

**THE PARAVIEW**  
Quarterly Publication of the  
Metrolina Paralegal Association

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



**2009**

*P.O. Box 36260  
Charlotte, NC 28236  
[www.charlotteareaparalegals.com](http://www.charlotteareaparalegals.com)*

**FIRST QUARTER  
EDITION**



# FROM THE EDITOR



This year is a year of new beginnings for both our nation and the *Paraview*. As you will notice, we have decided to “go green” with this issue of the *Paraview*. We hope that you enjoy having an electronic version of the newsletter so that there will be one less item on your desk.

I would also like to introduce myself as the new editor of the *Paraview*. I have been a paralegal for over 13 years. I have lived in Charlotte for a little over three years. My family and I moved here from Maryland in 2005. I am a litigation paralegal at Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A. in Uptown Charlotte.

We have added several new features to the *Paraview*. Each issue will include a spotlight of a MPA member. We generally only see fellow MPA members at the monthly meetings so this spotlight will help us to learn more about each other. Each issue will also feature a board report on the board activities, upcoming events, etc. The final additional feature is a section entitled “A Day in the Life” which will feature an interview with paralegal colleagues who work in various specialties and in various settings. These interviews will provide you with insight on the day-to-day tasks and assignments of our colleagues. If you’re thinking of changing your paralegal specialty or if you’re a paralegal student, these interviews will be especially helpful to you. This will also be helpful to those who are simply curious as to what other types of paralegals do. We are pleased to profile “A Day in the Life” of NALA President, Linda J. Wolf, ACP for this first column.

I would like to thank Laurie K. Thomas, CLA, NCCP, the former editor of the *Paraview*, for all her guidance, patience, and encouragement during this transition phase. Thanks for everything, Laurie! In addition, I would like to thank Stacy Reid Monroe, NCCP for being my “second eye” for this issue. Thanks Stacy!

I look forward to serving you as the editor for the *Paraview*. Please remember that the *Paraview* is not my newsletter or the MPA Board or Executive Committee’s newsletter. It is your newsletter and it can only be fully successful with your help. If you have any ideas, suggestions, and/or articles for the *Paraview*, please contact me at [sriggins@rbh.com](mailto:sriggins@rbh.com).

Satyra L. Riggins, CLA  
[sriggins@rbh.com](mailto:sriggins@rbh.com)

HAPPY READING!!!





**THE PARAVIEW**  
**The Metrolina Paralegal Association,**  
**PO Box 36260, Charlotte, NC 28236**  
**[www.charlotteareaparalegals.com](http://www.charlotteareaparalegals.com),**  
**[info@charlotteparalegals.com](mailto:info@charlotteparalegals.com)**



**ADVERTISING RATES**

The Metrolina Paralegal Association publishes *The Paraview*, which includes substantive legal articles of interest and general news for the career paralegal. This publication is distributed to approximately 250 members of the MPA in the Charlotte area. The membership of the MPA includes paralegals from private law firms, corporations, title companies, government agencies, local community colleges, educators, and paralegal students. Advertising is available in *The Paraview*, which is the only local professional publication of this type in the Metrolina area. Our magazine will keep your display advertisement circulating in the legal community for a three-month period.

**Our display ad rates per issue are as follows:**

1/8 page size (business card)	\$35.00
1/4 page size	\$60.00
1/2 page size	\$110.00
Full page size	\$150.00
Back cover inside	\$175.00

For more information contact: Paraview Editor c/o: Metrolina Paralegal Association  
 PO Box 36260, Charlotte, NC 28236

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# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## 1st Quarter 2009



### FEBRUARY 2009

- Feb. 4-MPA Executive Board Meeting
- Feb. 12-MPA ANNUAL SEMINAR!!!!
- Feb. 14-Valentine's Day
- Feb. 16-President's Day



### MARCH 2009

- Mar.4-MPA Executive Board Meeting
- Mar. 8-Daylight Savings Begins
- Mar. 12- MPA Monthly Meeting
- Mar 17-St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 20-First Day of Spring
- Mar. 20-21-CLA Exam in Durham
- Mar 26-28 NCPA Annual Seminar in Wilmington, NC



### JANUARY 2009 MPA MEETING

The speaker for January will be David Merryman with the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation. Mr. Merryman will be speaking about the Catawba River and issues that surround it. His talk is entitled "America's Most Endangered: Your Catawba River." Join us for this informative discussion on Thursday, January 8, 2009 at our monthly meeting.

