

THE WRIT



A publication of the El Paso Paralegal Association

an Affiliate of The National Association of Legal Assistants ♦ Paralegals, Inc.

June 2022



President's Message

Dear Members,

June is my favorite month because it is my birthday month. That means I will get spoiled in all sorts of ways, even if I must pamper myself a bit. It is important to give ourselves self-love, especially in the face paced career we have chosen. It is a busy month for many with graduations, Father's Day, summer vacations and all. Remember to treat yourself every now and then. I just came back from a 10-day trip to Clearwater Beach in Florida and it was hard to come back to reality.



It is the month when we welcome summer. Our children are out of school, graduating high school, college in my case. I used to look forward to less traffic by UTEP and in school zones on my way to work, during the summer. Now, I find myself rarely driving.

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President's Message (cont'd.)

As a paralegal for a Plaintiff's Personal Injury/Employment firm, there came a time I would assist attorneys at trial (at least 20 times a year). The suits, the heels, the bulky binders, and rolling carts filled with our months and years of hard work headed to the courthouse. At times, I miss those days, but I have negotiated working from home permanently. I get to assist in the preparation of trial from the comfort of my home office. I personally love it. Other paralegals say that they would absolutely hate it.

After living in a pandemic bubble for the past couple of years, the world seems to be opening back up little by little. I have noticed that various paralegals are still working from home. Some will remain working from home, and some have been back at the office for some time now. Others are working Hybrid (combining both office and home). This is unheard of in the "old school Paralegal days", but it is now a fact. With that said, your EPPA Board of Directors have opted to continue to bring you meetings via video conferencing for the remainder of the year. We had more attendance last month than we did in person at Anson 11 during my first 4 months as your EPPA President. That tells me, it is more suitable for our members as well. It is not always possible to take a two-hour lunch for an EPPA meeting as those legal deadlines have no mercy, I understand that. It made me delighted to see more faces on zoom and I thank you all for attending. I personally feel it is fitting for me, is a matter of fact, so convenient I was tuning in while on vacation from Florida.

The Board of Directors have voted to cancel the Golf Tournament. I believe transparency is owed to each one of you as to why this decision was taken. Although I am not an avid golfer, I quickly learned there is a lot of work to be done behind the scenes to pull one off. As we attempted to gather committees to tackle this EPPA Fundraising project, we had very low participation and interest from our members in joining the Golf Tournament committees which are necessary to launch this time-consuming project. Another reason was that the golf course which we utilized in that past increased in price significantly, not to mention ownership. When your Board of Directors went in search of a more cost-efficient course, we found that some of the courses are not very well maintained, and the grass is not as green as golfers expect them to be for the prices we charge for a tournament. With that said, we will not be having a golf tournament after all this year.



Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.

HELEN KELLER

On a brighter note, we will be having our second annual fund raiser for our elected charity in November at B-17 Oyster Pub downtown. We have selected a Homeless Veteran's Shelter, so in honor of all Veterans, we will hold this event the weekend before Veterans Day. Last year we raised an EPPA record-setting amount for our charity event. I expect and challenge each one of you to get involved and out due what we did last year. We are blessed to be a blessing to one another, and I promise to work very hard to bring you all a really great time at the event. We will be reaching out for volunteers and donations as this event will be the only fundraising event for EPPA this year. These fundraisers help us fund scholarships, assist our charity, bring you monthly CLE via video conferencing. Costs have risen

everywhere so it really does take a village to pull this off for our association. I pray for your involvement and service to our community as we proceed. If you have any questions on how you can help, please feel free to contact me.

-Yvette Duran
President

Notice of June Meeting

When: 12:00 p.m., **June 16, 2022**
How: Zoom videoconference (*forwarded separately by email*)
Guest Speaker: Heidi Beginski, TBLS-BCP
Topic: Pretrial Preparation from a Paralegal Perspective

Please join us on Thursday, June 16, 2022, for our June regular meeting and presentation by Jessica Mendez, to be held by Zoom videoconference at 12:00 p.m. A link to the Zoom videoconference will be forwarded separately to all members prior to the meeting.

Because EPPA needs to keep track of CLE participants for verification of hours submitted for CLE credit by those with CP and ACP credentials, we ask that members email Treasurer Laura T. Juarez, CP (ltjuarez1007@gmail.com) after the presentation to request CLE verification when it is available (*the Board's email addresses can be found in the Our Board section later in this edition*).

June Speaker

Heidi Beginski, TBLS-BCP, is a military transplant who stayed in the Desert Southwest. She has a degree from UT-El Paso and a background in publications. She became board certified in personal injury trial law the first year board exams were made available for paralegals, and has maintained it to today. She has served as President of EPPA for two terms, and as been the Board Member assigned to publications and Secretary. She also served a term as Representative of District 16 in the Paralegal Division of the State Bar of Texas.

Please
Join Us

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF EL PASO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION (May 19, 2022)

A regular meeting of the members of El Paso Paralegal Association (the “Association”) was duly called and held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. Treasurer and NALA Liaison Laura T. Juarez chaired the meeting and Secretary Griselda Lasky recorded the minutes of the meeting.

