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THE INSIDE BIZ



by Melissa B. Buchman & Mary Pierce

A monthly column where sponsors and/or vendors share helpful hints

Make Sure Your Court Reporter is Really a Court Reporter

I am an attorney who has been practicing in California since 2008. Despite my nearly fourteen years of experience in civil litigation, specifically family law, something recently occurred in a trial that was so mind boggling it actually caused my client and me to question our realities, perceptions, and recollections.

What could possibly cause an attorney and her client so much doubt?

Well, in preparation for the trial on a Domestic Violence Restraining Order (“DVRO”) being requested by my client, the opposing counsel took my client’s remote deposition (COVID-19 protocol), and I defended her at it. The noticing attorney, as is customary, hired the “court reporter” for the deposition. The “court reporter” appeared in-person with the noticing attorney and his client all in the same room at the attorney’s office, while my client and I attended remotely.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE




Shine Bright

by Samantha Burns – LAPA President

As 2022 comes to a close, we shift our gaze forward onto 2023. The holidays are coming up, and this is the time of year when things can get pretty crazy. This is also a good time for us to reevaluate ourselves and our career paths as paralegals or legal professionals. We should consider where we want to end up this time next year. We should also think about the direction we would like to see our paralegal profession head in the future. Our profession’s future depends on its members’ voices being heard loud and clear. We must find it within ourselves to express our ideas and concerns so that our

continued on page 2

future shines brightly and our voices are not silenced. This is our livelihood, and that is why we need to start creating better resolutions for ourselves and our future – including the future of our profession. It has been an honor serving as your president this year. Your new Board of Directors and Executive Board for 2023-2024 will be announced shortly. May their term be even better than this one!

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. 



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Articles and news items should be directed to LAPA at editor@lapa.org. Inquiries about making a submission should be directed to LAPA at info@lapa.org.

Inquiries about advertising placement, applications, membership materials and address changes should be directed to LAPA at admin@lapa.org.

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

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Everything sounds normal so far, right? Well, a few weeks later, I got the copy of the certified transcript of my client's deposition and gave it to my client to review. My client noticed an exchange between her and opposing counsel that didn't match her recollection. In fact, the exchange, as recorded in the transcript, was the exact opposite of the answer she remembered giving during the deposition. Opposing counsel presented a narrative that painted my client in a horrible light, and – according to the transcript – my client's response was basically "that's correct." My client and I both remembered her giving a detailed refutation of the lawyer's framing, but there was no sign of such refutation in the transcript. Upon further review, that exchange wasn't the only section that we recalled differently. It turns out that entire chunks of testimony, including emotional testimony wherein my client gave vivid, descriptive statements of a horrible event that had transpired, were missing. There were even questions that I remembered the opposing counsel asking my client, and me thinking that those were great questions for me to ask when I take a deposition, and the questions and answers to them were suddenly gone from the deposition transcript.

When we contacted the opposing counsel and told him that there was a lot of testimony missing from the transcript, his response was that the transcript is "flawless." When my client contacted the court reporting company and told them there was testimony missing, they responded that their investigation concluded that the transcript was accurate.

Could both my client and I have the same false memories of her testimony during the deposition?

On the day of the DVRO trial, opposing counsel sought to lodge a copy of my client's deposition transcript, which my client had refused to sign, to use the transcript to impeach my client. When I filed an objection stating that the transcript was inaccurate and was missing substantial testimony, once again the opposing counsel argued to the court that the transcript was "flawless" and that the transcript was certified and that "meant something." The court admittedly looked at my client and me