**"Do your job and demand your compensation-but in that order."  
Cary Grant**



## REPORT FROM THE MPA BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

First Vice President (Membership): There are currently 268 members of MPA. There are 64 new members and 11 of the new members are students. The updated membership application is currently on the website. The renewal application will only be available on the website during the MPA renewal period which runs from June 1st –July 31st.

Second Vice President (Programs): Planning for the MPA Annual Seminar is complete. The Annual Seminar will be held at the Blake Hotel. This year's topics include ethics, white collar crime, animal law, child support guidelines, legal problems for distressed companies, and environmental law. See the complete brochure and registration form on pages 13 and 14 of the *Paraview*. If any MPA member is aware of a potential guest speaker for our monthly lunch meeting or seminars, please contact April Ritter ([aritter@rbh.com](mailto:aritter@rbh.com)).

Third Vice President (Job Bank-Website): There have been no new postings to the job bank since this past summer. The tight job market and the poor economy could be factors for this situation. In addition, the new membership application form on the website includes editable text fields which allow applicants to type in and print for their ease and convenience.

Student/School Liaison: The teddy bear/stuffed animal drive was a huge success. MEDIC was very appreciative of the MPA members' donation to this effort. There were over 100 teddy bears and other stuffed animals donated for the drive. In addition, there are currently seven students requesting mentors; however there are currently only three mentors available. Mentoring does not take a lot of time so MPA members should make a more concerted effort to support and encourage the paralegal students. An hour per month of telephone calls, email exchanges, or lunch meetings is a small gesture that can make a positive impact on a paralegal student's confidence level and professional goals.

As you can see from above, the MPA Executive Committee and the MPA Board are hard at work for you and the organization.

## NOVEMBER MPA MEETING RECAP

Mr. Charles Keller, Jr. Community Access & Outreach Administrator for the 26th Judicial District of North Carolina was the featured speaker for November. Mr. Keller provided an entertaining speech on the jury duty process, some of the most interesting/entertaining jury duty excuses, and a highlight of the features of the new jury duty assembly area at the Mecklenburg County Courthouse. The speech was entitled "The Dog Ate My Summons and Other Entertaining Jury Excuses and Anecdotes About Jury Service in Mecklenburg County." One of the most memorable jury duty excuses that Mr. Keller provided was "I'm psychic so I already know the outcome of this case." The jury duty assembly area features three movie viewing areas, a lounge, a game room, a business center, and many other features which are designed to make potential jury members as comfortable as possible.



Mr. Keller can be reached at [charles.w.keller@nccourts.org](mailto:charles.w.keller@nccourts.org) or (704) 347-7864.

## DECEMBER MPA MEETING RECAP -HOLIDAY SOCIAL AND A PRIZE GALORE

The December MPA meeting occurred on December 11, 2008. This meeting was our annual Holiday Social. MPA members enjoyed a time of friendship, fun, food, games, and prizes. Musical entertainment was provided by Herdicine Morris, paralegal at Wishart, Norris, Henninger and Pittman, P.A.



MPA presented teddy bears and other stuffed animals to MEDIC representative, Regina Davis. MPA members should be proud of their contribution of 100 stuffed animals to this effort.



The "Name That Carol" game led to a room of humming colleagues trying to determine which random phrases belonged to which Christmas carol. It was a fun game and very challenging.



There was also a trivia game where prizes were handed out to those that answered the questions correctly.



Patron members and MPA presented several door prizes to those in attendance. There were over 50 prizes given. Thanks to all the patrons who attended and/or contributed door prizes for this event.



For those who were unable to attend the December meeting/social, you missed a great time! We hope to see you next year.





## Become a CLA/CP

### Take The March CLA/CP Exam in Durham

The exam will be given Friday and Saturday, March 20 and 21, 2009 at Durham Technical Community College. The exam runs from 9:00 am-3:00 pm on Friday and 9:00 am-3:45 pm on Saturday.