A quorum being present, Treasurer Juarez called the meeting to order, and welcomed members and the guest speaker and thanked them for attending.

The only item of business was the discussion and approval of the March 2022 meeting minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Association’s members held March 24, 2022, as presented in *The Writ*, were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Juarez introduced the guest speaker, Jessica Mendez, who gave a helpful presentation on “Your Legal Rights Under Health Commitment.” Ms. Mendez answered questions from members throughout the presentation. Treasurer Juarez then extended the Association’s thanks to Ms. Mendez for her presentation.

Finally, Vice President of Membership Jessica Lucero announced the Mind Over Matter walk scheduled for May 28, 2022, which helps support mental health awareness. Vice President of Membership Lucero will collect donations if anyone is interested.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

/s/ Griselda Lasky

Griselda Lasky, Secretary



**THERE WILL BE NO
GENERAL MEETING
IN JULY.**

Highlights from May Meeting

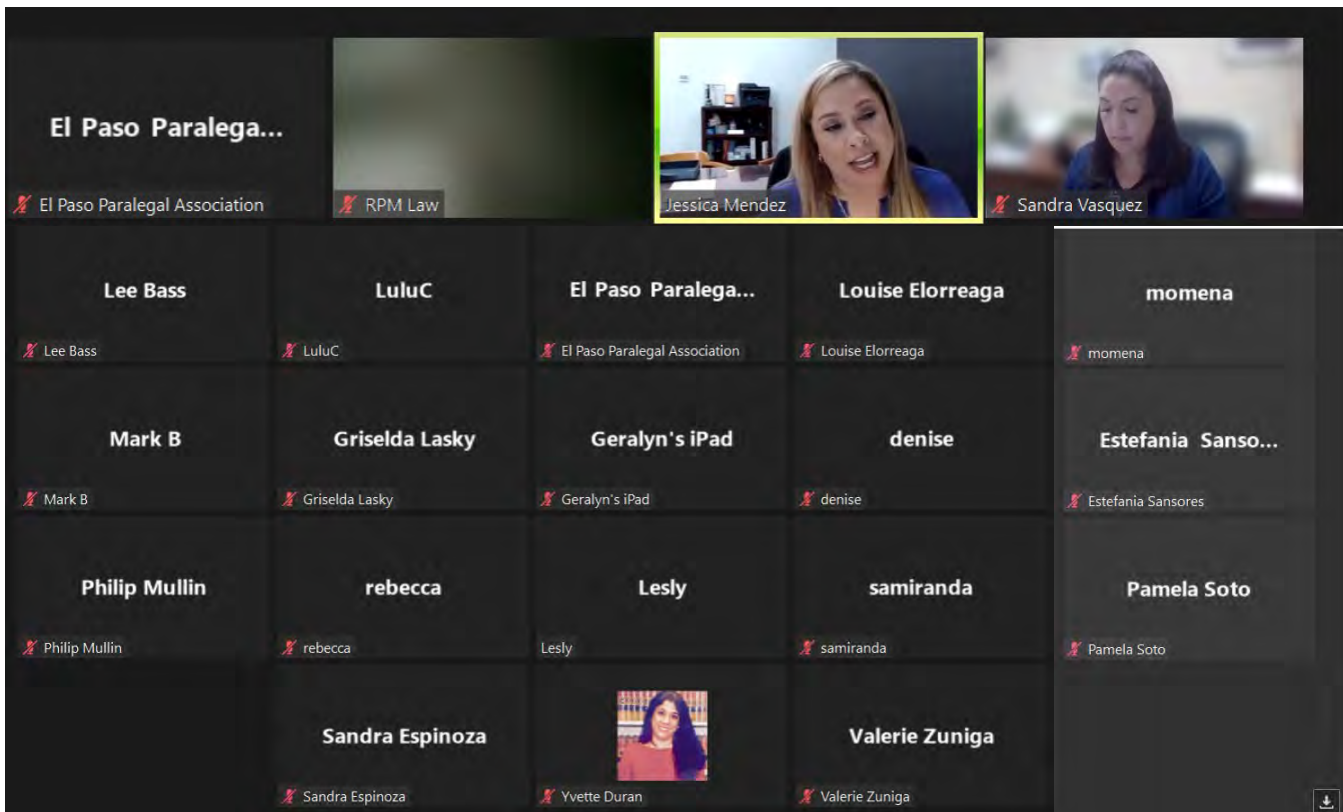


Jessica Mendez

Appointed Attorney

- ▶ Appointed to represent the patient once the case for in-patient involuntary commitment has been filed with the probate court
- ▶ Duties of Attorney
 - ▶ Interview patient, review medical records, talk with hospital doctors and staff, assist the person through the mental health legal process
- ▶ Hearings are held Mondays and Thursdays of each week
- ▶ Attorney serves for a month at a time for all the hearings that are set during that month

Your Legal Rights Under Health Commitment





The poster features a large American flag at the top. Below it is the El Paso Paralegal Association logo, which includes a mountain range and the text "EL PASO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION EST. 1982". The main title "EPPA CHARITY ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS" is prominently displayed in white serif font on a blue background. Below the title, a section titled "Donations needed:" lists items: "Sweatpants, tops, slippers", "bedding items such as sheets and pillow cases, detergent, personal hygiene items for male and female in all sizes. Please contact anyone on the Board of Directors for pick up and drop off information." At the bottom, there are silhouettes of soldiers in various combat poses, and the text "REMEMBER AND HONOR" is written in white capital letters.