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DECEMBER

- 1- **MCLE Seminar - eDiscovery in the Cloud** – Online via Zoom; 6:00-7:30 PM.; A panel discussion of trends, challenges, and opportunities posed by cloud computing.; *Featuring: Don Swanson, John Patzakis, Esq. & Nili Yavin*, Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-5051801> for more information & to register.
- 6- **MCLE Seminar: California State Trial Court Research & Analytics** – Online via Zoom; 12:00-1:00 PM.; Tips & Best Practices!; Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-5046323> for more information & to register.
- 7- **LAPA Executive Board Meeting** – Conf. Call; Contact Samantha Burns at president@lapa.org.
- 8- **MCLE Seminar - Legal Tech & eDiscovery for Small Cases** – Online via Zoom; 5:30 PM.; *Featuring: Tom O'Connor*, Go to <https://sdparalegals.org/event-5046645> for more information & to register.
- 12- **What Does a Certified Shorthand Reporter Do and How Do They Do It?** – Online via Zoom; 6:00-7:00 PM.; This event will speak to requirements for Foundation at Trial regarding transcripts and AB156 creating better transparency with who is a court reporter.; *Featuring: Mary E. Pierce & Heatherlynn Gonzalez*, Go to <https://www.lapa.org/event-5048281> for more information & to register.
- 14 - **LAPA Board Meeting** – Contact Samantha Burns at president@lapa.org

JANUARY

- 4- **LAPA Executive Board Meeting** – Conf. Call; Contact Samantha Burns at president@lapa.org.
- 11 - **LAPA Board Meeting** – Contact Samantha Burns at president@lapa.org

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like we were crazy. How can a party challenge a deposition transcript that was certified? The court told me that if I wanted to challenge the veracity of the transcript, then it was my burden, and I needed to subpoena the court reporter and cross-examine the reporter in court. The court then proceeded with the trial on my client’s DVRO. Luckily, the trial did not finish that day and was continued for another three months.

During those three months, my client doggedly pursued the mystery of the missing deposition testimony. She demanded that the court reporting company do a further investigation, climbing up the food chain of the company’s authority. She requested the audio recording of the deposition, a copy of the reporter’s notes, anything that could assist us. All of her requests were denied.

Finally, approximately three months later and six days before the return trial date on the DVRO, we received an email from the Director of Operations at said court reporting company confirming what my client and I knew all along.

“Good afternoon: We have investigated the issue at great length and with the additional details that you provided were able to determine that there was a missing portion from the transcript produced to the parties...

I have spoken at great length with our Quality Control Manager and I now understand that an error was made when the transcript was originally being formatted and finalized back in September. The missing section of testimony which is included in the amended final transcript was originally written, but was errantly not merged into the transcript as the files were being put together and finalized. The amended final transcript includes an additional fifty-five pages of testimony beginning on page 242 of the transcript that was produced to the parties in September. The fifty-five pages will span from page 242/line 2 to 296/line 25 of the amended final transcript.”

At least an hour of testimony had been missing! Fifty-five pages should have come between when opposing counsel provided his inaccurate

continue on page 4

(and maligning) narrative and when my client said “correct.” To someone who wasn’t at the deposition, the missing testimony wasn’t just a seamless omission, it was a damning one. Such a foundational error undermines trust in the entire legal process.

While trying to wrap my head around how sixty minutes of testimony could seamlessly disappear from a deposition transcript, I was put in touch with Mary Pierce, president of the Deposition Reporters Association of California (CalDRA). I learned that the person who presented himself as a “court reporter” for the deposition was, in fact, what is often referred to as a “digital recorder” and not a California-licensed court reporter. Unlike a California CSR, digital recorders are neither licensed by nor subject to the oversight of any regulatory board in California.

A digital recorder simply uses recording equipment rather than stenography to capture proceedings. The agency that hires the digital recorder then sends the recorded proceeding, in short clips, to several different individuals, oftentimes located in foreign countries, for transcription. After a transcriber completes their respective segment, it is returned to the court reporting agency, which then assembles the segments into one transcript.

In my situation, there was an epic failure during the assembly process of the subject deposition transcript, when approximately one hour of recorded questions and answers were omitted collectively from the transcript. In my years of practice in California, I have always retained the services of a stenographic Certified Shorthand Reporter licensed by the State of California for those depositions which I notice. In fact, in this particular situation, the deposition notice provided that the deposition would be reported by a CSR and I had no reason to think that the “court reporter” who presented himself at the deposition was in fact not a CSR as I was expecting per the deposition notice. The person who signed off on my transcript was not a licensee and, therefore, is not vested with any legal authority to certify its accuracy.