The registration deadline is January 15, 2009 and the late registration deadline (with a \$25 late fee) is January 30, 2009. Contact NALA ([www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org)), (918) 587-6828 (telephone) for application form, fees, and other information.



### NETWORKING FOR PARALEGALS

Are you a fan of professional networking websites like LinkedIn or social networking sites like Facebook? Would you enjoy a similar website if it offered you the opportunity to connect with fellow paralegal colleagues around the nation? If you answered yes to either of these questions, you should check out <http://www.myparalegalspace.snappville.com/>, a professional and social networking specifically geared to paralegals. The site offers valuable information on upcoming events, career opportunities, and advice from paralegals from all walks of life.



### CALLING ALL PERFORMING ACTS FANS

If you're a fan of the performing arts, take a long lunch once a month to see a behind the scenes view of theater. The Blumenthal Performing Arts Center conducts backstage tours on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 11am-2pm. No reservations are required and tours begin at North Tryon entrance of the Belk Theater. If you want more information, call 704-379-1378.



# MPA SPOTLIGHT



Laurie K. Thomas, CLA, NCCP is an Associate Project Manager for Duke Energy. Laurie has been a member of MPA since 2004 when she moved to Charlotte. She was the editor of the *Paraview* from 2006-2008. Laurie was also heavily involved in the Palmetto Paralegal Association in Columbia, South Carolina where she held several Board positions.

Laurie became a paralegal as the result of legal thriller author, John Grisham. She attended college in Oxford, Mississippi, where Grisham lived at the time. The Oxford book store was always Grisham's first stop in his book tour. Laurie decided that since she was so interested in reading Grisham's legal thrillers that she might be good in the legal field.

Laurie graduated in 1993 and has been a paralegal now for over fifteen years. She was promoted in early 2008 from paralegal to Associate Project Manager at Duke Energy. Her paralegal experience and extensive research capabilities were instrumental in her promotion.

Laurie's favorite part of being a paralegal is litigation. She sees litigation as "planning a big party." She thrives on assisting with document production and gathering pertinent information for arguments.

Laurie's most memorable experience in her paralegal career has been working with the Palmetto Innocence Project in South Carolina. She was responsible for reviewing all applications and correspondence from inmates, creating a database for the project, providing the initial review and summary of all cases that came into her law firm at the time. Laurie also enjoyed her time being a liaison between the court system and women in South Carolina prisons who were accused of killing their abusers.

Laurie is a single mother to two wonderful children. She has a thirteen year old daughter, Kianna, and an eleven year old son, Niko. Their family also includes their cat, Bella, and their guinea pig, Basil. If you would like a guinea pig, Basil is "free to a good home-seriously!"

Laurie's hobbies include taking belly dancing lessons, taking pottery lessons, and continuing to read legal thrillers. She is also currently working to complete her bachelor's degree in Business Administration.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE... OF NALA'S PRESIDENT



As we all know, paralegals as well as all working professionals lead busy lives. Have you ever wondered how a working paralegal who is also the President of the National Association of Legal Assistants leads her life? Linda J. Wolf, ACP is the President of the National Association of Legal Assistant as well as a paralegal at the Dallas law firm of Sidley Austin, LLP.

There is no typical workday though Linda generally gets to the office between 8-9 am. Linda does not leave at a standard time. Often, she'll have a lawyer walk in with a rush project at 5:00 pm and she will stay until it gets done.

Linda started her paralegal career 29 years ago and has spent her entire career with the same group of lawyers, although the firm name changed in 1996 when the intellectual property boutique merged with Sidley Austin LLP. For the first 20 years of her career, she worked primarily in patent litigation, specifically cases involving patents on explosives. Linda also worked on patent and trademark prosecution matters. She was assigned to one partner in the firm, so she worked on everything he did. When he retired, Linda moved to the library, and currently, in addition to managing the library, she is responsible for training young attorneys and paralegals on research applications. At the same time, she has segued into intellectual property due diligence work. Each of the librarians in the firm has their own niche, and her niche is intellectual property, so she also assists the other librarians with their intellectual property needs. Finally, Linda carries a heavy docket of trademark opposition cases, which are adversarial proceedings before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board and function much like a federal case does. So on any given day, she could be investigating the trademark and patent portfolio of a company for a deal, fielding requests for assistance from professionals in her firm's DC, New York, California or Chicago offices, filing papers with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board or working on discovery in a patent case.

