



IN REVIEW...

- 1** LAPA 2025 Board of Directors & Officers
- 1** President's Message: *Welcome to 2025!*
- 3** California State Law Updates: *Updated Housing Laws That Might Affect You!*
- 6** LAPA Holiday Benefit Gala Recap: *A Magical Night to Remember*
- 9** LAPA's Crossword Puzzle: *Complete the Crossword Puzzle & Learn Some Interesting Facts*
- 11** In The Time of COVID-19: *Looking Forward Despite COVID-19*
- 12** Paralegal Perspectives: *A Glance Into Their Lives Talar Guedikian*
- 13** LAPA Reading Corner: *The Book of (More) Delights*

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

NALA Certification Ad	2
Calendar of Events	3
LAPA Career Center Info	3/15
Newsletter Submission Ad	4/11/27
Thanks to HBG Sponsors/Exhibitors Ad	5
LAPA Newsletter Advertising Ad	10
LAPA Crossword Puzzle Answer Key	14
CASA Essential History Program Ad	19-20
LAPA Diversity & Equality Statement	21
Freelance Paralegal Listing Flyer	21
NALA/College of the Canyons CP Ad	22
LAPA Members Only Benefit Ad	23
Bet Tzedek Volunteers Flyer	24
LAPA's New & Renewing Members	25
LAPA Member Benefit Health Insurance	25
LAPA Board of Directors	26
Sections, Committees & Other LAPA Info.	26
LAPA Member Benefit Dental Insurance	26

LAPA 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS



President
Travis Chow



V.P. of Marketing
Mariana Lui



Secretary
Don ADOVE

DIRECTORS AT LARGE



Treasurer
Gina Rosales



Isis S. Curiel



Elizabeth Garcia, ACP



Talar Guedikian



Martha Izquierdo



Jacqueline Loza

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to 2025!

by Travis Chow – LAPA President

It is with immense honor and excitement that I step into the role of President of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association. I acknowledge that we have a particularly young and fresh Board this year. However, we are driven,

continued on page 2



SHOW OFF YOUR CP® DIGITAL BADGE

CPs, do you know how to make your digital badge work for you? After you accept your badge, update your social profiles and email signature to feature your new accomplishment. This can help you if you are:

- Looking for a new role at your organization
- Interested in being contacted about job opportunities
- Looking for new skills and credentials

[Credly](#) provides a plethora of information about the paralegal field and its opportunities. At the bottom of your badge profile, click “Insights” to see available jobs, salaries, job locations, and much more!

RETIRING SOON?

If, after many years of service to the paralegal community, you are nearing retirement, please remember to submit the [CP® Retired Form](#) to NALA so you do not lose your hard-earned credential. Your certification status will be updated to “CP® Retired,” and you will no longer be required to earn CLE. If you have questions, please contact us at cle@nala.org.



Join one of the nation’s premier paralegal associations:

The Los Angeles Paralegal Association

Please visit www.lapa.org for detailed information about LAPA membership benefits.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - cont. from page 1

passionate, and united by a shared vision for LAPA’s growth. Our diversity—not only in our practice areas but also in our unique backgrounds—sets us apart and strengthens our collective voice.

This year, we are thrilled to not only continue hosting LAPA’s signature events but also to introduce innovative new programs that will engage and inspire. We remain committed to expanding LAPA’s national reach by deepening our partnership with NALA and fostering strong relationships with our sister Paralegal Associations. Most importantly, this Board is dedicated to addressing the needs of all our members—whether you’re a student just starting out or a seasoned paralegal advancing your career.

Together, we will build on LAPA’s proud legacy and work tirelessly to elevate and empower the paralegal profession across Los Angeles and beyond. Here’s to a year of growth, collaboration, and success!

Travis Chow is currently the Paralegal Coordinator at Collins + Collins LLP. Prior to this role, he freelanced at several private practice firms in Southern California. He holds certifications as a Social Media Intelligence Expert and Cyber Intelligence Professional, and he is also a licensed California Realtor and Notary Public. With the support of the Walter T. Shatford and San Gabriel Valley Bar Association Legal Scholarship, he earned a Paralegal Certificate from Pasadena City College, along with an associate degree in Social Behavioral Science, Humanities, and Paralegal Studies. Additionally, he obtained a Paralegal Certificate and a bachelor’s degree in Legal Studies from the University of La Verne.

JOIN LAPA ON... & WWW.LAPA.ORG

LAPA REPORTER

The Reporter is published monthly by the Los Angeles Paralegal Association. The news and views presented express the authors’ views and not necessarily those of LAPA. Publication of any article or advertisement does not imply endorsement of the opinions, products or services offered. LAPA assumes no responsibility for verifying facts offered by contributing authors or in reprinted articles. Readers should consider information contained in these articles as guidelines to be independently confirmed as to timeliness.

©2025 Los Angeles Paralegal Association. All rights reserved.

THE ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL DEADLINE IS THE 5TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

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.

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.

JANUARY

- 8- **LAPA Executive Board Meeting** – Conf. Call; Contact Travis Chow at president@lapa.org.
- 15 - **LAPA Board Meeting** – Contact Travis Chow at president@lapa.org.

FEBRUARY

- 5- **LAPA Executive Board Meeting** – Conf. Call; Contact Travis Chow at president@lapa.org.
- 12 - **LAPA Board Meeting** – Contact Travis Chow at president@lapa.org.

CALIFORNIA STATE LAW UPDATES



Updated Housing Laws That Might Affect You!

by Travis Chow – LAPA President

A quarter century into this new millenia, California introduces more laws aimed at addressing the state’s housing laws and regulations. These reforms cover a wide range of issues, from tenant protections to timing extensions in Court cases. Whether you’re a tenant or homeowner, it is important to understand how these new laws impact your rights in California’s evolving real estate landscape. In this article, we’ll break down the most important changes to watch for in 2025.

More Time to Answer Unlawful Detainer Complaint
(Code of Civil Procedure sections 1167 and 1170. Effective January 1, 2025)

This law increases the deadline for a defendant to file a response, such as an answer, from five business

days to ten business days after being served with an unlawful detainer complaint and summons. However, it also shortens the time that defendants can file a demurrer, aligning it with the same expedited timeline as other motions in unlawful detainer cases, which may streamline the eviction process and minimize delays. This does not change the 2018 rule that excludes weekends and holidays in counting the five-day answer period after service of an unlawful detainer complaint and summons.

Landlord Must Pay to Change Locks when Tenant is a Victim of Abuse (Civil Code sections 1941.6 and 1946.9. Effective January 1, 2025)

This new law clarifies that the landlord is responsible for changing the locks within 24 hours and covering the cost of changing the locks, when the tenant (or immediate family/household members) provides documentation that they are a victim of abuse. If the landlord fails to do so, the tenant can change the locks, and the landlord must reimburse the cost within 21 days.

