



# CALA NEWS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## CALA Cares!



We had a great lunch and learn session this past Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024! Mr. J. Howard Yates, Jr., Esq., covered Real Estate Law, as members enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Verde!

He emphasized how important it is to be knowledgeable of tax liens, wills, and more! He even showed his nun-chuck skills! Thanks for your time Mr. Yates and we appreciate all who were able to join us!



## SAVE THE DATE!

November 2024: CALA Election

\*\*Be on the lookout on your emails.\*\*

December 5, 2024: CALA Annual Holiday Party

Toys for Tots Toy Drive (TBD)

(More details to follow!)

CALA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 5, 2024  
6PM-9PM

OFFICIAL INVITE TO FOLLOW!

save  
the Date



**Attention CALA Members!**  
**EARLY BIRD PROMOTION!**

Any current CALA member who submits their renewal application for 2025 by 12/31/2024, will be entered to win a raffle door prize at CALA's social networking event in January 2025!\*

\*Raffle door prize valued at \$100.00. Must be present to win. Must be a current 2024 CALA member and the renewal application form must be received by 12/31/24 to be eligible for the door prize.

Please email [calacorrsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:calacorrsecretary@gmail.com) or [calapresident@gmail.com](mailto:calapresident@gmail.com) for an application form for 2025!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALA was featured as the Spotlight Association on their Affiliated Association Newsletter October Issue! Read on what makes us the Affiliated Association of the Year! What an honor!



October 2024



## Discover how CALA is navigating a powerful growth journey under the inspiring leadership of President Ernalene Rex, CP, SCCP.

The Charleston Association of Legal Assistants (CALA) is the 2024 recipient of the brand-new NALA Affiliated Association of the Year Award. They received the award in recognition of their efforts to further the paralegal profession through professional development and volunteer service. Their NALA Liaison, Kerrie Specht, ACP, SCCP, accepted the award on behalf of the association at the 2024 NALA Conference & Expo in Louisville, Kentucky, in July.



CALA was founded in 1982. For over 40 years, the association has been dedicated to the promotion of legal excellence in the paralegal profession throughout Charleston and the surrounding areas. CALA joined NALA as an affiliate in 1996.

With 46 members and 12 corporate sponsors, CALA is on a growth journey. Their president, Ernalene Rex, CP, SCCP, is optimistic about the association's future. She started serving CALA as the Vice President and NALA Liaison in January 2023.

"We are constantly working hard to get exposure by utilizing the tools available to us, such as social media, our website, and newsletters," she shared.

Ernalene's predecessor is Nicole Rittmaier, who led CALA for four years.

"I do not think CALA would be thriving today without her leadership and mentorship," Ernalene acknowledged.

CALA invests in the professional development of its members by offering at least two continuing legal education (CLE) hours each quarter during Lunch & Learns. They also hold an



October 2024

Educational Seminar where attendees can earn up to six CLE hours. All of their CLE hours are pre-approved by NALA. One way CALA engages its members is through social networking events. They hold at least one per quarter, and every member is invited to bring a guest. CALA typically provides drinks and snacks.

In addition to advancing the paralegal profession, CALA is dedicated to community service through volunteer opportunities. Every summer, CALA hosts a back-to-school backpack drive to donate backpacks to HALOS, an organization focused on helping kinship families.

In the spring, CALA holds a virtual fundraising event to help fight hunger. Proceeds are donated to the Lowcountry Food Bank (LCFB). They also participate in LCFB's annual Walk to Fight Hunger. The 2024 walk took place on September 22, and LCFB raised nearly \$75,000! The day before that, Kerrie Specht, ACP, SCCP, coordinated a beach sweep, where CALA members came together to clean up the marsh. In early December, CALA holds a Toys for Tots Toy Drive during their annual holiday party, where each member can bring a guest.

Ernalene believes that openness, flexibility, and networking are essential to success. There are two additional elements she credits for CALA's success.

"Every successful association should have are teamwork and communication. These two work hand-in-hand to ensure success in everything we do."





# ANNOUNCEMENTS



Paralegal Spotlight of the Month  
September 2024



Paralegal Spotlight of the Month  
October 2024

As autumn arrives, CALA celebrates the rising stars of the legal field! This September, we'd like to recognize the powerhouse paralegal, Sherry Reeves.