Linda works very hard to balance and prioritize her duties as paralegal as well as her duties as President of NALA. Her firm is supportive of her NALA presidency, but they also are quick to add, "don't let your billables drop!" Linda handles it by prioritizing. Outside of work, NALA is her No. 1 priority, so she has gone inactive in other organizations so that she can focus all her free time on serving NALA. Because she handles NALA business during working hours, she is in the office longer. Linda sets aside time during the day to handle NALA business, and then she makes sure she puts in the hours needed to meet her billable requirements for the day. Also, Marge Dover, Executive Director of NALA, is extremely instrumental in Linda's ability to stay on track. Marge is very organized, knows the association inside and out, and can boil any problem down to its meat - so she streamlines things tremendously. Linda states that "I couldn't do it without her [Marge's] invaluable assistance."

Linda travels to NALA headquarters for the Board and full committee meetings, when the meetings are conducted in person. But there are some special committees which transact their business in a series of conference calls, and she will join in on those from her Dallas location. Each year, the NALA Board looks at how many physical meetings they really need, and whether they can push any of them to conference calls, and that's particularly true this year, with the state of the current economy.

Linda hopes to be a good steward for NALA during this difficult economic time. Further, Linda hopes to provide the current Board members with the tools to excel as a NALA Board member and our paralegal representative.



## The Modern Balancing Act: Achieving Work/Life Balance by Hallie Crawford, MA, CPCC



Tired of teetering out of control? Do you feel overwhelmed by your work, home and family responsibilities? Are you frequently stressed because you can't get everything done? If your life seems like a circus ...juggling work, home and family responsibilities - you're not alone. Many people just like you feel like their life is leading them, instead of them leading a purpose driven life and choosing where they spend their time. So, who's running the show? Is it your Crackberry, your laptop, your boss – or you? If your answer is something else than you it's time to get back in the driver's seat!

Life balance is a buzzword these days for good reason. It's a chronic issue that comes up in conversation because quite simply, life has become harder to manage. With email, Crackberry's and everything else demanding our attention it's no wonder we get bogged down in to-do lists and wonder at the end of the day where the time went. We're expected to work faster and more efficiently, plus we're more accessible than ever because of new technology that allows us to work or communicate from anywhere. Information comes at us faster than ever. And this trend shows no sign of stopping.

The problem with your life being out of balance is...

- You're not focusing your attention and time where you want to, and not living the life you want to live.
- It feels like your life is on autopilot, like someone else is driving the bus and you are not in control.
- When you feel pressured to handle so many tasks and have so many demands on your time, you lose creative thinking and effectiveness – not to mention becoming physically exhausted.

On the flip side of this issue is we all want greater fulfillment in our lives and careers than ever before. It's no longer acceptable to punch a time clock at the same job for our whole lives and wait until retirement to have fun. We want fulfillment and balance now. I've noticed through my career coaching practice that while people are craving greater balance they are having more trouble achieving it.

So what can *you* do to create balance in your life today? Here are some tips:

1. Step One: Make a list of the different areas of your life where you're not spending as much time and energy as you'd like. For example, if you've lost touch with friends and family or aren't connecting with them as frequently as you want to, put that down. Come up with at least 3 areas that need work in terms of your time and attention.
  - a. In each of these 3 areas, identify one action step you can take in the next week to improve upon that area. Will you make a commitment to call one friend in the next week, or spend time with at least one family member? Make the action step simple, realistic and give yourself a deadline. Taking one step in each of these areas will create greater balance in your life. Continue to do this every week until you develop a habit of attending to the areas of your life that are important to you.
2. Step Two: Learn to Balance Work and Personal Time. If work is one of those areas that's taking over your life, try some of these techniques to better manage your work time and attention.
  - a. Turn off your blackberry, phone and/or email when you need focused time to work on a project.
  - b. Set your email to only check emails when you press send/receive, not every time an email comes through. Having the email buzz at you whenever you receive a new message is incredibly distracting.
  - c. Turn off your voicemail or email chime on your phone. Make a commitment to only check your voicemail and email twice a day at certain times.
  - d. Prioritize your tasks on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Consciously choose where you focus your time and energy.
  - e. Plan ahead. When you know a big project is coming up plan for how you need to spend your time and delegate other tasks as necessary. Don't wait for crunch time to re-arrange your priorities.
  - f. Set boundaries.
    - i. Decide how late you are willing to stay at work each night – 6:00, 7:00 pm? And how frequently this will happen.
    - ii. Before you dive into a task, determine how much time you can and will spend on that task. Set a goal for yourself, you'll be more likely to achieve it.