Landlords must Provide Credit Reports to Perspective Tenants (California Civil Code§1950.6. Effective January 1, 2025)

If the landlord uses the screening fee to obtain a perspective tenant’s credit report, they must provide a copy of the report to the applicant within seven days regardless of whether the applicant has requested it or not. Further, by mutual agreement the landlord can email receipts for applicant screening fees.

Residential Landlords are Responsible for Taking Photos when Making Deductions (Civil Code§1950.5. Effective January 1, 2025)

This law now requires residential landlords to take move-in, move-out, and post-repair photos to support any deductions. Deductions for cleaning and damages must be “reasonably necessary” to restore the property to its original condition. *continued on page 4*

The Los Angeles Paralegal Association

CHECK OUT OUR JOB BOARD!




Browse hundreds of job posts on our website here:

<https://www.lapa.org/Career-Center>

Starting April 1, 2025, landlords must take photographs of the unit within a reasonable timeframe after the tenant returns possession, but before any repairs or cleaning that may lead to deductions from or claims against the security deposit under this section. For tenancies starting on or after July 1, 2025, landlords must take photographs of the unit either immediately before or at the start of the tenancy.

When providing the itemized statement of deductions, if a deduction is made for repairs or cleaning, the landlord must: Include photographs from the move-in, move-out, and post-repair/cleaning stages, and provide a written explanation of the costs for the allowable repairs or cleaning.

Contractor Exemptions Limit Increases (*Business and Professions Code sections 7027.2 and 7048. Effective January 1, 2025*)


Handymen are now allowed to handle construction projects valued up to \$1,000 (labor and materials) without needing a contractor's license (through the California Contractors State License Board). However, they are still prohibited from taking on jobs that require a building permit or are part of a larger project exceeding \$1,000.

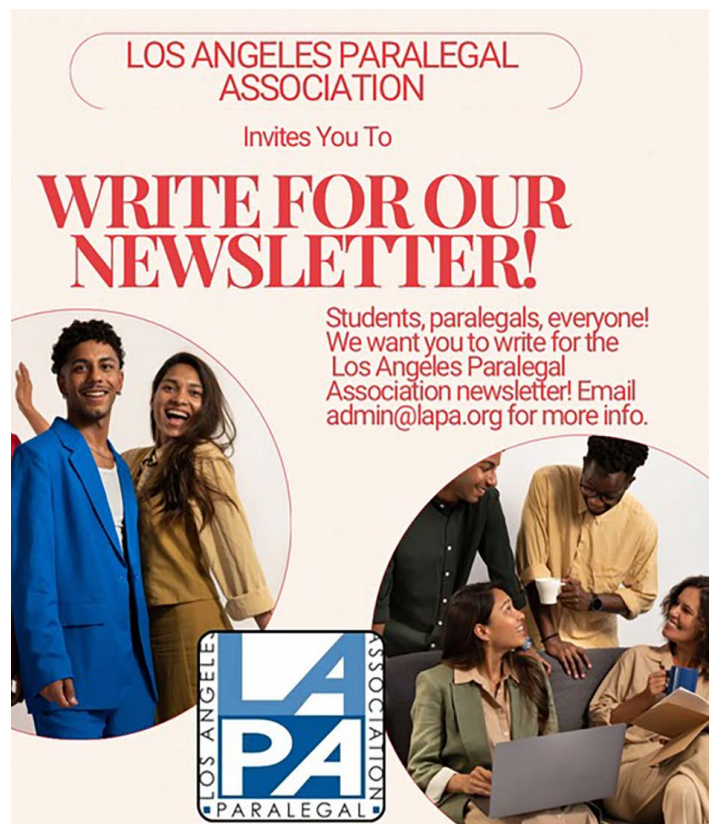
Cities Must Provide a Path for Obtaining Permits to Unpermitted ADUs built before 2020 (*Government Code Section 66332. Effective January 1, 2025*)

California Cities and counties are required to communicate the ADU amnesty rules to the public using various informational resources, such as permit checklists and the local agency's website, which must feature the following: "(1) A checklist of the conditions specified in Section 17920.3 of the Health and Safety Code that would deem a building substandard. (2) Informing homeowners that, before applying for a permit, the homeowner may obtain a confidential third-party code inspection from a licensed contractor to determine the unit's existing condition or potential scope of building improvements before submitting an application for a permit."

Rights Expanded Under Unruh Civil Rights Act (*Civil Code section 51, Education Code section 212.1 and Government Code section 12926. Effective January 1, 2025*)

The Unruh Act is broadened to include traits associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles, under the definition of race. The Act further ensures that all individuals are entitled to full and equal access to accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of any kind.

With the rapid introduction of new laws and regulations, navigating California's legal landscape has become increasingly complex. The sheer volume of legislation can be overwhelming for homeowners and tenants. Staying up to date on these ever-changing laws is essential, but the challenge lies in understanding how they interact and impact decisions. As California continues to introduce new laws, it is more important than ever to have the right resources to ensure compliance and make informed choices in a constantly shifting market. Read up on all these laws and more through California's Legislative Information website at leginfo.legislature.ca.gov. 



LOS ANGELES PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

Invites You To

WRITE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

Students, paralegals, everyone! We want you to write for the Los Angeles Paralegal Association newsletter! Email admin@lapa.org for more info.

The graphic features a collage of diverse people in professional settings. On the left, a man in a blue suit and a woman in a yellow top smile. On the right, a group of people are gathered around a laptop, looking at the screen. At the bottom center is the LAPA logo, which consists of the letters 'LA' in a large blue font above 'PA' in a smaller blue font, with 'LOS ANGELES' on the left and 'ASSOCIATION' on the right, and 'PARALEGAL' at the bottom.



Thank you!

To all the sponsors and exhibitors for participating at our 2024 Holiday Benefit Gala!

Array **ID INNOVATIVE DRIVEN** **EXCELSIOR**
"Always Moving Forward!"
APEX LEGAL SERVICES **STENO** **N** National UNIVERSITY **FL**
NOVUS LUMEN **MT. SAC!** Mt. San Antonio College **Knox** SERVICES **Consilio**
VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS **ACEDS**
Fullerton College **Round Hill Search** **ONE LEGAL** An **InfoTrack** Company
BOND SERVICES INSURANCE AGENCY AND BROKERAGE **MAGNA** LEGAL SERVICES

LOS ANGELES PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION



A Magical Night to Remember

by Isis S. Curiel – LAPA Director

On December 14th, the Los Angeles Paralegal Association proudly hosted its annual Holiday Benefit Gala. Held at the elegant Pasadena Hilton, the gala was a dazzling culmination of celebration, connection, and generosity. Members, supporters, and community partners came together for an unforgettable night of entertainment and camaraderie.

