



# IN BRIEF

Nebraska Association of Legal Assistants  
An Affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants

March 2007

Make plans now to attend the:

## 2007 Mid-Year Seminar and Membership Meeting

Friday, April 20, 2007



Holiday Inn Central  
Convention Centre  
Palace D (North Entrance)  
3321 South 72nd Street  
Omaha, Nebraska

If you did not receive a Seminar flyer via e-mail or USPS, please contact  
Loretta Phillips at [lphillips@ci.omaha.ne.us](mailto:lphillips@ci.omaha.ne.us).  
Registration deadline is April 16, 2007.

See page 2 for a list of the educational topics to be covered at the seminar.

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Are you . . .  
Kicking off your shoes  
Itching to dig in the dirt  
Eyeing trees for green auras  
Hunting for the sun tea jar  
Smiling for no apparent reason?



Yes, it's a confirmed case of

**SPRING FEVER!**

## Officers & Directors

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Mutual of Omaha  
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Rose Lulla  
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Loretta Phillips  
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### Website Administrator

Jodie Gardner-Grandberry  
Union Pacific Railroad  
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### Past President

Stephanie Henson, CLA  
The Dial Companies  
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[www.neala.org](http://www.neala.org)

## FOCUS ON THE 2006-2007 APPOINTED OFFICERS

### ROSE LULLA, PUBLICATIONS EDITOR

Rose Lulla has been a paralegal for the past eight years at First National Bank of Omaha. Contract law is her area of focus as she works in the merchant processing subsidiary of the bank. Rose received an Associates Degree in Christian Education from Nebraska Christian College. She also received a B. A. in Business Administration from Bellevue University in 2003. Rose has been a contributing writer to the In Brief for two years. In her spare-time Rose enjoys working Sudoku puzzles, counted cross-stitch, and sewing. Rose is the mother of four and the grandmother of three.

### LORETTA PHILLIPS, PARLIAMENTARIAN

Loretta has been a paralegal for the City of Omaha Law Department for the past 11 years, practicing primarily in the areas of litigation, government law, and employment law. She received her Associates Degree in Paralegal Studies from Metropolitan Community College in 1996. Loretta served NeALA as District I Director in 2005 and 2006 and has worked on the mid-year and fall seminar committees. She is active in Toastmasters International and serves as Sergeant At Arms in an Omaha chapter. Loretta also breeds, shows, judges, and rescues Boxer dogs and was recently elected President of the Missouri Valley Boxer Club.

### JODIE GARDNER-GRANDBERRY, WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Jodie continued a family tradition when she joined Union Pacific Railroad in late 2006, bringing 6 years of legal experience with her. Jodie's new position allows her to experience many different areas of law, such as FELA cases, catastrophic accident claims, environmental and retirement, etc. Jodie received her AAS in Paralegal Studies from Metropolitan Community College in 2004. With the encouragement and support of her employer, Jodie will be completing her B. A. in the Leadership Program at Bellevue University. Jodie has previously served two terms as the NeALA Secretary.

## HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE MID-YEAR SEMINAR?



### Educational sessions include:

- CM/ECF ELECTRONIC CASE FILING
- PDF TECHNOLOGY – ADOBE ACROBAT
- THE ATTORNEY – PARALEGAL TEAM APPROACH TO FAMILY LAW
- BUSINESS ETIQUETTE IN THE WORK PLACE

**Make plans now to attend by sending in your registration and check to Joni Hickey at Koley Jessen, P.C., LLO, 125 S. 103rd Street, Omaha, NE 68124-1079.**

# *A Message from the President*

## Dividend Update

In my last President's message, I challenged NeALA members to make small investments of time and talent in our organization. Collectively, these small investments add up to large dividends. I am pleased to report members are making these investments, and we are already reaping nice dividends. To date, these dividends include organizing a probate discussion group, participating in the Adopt-a-Family Christmas project, delivering *In Brief* electronically, and producing our membership manual on CD.

As you can see, we are off to a great start. Start, however, is the key word. Even though members are busy working on many projects, such as planning our seminars, developing workshops and redesigning the website, there are many other ways to help increase our dividends.

