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## LAPA Spring Career Conference 2022

Saturday, April 30

Register at  
[www.lapa.org/  
events-4749152](http://www.lapa.org/events-4749152)

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## HELPFUL TIPS



## Personal Finance for Paralegals: Tackling Student Loans

by Raja Gonzalez – LAPA Reporter Editor

I spent the summer of 2018 interning for my uncle's advertising agency. While we were at lunch one afternoon, he asked me, "Why are you so worried about taking out student loans for law school? You never know what could happen. Maybe the government will forgive \$10,000 in student loans. Maybe they won't. Maybe World War III will break out and the Department of Education will end up losing the paperwork." "Yeah right," I thought to myself, "That would be nice, but those things will never happen." Four years have passed since that conversation. It is now April 2022. Federal student loan payments and interest have now been on pause for over **two years** because of a global pandemic and the U.S. is currently on the brink of a proxy war with Russia. I need to call my Uncle Joe and tell him that he was absolutely right.

Believe it or not, the federal government has now extended the pause on federal student loan payments and interest for a sixth time until August 31, 2022. How will you take advantage of the next four months while interest rates are frozen at zero percent? If you have never created a game

*continued on page 2*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## LAPA Spring Career Conference

by Samantha Burns – LAPA President

Midterms are just around the corner for our Student-Members. Students are feeling the pressure to have an answer prepared for questions like, "What career path do you want to go down?" or "What area of law are you interested in?". Not many people can confidently say what kind of paralegal they want to be or what their five year plan is. Luckily, LAPA is here to help you answer those questions – we have a

*continued on page 3*

plan for how you want to pay off your debt and how long you want it to take you, then now is a great time to start.

As you create your debt payoff plan, keep in mind that to stay ahead of compound interest you will have to pay more than the minimum amount each month. Compound interest is great when it works in your favor and your investments are making money passively as your interest collects interest. Compound interest is not so great when it is working against you and your debt is growing larger every day because the interest on your loans gets added onto your principal balance and that new balance also collects interest.

The grace period on my student loans ended right as I graduated from my Paralegal Training Program and landed my first job as a Litigation Paralegal. I received a statement in the mail that told me the amount that was due for each loan and I paid that amount on time every month. At the end of 2020, I received a 1098-E tax form in the mail. I discovered that I had paid over \$900 in interest on

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#### LAPA REPORTER

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Articles and news items should be directed to LAPA at [editor@lapa.org](mailto:editor@lapa.org). Inquiries about making a submission should be directed to LAPA at [info@lapa.org](mailto:info@lapa.org).

Inquiries about advertising placement, applications, membership materials and address changes should be directed to LAPA at [admin@lapa.org](mailto:admin@lapa.org).

Articles will be published as space permits. The Newsletter Committee reserves approval and edit rights on any article submitted.

The Los Angeles Paralegal Association is a non-profit, mutual benefit corporation and is tax exempt within the meaning of section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues and donations to LAPA are not tax deductible as charitable gifts, but may be deductible as related business expenses. LAPA suggests that you consult your tax advisor in this regard.

my student loans that year, which meant that even though I had paid over \$1,000 toward my student loans that year, my overall balance was essentially the exact same amount as when I started. I was so angry that I wrote a check that day for \$1,000 so that I could start seeing some real progress. Had I continued to only pay the minimum amount that was due each month, then I never would have finished paying off those loans. This was the beginning of my personal finance journey. From there, I began reading books, watching webinars, listening to podcasts, and getting advice from people with similar circumstances who had managed to become debt-free. Here is what I learned about the two most popular strategies for getting out of debt:

#### THE DEBT SNOWBALL METHOD

1. List all of your debts from smallest to largest, regardless of the interest rate. Include everything except for your mortgage (credit cards, car loans, student loans, personal loans, medical debt, etc.). Also, make sure to write out what your minimum monthly payment is for each.
2. If payments are currently due for any of your loans, then make the minimum payment necessary to stay current on all of your loans, and then put all of your additional money toward the smallest loan.
3. As you pay off the smaller loans, you will be able to use the money that used to go toward the minimum payment on the smallest loan to pay off the next smallest loan. Repeat this process until you have finished paying off all of your loans.

When you make a payment toward a student loan, a portion will go toward interest and a portion will go toward the principal balance. If you decide to pay more than the minimum payment, then you usually have a little more say in how you would like the excess payment to be allocated. After listening to a few Dave Ramsey podcasts, I thought I could outsmart the system. I wrote a letter with detailed instructions for how I wanted the excess payment to be applied and I mailed it in along

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

- 1- **LAPA Tutoring Session** – Online via Zoom; 7-8PM.; Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4501712> for more information & to register.
- 6- **LAPA Executive Board Meeting** – Conf. Call; Contact Samantha Burns at [president@lapa.org](mailto:president@lapa.org).
- 6- **Day in the Life of Employment Law Specialists** – Online via Zoom; 5:30 - 6:30PM.; *Featuring: Javier Rivera Carbone & George Bean*, Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4749482> for more information & to register.
- 13 - **LAPA Board Meeting** – Contact Samantha Burns at [president@lapa.org](mailto:president@lapa.org)
- 27- **Men of Color Panel - Administrative Professionals Day: Legal Professional Tips for Success** – Online via Zoom; 5:30 - 6:30PM.; Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4749477> for more information & to register.
- 30- **LAPA Spring Career Conference** – Online via Zoom; 8:30AM - 12:00PM.; Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4749152> for more information & to register.