The festive atmosphere was unmistakable from the moment guests arrived and everyone received a warm welcome with peppermint candy canes. The venue sparkled with holiday decor, warm lighting, and seasonal cheer, setting the tone for a magical evening ahead. Attendees dressed in their finest attire mingled and networked, savoring the chance to reconnect and meet new colleagues.

The evening featured an incredible lineup of entertainment, starting with a performance from Samantha Johnson, a seasoned attorney and amateur comedian. Samantha currently works in the Antitrust Division of the Public Rights Unit, where she has spent the last two years alongside a team of colleagues who embody integrity and mutual support. The guests were pleasantly surprised by Samantha's first public performance and were eager for other items that LAPA had planned for the evening.

As the night continued, the DJ kept the energy high with a mix of classic hits and modern music that had guests flooding the dance floor. Whether dancing with friends or enjoying the rhythm from the sidelines, everyone reveled in the moment. Guests also delighted in the festive photo booth, where holiday-themed props and backdrops created the perfect setting for fun and memorable snapshots.

The night featured Richard the Magician, who performed strolling and tableside magic. His sleight-of-hand tricks and illusions left the audience in awe. Richard has performed at the world-famous Magic Castle and throughout the United States. His

interactive show drew gasps, laughter, and genuine amazement from all the guests.

The highly anticipated Silent Auction was a centerpiece of the gala, featuring an impressive selection of items donated by generous individuals and local businesses. There was something for everyone, from luxury spa experiences and unique collectibles to gourmet gift baskets and fine wine packages. Guests eagerly placed bids, generating a sense of excitement and friendly competition.

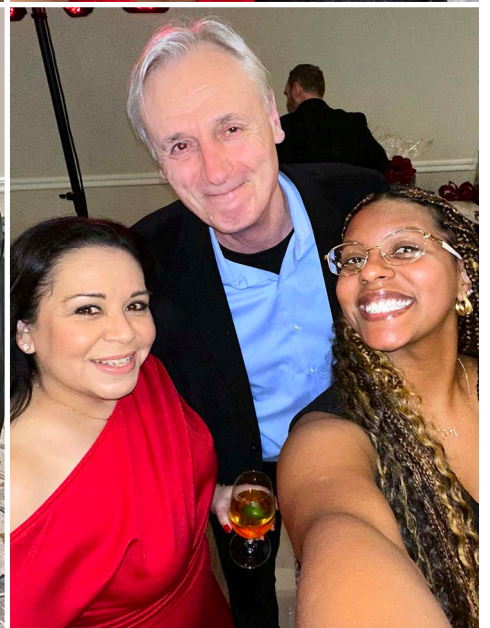
The Silent Auction was a tremendous success, raising an outstanding \$2,802.13 for Union Station Homeless Services, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families experiencing housing insecurities. At the Holiday Benefit Gala, the organization was represented by Venice Dunn, the organization's Advancement Officer. She spoke about Union Station Homeless Services' work to end homelessness through housing solutions, supportive services, and connection to the community. They advocate for equitable and just systems that ensure all individuals and families have a safe place to call home. The funds raised during the gala will directly impact their work, helping those in need find stability, hope, and independence.

The Holiday Benefit Gala was not just a night of celebration—it was a testament to the power of community and the impact of collective generosity. Attendees left the event knowing they had contributed to a cause that truly makes a difference. For LAPA, the gala is more than an annual tradition; it embodies the organization's values of connection, professionalism, and philanthropy. It is a chance to celebrate the year's accomplishments, bring members closer together, and make a meaningful impact on the broader community.

If you could not attend this year's gala, there are many more opportunities to get

involved. LAPA is committed to hosting events year-round that blend professional networking, personal growth, and charitable giving. Whether you are a seasoned member or new to the association, our events provide the perfect opportunity to connect, learn, and give back. Looking ahead, we invite you to stay engaged with LAPA and join us for future


continued on page 8



gatherings. Whether the entertainment draws you, the chance to support important causes, or the opportunity to network with like-minded professionals, our events are designed to offer something for everyone.

As we reflect on the success of this year's gala, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who contributed. From our dedicated volunteers and generous donors to the attendees who brought energy and enthusiasm, this event was a collective achievement. Together, we raised funds and celebrated the holiday season in a way that truly captured the spirit of giving. Thank you for making this evening unforgettable. We look forward to seeing you at future events as we build connections and make a lasting difference in our community. Here's to

carrying the joy and generosity of this year's Holiday Benefit Gala into the new year and beyond!

Isis Curiel is a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles, where she double-majored in English and African American Studies and minored in Chicana Studies. She fulfilled many roles while on campus, including being a student fundraiser, peer counselor, and resident advisor. While at Mt. San Antonio College, she graduated with a Paralegal Associate Degree from the ABA Certified program and earned the Certificate of eDiscovery and Litigation Support. In her senior year of high school, she gained ownership of and managed "Kettle Corn Angels," a kettle corn business, whose slogan is "Where we pop our bags one cause at a time." A portion of every bag sold is donated to a different cause each month. She co-owns and manages the business with her sister Sabrea Aijalon Curiel. Isis' passions are philanthropy, education, and advocacy, all of which have led her to an interest in law. She currently works at Athlon Legal, APC in Pasadena as a Paralegal Assistant. As the firm's Paralegal Assistant, Isis helps draft estate planning and estate administration documents for clients and serves as the firm's in-house notary. She enjoys client-facing work and assisting with the protection of assets in the estate planning and probate fields. 