During January, most of us reflect on the prior year. We define and prioritize our goals, while making plans for the current year. As you set your personal and professional goals for 2007, please include small investments in NeALA. Examples of small investments include:

- Attend monthly luncheons
- Establish discussion groups for your area of expertise
- Contribute an article or idea for *In Brief*
- Assist and/or attend the spring and fall seminars
- Assist and/or attend the workshops
- Serve on a committee
- Share suggestions, ideas and feedback with board members
- Run for office

These are only a few suggestions. Use your unique talents to identify and create many more. Just imagine our investment return if each member adopts at least one investment goal for NeALA. Not only will you see a dividend for NeALA, you will receive a personal dividend as well. Please help keep our investment momentum growing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janie M. Boswell, ACP  
NeALA President



## ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROJECT

NeALA adopted three families through the Star 104.5 Salvation Army Adopt-a-Family Radiothon. They are all one-parent families struggling to make ends meet. I called and spoke with each mother to obtain some gift ideas for the children. The gift ideas included such things as pajamas, bed comforters, and sheets. On Monday evening, December 11, 2006, Linda Hess, Joyce Buller, Rose Lulla, Joni Hickey, Angie Steffek, and I played Santa's elves and went shopping for our families. Linda and Joyce took one family of six; Angie and Rose took the other family of six; Joni and I took the family of five. Ruth Bahr joined us when we returned to Koley Jessen to wrap the gifts and enjoy some treats and Christmas music. We had a little show-and-tell session so each team could share the treasures they had selected for their families. There was also one surprise donation from a young attorney at Koley Jessen of \$150.00 to be used to purchase a \$50.00 gift certificate to Toys R Us for each family. The teams completed delivery of the gifts, along with gift certificates from Hy Vee so the families could purchase items for their Christmas dinner. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this worthy cause; we could not have done this project without you. I can assure you that these families appreciated your generosity more than you can imagine. If NeALA decides to participate in this endeavor again next year, I hope that more of you can be involved in the experience of shopping for and delivering to the families. It is very heartwarming to see what a difference you can make in someone's life without a great deal of effort. Thank you again to all of you who contributed and all who attended our "shopping and wrapping" party.

Teri Gibbons, District 1 Director



# Let us hear from you...

If you did not submit a Job Title Survey at one of the District 1 Meetings, please complete the survey below and e-mail your responses to [Janie Boswell \(Janie.Boswell@mutualofomaha.com\)](mailto:Janie.Boswell@mutualofomaha.com) or [Linda Hess\(lhess@bairdholm.com\)](mailto:Linda.Hess@bairdholm.com).



As one means of taking the pulse of our members on various issues and trends in our profession, the NeALA Board of Directors plans to conduct several informal surveys throughout the year. We hope every member will complete the surveys. We ask that each member respond only once to each survey topic.

Our first survey focuses on job titles.

## JOB TITLE SURVEY

What is your current job title?  Legal Assistant  Paralegal  Other

If other, please specify title: \_\_\_\_\_

If your title is legal assistant or paralegal, are you satisfied the title best describes your job?  
 Satisfied  Not satisfied

If your title is not legal assistant or paralegal, which term would you prefer if your title was changed (or you changed jobs)?  Legal Assistant  Paralegal

Do legal secretaries/assistants/support staff in your firm use "legal assistant" as their job titles?  Yes  No

Do you believe legal assistant or paralegal is better understood by the public as someone performing substantive legal work?  Legal Assistant  Paralegal

Within the legal community, do you believe legal assistant or paralegal is better understood as someone performing substantive legal work?  Legal Assistant  Paralegal

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Spotlighting:

### Member Profiles

## Alison Barthel and Adam Zgoda

By Janie Boswell, ACP

NeALA's most important asset is its members. Our members have a wealth of legal knowledge and unique skills that can benefit each of us. We may need a legal form; we may need help on an assignment outside our area of expertise; or we may need an introduction to someone in the legal community. Fellow members are valuable resources when these situations occur. While most of us know a few members well, we do not know most of our members well enough to maximize NeALA's networking potential. In an attempt to expand our networking opportunities, we plan to profile various NeALA members and their employers in a series of *In Brief* articles. We hope you find these articles interesting and informative.