### MAY

- 4- **LAPA Executive Board Meeting** – Conf. Call; Contact Samantha Burns at [president@lapa.org](mailto:president@lapa.org).
- 6- **LAPA Tutoring Session** – Online via Zoom; 7-8PM.; Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-4501712> for more information & to register.
- 11 - **LAPA Board Meeting** – Contact Samantha Burns at [president@lapa.org](mailto:president@lapa.org)

#### NALA The Paralegal Association Certification Corner

##### Accreditation of Certified Paralegal Program

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) has granted accreditation to the NALA Certified Paralegal program since 2014 for demonstrating compliance with the NCCA Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs. NCCA is the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence. The NCCA Standards were created to ensure certification programs adhere to modern standards of practice for the certification industry. The NALA Certified Paralegal program joins an elite group of more than 120 organizations representing over 270 certification programs that have received and maintained NCCA accreditation. More information on the NCCA is available online at [www.credentialingexcellence.org/NCCA](http://www.credentialingexcellence.org/NCCA). To maintain accreditation, NCCA requires annual reports of all certification programs. Re-accreditation is required every five years.



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

For more information contact:

Michelle Tabb, ACP,

LAPA Paralegal Certification Committee Co-Chair

Terry Wright, ACP, Board Director,

LAPA Paralegal Certification Committee Co-Chair, NALA Liaison

Doug Kuhn, CP,

LAPA Paralegal Certification Committee Member

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - cont. from page 1

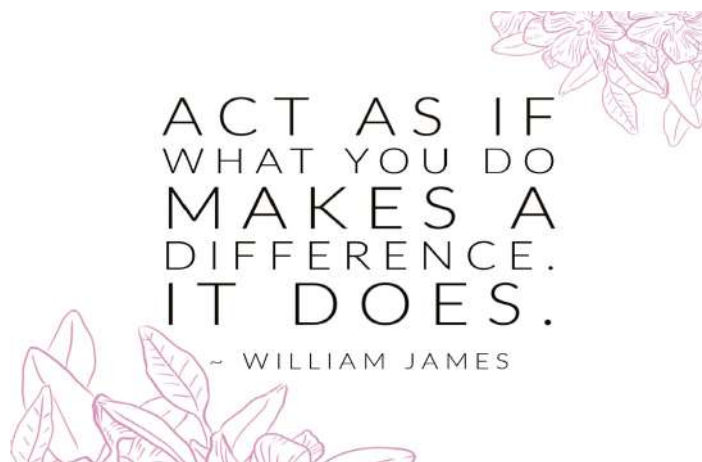
wonderful Spring Career Conference coming up on Saturday, April 30, 2022 from 8:30 am - 12:00 pm. The conference will take place via Zoom.

Our Spring Career Conference has been a huge success in the past. This year, Directors Aldo Guzman and Jonathan Dang have organized three incredible panels for our members. The first panel will help members learn how to utilize legal recruiters to navigate the job search and salary negotiation process. The second panel will teach our members how they can earn advanced certifications such as CP, ACP, or CEDS to further their career. The final panel will highlight how members can use their paralegal background to help them transition into alternative careers like working as an insurance adjuster or as a consultant for law firms.

If you are a paralegal student, I highly recommend that you take the time to attend this year's Spring Career Conference because it will provide you with an opportunity to network and learn more about the legal profession.

Also, this month is Deaf History Month! You can learn more about the history of the Deaf community here: <http://www.insightintodiversity.com/national-deaf-history-month/>.

*Samantha Burns earned her Paralegal Studies degree from Mt. San Antonio College. She is currently working as a litigation paralegal at Marjiya Law Office. Though born totally deaf, Samantha effectively navigates the hearing world. Samantha is also a commissioned Notary Public. She is attempting to take her CP exam next year and aiming to specialize in litigation, discovery, e-discovery, and trial preparation. She does almost every field of law but focuses on civil litigation and personal injury.* 🏠





with my check. After a few days, I checked online and saw that the Department of Education had not followed my instructions. “*Do these people not know how to read?*”, I groaned. They were on to me. They knew that I planned to pay these loans off as fast as possible so that I could avoid paying any unnecessary interest, and so they tried to confuse me by changing the amounts of my loans. My overall balance was the same, but the amount on each of the seven loans had changed significantly. For example, one \$5,500 loan was split unevenly across other existing loans so that, in the span of one week, the amounts on some loans had increased by over \$1,500 and others had decreased. It was as if I was in a boxing match against an opponent, and after getting a good jab in against my opponent, their teammate traded places with them unexpectedly and I wasn’t sure who I was fighting anymore. The key to winning any battle is knowing your enemy.

The reason why I like the debt snowball method is because once you have paid off a loan in full, then the loan service provider can no longer add on to the amount for that specific loan. The smallest debts are often also the easiest to pay off so you can get rid of the smallest ones a lot more quickly. Each loan that you pay off will give you a little boost of serotonin and help motivate you to reach your next goal. It’s incredibly satisfying to take a red expo marker and slash through a loan on a dry erase board.