In fact, this type of transcript does not meet the burden for admissibility at trial without having to

lay a foundation. California Code of Civil Procedure § 2025.340(m) states, “If no stenographic record of the deposition testimony has previously been made, the party offering an audio or video recording of that testimony under Section 2025.620 shall accompany that offer with a stenographic transcript prepared from that recording.” The law is clear that when it refers to a stenographic transcript, that means it must be prepared by a California- licensed CSR.

Between my client and me, we spent many frustrating hours trying to convince opposing counsel and the court reporting agency that there were problems in the transcript and that the problems needed to be corrected. In my deposition notices, I had always specified that the deposition would be reported by a certified stenographic reporter. I simply added the words “the deposition will be recorded by stenographic means” and never included language that made a licensed stenographer an option.

But, as I mentioned, I did not notice this deposition and the attorney who did, even though he indicated in his notice that the deposition would be recorded by stenographic means, did not think it was a problem to go forward with the deposition when the court reporting company did not send him a CSR. Opposing counsel probably thought that, since the deposition was remote, I would never be able to tell that the “court reporter” wasn’t actually typing. So I now confirm before any deposition starts, whether I noticed it or not, that the individual who has appeared for my deposition as the court reporter is a Certified Shorthand Reporter in the State of California, as is my right. CCP § 2025.330 (b) states, “Unless the parties agree or the court orders otherwise, the testimony, as well as any stated objections, shall be taken stenographically. If taken stenographically, it shall be by a person certified pursuant to Article 3 (commencing with Section 8020) of Chapter 13 of Division 3 of the Business and Professions Code.”

Furthermore, if I am appearing remotely, I look for the initials “CSR,” followed by a certification number, after the name of anyone who appears in the role of court reporter and verbally confirm that they are indeed licensed by the State of California.

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You can even ask to see their license before the deposition starts.

My understanding is that there is currently a very tight supply of duly licensed stenographic reporters in California. As a result, some large court reporting agencies have turned to the use of digital recorders, operated by hourly employees they have solicited through places like Craigslist and trained for a few weeks. Again, there is no testing nor licensing requirement for digital recorders serving in the indispensable role of guardian of the record. There is also no licensure or certification required for the transcriptionists to whom files are sent.

In contrast, licensed stenographic reporters must undergo rigorous training that involves years of schooling and dedicated practice to attain the skill set required to be an accurate and proficient reporter. In addition, they must satisfy State licensing requirements, which include a series of tests for which the annual pass rate rarely exceeds 25 percent. They must meet the minimum passing grade of 97.5 percent accuracy to obtain a license.

These licensed CSRs are vested with the legal authority to attest to the accuracy of each transcript they report and to have its admissibility be automatic because of their tested and proven credentials. Additionally, licensed CSRs are officers of the court. These are the professionals that I now make sure are present at any deposition I attend. Only then can one be certain that the transcript will be accurate, complete and automatically admissible in court.

So, you may be wondering, after all that, what happened in the DVRO trial when I returned to the court after solving the mystery of the missing deposition transcript testimony? It was too late. Our wild accusation made at the prior hearing that the transcript was missing testimony had already left a bad impression with the court regarding my client's credibility. Because it had a busy calendar that day, the court gave us the short shrift and (i) denied my motion in limine and request to strike from the record the erroneous deposition transcript that it had already admitted, even after the court was informed of the court reporting company's confirmation that

the deposition transcript was erroneous, and (ii) denied my client's DVRO request – stating that my client, the one who remembered an hour's worth of her testimony that was missing from a transcript as compared to the opposing party and his counsel who both argued that the transcript was “flawless,” was not credible. Courts are used to warning counsel about “bells” that cannot be “unrung” for the jury, but it turns out a fatally flawed transcript is a bell that even the court can't unring from its own mind.

So, the lesson of the story is: Never take a deposition or defend a deposition unless it is before a Certified Shorthand Reporter in the State of California. The success or failure of your case may depend on it.