EPPA CHARITY ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Donations needed:
Sweatpants, tops, slippers
bedding items such as sheets and pillow cases, detergent, personal hygiene items for male and female in all sizes. Please contact anyone on the Board of Directors for pick up and drop off information.

REMEMBER AND HONOR

June Birthdays

Tammy Diaz	2
Griselda Lasky	4
Yvette Duran	22



El Paso Paralegal
Association

Home

Upcoming Events

About Us

Members Only

Membership

Directors Only

Job Bank

- ◆ We would like to remind our members to visit the EPPA Website.
- ◆ If your employer would like to post a paralegal position that is available in your firm, please reach out to Vice President of Public Relations Louise Elorreaga at lelo9228@aol.com.
- ◆ If you are currently seeking employment, make sure you are the first to know of any paralegal positions open in the area.
- ◆ EPPA sends emails to all **EPPA members ONLY** prior to posting them on the Job Bank page of the website.



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.ELPPA.ORG/JOB-BANK](https://www.elppa.org/job-bank)

NALA 2022 CONFERENCE & EXPO

JULY 14-16 | PHOENIX, ARIZONA
JW MARRIOTT DESERT RIDGE RESORT & SPA



THE LARGEST PARALEGAL CONFERENCE

ABOUT THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE

The NALA Conference & Expo is the most anticipated paralegal event of the year. This year's conference in Phoenix, AZ will be no exception. To help support the diverse needs of paralegals across the nation, NALA's excited to launch our first-ever hybrid conference. This means you can choose to attend either in-person or virtually, July 14th through the 16th. All attendees will be able to participate in this 3-day educational event featuring a great opportunity to network with like-minded professionals, upgrade your paralegal skills, earn CLE credit, and much more. We hope to see you July 14-16 in Phoenix, AZ!

☑ IN-PERSON ATTENDEE

In-person attendees will enjoy the luxurious JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Phoenix, AZ. In-person attendees can earn up to 15 hours of CLE plus attend several exciting in-person networking events. In-person attendees will be able to visit our vendor hall and interact face-to-face with a variety of vendors. In-person attendees will also receive a conference goodie bag as well as the entire **2022 NALA Conference & Expo Recording Bundle** at no additional cost.

☑ VIRTUAL ATTENDEE

Virtual attendees will be able to participate in the conference from the comfort of their home or office. Virtual attendees can earn up to 15 hours of CLE through livestreamed education sessions. Virtual attendees will be able to chat with other conference attendees and ask speaker questions during all virtual sessions. In addition, virtual attendees are provided access to all NALA Association meetings. Recorded sessions will be available after the conference for a discounted price.



Go to <https://nala.org/education-5/nala-conference-expo-2/>
for more details.

June 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 	15	16 <i>EPPA General Meeting via Zoom (12:00 p.m.)</i>	17	18
19 	20	21 	22	23	24	25
26	27 <i>Deadline for July Writ Submissions</i>	28	29	30		

Out Mission Statement



Thanks for being a member of
El Paso Paralegal Association
AN AFFILIATE OF



El Paso Paralegal Association serves as a resource for paralegals to further its members' development and advancement in the legal profession through higher paralegal standards, continuing legal education and self-regulation for all El Paso paralegals. El Paso Paralegal Association awards scholarships to students enrolled in the paralegal program at El Paso Community College, and offers reimbursement awards for members taking the National Association of Legal Assistants' Certification Exam and the Texas Board of Legal Specialization Certification Exam. Through its various efforts throughout the year, El Paso Paralegal Association also strives to encourage its members to participate in community service and charitable work opportunities through El Paso Paralegal Association's adopted charity, which is chosen each year by its members.

Our Board

President	Yvette Duran (<i>paralegalDL@labinotilaw.com</i>)
President Elect	vacant
VP of Programs	vacant
VP of Membership	Jessica Lucero (<i>jlucero@epcounty.com</i>)
VP of Public Relations	Louise Elorreaga (<i>lelo9228@aol.com</i>)
Secretary	Griselda Lasky (<i>glasky@epcounty.com</i>)
Treasurer	Laura T. Juarez, CP (<i>ltjuarez1007@gmail.com</i>)
Parliamentarian	Sandra Espinoza (<i>sespinoza@umcel Paso.org</i>)
NALA Liaison	Laura T. Juarez, CP (<i>ltjuarez1007@gmail.com</i>)
Newsletter Editor	Laura Aguilar, ACP (<i>laguilar@bickerstaff.com</i>)

Contact Us

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