## THE DEBT AVALANCHE METHOD

1. List all of your debts and arrange them from the highest interest rate to the lowest interest rate. Write down the minimum monthly payment amount for each.
2. Make minimum payments to stay current on all loans. Then, put all of the money that you have left over toward the loan with the highest interest rate to get rid of that loan first. Once you have paid off the loan with the highest interest rate, then move on to the loan with the next highest interest rate and continue to do so until all of your loans have been paid off.

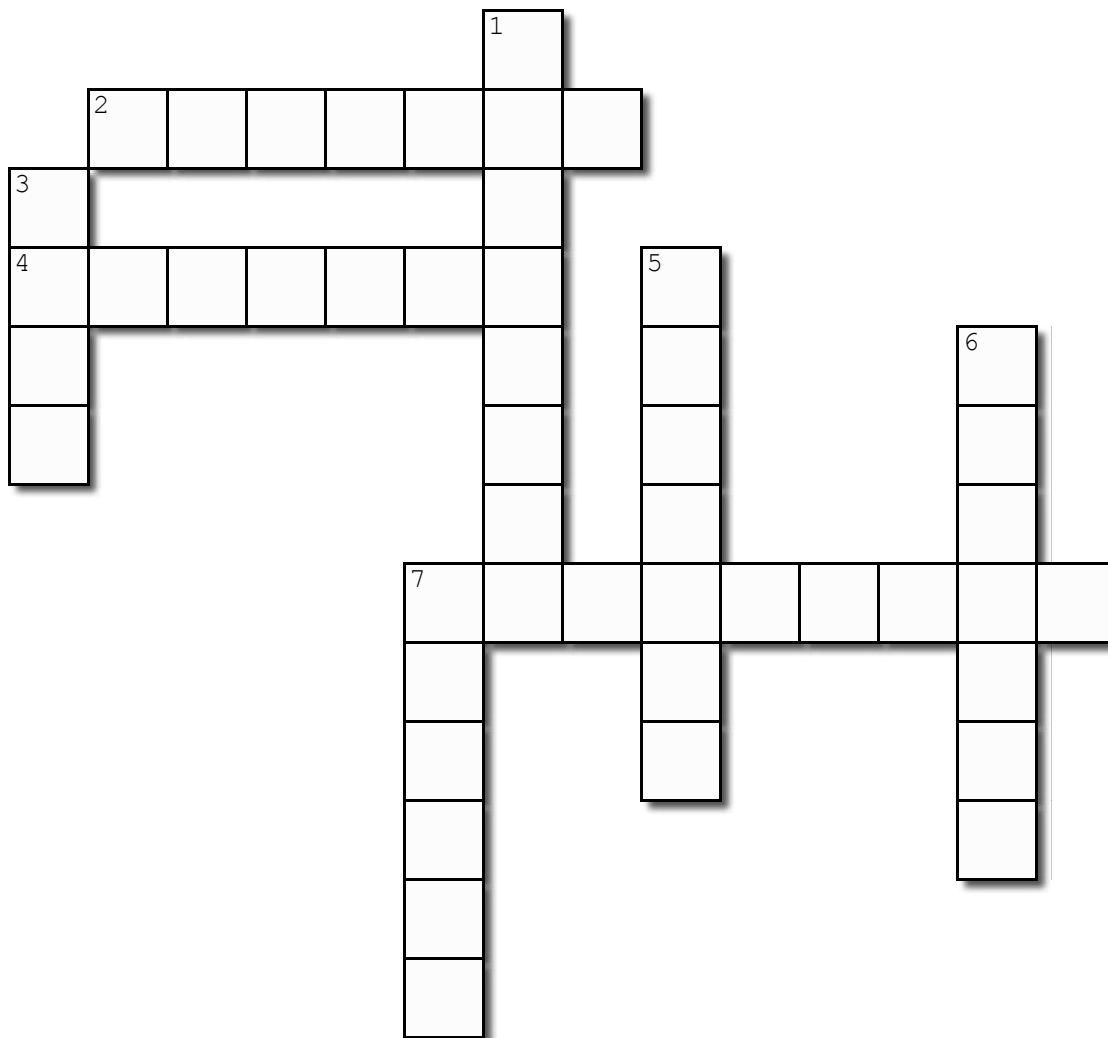
The debt avalanche method makes the most sense mathematically because it will help you save more money on interest. However, it will take a little longer for you to notice significant progress since most of your payment will go toward interest rather than the principal balance. If you have various types of debt, then the debt avalanche might make more sense for you. For example, if you have credit card debt with an APR of 25% and federal student loans, then it would make sense to focus on your credit card debt if your credit card bill is currently due and collecting interest since payments on federal student loans are not currently due and are not collecting interest. Similarly, if you have a mix of private student loans and federal student loans, then it would make sense to focus on the privately-held student loans first since the pause on payments and interest rates does not apply to privately-held student loans.

Ultimately, both strategies will get the job done and you get to decide what works best for you. Personal finance is personal and although we like to think of ourselves as rational beings, sometimes our decisions are shaped more by psychology than logic. What I mean by this is if you get more excited about the psychological win of paying off a small student loan quickly than you do about saving money on interest, then it’s perfectly fine to choose the snowball method because you want to choose a strategy that is sustainable for you.