From Discovery to Verdict

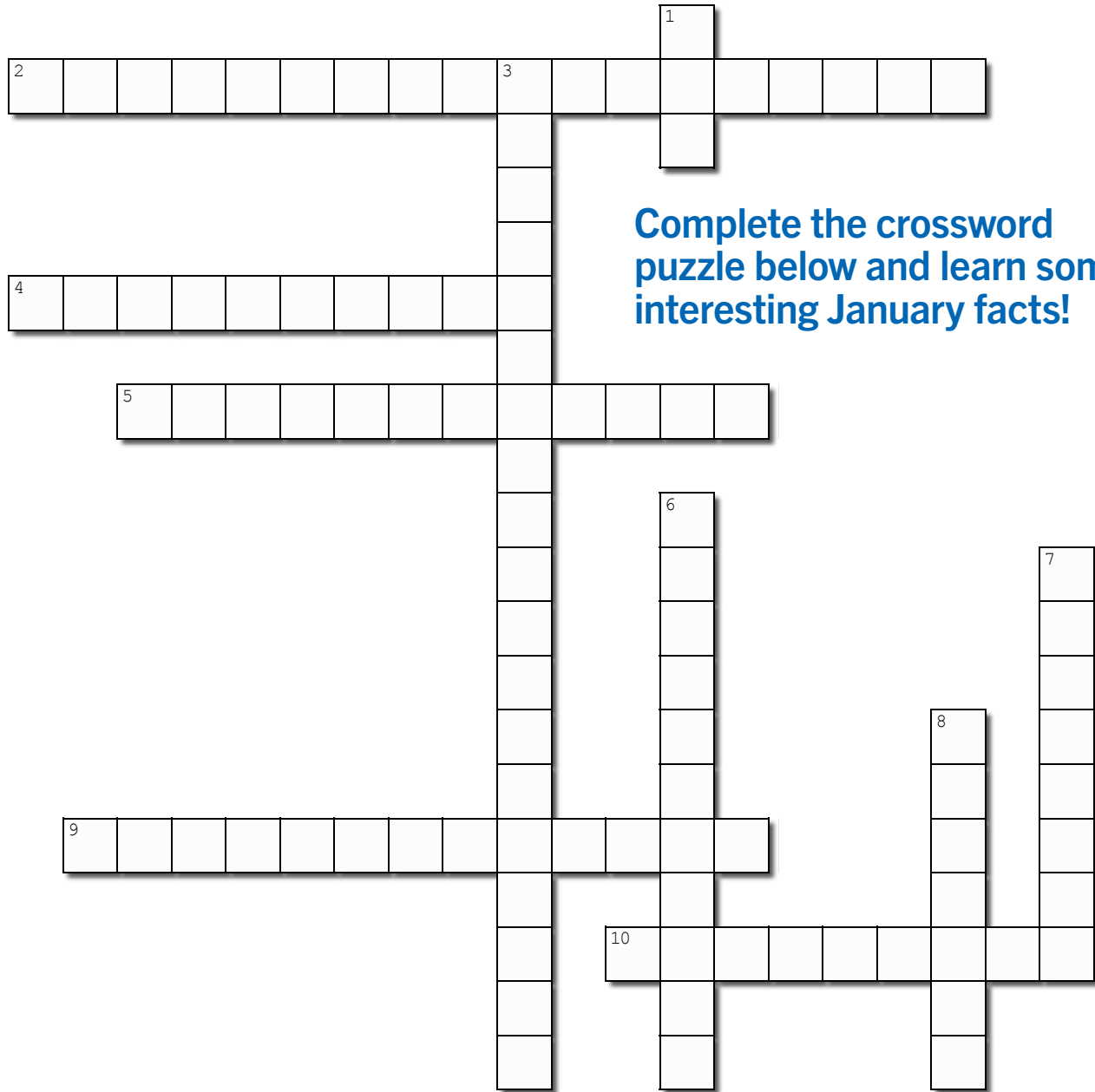
- Largest Provider of Court-Approved Reporters
- Deposition Court Reporters
- Videographers
- Interpreters
- Conference Rooms



Coalition Court Reporters
205 South Broadway, Suite 1008
Los Angeles, California 90012
877.963.5883

www.ccrola.com

January Crossword Puzzle



Complete the crossword puzzle below and learn some interesting January facts!

ACROSS:

- 2. Holiday and birthday of an American Civil Rights leader.
- 4. One of the ancient names of January which comes from the Anglo-Saxons.
- 5. In January this novel was published anonymously in London by Mary Shelley.
- 9. The 31st day of January was added to the month by _____.
- 10. The _____ is the flower for January.

DOWN:

- 1. In the United Kingdom, some people practice "_____ January," a movement to encourage people to quit drinking alcohol for the month for public health.
- 3. This popular cable show was launched in January 1995.
- 6. In 1890, this popular parade started in Pasadena, California.
- 7. January is the coldest month of the year in the _____ Hemisphere.
- 8. In which language is January called Ocak?

ANSWER KEY FOUND ON PAGE 14



YOUR BIG ANNOUNCEMENT GOES HERE.

Are you interested in advertising
for our newsletter?

Reach hundreds of paralegals,
students, and readers all over
Los Angeles County.

For inquiries,
Email Tracey Booth at Admin@lapa.org



Looking Forward Despite COVID-19

by Deena Bowman

Living with the COVID-19 virus has changed our means of enjoying recreational and cultural pursuits. However, good times can still be experienced –albeit in different ways. January starts the new year off with an exclusive canine meet up.



J'ADORE TON "FRENCHIE"

The Only Frenchies IV French Bulldog showcase is coming to the Los Angeles Convention Center on Saturday, January 11, from 10:00 am – 9:00 pm. Billed as the “biggest and best French Bulldog showcase in the world,” the meetup is a family (and Frenchie) friendly event for French bulldog enthusiasts and those curious about the breed. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/onlyfrenchies-iv-french-bulldog-showcase-tickets-926367789997>.



VIEW THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND SCIENCE

After first premiering at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in November, Doug Aitken’s multimedia artwork Lightscape has moved to the reopened Marciano Art Foundation on Wilshire Blvd. Aitken’s large-scale multi-screen art installation will be activated weekly with musical performances organized by the Los Angeles Master Chorale, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Doug Aitken Workshop. The project runs until March 15, 2025. Admission is free, but ticket reservations are required. To reserve tickets and for more information, see <https://marcianoartfoundation.as.me/schedule/3bff5767>.

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



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 admin@lapa.org.

Deadline to submit Articles or Ads is the first of the month by 9pm to be considered for the following issue.



A recurring column where we delve into unique experiences and insights of paralegals. We ask engaging, thought-provoking questions to a featured paralegal, offering a glimpse into their daily life and career.

Talar Guedikian

Senior Litigation Paralegal –
Altair Law

Describe a typical day for you as a paralegal. What are your most common tasks and how do you manage your time effectively? What's the first thing you do when you get to the office in the morning?

I start each day the same – I go through my emails and clean out my inbox. I have a rule I learned from a boss years ago – never have more than 10-15 emails in your inbox at any given time. So I only leave in there what needs to be worked on. Some items will get tasked for other days, while most will just be filed away. I go through my daily tasks to see what is due that day and tackle those first. Then I go through my main to do list and create a daily to do list of all the things I will try to get done that day.

The key is to be realistic. You can't get to it all in one day, but on the flip side, you should put enough items on that list to be able to give you a productive day. Organization and properly prioritizing is key.

CAREER INSIGHTS

What inspired you to become a paralegal? Was there a defining moment or person that influenced your career choice?