Melissa B. Buchman is a family law attorney at The Law Offices of Melissa B. Buchman and Mary Pierce is former president of the Deposition Reporters Association of California.

This article first appeared in the Daily Journal. 



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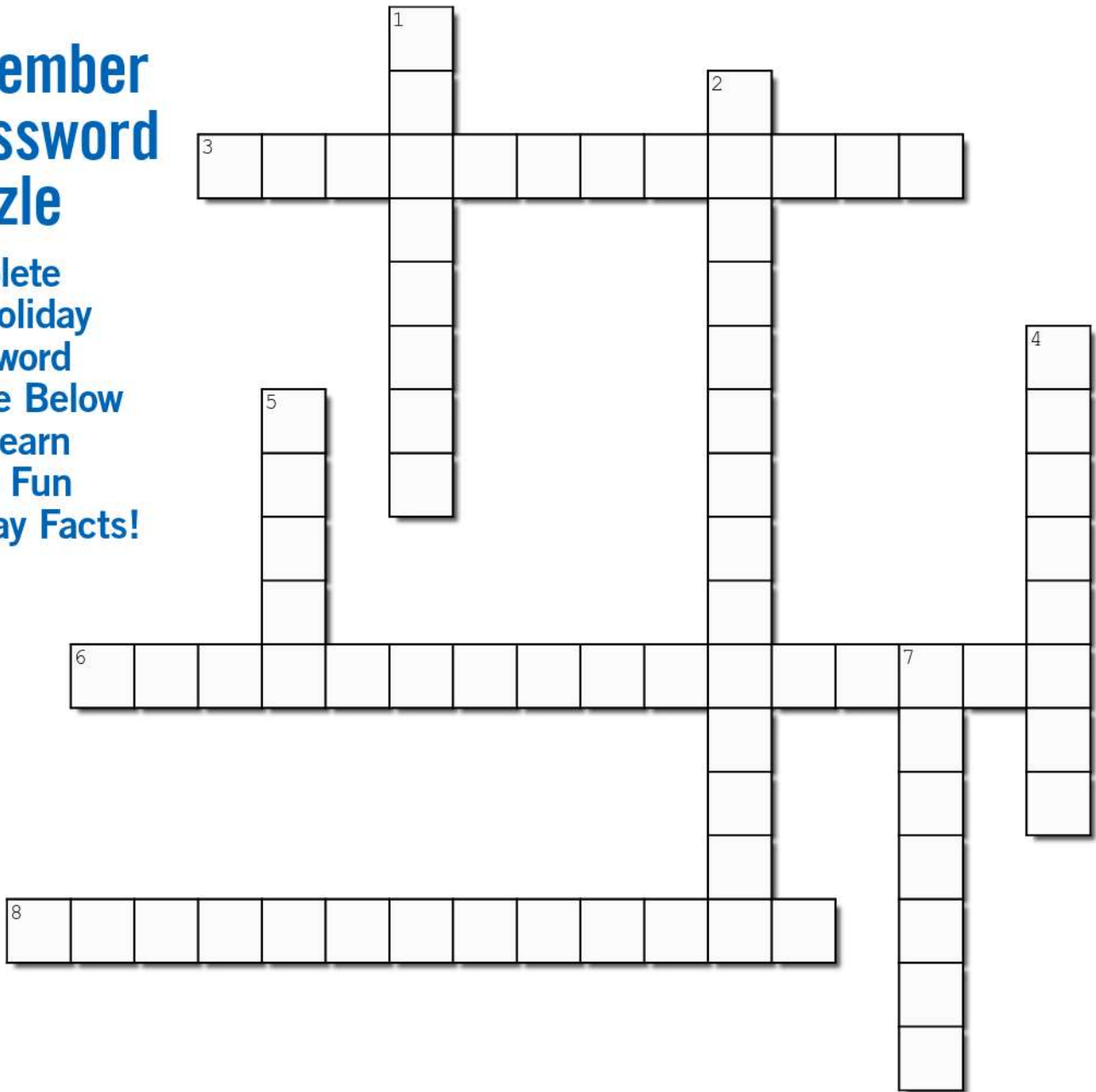
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Questions or Submissions please send to Raja Gonzalez
rajagonzalez1@gmail.com

The deadline to submit articles or ads is
the second day of the month by 9 pm

December Crossword Puzzle

Complete
the Holiday
Crossword
Puzzle Below
and Learn
Some Fun
Holiday Facts!