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*In 2019, Raja graduated with a B.A. in Political Science from Pepperdine University, where she was involved in Model United Nations and Latino Student Association. In March 2020, Raja graduated from UCLA Extension’s Paralegal Training Program with a Certificate in Paralegal Studies. Currently, Raja works as a Litigation Paralegal for Jacoby & Meyers Attorneys LLP in Westwood, CA. Raja also serves on LAPA’s Board of Directors as Co-Chair of the Litigation Section and Editor of The Reporter. In her spare time, Raja enjoys running and hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains.* 

# April Crossword Puzzle



**Complete the crossword puzzle and find some interesting facts for April!**

## ACROSS:

2. The Islamic holy month of fasting.
4. The name for the month of April originally came from \_\_\_\_ which means to open.
7. A day for planting trees.

## DOWN:

1. The Jewish festival celebrating the exodus of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery.
3. April 30 is the day to celebrate this unique American style of music.
5. The birthstone for April.
6. A famous ship that tragically sunk in the North Atlantic Ocean.
7. The month of April celebrates and promotes acceptance for this condition that affects one in every fifty-four children in the United States.



## Looking Forward During COVID-19

by Deena Bowman

With the third year of living with COVID-19 upon us, our means of enjoying recreational pursuits have undoubtedly changed. Yet, simple pleasures can still be experienced with a few pivots and planning.




### VIEW A DESIGN HOUSE AND SUPPORT ARTS EDUCATION

After a long pause due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 57th Pasadena Showcase House of Design is back from April 24 to May 22. View the latest interior and landscape design trends through the transformed spaces at a 1905 English Tudor mansion in South Pasadena. For more information and to purchase tickets, see <https://pasadenashowcase.org/showcase-house/>.



### CELEBRATE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

Why not kick off National Volunteer Month by giving the gift of life? The Red Cross has a crucial need for blood donations this spring. In addition, donations with the needed antibody levels may help patients with weakened immune systems battling COVID-19. To find the nearest blood donation center near you, go to [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org). Alternatively, you can download the Red Cross app and make an appointment on the go.

*Deena Bowman is currently a Senior Legal Analyst at the State Compensation Insurance Fund in Monterey Park, California. Deena earned her paralegal certificate from the University of West Los Angeles. She was a former Director at Large with LAPA.* 



Join one of the nation's premier paralegal associations:

### The Los Angeles Paralegal Association

Please visit [www.lapa.org](https://www.lapa.org) for detailed information about LAPA membership benefits.

## BIG 5K RUN FOR JUSTICE with Public Counsel

LAPA was delighted to collaborate with Public Counsel in this year's Run for Justice

A HUGE SHOUT OUT AND THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE RUN FOR JUSTICE AND DONATED TO PUBLIC COUNSEL!

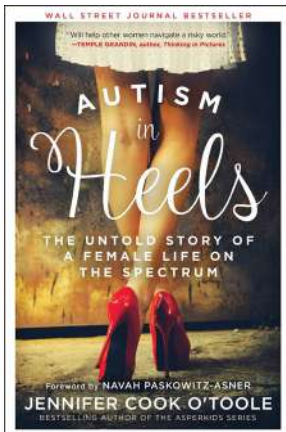




## LAPA READING CORNER

*A recurring column that reviews books focusing on voices and subjects that reflect the diversity of the human experience*

by Deena Bowman




### Autism in Heels: The Untold Story of a Female Life on the Spectrum by Jennifer O'Toole

"Most of us, spectrum girls and women, don't even know we are part of a group, let alone that there is help navigating the waters. Desperate for inclusion, we are a perpetual dash of "just too much" and often don't discover the people, skills, or supports that could help us (and the world)

to enjoy our beautiful version of normal." Jennifer O'Toole's intimate memoir details her relief at being diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at thirty-five – because, for the first time, things made sense. Here, O'Toole exposes the struggle between her carefully crafted persona and authentic existence by editing the autism script with humor and fearless honesty. Her journey is one of reverse self-discovery, not only as an Aspie, but also as a thoroughly modern woman in her trademark red high heels.

*2018, 248 Pages. Skyhorse Publishing, Inc. \$24.99 Hardcover. Also available for checkout from the Los Angeles Public Library in Book, e-Book, and e-Audiobook.*

*Deena Bowman is currently a Senior Legal Analyst at the State Compensation Insurance Fund in Monterey Park, California. Deena earned her paralegal certificate from the University of West Los Angeles. She was a former Director at Large with LAPA.* 

## LAPA SAVE THE DATE



### SAVE THE DATE

LAPA invites you to celebrate 50 years of developing, strengthening, and advancing the paralegal profession with us at our annual 46th October Conference!

### “In Celebration of 50 years with Colleagues and Friends”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites,  
404 S Figueroa St,  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

# Employers, Find Quality Talent **TODAY!**

The Los Angeles Paralegal Association's Career Center is the leading source for attracting top talent

