NALA Headquarters. We are interested in hearing from you and your comments on how you like this means of communication. Also, let us know if you do not want to receive these newsletters or would like them directed to an alternate e-mail address.

*April Henderson, NALA LIAISON*

(Continued from page 2)

## **M e s s a g e   f r o m   t h e   P r e s i d e n t . . .** **B y   D e b b i e   R e b e r**

This year, I hope that each of you will look within yourself and ask the question: How can I serve the SBPA and our community? Don't wait to be asked to help --- volunteer. You just might find that it's a very satisfying feeling to know that you've made a difference. The SBPA is not just here to provide your MCLE credits --- it's here for you to network, share, utilize and bring your unique talents to the organization itself. All ideas are welcome --- change is good. Change is the life blood of an organization --- without change it become stagnant and soon disappears. I'm counting on each of you to give of yourself to the SBPA. We need you.

I'm looking forward to a great year and if you have any questions or would like to contact me, please do so at [dr@ppplaw.com](mailto:dr@ppplaw.com) . Thank you and Welcome To 2009!

*Deborah L. Reber, President, Santa Barbara Paralegal Association*

# CAPA NEWS

## **CAPA (California Alliance of Paralegal Associations) held its first meeting of 2009 on February 7-8 in Pismo Beach.**

While the board conducted its regular business, which included reviewing and approving its 2009 budget, identifying 2009 committee chairs, and reporting on upcoming events, an interesting exercise was also conducted, in which all board members participated.

The exercise is based generally on the Myers-Briggs personality test, and is the subject of a book called The Personality Compass, by Diane Turner and Thelma Greco. All board members were asked to identify with one of the four compass points, North, East, South, or West. Each compass point represented a dominant personality characteristic, such as North=Action, West=Structure, etc. The groups then broke out to create a quick and general definition of their strengths, weaknesses, and how they work with the other personality types.

The most important lessons gleaned from this exercise came, I believe, not from identifying where everyone else put themselves on the compass, but from doing a rough and quick self-analysis, and being forced to identify one dominant characteristic. Knowing one's strengths is paramount to developing powerful and fruitful business relationships. Working within the knowledge of one's weaknesses can make one a better manager, better employee, better co-worker.

While in fact some individuals (can you guess who?) probably felt more balanced and integrated than such a test would suggest, the

exercise forced an acknowledgement that the differences in personality styles - and working styles - need to be seen as valid. All the personality types have strengths as well as weaknesses, all have a contribution to make, and all deserve understanding and respect.

Why, you may ask, is this taking up some much space in this report? Because it represented a rare team-building opportunity, and a growth opportunity, which one does not often encounter at a board meeting. It may be something worth trying within your own organization. Does that structure and detail driven individual in your firm drive you nuts, because he doesn't seem to ever look at the big picture, and it seems to take him (groan) forever to complete a task? Or does that partner (and she should know better!) always seem to just jump in and take over, scattering and sometimes trampling the troops in the drive to just get it done? Broadening our understanding can ease frustration and deepen respect. And respect is something we need to cultivate in our work environments, especially as we seek to advance the paralegal profession, which is CAPA's goal.

On another note entirely, CAPA's annual educational conference is approaching. It will be held on June 27, 2009, aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach. Early bird registration is available via the CAPA website at <http://www.caparalegal.org/index.html>. Ship-board rooms are available at a great rate, and this is shaping up to be a festive and well-attended event. It's a great venue, so sign up early and join the fun!

*Debra Wheels,*

*CAPA Secondary Representative*

## Endings and Beginnings

### By Vicki Voisin, ACP

As 2008 ends and 2009 begins, it's tempting to make resolutions for the New Year. Organize your office? Increase your billable hours? Lose weight? Be on time for work? Sit for a certification exam? Whatever you have in mind, read on...

It's common knowledge that resolutions rarely work. Yes...that's the unfortunate truth. All those good intentions seem to fall by the wayside by the middle of January...all that's left are the guilt and regret that once again you're not able to keep your resolutions. By next December you'll be making the same resolutions all over again.

It's time to change the pattern. Resolutions don't work because they're usually a very broad statement: This year I'll lose 20 pounds. This year I'll learn to speak French. This year I'll look for a new job. You've got the 'what' down...you know what you want to do. The problem is that you're only looking at the big picture.

Instead of making resolutions, set goals. A goal is something you commit to fully and work toward all year long. Take a few minutes right now to visualize your top three goals for 2009. Then take out a piece of paper and write those goals down.

Make a plan. Once your goals are set, decide what you have to do to reach each goal and then plan each step toward your goal from beginning to end. For instance, if you want to learn French this year your first step might be to search for a class. The next step might be to enroll in the class. The next step might be to buy your study materials. Your next steps would be to attend each class and do your homework. Do you see how each step you take helps you reach your end goal? This process will work for any

goal you might want to reach.

Take this one step further. Schedule each step in your planner...make an actual appointment. This ensures that you will set aside the time to accomplish each step. Don't make the mistake of putting the steps on 'to do' lists because a 'to do' list is just a wish list and you will invariably run out of day before you run out of list. The 'to do' list just goes on and on. Your planner is a real guide for accomplishing your goals.

Your challenge: Plan to make 2009 your best year ever. Take a few minutes to set your goals. Break the goals down into achievable mini-goals. Decide when each mini-goal must be accomplished to reach the main goal by the end of the year. Enter those mini-goals in your planner. Make appointments with yourself for completing each one. If you do your planning and then do your scheduling, you can accomplish absolutely anything you want and this time next year you'll be celebrating the fact that you actually reached your goals. Here's to out with the old...in with the new...to endings and to beginnings. Happy New Year!

© 2008 Vicki Voisin, Inc.

Vicki Voisin, also known as The Paralegal Mentor, publishes the bi-weekly ezine **'Strategies for Paralegals Seeking Excellence'** where she offers tips for paralegals and others who want to create lasting success in their personal and professional lives. Get tips and information at no cost at [www.paralegalmentor.com](http://www.paralegalmentor.com).

## **2009 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

### **OFFICERS**

President	Deborah Reber (dr@ppplaw.com)
First Vice President of Membership	Elizabeth Seidel (eseidel@mullenlaw.com)
Second Vice President of Programs	Tommie Josephson (tjosephson@hardincoffin.com)
Treasurer	Rebecca Riggs (rar@ppplaw.com)
Secretary	Barbara Liss (barbara@eatonjones.com)
Parliamentarian	Rebecca Riggs (rar@ppplaw.com)
CAPA Primary Representative	Josefina Martinez (jmartinez@sbcourts.org)
CAPA Secondary Representative	Debra Wheels (dwheels_paralegal@yahoo.com)
NALA Liaison	April Henderson (ahenderson@fmam.com)

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Annual MCLE Conference	Josefina Martinez
Newsletter Editor/Website Manager	Sandra Biesinger (sb@ppplaw.com)
Employment and Job Bank	Bea Dunn (bdunn@crslawfirm.com)

If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Deborah Reber. If you have comments, questions, or articles to submit for the newsletter, please email them to Sandra Biesinger. Thank you.



Santa Barbara Paralegal Association  
Post Office Box 2695  
Santa Barbara, California 93102-2695