Our first article spotlights Alison Barthel and Adam Zgoda, paralegals at Gross & Welch.

Gross & Welch, P.C., L.L.O. is a full-service law firm. The firm was founded by Judge Harvey M. Johnsen and Daniel J. Gross in 1927 and was initially named Johnsen & Gross. Today the firm comprises 23 attorneys, 6 paralegals and numerous support staff. The firm's main office is located at 1500 Omaha Tower, 2120 South 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Omaha, Nebraska.

Five of the Gross & Welch paralegals work in the litigation department and one works in its corporate law section. NeALA's Vice President, Vicki Gradowski, maintains a full caseload in the litigation department and also serves as the firm's paralegal supervisor. She has an active role in hiring paralegals and overseeing the firm's student interns. When contacted about our articles, Vicki suggested I interview NeALA members Alison Barthel and Adam Zgoda.

Alison and Adam both work in the firm's litigation department and are relatively new to the profession. While they both are enthusiastic and passionate about their careers, they have different stories on how they became paralegals.



Alison earned her B.S. in Consumer Affairs from South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. She was interested in law and considered pursuing either a court reporting career or a paralegal career. After Alison decided to become a paralegal, she obtained a Certificate in Paralegal Studies – Litigation option at Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, Nebraska in 2005. During her paralegal studies, Alison completed her student internship at Gross & Welch. After graduation, Gross & Welch hired her as a paralegal.

*Alison Barthel* Thomas A. Grennan is Alison's supervising attorney. Alison primarily works on insurance defense cases. However, she occasionally works on various plaintiff cases for Mr. Grennan. Alison is involved in all phases of each case. She answers discovery, prepares deposition summaries, drafts mediation statements, summarizes medical records, organizes the litigation file, prepares trial notes, and assembles trial notebooks. She also works closely with clients, attends interviews, and assists at trial.

Alison enjoys analyzing facts and reviewing discovery to build a case. She finds those aspects of a case very exciting and interesting. When asked what has been her most satisfying assignment or memorable experience, she indicated working on a particular mediation statement. Her efforts helped define the parameters for settlement. "When your words become part of the statement, you know your work impacted the decision and outcome," she said. Alison also enjoys the rewards of building client relationships.

Alison's advice to paralegals is to be willing to do what needs to be done instead of adopting a philosophy that something is not your job. What may seem insignificant may have a tremendous impact on a case. Her advice to paralegal students is to get involved in NeALA. She stated that you meet people and have better networking opportunities. She also encourages students who do not work in a legal environment to get a job in the legal field. She provided the example of a law firm runner. Runners get familiar with various aspects of cases, they gain exposure to the court system, and learn courthouse practices. These experiences will have long-term benefits.



Adam Zgoda

Alison's example of becoming a runner to learn about the law is a perfect lead for Adam's story. Adam earned a Bachelors degree in Communications at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. To supplement his income during college, Adam worked as a runner at Gross & Welch. At the time, he was interested in pursuing a legal career.

During his tenure as a runner, Adam began helping on small projects. He also learned his way around the courthouse and began networking with court clerks and other courthouse employees. When he graduated from UNO in 2003, he worked full-time on a large tax case. In 2004, Adam left Gross & Welch to work for one of its clients. In 2005, Adam returned to Gross & Welch and was mentored for a year by a veteran paralegal who was moving from the area. During that time, Adam learned the ropes and obtained on-the-job, real-time paralegal training.

John Iliff is Adam's supervising attorney. Adam's focus is workers' compensation litigation. He supervises case activity from start to finish. Initially, he gets the file organized and breaks down the case to its bare components. He then develops a case timeline to which the team strictly adheres. He enjoys preparing the case work-up and thinking outside the box to develop defense strategies and arguments. He answers discovery, attends depositions and trials as needed, and interviews witnesses in the field. Adam has also managed casework for a paralegal intern and a new paralegal working in his area.