It wasn't always a good student and didn't always do well in school; but when I came to the administration of justice classes I took at Pasadena City College, I excelled. From there, I went to get a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and the goal was always to go to law school. In the meantime, I took paralegal classes and being such a terrible test taker, bombed the LSAT, and never applied to law school!

What's the most rewarding part of being a paralegal? Can you share a specific example?

The result. See below.

COMPENSATION

What is the salary range for your field and your experience?

There is a lot of money to be made.

In 2010 when I was in paralegal school, and working as a receptionist/file clerk – I was making \$13-15/hour.

In 2011, I moved to a plaintiff's firm and was making approximately \$60,000/year.

In 2015, I went to a defense firm and made approximately \$65,000/year.

Since 2016, working both in defense and plaintiffs - my salary significantly increased, as did my role as a paralegal and more than doubled to what it is today.

What factors do you believe most influence a paralegal's salary, and what advice would you give to others looking to increase their earning potential?

Salary increases are a part of any career, and working at a plaintiff's firm handling high value cases leaves more in the pot to distribute, no doubt. But I do want to stress here that money isn't everything. Some choose to work a job, for example, where their salary may be capped or limited, but the flexibility in their schedules and benefits surpass their need for a paycheck. Some work hybrid positions, and others are remote. You will need to find what is important to you and work towards that.

But in short, if it's money you're after, and you want more of it, then you should also do more. Expand your role (and that doesn't mean take on more work), expand your level of education (there are plenty of CLE programs), and find a home where more money could be made.

CHALLENGES AND TRIUMPHS

What has been the most challenging case you've worked on, and how did you overcome the obstacles?

There is one I am working on now, so I can't give away too much, but I hope to be able to update you about it!

Can you recall a moment when your work made a significant difference in the outcome of a case?

Not a specific case. I would hope that I have made a significant difference in each of my cases.

continued on page 13

SKILLS AND DEVELOPMENT

What skills do you think are essential for a successful paralegal, and how do you continue to develop them?

I cannot stress this enough: be organized and prioritize! Without these, you cannot be a successful paralegal.

Have you taken any courses or certifications that you found particularly valuable for your career?

Yes, I am a part of many organizations, all which hold very valuable and beneficial webinars, seminars and lectures, including and starting with the Los Angeles Paralegal Association!

TECHNOLOGY AND TOOLS

How has technology changed your role as a paralegal? What tools or software do you find indispensable?

I am just coming around to using the AI features. I hate to admit it, but I am not a fan. Maybe because I am stuck in my ways, but I would concede that they have been helpful and they are the new way of doing research and providing support that we did not have before or that would have taken us longer. I have always had a motto that a paralegal should be able to help an attorney to their job more efficiently and effectively and the AI tools definitely help in achieving that.

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

How do you balance the demands of your job with your personal life? Do you have any tips for maintaining a healthy work-life balance?

It's hard, for sure and at the risk of sounding like a broken record, I go back to organizing and prioritizing. Once you are able to do that, you will find the time and have the ability to take some time for yourself.

I think something we don't talk about is the mental toll this job takes. We see some gruesome photographs, hear some very disturbing stories, and have uncomfortable conversations. It's important to take a break, whether its just a walk around the block, a short vacation, or even a long one. That reset is more crucial than one would think.

ADVICE FOR NEW PARALEGALS

What advice would you give to someone just starting out as a paralegal? Is there something you wish you had known when you began your career?

We have a ceiling. But find the right firm/job, and that

ceiling will turn to glass – so shatter through it! You are never confined to being a paper pusher, our job duties include such a long list, and so, so, so many opportunities to grow and excel.

What are the common mistakes you see new paralegals make, and how can they avoid them?

1. Slow down.
2. Measure twice, cut once.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

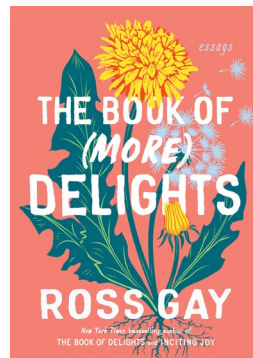
Can you share a memorable story from your career that highlights the unique aspects of being a paralegal?

We were in a 10-week zoom trial in the summer of 2023 in Alameda County. Judge Brand waited until the end of the trial, and in front of all counsel, the jurors, and observers said "I want to take a moment to thank Tal Guedikian (and the other paralegal working the case). I have never seen such organization, such professionalism from staff. It was because of the two of you that this trial ran as smoothly as it did." (Taken from the transcript!) *continued on page 14*

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



The Book of (More) Delights

by Ross Gay

Ross Gay returns with yet another book on "delights." *The Book of (More) Delights* contains 81 mini-essays that expound on the small and large things that

delight Gay. In Gay's latest collection of "delights," he again shares his preoccupations with finding beauty in the natural world but also finds joy in refusing to use a QR code as a menu. *The Book of (More) Delights* is a literary invitation to savor the unexpected wonders of the ordinary and deceptively mundane. 📖

2023, 288 Pages, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, \$19.95, softcover. Also available for checkout from the Los Angeles Public Library in book form, eAudiobook and e-Book.

It is very special to have that recognition and it just goes to show just how important our job is. (We won that trial!)

FUTURE OF THE PROFESSION

How do you see the role of paralegals evolving in the next five to ten years? What changes would you like to see in the legal profession that could benefit paralegals?

There are a few states that are testing out the licensed legal professional roles and I am very interested to see where that goes and how that develops. In the meantime, I am happy to be seeing more firms giving their paralegals larger roles, and opportunities to grow. I am seeing more and more paralegals attend conferences and conventions which is always a good sign that the industry is growing and thriving!

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

If you could go back in time, is there anything you would do differently in your career?

That’s a loaded question. I would have gone to law school; but as a paralegal – I wish I had stepped up