Sherry was born in Macon, Georgia, and raised in Warner Robins, Georgia. Although she is new to the Low Country area as of November 2023, she is eager to integrate into the community and adopt its lifestyle.

With 25 years of experience in the legal industry, Sherry began her career as a legal assistant intern in 1999. She later earned an Associate of Science in Paralegal Studies from Knoxville Business College. After taking a career hiatus to raise her children, she returned to college at 46 and earned a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies from Liberty University in 2016. Sherry's expertise spans various legal areas, including Estate Planning, Probate, Trusts, Family Law, Civil Litigation, and Personal Injury. Currently, she serves as the lead case manager at Trey Harrell Law, where she leverages her skills to drive growth.

In addition to her legal career, Sherry has 10 years of experience in the banking industry, utilizing her knowledge of estate planning and probate. She actively participates in the Liberty Networking group to foster business growth for both her firm and to help other entrepreneurs to do the same.

Outside of work, Sherry enjoys reading, kayaking, outdoor activities, and spending time with her family, including her three adult sons and parents.

Sherry truly embodies the strength and dedication that defines CALA's paralegal community. We're proud to have her on our team!

This October, it is our distinct pleasure of putting a spotlight on Joy Johnson, a paralegal who has shown what a life dedicated to continued learning and hard work can do! Joy -- a Charleston, South Carolina native and Winthrop University graduate -- developed a passion for law at a young age. Through her decades of long employment with Charleston County Magistrate Court and Clerk of Court's office, Joy has fulfilled her childhood curiosities and developed a deeper passion for law. Currently, she is a dedicated employee at the Charleston County Clerk of Court's office as the Common Pleas Non-Jury Coordinator. In an effort to increase her legal proficiency, she pursued her hands-on experience as a student in the Paralegal Studies program at Trident Technical College. Her studies at Trident Tech also afforded her the opportunity to work as an intern for Angle, LLC. Joy has fulfilled all the requirements for the Paralegal Program, and is set to graduate with an Associates Degree.

She is an active member of House of God Miracle Temple in Adams Run, South Carolina. She is also a member of Charleston Associates of Legal Assistants and Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity. When Joy is not working, she engages in many of her passions which include physical fitness, shopping, music (both listening and singing), working with youth and art. "I am honored to have gained a substantial amount of experience and knowledge in the Legal field," Joy states. "I am excited about where this road could lead."

We couldn't agree with Joy more! CALA is elated to have her as a member of our organization, and we look forward to the insights and expertise she brings with her!

## October Birthdays

Before we say farewell to the month of October, we would like to take this moment to wish our CALA members a blessed, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 10/01 : Sherry R.
- 10/02: Barbara C.
- 10/05: Vick W.
- 10/07: Gwyn M.
- 10/17: Jackie W.
- 10/27: Cheryl L.
- 10/28: Melanie H.
- 10/30: April G.
- 10/31: Tracy B.



## ON OTHER NEWS...



- CALA Board Member Positions Open for January 2025. Positions open for current "full" members will be: Treasurer, CALA Recording Secretary, and NALA Liaison! Election will be held in November. We are still in need of a candidate for a recording secretary. Please email [calapresident@gmail.com](mailto:calapresident@gmail.com), if interested!
- Job Bank: Please share any job listings to [calacorrsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:calacorrsecretary@gmail.com).
- To Our 2024 Corporate Members: If interested in renewing your membership for 2025, please email [calapresident@gmail.com](mailto:calapresident@gmail.com) or [calacorrsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:calacorrsecretary@gmail.com) for an application form. Thank you for your continued support and assisting CALA to promote the paralegal profession in the tri-county area!
- HAVE A FABULOUSLY SPOOKY HALLOWEEN, EVERYONE!
- QOTD: "Yesterday is dead, tomorrow hasn't arrived yet. I have just one day, today, and I'M GOING TO BE HAPPY in it." (Groucho Marx)



*CALA would like to thank all of our corporate sponsors this year. We are grateful and appreciate your help in furthering and promoting this wonderful paralegal profession in the tri-county area! y'all ROCK!*

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