One of the most rewarding aspects of his job is being asked his opinion about a case. Adam has a thirst to learn all he can about the law and his cases. Adam believes communication is very important in our profession. He recommends that paralegals ask questions. He advises, "Always carry a pen and pad of paper." According to Adam, "Commitment and passion go a long way."

Even though Alison and Adam share support staff with their attorneys, they have the flexibility to personalize their work style. Alison chooses to do her own typing; Adam chooses to dictate. During my visit, it was obvious that Adam and Alison enjoy their careers. They are happy at Gross & Welch.

From talking with Alison and Adam, it is evident that Gross & Welch supports its paralegals and has a strong paralegal program. The paralegals perform substantive legal work in a nurturing and professional environment. The firm holds quarterly paralegal meetings; it supports and encourages participation in NeALA. It pays professional dues, supports CLE and provides networking opportunities. To sum it up, Adam stated, "Gross & Welch takes care of its people."

Gross & Welch sponsors various NeALA activities and has been one of our seminar sponsors for some time. I was very impressed that Gross & Welch profiles its paralegals on its website. To learn more about Gross & Welch or to network with its paralegals, please visit its website at [www.grosswelch.com](http://www.grosswelch.com) or contact Vicki Gradowski, Alison Barthel, or Adam Zgoda.

If you are interested in participating in our profile series or want to offer recommendations for future articles, please contact Janie Boswell.

Start making plans now to attend the  
NALA Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana  
July 11-14. Check out pages 13 and 14  
for more details.



## HOW TO RUIN A GOOD FAMILY RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

(Or The Disadvantages of Joint Accounts)

Dear Aunt Bess,

I got your voice mail message. If I understood it correctly, you want me to go to your bank and sign a signature card because you have converted your checking and savings accounts to joint accounts and named me as the joint owner. You said you were doing it so I could pay your bills if something should happen to you, either if you became incompetent or on your death. This way, you said, your accounts would not be subject to probate.

Thank you for your vote of confidence in me. I love you and will be happy to help you if you need help. You are right that changing your accounts to joint accounts would mean I could write checks on your account if you couldn't, could transfer money from your savings account, and the accounts would not be part of your probate estate. This isn't a good idea.

By naming me as a joint account owner, you give me free access to all your funds. Today, I could say that I would use the right for your benefit only. I could tell you I would not write a check to pay my bills when I overspent my paycheck or when that diamond bracelet I've had my eye on at the jewelers went on sale. I could tell you I would not be in a position to have creditors looking for accounts to garnish when I defaulted on credit card bills. You could argue a creditor would have no right to attach the account since you contributed all the funds to it, but you might have to argue that in court, costing you legal fees at the very least. If I was struck by a bus and killed, your accounts could be deemed subject to inheritance tax in my estate, again, until you prove to the satisfaction of the county attorney that you contributed all the funds to it. If I got divorced, you might have to argue again that the accounts were all yours to keep them from my property settlement agreement. The bank is protected by law from claims of amounts withdrawn by a joint owner in excess of that owner's beneficial share of the account. If I used more money from the account than I should have, your recourse is to get it back from me, not the bank.

And then there are your children. If they lived in the area, you would probably have named one or more of them as the joint owners of the account. Your plan makes the joint

owner, me, the owner of the account immediately upon your death. Your estate would have the obligation to pay your funeral expense, outstanding bills, and the expenses of administration of your estate. I would get the money in the accounts, not your estate or your children, whether they would inherit under the intestacy laws of the state or under your will. You have told me you have US Treasury bills that are paid on maturity directly into your savings account. Just suppose a \$600,000 Treasury bill matured, and the redemption value of \$600,000 was paid into your account the week before you died. You intended to reinvest the money, but hadn't done it yet. At your death, the accounts are mine, no matter what you intended or had written in your will. I may feel obligated to share the wealth with your children. Dividing the \$600,000 among the three of them creates gift tax consequences, because the tax authorities would view my transfer as gifts. Since the gift of \$200,000 to each cousin is in excess of the \$12,000 annual gift tax exclusion, I now owe the IRS \$253,800 in gift tax. No thank you.

