

THE WRIT



A publication of the El Paso Paralegal Association

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

December 2022



President's Message

Time Capsule of 2022

Dear Members,

As we come to the close of 2022, I would like to take the time to thank our Board of Directors for all their help. This was a very difficult year for the Board as we had various vacant positions for Vice President of Programs, Student Liaison and we lost our President Elect. Many of us had to take on double roles to bring our EPPA membership a successful 2022 year filled with the benefits that come with your EPPA membership.

We brought you monthly speakers that gave EPPA members informative legal presentations so our membership would get their CLE and keep our paralegals abreast of the latest legal information and changes. We were able to get EPPA members **15 CLE credits** in 2022. My appreciation goes out to everyone who assisted in obtaining our speakers and to all our speakers for taking the time to present for us.

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President's Message *(continued)*

Monica Perez- *Ethical Pitfalls*

Priscilla de Mata- *ABC's of School Law*

Aaron Setliff- *Medically Necessary Gender Affirming -Is it Child Abuse*

Laura Christopherson- *Protecting the Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities*

Kitty Schild- *Suing and Defending Governmental Entities*

Emily Dawson- *Juvenile Drug Trafficking*

Evi Licon- *Protective Orders*

Jessica Mendez- *Your Legal Rights Under Health Commitment*

Heidi Beginski- *Trial Preparation*

Bill Hicks - *The Law Regarding Removal of an Elected Official & how we got where we are today*

Gabe Perez- *Important Changes to Civil Rules*

Connie Flores- *Texas makes big changes to Sexual Harassment in the Workplace*

Milad Farah- *Personal Injury Law*

Dan Hernandez- *How to work up a Litigation File*

Constance Wannamaker- *Immigration Law*

We organized our yearly charity event and despite the Golf Tournament issues and cancelation, we succeeded in raising funds for the **Opportunity Center Homeless Veterans Transitional Living Center**. We had a wonderful turn out at B-17 Oyster Pub where EPPA members were invited to participate and attend this charitable project in assisting and giving back to our community. Thank you to the musicians and owners of B-17 for facilitating this event for us.

The Scholarship Committee nominated a winner for the **2022 EPCC Scholarship**. Congratulations to Stephany Mariles. May you continue strong in your paralegal studies knowing EPPA helped pick up the tab on some of your enrollment fees. We wish you continued success as you pursue your dream to become a paralegal. Everyday is an adventure when you are a paralegal.

We had a wonderful **Spring Seminar** and **Fall Seminar for Paralegal Day** bringing you two half-day events with multiple topics and great EPPA membership participation. We also had a wonderful **Attorney/Paralegal Luncheon** at the El Paso Community Foundation where the food was delicious, and where gratitude was felt and shared.

I cannot stress enough how important you are to this membership. It is made up by all of us and your voice matters to me. Thank you for your continued support and please get involved, join a committee, join the board, let your voice be heard. Thank you for letting me serve as your President, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

-Yvette Duran
President

Minutes of November Meeting

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF EL PASO PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION (November 18, 2022)

A regular meeting of the members of El Paso Paralegal Association (the “Association”) was duly called and held virtually by Zoom teleconference on Thursday, November 18, 2020, at 12:00 p.m. President Yvette Duran chaired the meeting and recorded the minutes of the meeting.

A quorum being present, President Duran called the meeting to order, and welcomed the guest speaker, and thanked the members and guest speaker for joining in on the call.

VP of Membership Jessica Lucero discussed details about the upcoming event at the El Paso Community Foundation for the Attorney/Paralegal Luncheon

President Duran introduced the guest speaker, Constance Wannamaker. She gave an excellent presentation concerning immigration issues regarding obtaining visas (Laser Visa, Temporary Visa, Employee Visa, Skilled Worker Visa, Tourist Visa, Sports Professional Visa) and the requirements to obtain one. She discussed the legal standards and requirements for each. She went over the aspects of counselor processing, applying for a waiver, hardship circumstances and the importance of competent representation, and all the details the immigration attorney needs to be on top of to prepare for the interviews that take place at the consulate in Juarez. She explained in detail the VAWA Requirements. VAWA is a special law which allows the spouse and/or child of an abusive U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident to apply for a green card through self-petition. Through VAWA, someone can apply for a green card themselves, without the help of their abusive spouse. VAWA is a very powerful immigration option for both men and women. She discussed the importance of careful documentation to prove the immigrant suffered abuse at the hands of the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. She explained the psychiatric visits necessary to obtain assistance and answered many questions from the membership. She also explained the T-Visa used for victims involved in human trafficking. This is a non-immigrant status visa that may give temporary immigration benefits that enables certain victims to remain in the U.S. This T-Visa is a really good resource for immigrants who do not have a relative to petition for them for instance in labor related abuse such as construction workers, spas, restaurants, agriculture, those who are hurt at work and their employer refuses to award benefits when they are not paid or medical attention is refused, or overworked beyond normal labor standards. This presentation was very good reminder of how important the little details are. Her presentation was a fantastic overview on the topic of immigration and was very informative. President Duran thanked our speaker.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Duran at 12:59 p.m.

/s/ Yvette Duran

Yvette Duran, Acting Secretary

Highlights from Atty/Paralegal Luncheon



President Yvette Duran



El Paso Community Foundation



**Guest Speaker Scott Calderwood
El Paso County 911 Director**

2022 Charity Award Presentation



Special Guest Gene Roberts
Veterans Transitional Living Cen-

*Congratulations
to
Peggy Dieter
on your upcoming
Retirement!*



Peggy L. Dieter, CP, TBLS



Laura Aguilar, Peggy Dieter

Highlights from Atty/Paralegal Luncheon



Cerra Raspberry, Yvette Duran, Rachel Scott



Jessica Lucero



Peggy Dieter, Allan Goldfarb



Jose Salayandia



Jessica Lucero, Jose Salayandia

Raffle Winner!

Highlights from Atty/Paralegal Luncheon



Margie Ugarte, Jizelle Diaz, Yvette Duran, Lena Diaz, Alma Reyes



Monica Mena, Selina Saenz



Sandra Espinoza, Griselda Lasky



Rudy Mata, Laura Aguilar, Allan Goldfarb



Rachel Scott



2022 Board Members
Jessica Lucero, Sandra Espinoza, Griselda Lasky, Yvette Duran, Laura Aguilar

Highlights from Atty/Paralegal Luncheon



See our website for additional photos!

www.elppa.org

Announcements



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

EPPA's members will vote on a new slate of officers at the Annual Meeting of January. All officer positions are open, except for NALA Liaison (two-year term expiring 2024).

Please consider volunteering to serve on the 2023 Board of Directors. EPPA cannot survive, let alone thrive, without help from its members.



Welcome New Members

Andrea "Gabby" Thomas
Texas Attorney General

Oscar Vazquez

NOTICE:

Membership renewal applications and membership dues are

due January 31, 2023.

Check for the website for the 2023 new/renewal forms.

December Birthdays



Susana Miranda	12/05
Monica Mena	12/10
Virginia Munoz	12/12
Andrea Thomas	12/22
Laura Aguilar	12/27

December 2022

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 <i>Attorney/ Paralegal Luncheon</i>	3
4	5	6  Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21  WINTER SOLSTICE	22	23	24
25  Merry Christmas	26	27	28	29 <i>Deadline for January Writ Submissions</i>	30	31  New Year's Eve

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	<i>vacant</i>
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@umcelpaso.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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