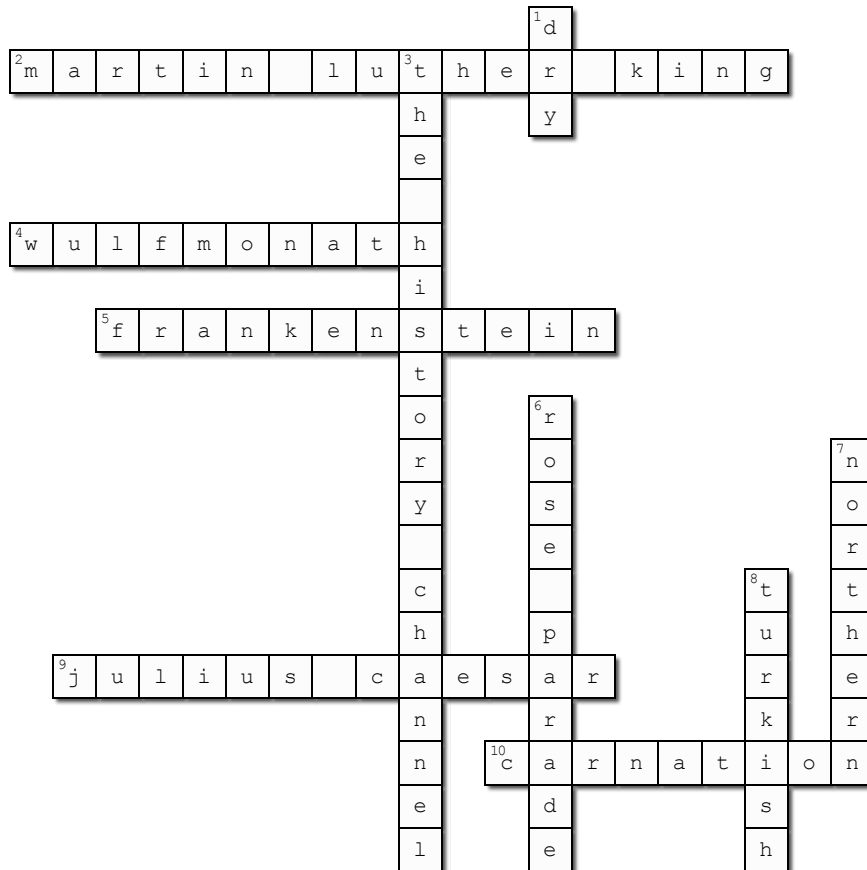
and taken on harder tasks sooner, I wish I was more proactive when I first started.

What motivates you to keep going on tough days? Do you have a personal mantra or source of inspiration?

The results, always. No matter what legal branch you’re in there is a result to be had. You don’t get to the result without working for it. There will always be tough days, some harder than others, but you push through them and you get the result you have been working for. That makes it all worth it.

Talar “Tal” Guedikian completed her paralegal certificate from Pasadena City College in 2010. She is currently a senior litigation paralegal at Altar Law. Tal is a member of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA), Consumer Attorneys of California (CAOC), Consumer Attorneys of Los Angeles (CAALA), and American Association of Justice (AAJ). Tal teaches two classes at Pasadena City College: Computer Aided Research and Computer Use for the Law Office. She enjoys spending time with her family including two very rambunctious boys: Monté (7) and Vatche (5) and is involved in the Armenian community. 🏠

LAPA’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE - cont. from page 9



ANSWER KEY

ACROSS

- 2. Martin Luther King
- 4. Wulfmonath
- 5. Frankenstein
- 9. Julius Caesar
- 10. Carnation

DOWN

- 1. Dry
- 3. The History Channel
- 6. Rose Parade
- 7. Northern
- 8. Turkish

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



ASSOCIATION
CAREER NETWORK

Best-in-class legal-tech

(for a good reason)



Elevate Service of Process with Proof's automated legal-tech. Simply upload serve documents — we'll do the rest

- ✓ Instantly connect to vetted servers
- ✓ Most serves completed in 4 days
- ✓ Chat directly to servers in-app
- ✓ Track every serve in real-time

www.proofserve.com sales@proofserve.com



The Nation's Leader in Technology Solutions

– purpose built for legal.

- eDiscovery Application Hosting
- Equipment Rentals & Support
- Managed I.T. Support
- Hosted Desktops

aquipt.com | 1-800-214-5521



Proud Supporter of LAPA



TRIAL PRESENTATION

MOCK TRIALS

LEGAL GRAPHICS

VIDEO EDITING

EQUIPMENT RENTAL

FOCUS GROUPS

INTERACTIVE TIMELINES

JURY RESEARCH

Contact us to see how we can assist with your upcoming Trial.

Ph: (805) 705—7777 | alicia@aquinotrial.com

www.aquinotrialservices.com



Fullerton College



CAREER EDUCATION

PARALEGAL

Fullerton College's ABA-approved Paralegal Studies Program provides the education and skills necessary for graduates to work under the supervision of an attorney as a critical member of the legal support team in all areas of law. Our program aids students in finding employment in this ever-growing, fast-paced, and challenging field.



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, Section 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.

DEGREE/CERTIFICATE OFFERED

We offer both an Associate Science degree and Certificate in Paralegal Studies. Visit our website to view the degree and certificate requirements.

→ ENROLL ONLINE AT:

<https://admissions.fullcoll.edu/>

→ VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

START HERE:

PLEG 101 F -
Introduction to Paralegal Studies



QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

 **(714) 992-7032**



buscis@fullcoll.edu



<https://buscis.fullcoll.edu/>

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 next page

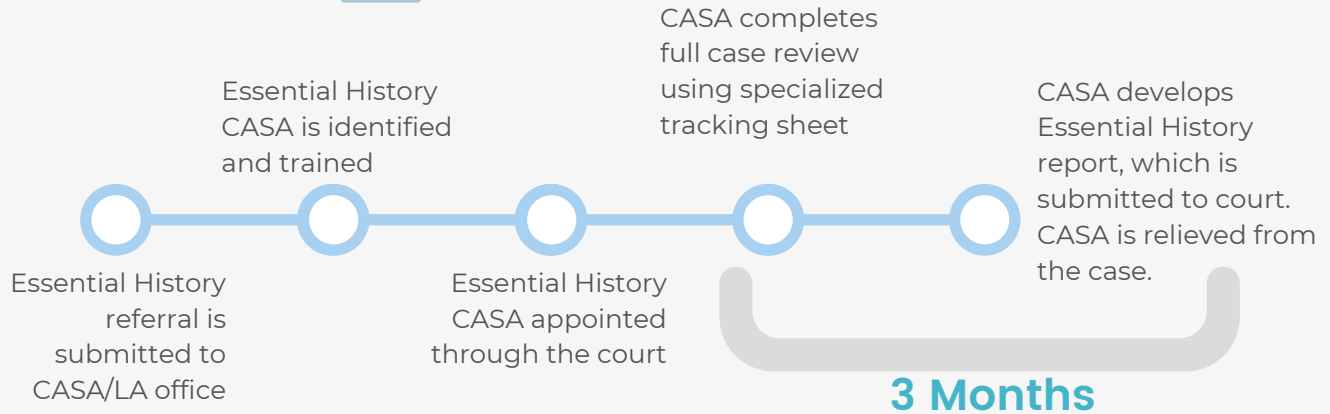
Essential History Program



continued from previous page



Process & Timeline



The Report

Objective & Neutral Language

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

Strengths-Based

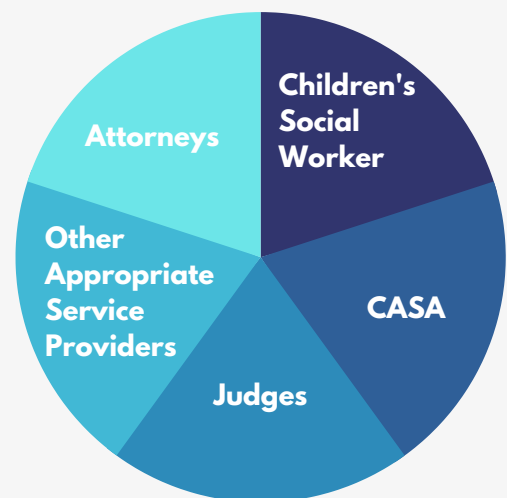
Focus is kept on not creating a negative perception of the youth