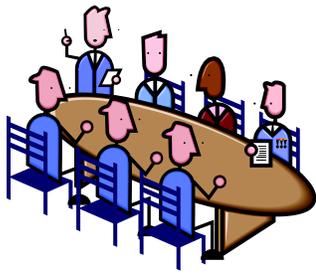
Aunt Bess, you need to see a good attorney and do some estate planning. The attorney may suggest that you appoint me your attorney-in-fact under a power of attorney that would authorize me to write checks for your benefit on your account. It would not keep your accounts out of your probate estate, but it would mean your accounts would pass to your beneficiaries under the will the attorney will draft for you. The attorney may suggest you set up an *inter vivos* (during lifetime) trust, with me or another trusted individual or institution as successor trustee, if you are unable or unwilling to act as trustee. Changing your bank accounts to trust accounts, the trustee (you as long as you are able, or your successor) would manage the accounts. After your death, the accounts would pass according to the terms of your trust, outside probate.

You have options other than making me a joint owner of your accounts; and you should consider them before taking any action. When you are ready, I can get recommendations of attorneys qualified in drafting estate plans from a paralegal friend of mine. It is best for you to call for the appointment and meet with the attorney without me there, so there is no question of whether I influenced any decisions you may make. However, if you need someone to drive you to the attorney's office, you can depend on me for that. After all, that's what family is for.

Love,

Your niece, Julie

*Submitted by Linda R. Hess*



## **BOARD ACTIVITIES**

Below is a summary of the actions of the Board. For official, approved minutes of any meeting contact Kim Brown, Secretary.

### **1<sup>st</sup> BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING for the 2006-2007 Year:**

The first 2006-2007 Board of Directors meeting was held at Baird Holm LLP in Omaha, on October 17, 2006. Present were Janie Boswell, President; Kaye Benak, President Elect; Vicki Gradowski, Vice-President; Kimberly Brown, Secretary; Linda Hess, NALA Liaison; Teri Gibbons, District I Director; Loretta Phillips, Parliamentarian; and Rose Lulla, Publications Chair.

The minutes of the September 13, 2006 meeting were presented and approved.

The following officers were appointed: Loretta Phillips, Parliamentarian; Jodie Gardner-Grandberry, Website Chairperson, and Rose Lulla, Publications Chairperson.

Janie Boswell reviewed her expectations of the 2006-2007 Board. Each Board member discussed her goals and ideas for the year.

Vicki reported we now have over 200 members. Vicki also presented applications for membership and an application for transfer. The memberships were approved for:

Mindy Ware, Active, Woodmen of the World, Omaha  
Kimberly Gocke, Active, Parsonage, Vandenack, Williams, LLC  
Nicole Wise, Active, Lamson Dugan & Murray LLP  
Karie VanVleet, Student, presently attending College of St. Mary  
Melody Albertsen, Student, presently attending Metropolitan Community College  
Arlene Adelson, Student, presently attending College of St. Mary  
Brenda Wickersheim, Associate, Graduated from College of Saint Mary – May 2006

Teri presented the idea of NeALA adopting a needy family at Christmas through the Salvation Army.

Janie reported that Jodie Gardner-Grandberry is working diligently on the NeALA website.

Linda reported that she would be distributing continuing education announcements by e-mail to all board members. She also is working on archiving all old items for NeALA, which will be stored through Benson Storage.

The following committee chairpersons were nominated and ratified by the Board:

- Annual Meeting: Laurie Vic and Kay Benak Co-Chairs
- CLA Scholarship Committee: Vicki Gradowski
- Continuing Legal Education: Kaye Benak/Stephanie Henson
- Website: Jodie Gardner-Grandberry, Chairperson and Lisa Hardy, to assist.
- Membership: Vicki Gradowski
- NSBA Liaison: None
- Student Services: Janie Boswell
- Student Scholarship: Lori Marco
- Audit Committee: Lori Marco

The tentative dates and locations for future Board meetings for the 2006-2007 year are:

May 8, 2007 at Spencer Fane  
July 10, 2007 at Dial Properties  
September 11, 2007, location to be determined.

If you are interested in attending a Board meeting, we recommend you confirm the date and time with a Board member. All NeALA Members are welcome to attend!