Your action steps don't have to be complicated; they simply require time for self-reflection and a true commitment to implement. When you create greater balance in your life you will experience: greater fulfillment, effectiveness, and productivity. You will be less stressed and won't get sick as often. And most importantly you'll be leading the life you want to lead!

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### About the Author:

**Break the cycle today. Take the reins and create greater balance and fulfillment in your life!**

For more help creating balance in your life check out Hallie Crawford's *Life Balance Audio and Worksheet* right here. Visit Hallie Crawford's website at [www.HallieCrawford.com](http://www.HallieCrawford.com) to learn how you can create the life and career you want.



## Why Become a Mentor? Why Should You Have A Mentor? First-Hand Perspectives on the Benefits of Mentoring by Susan Randolph, NCCP and Vicki Swaringen, NCCP

### **The Mentor Perspective by Susan Randolph, CLA, NCCP:**

**I don't have time to be a mentor!** Yes, this is the typical response from paralegals when they hear the call go out for mentors. In today's busy world, adding responsibility for one more person puts us over our limit.

What do students and new paralegals want from a mentor? Well, a job, of course, first and foremost. But, as we in the workforce know, it's the rare paralegal who has any influence on the creation of jobs within our firms. The best we can do is be aware of a job opening before it is advertised, and to know a lot about that job and the attorney and firm that are offering it. Guess what...this is exactly what a mentor does. And it didn't take you any extra time at all!

What else are students and new paralegals looking for in a mentor? Career guidance, tips on interviewing or starting a new paralegal job, support and encouragement. All of this assistance is useful to a person starting out, and all can be accomplished through a few telephone calls, periodic e-mails, and an occasional lunch meeting. Introductions at MPA meetings are another great tool. Mentors can help their mentees network with other paralegal colleagues around the city which can be helpful when pursuing a paralegal position.

None of these things will take a lot of your time. As the busy, working person in the mentoring relationship, you are able to set the rules based on your time limitations. This relationship will mean the world to a person trying to get his or her foot in the paralegal door. The MPA stands ready to assist in the mentoring relationship, also, should the match-up prove to be unsuitable or too cumbersome.

So I would challenge you to try mentoring and see if it doesn't provide you with a good feeling of giving back by helping someone pursue their goals.

### **The Mentee Perspective by Vicki Swaringen, NCCP:**

**Your time as a mentor to a student is greatly appreciated!** The term 'mentor' and its application today can be traced back to 1699 and many famous and successful people throughout history have benefited from having a mentor.

Mentors can provide so much to students who are starting to think about resumes, job applications and job interviews. Typically a student doesn't have any experience with the different aspects of the legal profession outside of class. A mentor can give insights into the type of work they do, the size of the firm they work in and past employment experiences. The time you invest in phone calls, e-mails and perhaps a meeting or lunch is up to you and your student will certainly understand when you have to devote time to a project or a deadline.

When you are on the outside looking in, any information or knowledge is most beneficial. It helps to know you have someone you can talk to about their experiences within the profession. It is also a great confidence builder to be able to go to MPA meetings already knowing a familiar face. Networking is such an important part of job searching and association meetings are the perfect place to start.

I contacted MPA, as a student at CPCC, in the hopes of getting a mentor for all of the reasons above. I was so appreciative to have someone volunteer their time and effort to help me in my effort to find a job as a paralegal. I would like to think that all students who are fortunate enough to have a mentor will 'pay it forward' and in return be a mentor to other students in the future.