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



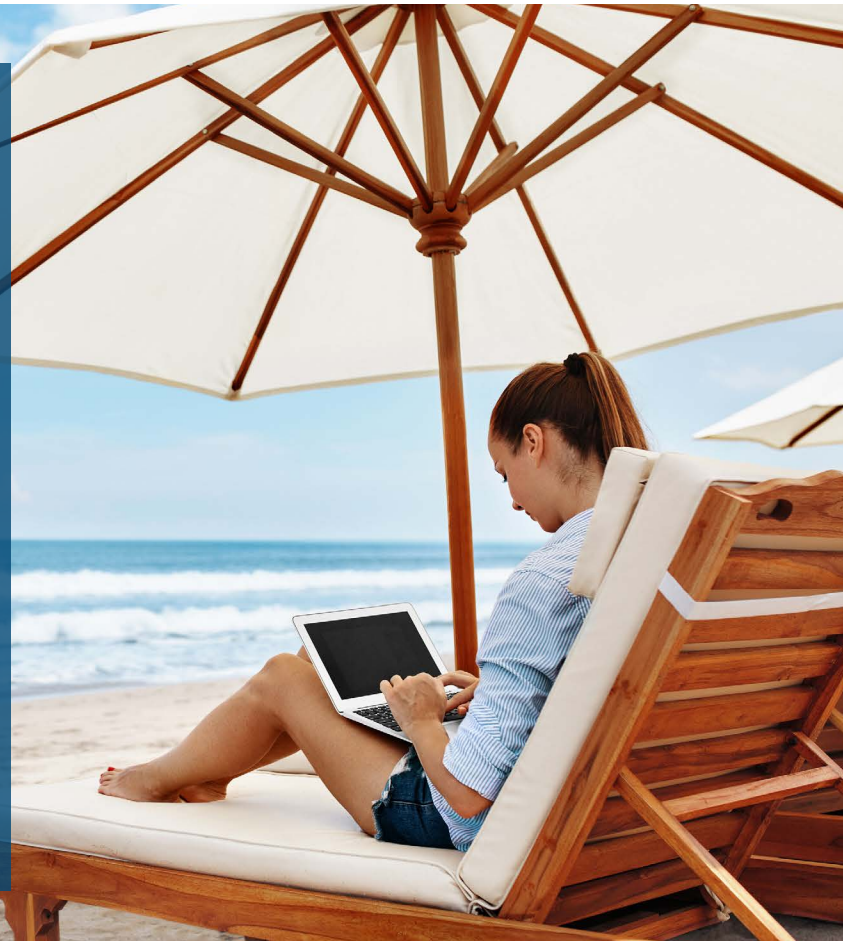
The Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA) reflects the diverse nature of Southern California, and we strive to be as inclusive as possible. As an organization of legal professionals, we hold the ideals of equality and justice in the highest regard. The injustices experienced by the communities of 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.

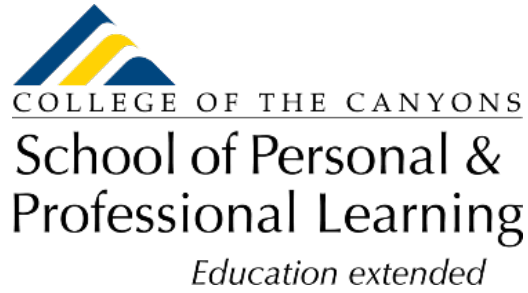
Diversity and inclusion are LAPA's initiative for 2022. We hold firm in striving to be more inclusive and diverse to reflect the community that we serve and represent. Moreover, LAPA will continue to steadfastly advocate and create initiatives to prepare and support our paralegals.

Attention
LAPA Voting Members

FREELANCE PARALEGAL LISTING

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





New Year! New Goal! Become a “Certified Paralegal”

**College of the Canyons is offering study courses for the NALA CP Exam.
The courses are noncredit and FREE to California residents!**

Spring 2025

Course	Dates	Wks	Days/Times	Modality
NC.PLGL-001-86751 – Knowledge	2/25/25 – 5/06/25	11*	T 6:00 – 8:00 pm	OnlineLIVE (Zoom)
NC.PLGL-001-86753 – Knowledge	2/24/25 – 5/10/25	11*	Online	Online
NC.PLGL-002-86755 – Skills	2/22/25 – 4/05/25	7	S 9:00 – 11:30 am	OnlineLIVE (Zoom)
NC.PLGL-002-86757 – Skills	4/19/25 – 5/31/25	7	S 9:00 – 11:30 am	OnlineLIVE (Zoom)

*Spring break, 4/7/25 – 4/13/25

Location: Virtual/LIVE/via Zoom or Online (Guided Self-study)

Registration: Free to California residents

To Register: www.canyons.edu/freeclasses and click on “Applicants”

Assistance with registration: Call (661) 362-3304 or email freeclasses@canyons.edu.

For more information, reach out to Terry Wright, ACP, terry.wright@canyons.edu or
Lori Young at lori.young@canyons.edu.



These study courses are noncredit, and are not affiliated with the ABA-approved Paralegal Studies program. The ABA stresses that paralegals may not provide legal services directly to the public except as permitted by law.