- > POST JOBS
- > RECEIVE RESUMES VIA EMAIL
- > SCREEN RESUMES
- > HIRE QUALIFIED TALENT



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

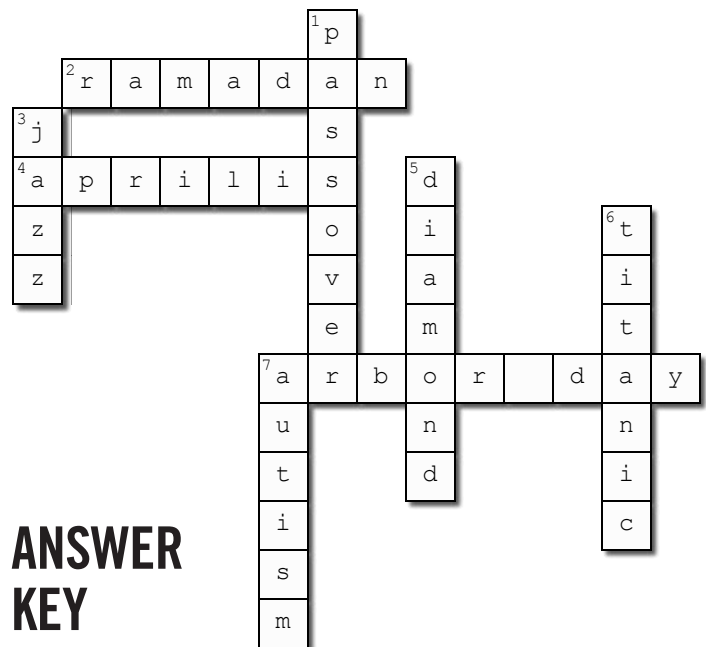


ASSOCIATION  
CAREER NETWORK

## DISCLAIMER

We have had reports of phishing emails being sent by a scammer posing as various members from our Board of Directors. The emails are not actually from any of our board members and you can verify this by looking at the sender's email address. If you receive an email from someone and they ask you to complete a task discretely or they ask you to send a gift card to them, please block the contact and report the email as spam. Our board members will never solicit you for gift cards. 🏢

## LAPA'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE - cont. from page 5



## ANSWER KEY

### ACROSS

2. Ramadan
4. aprilis
7. Arbor Day

### DOWN

1. Passover
3. jazz
5. diamond
6. Titanic
7. autism





## Be a Part of the LAPA Newsletter

Book Reviews • Write Legal Articles  
Advertise Your Business • New Legal World Trends  
Tell Us About Recent Events and More!

Visit: <https://www.lapa.org/news> to see previous publications  
Questions or Submissions please send to Raja Gonzalez • [editor@lapa.org](mailto:editor@lapa.org)  
Deadline to submit Articles or Ads is 03/02/2022 by 9pm

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LOS ANGELES ASSOCIATION  
PARALEGALS

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TUTORING**

**The First Friday of  
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**PARALEGALS  
ON FIRE!**

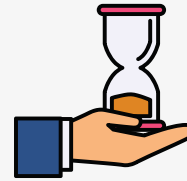


WITH  
**ANN PEARSON**

## Child Welfare in Los Angeles County



As of January 2021, there are 38,243 children/youth in the Los Angeles Child Welfare System.



Most children are in the child welfare system for about 2+ years.

**Black & Hispanic children encompass**

 **81.5%**

**of children/youth in care.**

High turnover rates in child welfare professions create gaps in knowledge and care, and limit youths' access to consistent and appropriate supports.



In an overwhelmed system, L.A. County professionals face the daunting task of making complex, life-changing decisions about a child/youth's overall well-being.

## The Solution? The Essential History Program!

The Essential History Program aims to help social workers, attorneys and judges make trauma-informed decisions about the young people they serve. Through this program, a CASA volunteer reviews the entirety of a child/youth's case file and produces an objective and comprehensive report that highlights key historical events for the young person while in the system.



### Program Goals

- Reduce time youth is in the child welfare system
- Improve outcomes for youth in the areas such as: permanency, mental health, education and social supports
- Ease changes/transitions for service providers
- Reduce burnout and compassion fatigue for child welfare professionals
- Consolidate information to observe data trends in the child welfare system
- Create systematic change towards healthier and equitable systems

*continued on page 11*

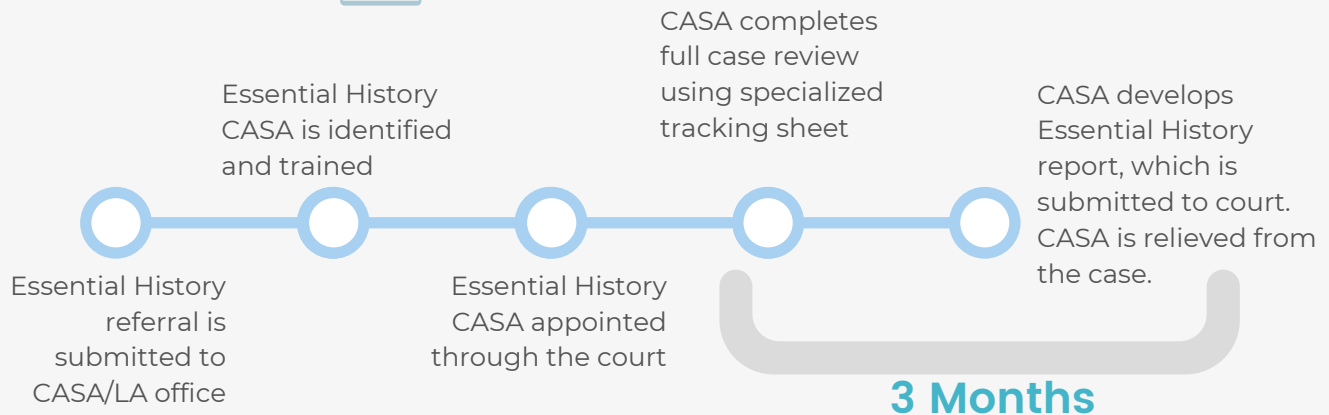
# Essential History Program



*continued from previous page*



## Process & Timeline



## The Report

### Objective & Neutral Language

Information is retrieved from case documents with no additional bias/interpretation.