# BOARD ACTIVITIES (continued from page 8)

## ★ SPECIAL MEETING

In a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors held electronically on December 4, 2006, the following new members were approved:

Denise Jaksich, Active, Douglas County Attorney's Office  
 Michael Labs, Student, Metropolitan Community College



## FINANCIAL REPORTS

<b>NeALA BUDGET 2006-2007</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Active Dues		\$12,415.00
Associate Dues		845.00
Initiation Fees		400.00
Interest Income		510.00
Reinstatement Fees		60.00
Seminar Income		4,100.00
Student Dues		690.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<u>\$19,020.00</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Board of Directors		\$200.00
CLE Seminar		4,000.00
Corporation Exp.		20.00
District 1 Director		625.00
District 2 Director		50.00
District 4 Director		75.00
In Brief Publication		500.00
Internet Website		6,000.00
Membership		1,500.00
NALA Dues		225.00
NALA Liaison		2,000.00
Nominations and Elections		150.00
Parliamentarian		20.00
Postal		250.00
President		100.00
President-Elect		75.00
Public Relations		500.00
Records Storage		130.00
Secretary Expenses		200.00
Scholarship		1,700.00
Stationery & Printing		200.00
Student Services		300.00
Treasurer Exp.		100.00
Treasurer Bond		75.00
Vice President		25.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<u>\$19,020.00</u>

## TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1, 2006-December 13, 2006

**Beginning Balance:** \$ 21,200.50

### Income

Active Dues	\$ 1,365.00	
Associate Dues	260.00	
Initiation Fees	85.00	
Interest Income	1.88	
Student Dues	180.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	1891.88	1,891.88

### Expenses

CLE Seminar Expenses	396.22	
District 1 Director	(515.55)	
In Brief Publication Expenses	142.03	
Internet Web Site	359.40	
Membership Expenses	32.64	
NALA Dues	225.00	
Postal Expenses	(27.81)	
Treasurer Expenses	48.28	
Treasurer's Bond	75.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	735.21	(735.21)

**Ending Balance:** \$ 2,357.17



# DISTRICT 1 REPORT

TERI GIBBONS, DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR

On October 25, 2006, NeALA had its first District 1 meeting of the 2006-2007 year. There were 54 members, students, and guests in attendance. The new officers and committee chairmen were introduced.

I tried not to panic, but my first luncheon started out a little on the rough side. First, there was a mix-up regarding which luncheon choice was which, but thanks to everyone's tolerance, we were all eventually served with a tasty entree. Then, our speaker, the Honorable Vernon R. Daniels, was delayed in Court. There is nothing like ad-libbing at your first District 1 monthly meeting. President Janie Boswell presented goals for the coming year, and I spoke briefly about the Adopt-a-Family project in which NeALA had chosen to participate. Judge Daniels finally arrived and presented a very interesting and enlightening overview of the Juvenile Court System.

Thanks to all of you for your support in helping me survive my first meeting.

District 1's second meeting was held on November 15, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Central. There were 52 attendees at the meeting, 11 of whom were guests. Further information was provided regarding the Adopt-a-Family project and sign-up sheets were made available for those wishing to participate. This project was chosen as our December event in lieu of a holiday party.

Sam Delsenno of Express Personnel Services delivered a very informative presentation on "The Importance of Professionalism in the Job Market." He provided helpful hints that we can all use, whether we are seeking new employment or wishing to portray the most professional image in our current positions. Sam also treated us to wonderful cheesecake for dessert.

Thanks to all of you in attendance. I hope you had a wonderful and fun-filled holiday season.