ACROSS:

- _____ was the first president to celebrate Hanukkah at the White House.
- This plaza in New York reportedly has the largest Menorah in the world.
- Kwanzaa's celebratory symbols include a mat, candle holder, crops, ear of corn, unity cup gifts and _____.

DOWN:

- From 1647 - 1660, Christmas was banned in England by the _____.
- _____ is a Scottish folk song made famous in America by Canadian bandleader Guy Lombardo in the late 1920s.
- This island nation in the Central Pacific is the first location to ring in the new year each year.
- The commemoration of Kwanzaa revolves around honoring the _____ principles of African heritage.
- In 1836, _____ was the first U.S. state to recognize Christmas..



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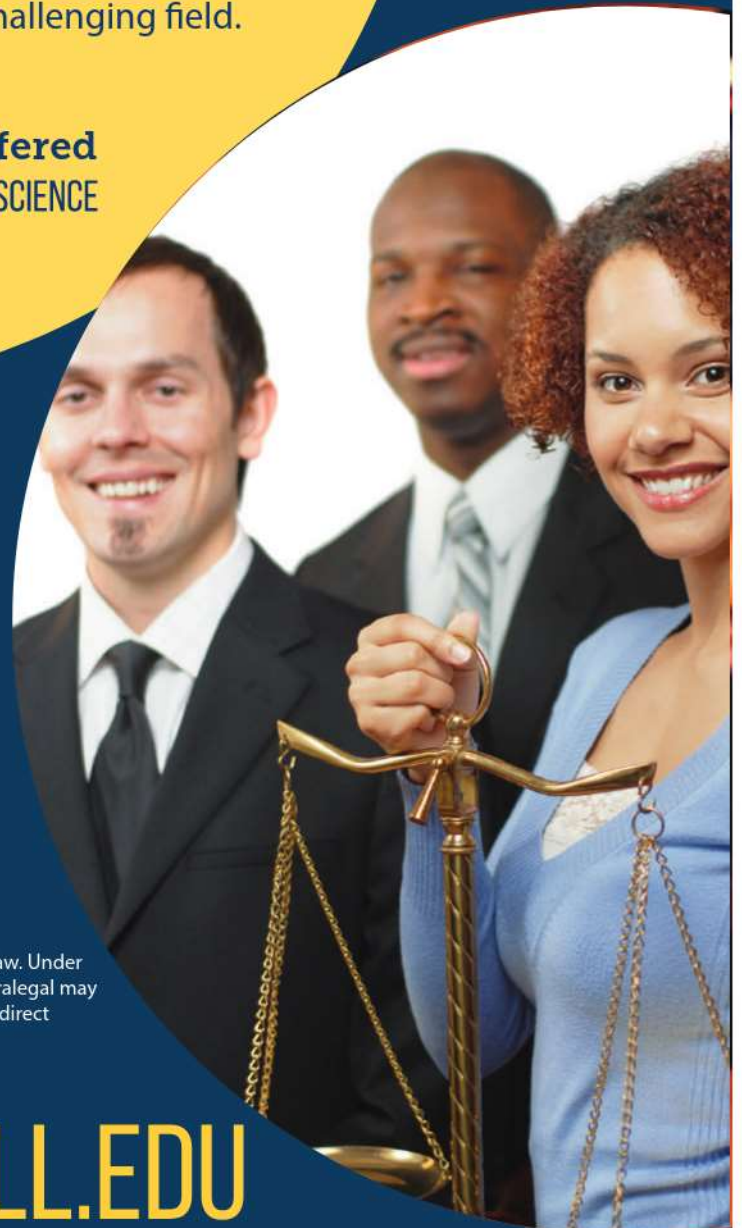
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PLEG 101 F - Introduction to Paralegal Studies

Questions? Contact:
Michael Moore
mmoore1@fullcoll.edu

Please note: The Fullerton College ABA-Approved Paralegal Studies Program does not prepare students for law school or the practice of law. Under California's Business and Professions Code, sections 6450 et seq., a paralegal may not market his or her services to the public, but must work under the direct supervision of an attorney licensed to practice law.