### Strengths-Based

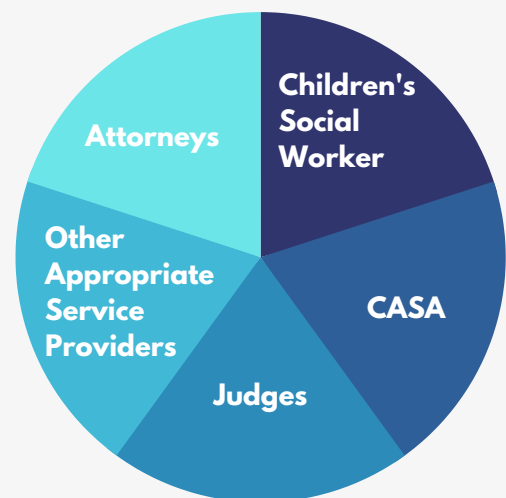
Focus is kept on not creating a negative perception of the youth

### Report Content

Report Covers Risk & Protective Factors in the areas of:

- Permanency
- Physical Health
- Mental Health
- Education
- Family & Social Supports

### Who Can Access the Report?



### Questions?

[essentialhistory@casala.org](mailto:essentialhistory@casala.org)  
Visit Us! [www.casala.org](http://www.casala.org)





The Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA) reflects the diverse nature of Southern California, and we strive to be as inclusive as possible. As an organization of legal professionals, we hold the ideals of equality and justice in the highest regard. The injustices experienced by the communities of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are a stark reminder that equality and justice are ideas that have yet to reach fruition in this country. We, as a nation, must do better. LAPA stands in solidarity with the families and friends of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery. It is our sincerest desire to see justice is done as the law requires for their tragic deaths.

Diversity and inclusion are LAPA's initiative for 2020. We hold firm in striving to be more inclusive and diverse to reflect the community that we serve and represent. Moreover, LAPA will continue to steadfastly advocate and create initiatives to prepare and support our paralegals.



Housing + Community Investment Department

## Attention: City of L.A. Tenants & Landlords

**Coronavirus: What You Need to Know  
about L.A.'s *Eviction Protections***  
**visit: [hcidla.lacity.org](https://hcidla.lacity.org)**





## **FREE COVID-19 TESTING**

Now available to all Los Angeles residents.  
Get more information and sign up:  
**[Coronavirus.LACity.org/Testing](https://Coronavirus.LACity.org/Testing)**

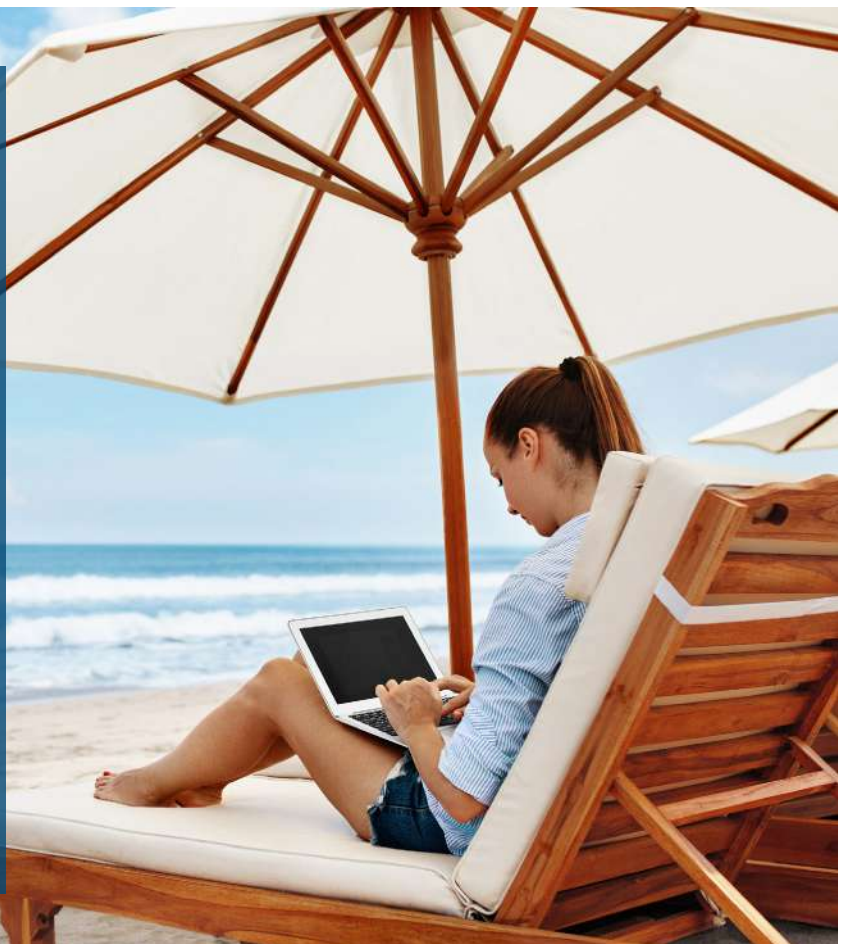
## **L.A. CARES Corps**

Connecting L.A. Businesses to Federal SBA Loans during COVID-19

Attention  
LAPA Voting Members

## **FREELANCE PARALEGAL LISTING**

Available Online Now  
for Voting Members Only  
\$60.00 for Six Months





# Coping with Stress During Infectious Disease Outbreaks that require social distancing

The Department of Mental Health supports the wellbeing of our County family, friends and colleagues. When you hear, read, or watch news about an outbreak of an infectious disease, you may feel anxious and show signs of stress. These signs of stress are normal. During an infectious disease outbreak, care for your own physical and mental health and reach out in kindness to those affected by the situation.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP COPE WITH EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

### 1. Manage Your Stress

- Stay informed. Refer to credible sources for updates on the local situation.
- Stay focused on your personal strengths.
- Maintain a routine.
- Make time to relax and rest.

