



Central Florida Paralegal Association, Inc.

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CFPA Empowers Paralegals to Grow
Through Education, Professional
Development, and Community Service.



CENTRAL FLORIDA PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Monthly E-Newsletter

CARPE DIEM - February 2025



Happy Valentines Day CFPA!

Is it really February already! Where has the time gone? CFPA Board has already had their first meeting, and we are planning for a fabulous year filled with lots of

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE

exciting fun!

Your first opportunity to come out and meet fellow paralegals is on February 26 for our first in person event Wine Down Wednesday Bingo. Thanks to our wonderful sponsor, S.K.I. Investigations, the event is free for members and guests are a \$5.00 donation for our charity, Brit's Bunch. Look for more information below in this newsletter or your email.

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love and affection. It originated from the Roman festival of Lupercalia and the Christian feast day of Saint Valentine. It is celebrated in honor of one or two early Christian martyrs named Saint Valentine and, through later folk traditions, has become a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

Stay tuned for the date and place of our Annual Meeting and Membership Mixer. More information to follow on this event but mark your calendars for early March and grab a friend for a time of networking and building relationships.

As always, please let the Board know of how we may better assist you with CFPA or how you would like to be more involved.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with suggestions, questions or concerns. I would love to hear from you! You can reach me at dakallas@bmdpl.com or (407) 797-2994. I would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Kallas, ACP, FRP
CFPA President 2025

Viktoria Williamson

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Morgan Vincik

[STUDENT](#)

Juan C. Rodriguez

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IMS Legal Strategies

For Membership
Information and
Application
CLICK HERE

**ALREADY A
MEMBER??**

If you have recently changed jobs, moved or just have a new email address, PLEASE make sure that you update your membership records by notifying the Membership Committee so that you stay up-to-date with all events:

Email Us

Upcoming
EVENTS

2//11/25 CFPA Lunch
2/26/25 Bingo
3/1/25 Volunteer Event
3/4/25 CFPA CLE
4/8/25 CFPA CLE
5/31/25 CFPA Seminar

BOARD OF

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You're invited to CFPA's
Downtown Luncheon

This Luncheon is sponsored by



February 11, 2025

11:45AM TO 1:00PM

Birria 1988 Mexcan Bar & Grill
54 W. Church Street
Orlando, FL 32801



Please RSVP by 2/10/25 to:
publicrelations@cfpainc.org



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Deborah A. Kallas, ACP, FRP

CFPAPresident@cfpainc.org

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Secretary@cfpainc.org

**BRAIN
BREAK**



Maritime Law Word Search



Hidden in the puzzle below are words you would use in the practice of maritime/admiralty law. The words may appear horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forward, or backward. The words you need to find are listed below the puzzle.

Maritime Law, also known as admiralty law is a specialized legal framework that governs activities and disputes on the high seas, navigable waters, and related matters. It encompasses regulations for shipping, navigation, marine commerce, and maritime accidents.

What are the "Seven C's" of Communication?

- Clear
- Concise
- Concrete
- Correct
- Coherent
- Complete
- Courteous

P	O	L	L	U	T	I	O	N	F	M	A	R	I	T	I	M	E
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| ADMIRALTY | FERRY | POLLUTION |
| ALLISION | INSURANCE | PORT |
| BERTH | INTERNATIONAL | RIVERS |
| CANALS | JONES ACT | SAFETY |
| CARGO | LAKES | SALVAGE |
| CLAIMS | MARITIME | SEAMAN |
| COASTGUARD | MOOR | SHIPPING |
| COLLISION | NAVIGABLE | SHIPS |
| COMMERCE | NAVIGATION | TOWAGE |
| DOCK | OCEANS | TREATIES |
| DREDGE | PASSENGERS | VESSEL |
| FEDERAL | PIRACY | WATER |



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Courtesy of CFPA Member, Janet E. Mahindroo, ACP, FCP

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Sponsored by:



**February 26, 2025
6:00 P.M.**



Brennan Manna Diamond
255 S. Orange Ave. Suite 700
Orlando, FL 32801

This event is **FREE** to CFPA Members
Non-Members \$5.00
COME JOIN THE FUN!!!

RSVP by 2/23/2025
RSVP:
PublicRelations@cfpainc.org



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JOIN A COMMITTEE

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TBD



SAVE THE DATE

March 4, 2025 in-person CLE by Richard Ring
on Human Trafficking

April 8, 2025 in-person CLE by John Palmerini, Esq.
on Employment Discrimination
(Lunch provided by Universal Court Reporting)

May 31, 2025 half-day in-person CLE and quarterly
membership meeting

Community Service Corner

VOLUNTEER



If you have any suggestions for volunteer opportunities feel free to contact our Community Service Chair, Aimee Chentnik: CommunityService@cfpainc.org



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Central Florida

CFPA MARCH VOLUNTEER EVENT

CFPA is looking for volunteers** for **Saturday, March 1 from 4 PM – 7 PM** for the Ronald McDonald House Share-a-Meal Program.

Only 6 slots available!!

The Orlando Chapter Ronald McDonald House is located at the Arnold Palmer Medical Center located at 1630 Kuhl Avenue, Orlando FL 32806

We will be making dinner for 35-40 people.