*Susan Randolph, CLA, NCCP and Vicki Swaringen, NCCP are trust and estates paralegals at Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson, P.A. Susan can be reached at [srandolph@rbh.com](mailto:srandolph@rbh.com) and Vicki can be reached at [vswaringen@rbh.com](mailto:vswaringen@rbh.com).*



## Can Your Law Firm or Office Benefit from Internships and Co-Ops? by Jill Lutz

College students often consider gaining professional work experience at some point in their education. Both students and employers realize how important an internship or Co-op is in terms of how it benefits the student; however, most employers underestimate the benefits that come with having such students at their worksite.

For hiring managers and students alike, the term “internship” is commonplace; the term “Co-op” is sometimes unfamiliar. Co-op is short for Cooperative Education, and it allows students to blend classroom learning with practical work experience. Students work with an employer, usually for a semester, in a position that is directly related to their field of study. Goals are set at the beginning of the Co-op with the help of a faculty member who is assigned to the student. The employer mentors the student throughout the work experience, and at the end of the semester, the student will receive a grade for the Co-op and college credit.

Both students and employers benefit greatly from internships or Co-op work experiences. The students receive professional experience directly related to their program of study. Students learn what it is really like to work in their field, plus begin to develop a network of professional contacts that will make the job search easier upon graduation.

Charles Keller, Community Access & Outreach Coordinator for the Trial Court Administrator’s (TCA’s) Office in Mecklenburg County, regularly has interns or Co-op students in various areas of the courthouse. He feels it is a win-win situation for the student and his office. “Students are qualified, knowledgeable and interested in the legal process,” according to Keller. “We treat the students as though they are employees.”

In return, students are able to network with judges, attorneys, and other courthouse personnel. When positions open at the courthouse, these students typically are considered first. Keller adds, “We typically receive 300 to 400 resumes for a given job opening. We like to hire from within, and if we already know how a student performs on the job, then the hiring process is simplified.”

Having an intern or Co-op student allows employers to see the talent available in local colleges and universities. Employers are given the opportunity to evaluate prospective employees before making a long-term commitment, which ultimately reduces personnel recruitment costs.

In addition, internships or Co-ops develop students who will become ambassadors for the employer. Chavon Matthews, a Paralegal Technology student at CPCC, is currently completing a Co-op at Horack Talley. Matthews decided to change careers when she was laid off from a position in the mortgage industry. Having direct experience in a law firm setting is invaluable to her. “I have hands-on experience from some of the best paralegals in the area. They are my personal instructors. I feel more confident to go into the legal workforce,” according to Matthews.

In today’s economy, employers continuously look for ways to reduce costs, yet attract the best employees for their office or corporate culture. One cost-effective way of recruiting is to have interns or Co-op students over a semester. Employers also become a partner in the educational process, introducing students to standard operating procedures and requirements of the job.

*Jill Lutz is a Coordinator in the Cooperative Education/Work-based Learning department at Central Piedmont Community College. She can be reached at [jill.lutz@cpcc.edu](mailto:jill.lutz@cpcc.edu).*



**Annual Seminar  
February 12, 2009**

**The Blake Hotel  
555 South McDowell Street  
Charlotte, NC 28204**

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**AGENDA**

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- 8:00 - 8:30                      Breakfast & Registration
- 8:30 - 9:30                      Session A  
**Ethics for the Busy Paralegal**  
SPEAKER: Alison VanDyke, Paralegal, McGuireWoods
- 9:45 – 10:45                    Session B  
**An Overview of White Collar Crime**  
SPEAKERS: Matthew Hoefling and Bill Mayberry, Attorneys,  
McGuire Woods
- 11:00-12:00                    Session C  
**Animal Law - History to Present Life in an Animal Law Firm**  
SPEAKER: Calley Gerber, Attorney, Gerber Animal Law Center
- 12:00-1:30                      Networking Lunch with Patron Members
- 1:30-2:30                        Session D  
**Use and Application of North Carolina Child Support Guidelines**  
SPEAKER: Kary Watson, Attorney, Horack Talley Pharr & Lowndes
- 2:45-3:45                        Session E  
**Companies in Distress: Legal Problems**  
SPEAKER: Peter Buck, Attorney, Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson
- 4:00-5:00                        Session F  
**Basics Of Environmental Law**  
SPEAKER: William Toole, Attorney, Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson