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

Deena Bowman	State Compensation Insurance Fund	deena.bowman@att.net
Bex Kleinfelter	Quill & Arrow	bexkleinfelter@gmail.com
Donna Kleinman	Contract Paralegal	dgkleinman@gmail.com
Jacqueline Loza	Jacqueline Loza Legal & Professional Services	jacqueline@jlozalegal.com
Cindy Lumia	Miller Barondess LLP	cindy_lumia@outlook.com
Kristin Manning	Willkie Farr & Gallagher	gillianphone@hotmail.com
Sergio Moya	Orange County Public Defender	imsergiomoya@gmail.com
Janice Okanishi	Mavredakis Phillips	janice.okanishi@zurichna.com
Marie Antionette Sharp	The Homampour Law Firm	marie@homampour.com
Amber Sotomayor	Klinedinst PC	asotomayor@klinedinstlaw.com
Holly Wickenhagen	Moffatt & Nichol	hwickenhagen@moffattnichol.com

ASSOCIATE

Charrice Davis	Legal Docs Dot Com	legaldocsdotcom@outlook.com
Michael Kern	Direct Legal Support, Inc.	mkern@directlegal.com

STUDENT

Charmaine Acosta	Adams, Duerk & Kamenstein	cjhacosta@gmail.com
Nicholas Cyran		ncyran7832@gmail.com
Jacqueline Lara	Franco Law Group	iamjelara@gmail.com
Marla Magerko	Miramar College	mmagerko21@gmail.com
Steffany Martinez Dorbecker	Zwicker & Associates, P.C.	dorbecker3@icloud.com
Seth Sam	UCLA Extension	ssethsamm@gmail.com
Charles Twyman, Jr.	Los Angeles City College	twymanc90@gmail.com



**Save BIG
on your monthly
medical premium.**

**Compare
your plan
right now.
It's fast, easy
and free.**

LAPA has teamed up with UIP – United Insurance Partners to offer you affordable quality insurance that addresses your health care needs in simple, easy to understand terms.

Visit LAPA's Benefits section and see the wide array of quality insurance providers now available to you through this exclusive arrangement with UIP and start saving today.



<http://lapa.healthinsurance.com/hi/>
or call Armando at (800) 707-2360

UIP United Insurance Partners
Specialists in Sponsored Insurance Programs

Insurance products are available to qualified LAPA members through United Agencies and its affiliates including UIP Insurance Services.
CA Lic #0252636

LOS ANGELES PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION - 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Name	Title	Employer	Office #	Email
Travis Chow	President	Collins + Collins LLP	626.243.1100	travis.chow@laverne.edu
Mariana Lui	V.P. of Marketing	Best Best & Krieger LLP	213.617.8100	mariana.s.lui@gmail.com
Gina Rosales	Treasurer	Loeb & Loeb LLP	310.788.7154	treasurer@lapa.org
Don Adove	Secretary	Brown White & Osborn LLP		

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Name	Employer	Office #	Email
Isis S. Curiel	Athlon Legal, APC	909.914.0992	isis.s.curiel@gmail.com
Elizabeth Garcia, ACP	Alder Law, PC		elizabethgarcia9421@gmail.com
Talar Guedikian	Altair Law, LLP		
Martha Izquierdo	Susman Godfrey LLP		
Jacqueline S. Loza, JD	Freelance Paralegal	818.392.4411	jacquelinesloza@gmail.com

SECTIONS, COMMITTEES & OTHER LAPA INFORMATION

Administrative Manager	Tracey Booth	admin@lapa.org
Advertising	Tracey Booth	admin@lapa.org
LAPA Pro Bono Counsel	Bethelwel Wilson, Esq.	bethelwel@gmail.com
Bankruptcy Section	Tracey Booth	info@lapa.org
Board Advisors		info@lapa.org
Budget & Finance Committee	Gina Rosales	treasurer@lapa.org
Compliance Committee	Elizabeth Garcia, ACP	elizabethgarcia9421@gmail.com
Corporate/Real Estate Section	Gina Rosales	treasurer@lapa.org
Corporate Sponsors	Tracey Booth	info@lapa.org
Diversity & Inclusion Section	Tony Sipp	haveasipp@gmail.com
Downtown Section	Tracey Booth	admin@lapa.org
Editor of Reporter		info@lapa.com
Employment Law Section	Tracey Booth	admin@lapa.org
Family Law Section	Terry Wright, ACP	terry.wright@dignityhealth.org
General Information		www.lapa.org
Holiday Benefit Gala Committee	Jonathan Dang	jonathan.dang@laverne.edu
Immigration Law Section	Tracey Booth	admin@lapa.org
IP & Franchise Section	Tracey Booth	admin@lapa.org
Legislative Committee	Tracey Booth	admin@lapa.org
Litigation Chair	Elizabeth Garcia, ACP	elizabethgarcia9421@gmail.com
	Aldo Guzman	aldoguzman21@outlook.com
Marketing Committee	Raja Gonzalez	rajagonzalez1@gmail.com
	Mariana Lui	mariana.s.lui@gmail.com
MCLE Review Committee	Elizabeth Garcia, ACP	elizabethgarcia9421@gmail.com
Membership Committee	Tony Sipp	haveasipp@gmail.com
NALA Liaison	Elizabeth Garcia, ACP	elizabethgarcia9421@gmail.com
	Tony Sipp	haveasipp@gmail.com
Newsletter Committee	Travis Chow	travis.chow@laverne.edu
	Aldo Guzman	aldoguzman21@outlook.com
	Mariana Lui	mariana.s.lui@gmail.com
Nominations & Elections Committee		admin@lapa.org
October Conference Committee	Raja Gonzalez	rajagonzalez1@gmail.com
	Aldo Guzman	aldoguzman21@outlook.com
	Jeffery Stewart	jeffery.m.stewart@att.net
	Terry Wright, ACP	terry.wright@dignityhealth.org
Paralegal Certification Committee	Terry Wright, ACP	terry.wright@dignityhealth.org
Parliamentarian	Terry Wright, ACP	terry.wright@dignityhealth.org
Probate & Estate Planning Section	Gina Rosales	treasurer@lapa.org
Pro Bono & Community Services Committee	Don Adove	
San Fernando Valley Section	Mariana Lui	mariana.s.lui@gmail.com
Santa Clarita Section	Terry Wright, ACP	terry.wright@dignityhealth.org

School Liaison	Mariana Lui	mariana.s.lui@gmail.com
Spring Career Conference Committee	Travis Chow	travis.chow@laverne.edu
Technology Chair	Mariana Lui	mariana.s.lui@gmail.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Gina Rosales	treasurer@lapa.org
Westside Section	Tracey Booth	admin@lapa.org

Save on dental care, and more

The Vital Savings by Aetna® dental discount program gives you a way to get the dental care you need *without* insurance.

Save 15 – 50 percent* on many dental services — from cleanings to root canals, crowns and braces.

Also get discounts on:

- LASIK surgery and chiropractic care
- Contact lenses, gym memberships, over-the-counter vitamins and more

Find out more.

Visit 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.

39.12.301.1 (11/09)

©2009 Aetna Inc.





Los Angeles
Paralegal Association
P.O. Box 452354
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone (866)626-LAPA
Fax (866)460-0506

LOS ANGELES PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

Invites You To

WRITE FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!

Students, paralegals, everyone!
We want you to write for the
Los Angeles Paralegal
Association newsletter! Email
admin@lapa.org for more info.