## **CONGRATULATIONS, NEW CLA/CPs!**

**Nebraskans successfully completing the Certified Legal Assistant examination given in December 2006 are:**

- Rena R. Blackwell, CLA, North Platte**
- Judy J. Carver, CLA, Bellevue**
- Kylie M. Clayton, CLA, Omaha**
- Maren K. Hanson, CLA, Omaha**
- Tammy M. Johnson, CLA, Omaha**
- Kelly S. Lustgraaf, CLA, Omaha**

**As of the December 2006 testing session, there were 13,958 Certified Legal Assistants internationally. This represents an increase of over 200% in the number of Certified Legal Assistants in the last sixteen years.**

**Congratulations to all of you on your accomplishment!**





# 2007 UPCOMING NALA CLA/CP TESTING DATES



<u>Examination Date</u>	<u>Application Filing Deadline**</u>	<u>Late Application Filing Deadline (\$25 late fee)</u>
July 20-21	May 15	May 30
November 30-	October 1	October 16
December 1		

\*\*Additional forms will be required of all candidates if filing applications prior to meeting the eligibility requirements. Contact NALA headquarters for further information.

The fee for the CLA examination is \$250 for NALA members and \$275 for non-members of NALA. Retake fees are \$60 per section. Effective August 2001, the CLA examination program has been approved by the Veterans Administration under the new licensing and certification benefit. The VA will pay the examination fee for qualified veterans. For further information, see [www.gibill.va.gov/education/benefits.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/education/benefits.htm).

## AVAILABLE STUDY MATERIALS



Order CLA study reference materials on-line at [www.NALACampus.com](http://www.NALACampus.com).

Examination preparation seminars for selected topics are also available on-line at the [www.NALACampus.com](http://www.NALACampus.com) website. Self-study and LIVE program schedules are also available. Please visit this site for more details! The NALA CampusLIVE Schedule is listed on the following page.

**Did you know...**  
**as of February 1, 2007, there are 148 CLA/CPs in Nebraska!**

# ***NALA CampusLIVE! SCHEDULE***

**For convenient continuing legal education of the highest quality,  
check out NALA CampusLIVE!**

**All times are Central Time. Schedule subject to change.  
Go to [nalacampus.com](http://nalacampus.com) for latest schedule information and registration.**

## **April 2007**

<b>Wednesday, April 4, 2007 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.</b>	HIPAA Privacy Thomas Head, Esq.	General CLE- Intermediate
<b>Thursday, April 5, 2007 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.</b>	Advanced Evidence Karen Sanders-West, ACP, JD	General CLE- Advanced
<b>Thursday, April 12, 2007 Noon - 1:30 p.m.</b>	Time Management Techniques and Strategies Vicki Voisin, ACP	General CLE- Intermediate
<b>Monday, April 16, 2007 10:00 a.m. - Noon</b>	Eminent Domain: Beyond the Fiction and into the Facts Keith L. Williams, Attorney	General CLE
<b>Wednesday, April 18, 2007 Noon - 1:30 p.m.</b>	What do You Mean – Execute, Witness, Attest, Notarize and Apostille? Mary Willard, ACP, NCCP	General CLE
<b>Thursday, April 19, 2007 Noon - 1:30 p.m.</b>	Trademark Policing: Why and How Do We Do It? Debra J. Monke, ACP	General CLE - Intermediate
<b>Friday, April 20, 2007 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.</b>	Immigration Landmines - or How to Avoid Malpractice Pitfalls with Your Non-Citizen Clients Kathleen Harvey, Esq.	General CLE- Intermediate
<b>Thursday, April 26, 2007 10:00 a.m.- Noon</b>	Effective Communication Skills Kathryn L. Myers, Paralegal Educator	General CLE

# Geaux to New Orleans with NALA

## 32nd Annual Convention & Exhibition – July 11-14, 2007

The 2007 Annual Convention Educational programs offer a wide array of educational opportunities for all paralegals. The program features 3 Institutes and 3 Educational Tracks, as follows:

### Institutes:

- Appellate Procedure
- Electronic Data Discovery
- Human Resources

### Tracks:

#### *A la Carte*

- Disaster Recovery: Lessons from Katrina
- Fundamentals of Elder Law
- Vulnerable Immigrant Populations - How to Recognize Them

### *Advanced Essential Skills*

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Real Estate - Multi-use Development
- Personal Injury - Damages

### *Essential Skills*

- Written Communications
- American Legal System
- Judgment & Legal Analysis
- Legal Research

The speakers are noted experts in their fields. Check out the session details and descriptions at <http://www.nala.org>.