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2/2022



Looking Forward During COVID-19

by Deena Bowman

With the third year of living with COVID-19 upon us, our means of enjoying recreational and cultural pursuits have undoubtedly changed. However, good times can still be experienced – albeit in different ways. The month of December brings Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa to celebrate.

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SKIRBALL HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

Skirball Cultural Center

CELEBRATE HANUKKAH

The Skirball invites families to celebrate Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, on Sunday, December 18th from 2 pm – 5:30 pm (the doors open at 1:30

pm). This special program features music, storytelling, artmaking, and more. Watch Skirball Storytellers recount the age-old story of Hanukkah, create a one-of-a-kind art project, enjoy classic Hanukkah treats and holiday drinks, and celebrate community with a joyous sunset candle lighting.” Reservations are recommended and are available online. RSVP at <https://www.skirball.org/programs/family-programs/hanukkah-fest-2022>



CELEBRATE KWANZAA

Celebrate Kuumba, the Kwanzaa principle of creativity at the California African American Museum. Enjoy an afternoon of storytelling with songs, puppetry, and exciting tales during an interactive story time. Next, teaching artists from Able ARTS Work—a nonprofit organization that offers opportunities in the creative arts for people of all abilities—will lead a zine workshop to inspire participants to display their own Kuumba spirit. Participants are encouraged to bring their own comfortable seating for story time. RSVP for this free event at <https://caamuseum.org/programs/talks-and-workshops/caam-kuumba-kwanzaa-celebration>



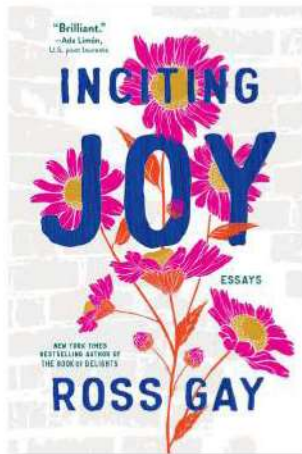
CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

The 62nd annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration provides Angelenos an opportunity to come together and both experience and honor the dynamic, rich cultures of the county. Over the past sixty years, many diverse L.A.-based artists and community groups

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

by Deena Bowman



Inciting Joy: Essays by Ross Gay

Reading a book can fulfill many needs: research, instruction, or to pass the time. Ross Gay's latest book of essays, *Inciting Joy*, is a "front porch" book – an informal yet intimate chat

of "what incites joy" and "what does joy incite?" From there, Ross discusses the beauty of sharing that community gardening creates to seeing spaces through the eyes of a former skate boarder. By the end of the collection of essays, the reader might be encouraged to formulate their own collection of "what incites joy?"

2022, 248 Pages. ALgonquin Books of Chapel Hill. \$27.00. Also available for checkout from the Los Angeles Public Library in Book, E-Book and E-Audiobook.

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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, and she was a former Director at Large with LAPA.

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However, if NALA receives your form and fee after 1/31/2023, the \$25 late fee and Appeal form are required.

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<https://nala.org/education-5/local-state-and-affiliate-cle-opportunities/>

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For more information contact:

Michelle Tabb, ACP,

Terry Wright, ACP, LAPA Board Director

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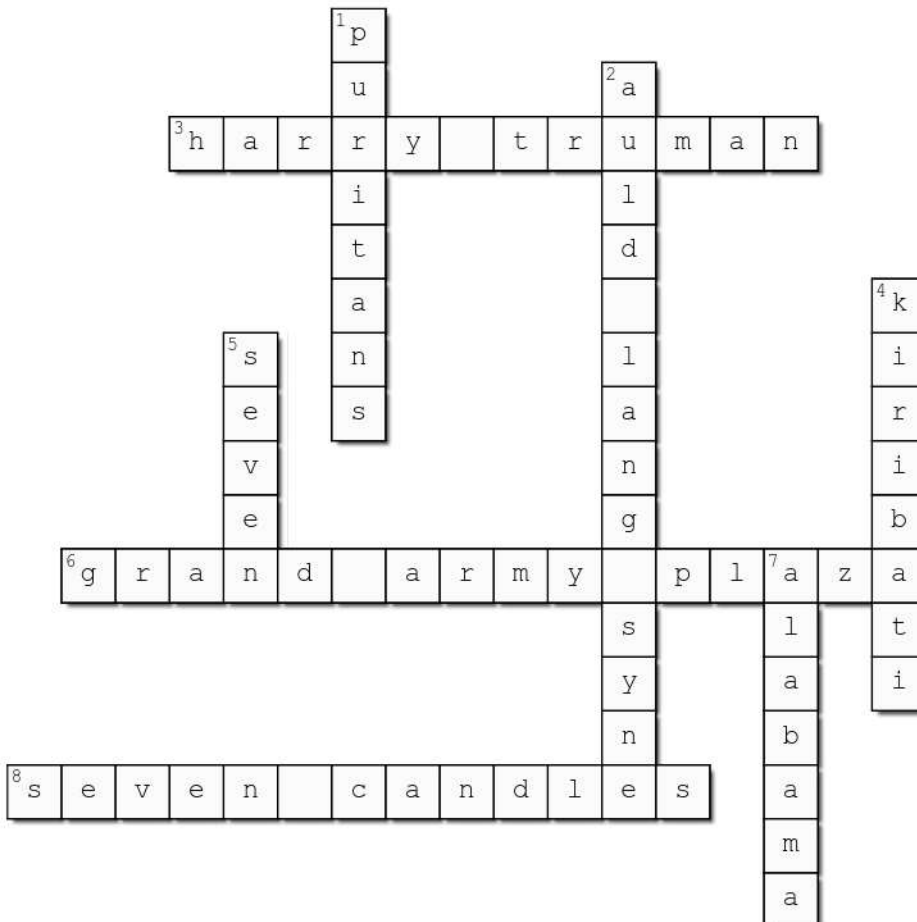


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LAPA'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE - cont. from page 6



**ANSWER
KEY**

ACROSS

- 3. Harry Truman
- 6. Grand Army Plaza
- 8. Seven Candles

DOWN

- 1. Puritans
- 2. Auld Lang Syne
- 4. Kiribati
- 5. Seven
- 7. Alabama



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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 28

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
Visit Us! 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 2022. 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