### 2. Be Informed and Inform Your Family

- Become familiar with local medical and mental health resources in your community.
- Avoid sharing unconfirmed news about the infectious disease to avoid creating unnecessary fear and panic.
- Give honest age-appropriate information to children and remember to stay calm; children often feel what you feel.

### 3. Connect with Your Community online or through the phone

- Keep contact with family and friends through social messaging or through phone calls
- Join community and/or faith group online chat groups
- Accept help from family, friends, co-workers and clergy.
- Reach out to neighbors and friends with special needs who may need your help.

### 4. Reach Out and Help while maintaining necessary social distancing guidelines

- If you know someone affected by the outbreak, call them to see how they are doing, and remember to keep their confidentiality.
- Consider an act of kindness for those who have been asked to practice social distancing, such as having a meal delivered

### 5. Be Sensitive

- Avoid blaming anyone or assuming someone has the disease because of the way they look or where they or their families come from.
- An infectious disease is not connected to any racial or ethnic group; speak up in kindness when you hear false rumors or negative stereotypes that foster racism and xenophobia.

*Consider seeking professional help if you or a loved one is having difficulty coping.*



## Be Proactive!

1. Stay informed with information from credible sources.
2. Stay connected with friends, family, and community groups.
3. Keep a positive attitude and outlook.

## Resources

Los Angeles County  
Department of Mental Health  
Access Center 24/7 Helpline  
(800) 854-7771  
(562) 651-2549 TDD/TTY  
<https://dmh.lacounty.gov>

Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Health:  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>  
or call 2-1-1 for more information

LEER EN ESPAÑOL



# Spring Career Conference



**Meet and network with senior paralegals and top recruiters who will help you identify the next steps in your career path that are right for you.**

- The Recruiting Professionals Panel will provide insight on how agencies work as part of the team with HR/Paralegal Managers to match highly qualified candidates with the right position in the right firm.
- The Professional Certification Panel will explain the impact that professional certification can make in your career.
- The Alternative Career Panel will provide tips on optimizing your skills so that you can envision yourself stepping outside the box of traditional paralegal roles onto alternative career paths.

Location: Via Zoom.com

April 30, 2022

8:30 am to 12pm

LAPA Members Registration – \$20.00

LAPA Student Members - \$15.00

Non-Members – \$25.00

# Members Only Benefits

## Regional and Networking Sections

LAPA has many opportunities for meeting and connecting with your paralegal colleagues and other legal industry professionals. Such opportunities include seminar and networking events based on geographical locations such as Downtown (Los Angeles), South Bay, West L.A., the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita, and more. LAPA also provides educational seminars in various legal specialties, including, but not limited to, Litigation, Probate Law, Intellectual Property Law, Corporate Law, Immigration Law, and Ethics. Additionally, with the support of our legal industry partners, LAPA also hosts other networking and charitable events and mixers. Your participation in LAPA is encouraged, so be sure to reach out to a LAPA Section or Committee Chair, develop your leadership and networking skills, and make LAPA an even better association.

## Vital Savings

This benefit provides LAPA members a discount program for dental and vision services, long term care, as well as many pharmaceuticals. LAPA has been able to obtain special pricing of Vital Savings discount cards through Aetna. By using the discount cards and Aetna approved providers, LAPA members can save dramatically on the services provided by these professionals. For more information, please visit LAPA's website, [www.lapa.org](http://www.lapa.org).

## Working Advantage

LAPA members may join a program that offers discounts up to 60% on tickets, travel, shopping, and more. LAPA helps you save money on items from clothing to theater tickets to flowers. This benefit is available by logging onto the LAPA website "Members Only" section.

## United Insurance Partners

LAPA has teamed with UIP - United Insurance Partners - to bring LAPA members the opportunity to purchase health, dental, and/or vision insurance. When you access UIP through the link provided on the Benefits webpage, you will find an array of insurance products available for you to purchase with companies such as Blue Cross, Aetna, and many other top insurance companies. Please visit LAPA's website, [www.lapa.org](http://www.lapa.org), for more information.

## NALA Affiliation

LAPA is an affiliated member of the National Association of Legal Assistants. NALA is the nation's leading professional association for paralegals. As a member of an affiliated association, the initiation fee for individual membership in NALA is waived for LAPA members. NALA boasts some of its own benefits. Access its NALA Campus Live for online continuing legal education, self-study courses, and preparation for the CLA/CP Exam. Its annual educational convention in July allows you to expand your network beyond your state's borders as you network with other paralegals from around the country, attend educational institutes and member related activities.