**Very Special Session Announced . . .** In recent years, members have asked for more in-depth leadership sessions for their personal growth as well as for the benefit of their affiliated associations . . . in 2007, we have merged these ideas into a very special Membership Forum Session.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Thomson/Delmar Learning, nationally recognized speaker Mark Levin is going to make a presentation on Thursday, July 12, from 1:15-4:30 p.m. Mr. Levin's presentation stresses that effective leaders have the ability to do things AND to get things done. His interactive presentation will help bring out the leader in you. For more details and a biography of Mr. Levin, please see the NALA web site or visit <http://www.baileadership.com>.

**The Venue.** The meeting will be held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Guest room arrangements for the 2007 convention may be made on the web at <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/nala>.



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# New Orleans!

## Member Exchange Presentations Chosen for 2007 NALA Convention

The prestigious Member Exchange presentations to be made at NALA's 32nd Annual Convention in New Orleans July 11-14 will feature a program on career enhancement, and another on the differences between in-house and law firm paralegal work. The first presentation is entitled "Career Enhancement: When I Grow Up, I Want to Be..." by former NALA President Deb Monke, ACP. The presentation will outline resources, how to make yourself more marketable, how to prepare for change, and how to keep enjoyment in your work. Ms. Monke is an Intellectual Property Administrator for State Farm Insurance Companies, Bloomington, IL.

The second presentation will be "To Bill or Not to Bill: Differences Between In-House and Law Firms." This topic will be presented by Christine Garber, paralegal with Allergan, Inc., Irvine, CA, and Carolyn Yellis, ACP, a freelance paralegal from Anaheim, CA. They will cover differences in how the actual law work is handled and the comparative advantages and disadvantages of in-house departments and law firms.

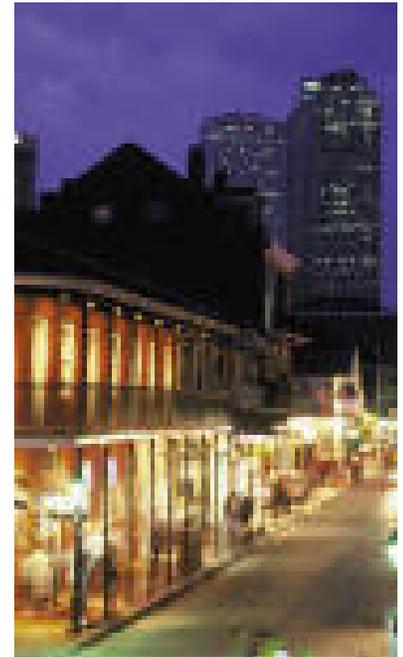
(continued on page 14)

**2007 NALA Annual Convention &  
Educational Workshops  
July 11-14, 2007  
New Orleans, Louisiana**



**3 Institutes 3 Educational Tracks  
and 1 Very Special Leadership Program. . .  
add up to**

***Laissez Les Bons Temps Rouler!***



(Continued from page 13)

Exchange presentations are competitively selected from among proposals submitted each year by NALA members across the nation. The program offers an exceptional opportunity for members to share expertise, present successful strategies, and heighten their profiles in the paralegal profession. The 2008 call for proposals will be made in the summer of 2007.

NALA's convention is the nation's largest annual gathering of paralegals, and New Orleans has shown special interest in making the city an exciting inviting venue for the conference. A brochure with complete information and educational program details is available from NALA headquarters. Information and registration forms may also be found at the NALA Web site: [www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org).

***Calendar of Events***

**April 20 Mid-year Seminar  
May 23 District 1 Meeting  
June 27 District 1 Meeting  
July 11-14 National Convention**

***Editorial Policy***

*In Brief*, the official publication of the Nebraska Association of Legal Assistants ("NeALA"), is a newsletter published at least quarterly by and for NeALA members. It is an attempt to be an independent and thoughtful presentation, to best serve the needs and interests of NeALA members. Publishing and editorial decisions are based on the editor's judgment of timeliness, writing, and potential interest to the NeALA membership. Articles included within this publication contain views of individual authors and may not reflect those of NeALA or the editor of *In Brief*.

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