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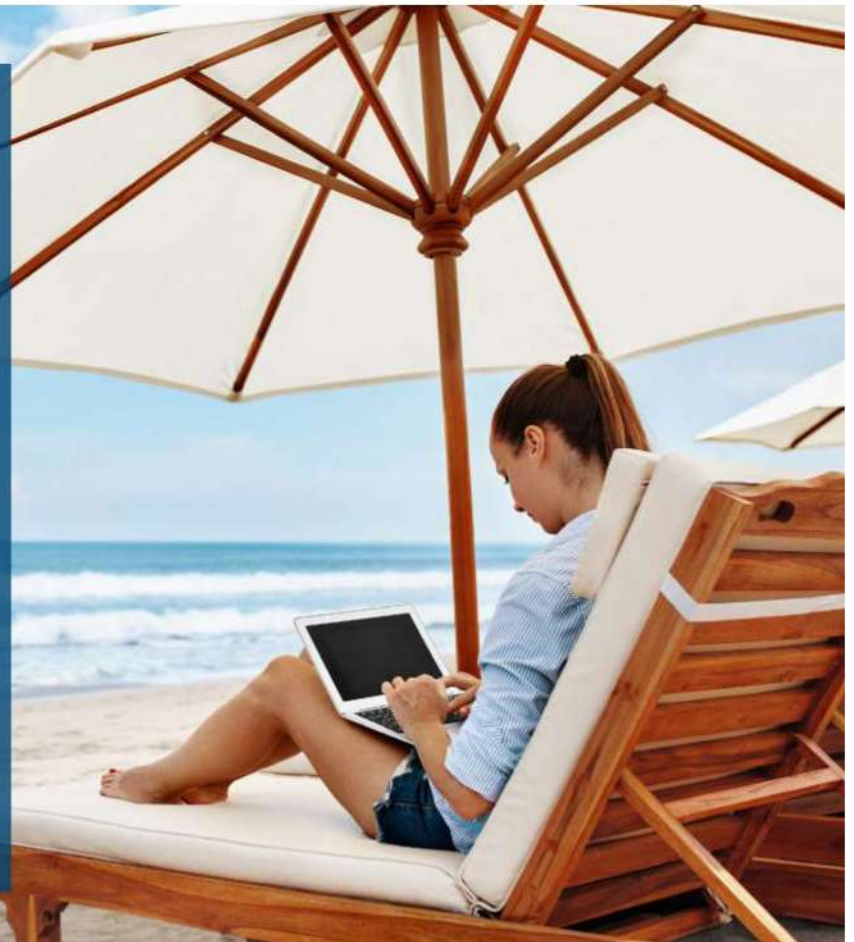
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ANNOUNCING A NEW AND INSPIRING COLLABORATION!



LAPA is excited to share the news!

College of the Canyons is offering a NALA CP Exam Review Course

Course: Paralegal Test Prep: Knowledge, NC.PLGL-001

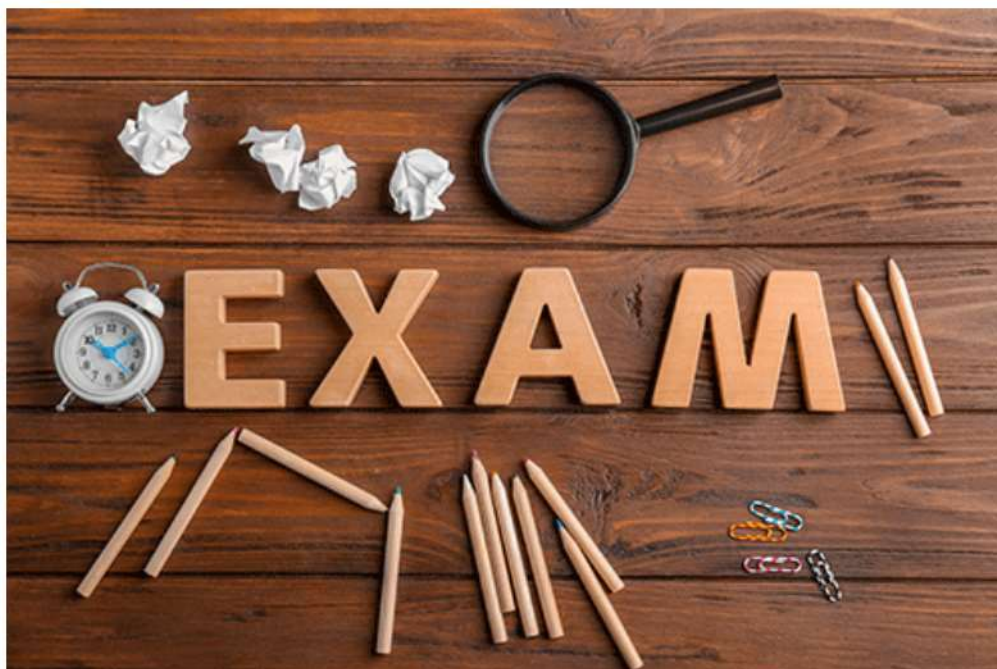
Dates: February 27 – May 8, 2023, Mondays, 10 weeks, *No MCLE credit offered

Time: 6-8pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Registration: Free to California residents

To Register: www.canyons.edu/freeclasses



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

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.

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, 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 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.

VOTING

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STUDENT cont.

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