**Registration and Fees**

**Full Day**

MPA Member - \$85.00

Non member - \$100.00

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch, Afternoon Snack, and Parking )

**Student**

\$65.00

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch, Afternoon Snack, and Parking )

**Any One Session**

\$20.00

(Does not include \$5 parking fee)

**Lunch Only**

\$15.00

(Does not include \$5 parking fee)

**Registration including Fee must be received by  
February 2, 2009**

**Cancellations:** Reservations may be cancelled with full refund by Monday, February 2nd , by e-mail only to aritter@rbh.com

**CLE Credits:** Six hours of CLE credit for CLAs has been approved by the National Association of Legal Assistants, Inc. Six hours of CLE credit for the NCCPs has been approved by the North Carolina Bar Association.

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**Registration Form**

(please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firm/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a: Member Non member Student  
(circle one)

I will attend:

Full Day \_\_\_\_\_

Or

Single Session(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(indicate letter or letters, or LUNCH ONLY)

**Mail Registration Form and Check**

**(payable to MPA) to:**

**Metrolina Paralegal Association**

**P. O. Box 36260**

**Charlotte, NC 28236**



# PRO BONO ATTORNEY & CUSTODY ADVOCATE TRAINING

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## THE CUSTODY ADVOCATE PROGRAM of COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

**7.75 Hours of General CLE or CPE Credit**

**\*\*\*FRIDAY, February 20, 2009 8:30 AM – 5:15 PM\*\*\***

Did you know that the Custody Advocate Program (CAP) of the Council for Children's Rights (CFCR) is looked to as a national model for serving the *best interests* of children in high-conflict custody cases? You too can become a part of this unique and rewarding program that seeks solutions for children during a very difficult time. CAP Volunteer Attorneys and Custody Advocates receive intensive training covering various aspects of this specialized program, including: guidelines for representing children; the local rules; divorce and its effects on children; child development; interviewing, facilitation, and negotiation with parents and their attorneys; and expectations outlined by the members of the local domestic bar and bench. This seminar is for **attorneys** who are interested in pro bono representation of children, as well as **paralegals** and other **community members** who are interested in serving as custody advocates. This training is required for all Custody Advocate Program involvement. Attorneys and paralegals will receive **7.75 hours of general CLE or CPE credit**. Don't miss this invaluable learning experience, and the opportunity to gain insight from our featured presenters: Dr. William Varley, Psychologist for Custody Evaluations; Laurie Reed, Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Therapist; Jan Keny, Licensed Professional Counselor and Therapist; Madalyn Tyson, Psychologist and Certified Health Services Provider; Wanda Anderson, Trauma Counselor and Certified Poverty Trainer; Mecklenburg Family Court Judges; Brett Loftis, CFCR Executive Director; and veteran CAP attorneys and custody advocates!

**Location:** Children and Family Services Center, 601 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Training Rooms I & II, Charlotte, NC 28202

**Time:** Registration: 8:00 a.m. CLE Seminar: 8:30 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. (Morning snacks and lunch will be provided)

---

### REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NCSB #: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Please Submit:** \$75 per paralegal/ \$50 per paralegal with volunteer commitment  
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No cost to other community volunteers not seeking any continuing education credits  
(Note: Volunteer application must be completed before receiving volunteer rate.)

**To Register:** *Phone:* 704/943-9477 or *Fax:* 704/372-5941  
*Mail:* Council for Children's Rights, CAP Training,  
*Attn:* Angela Yoo, Volunteer Coordinator  
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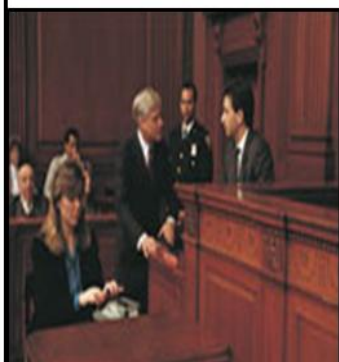


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