## Freelance/Contract Paralegal Listing

LAPA provides a "Freelance Paralegals" section on its website to assist LAPA members who are freelance, contract, or independent paralegals, as defined by California Business and Professions Code Section 6450. For a nominal fee of \$60, you can post your contact information on LAPA's website for six months. You can sign up online through the Members Only section of the website.

## Membership Database

Available only to LAPA members, the Membership Database is a valuable tool in locating other paralegals or legal professionals with whom you have worked or networked. The Membership Database also provides up-to-date contact information as well as members' legal specialties and geographical areas.

## Credit Union

LAPA members are eligible to join Southland Credit Union. Southland Credit Union, with over \$435 million in assets, offers an online presence, a new full-service branch in downtown Los Angeles, an upgraded ATM network and five new proprietary ATMs. Southland Credit Union has expanded its product line by introducing a new high-yielding certificate of deposit, a Rewards Plus program and a market-leading high interest yielding checking account. Southland Credit Union prides itself on outstanding service to its members and has recently earned a 95 percent Member Service satisfaction rating.

## Lorman Education

LAPA is dedicated to providing efficient and readily-available continuing education opportunities that meet the needs of our members and enhance their skills, knowledge, and competencies. LAPA has partnered with Lorman Education to provide continuing education in a variety of topic areas. LAPA members receive a 20% discount on all orders.





# Bet Tzedek Needs YOUR Help!

## *Intake Services Volunteers Sought*

Bet Tzedek's Intake Services volunteers conduct pre-screening assessments in order to determine the appropriate course of action for individuals who call seeking legal assistance. Our volunteers are often the first contact our community has with our organization, and we rely on our volunteers to handle a high volume of calls from a diverse population of individuals with a broad range of needs.

### **Gain Issue Spotting and Client Interview Experience**

Under attorney supervision, volunteers develop foundational legal skills, including learning to spot legal issues; to conduct telephone interviews with potential clients dealing with challenging, stressful situations; determining what information provided by the caller is relevant; and to begin to develop judgment of potential cases in a wide array of legal areas. Volunteering with Intake Services also provides first-hand knowledge of the landscape of legal services available in Los Angeles County and exposure to and understanding of the issues faced by the communities we serve.

**Commitment:** 40+ hours. During the school year, we ask that volunteers commit to working in the Intake Center for 8-10 hours/week for 8-10 weeks. During certain periods, such as winter break, we may be able to accommodate schedules that include a higher number of hours per week for fewer weeks. Work must be completed during normal business hours (M-F, 9am-5pm).

**To Apply:** Email [volunteer@bettzedek.org](mailto:volunteer@bettzedek.org) or call (323) 549-5839 with any questions. Spanish language skills are highly preferred, but not required.



## WELCOME NEW & RENEWING LAPA MEMBERS

The following is a listing of legal professionals and paralegal students who joined or renewed their membership in Los Angeles Paralegal Association within the last 30 days. The employer and work telephone number also are included when available. If any information is incorrect, please fax corrections to 866-460-0506, call LAPA at 866-626-LAPA or e-mail updates to [info@lapa.org](mailto:info@lapa.org).

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Visit [www.lapa.org](http://www.lapa.org) and go to the Member Benefits page.

\*Actual costs and savings may vary by provider and geographic location.

The Vital Savings by Aetna® program (the "Program") is not insurance. The Program provides members with access to discounted fees pursuant to schedules negotiated by Aetna Life Insurance Company for the Vital Savings by Aetna discount program. The Program does not make payments directly to the providers participating in the Program. Each member is obligated to pay for all services or products but will receive a discount from the providers who have contracted with the Discount Medical Plan Organization to participate in the Program. Aetna Life Insurance Company, 151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06156, is the Discount Medical Plan Organization.

Discount program information is subject to change.



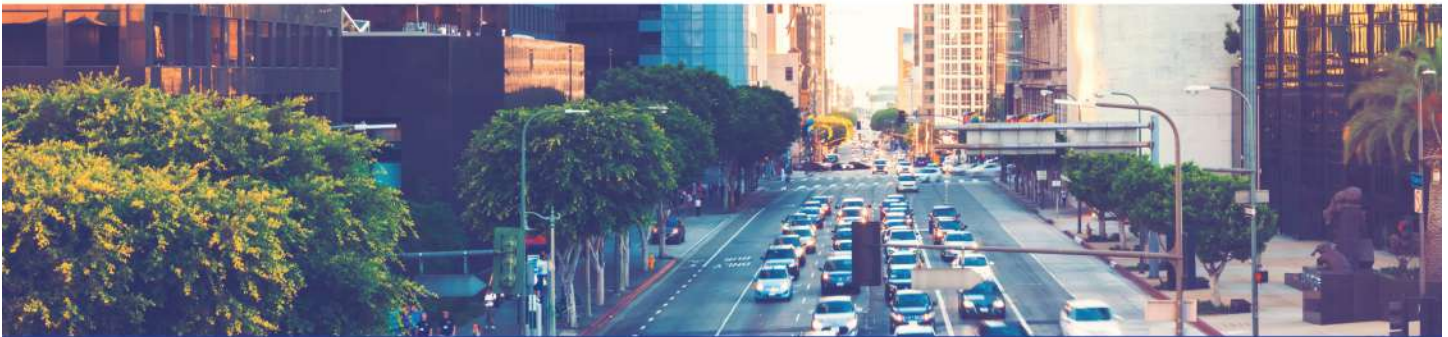
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