If you would like to volunteer, make a monetary donation to help cover the cost of supplies, or have any questions, please email communityservice@cfpainc.org.

Additional information will be provided after registering.

**Minors are allowed with parental supervision.

ReviewCourse@cfpainc.org

DE&I Chair:

Peonca Grier, CP, FRP,

MSM-HR, SHRM-CP

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Founded in 2009, NorthStar Legal began with one simple mission: to find the perfect fit between client and candidate. It is our belief that with a little work and effort, clients and candidates can rest easy knowing that they have found exactly what they were looking for.

With nearly 20 years of experience in the legal placement arena, we are confident that no matter your needs we have your perfect placement! Let NorthStar Legal navigate your hiring needs.

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Interested in Volunteering in Orlando

If you have been looking for ways to give back to your community, volunteering can be a great way to get started. Volunteering is also a great way to meet new people, gives you a sense of purpose, can increase your social skills and self-esteem, and can help you gain professional experience.

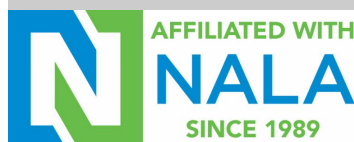
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**Newsletter
Recognition:**



The following is a list of great places to volunteer in Orlando. So next time you find yourself with a couple of extra hours in your day, find a cause that aligns with you and volunteer!

Second Harvest Food Bank
Pet Alliance of Greater Orlando
Orange County Animal Services
Give Kids the World
Coalition for the Homeless
Ronald McDonald House
Harbor House of Central Florida
Habitat for Humanity
United Way of Central Florida
The Warrior Foundation
The Mustard Seed of Central Florida
Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida
Russell Home for Atypical Children

This is just a small list of the many opportunities available in Orlando. If you know of additional volunteer opportunities or would like to provide suggestions, please email communityservice@cfpainc.org.

FAQ: Moral Turpitude Crimes that Disqualify Notaries

By David Thun, Updated January 6, 2025

In some states, a conviction for a crime of moral turpitude will prevent a person from getting a Notary commission or result in an existing Notary losing their commission — but it isn't exactly clear what moral turpitude means. Here are answers to questions Notaries have asked about moral turpitude and offenses that can disqualify a Notary from holding a commission.

What is 'moral turpitude'?

According to **Merriam-Webster**, "moral turpitude" has two legal meanings:

- An act or behavior that gravely violates the sentiment or accepted standard of the community.
- A quality of dishonesty or other immorality that is determined by a court to be present in the commission of a criminal offense.

What do state Notary laws say about moral turpitude?

Notaries witness the execution of document signings. In general terms, a person cannot be trusted to perform Notary services impartially and honestly if they have been convicted of a crime that involves moral turpitude.



www.brittsbunch.org

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Britt's Bunch is an organization founded by a young woman with Down syndrome dedicated to serving children and families living below the federal poverty threshold. With the support of community superstars, Britt's Bunch established a 501(C)(3), a strong board of directors, and a team of volunteers. What sets us apart is that no one is paid, ensuring that every dollar raised goes directly to those we serve.

The mission of Britt's Bunch is to help wherever there is a need by providing activities and resources for Florida children and families who face economic and health challenges.

To make a monetary donation:

www.brittsbunch.org/donate

In some states, persons convicted of crimes of moral turpitude may be disqualified from applying for a Notary commission.

Moral turpitude, as applied to Notary laws, seldom has an exact definition. This concept gives state commissioning authorities wide flexibility in deciding whether someone should receive or keep a **Notary commission**.

Not every state lists moral turpitude in its Notary laws as a disqualification for a Notary commission, but many do.

Arizona disqualifies any person convicted of a crime “involving moral turpitude or of a nature that is incompatible with the duties of a notary public” (ARS 41-330.A.2).

California law states moral turpitude as grounds for the denial, suspension or revocation of a commission (Government Code 8214.1[b]). The California Secretary of State’s **Notary Public Disciplinary Guidelines** list examples of offenses of moral turpitude that can lead to revocation of a Notary’s commission or denial of a commission application. The examples include but are not limited to: assault, arson, auto theft, burglary, possession or sale of illegal drugs, embezzlement, forgery, fraud, failure to pay child support or failure to comply with a court order.

The California Supreme Court has handled many cases in which crimes of moral turpitude were at issue. In one case, the Court said, “Although we have variously defined ‘moral turpitude’ in such broad terms as ‘baseness, vileness or depravity’ ..., we have also decided that the question of whether a conviction involves moral turpitude so as to warrant revocation or suspension of a license to practice a profession cannot be determined in the abstract but depends rather on whether the conviction demonstrates unfitness to practice that profession” (Cartwright v. Board of Chiropractic Examiners, 16 Cal. 3d 762, 548 P.2d 1134, 129 Cal. Rptr. 462, 1976 Cal. LEXIS 258).

North Carolina authorizes the Secretary of State to deny a Notary commission to an individual who has been convicted of any crime involving “dishonesty or moral turpitude” (GS 10B-5[d][2]).

Under **Texas** law, “a crime involving moral turpitude includes dishonesty, fraud, deceit, misrepresentation, deliberate violence, moral depravity, or that reflects adversely on the applicant’s honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a notary public ...” (1 TAC 87.10 [c]). Crimes involving moral turpitude include felony or Class A or B type misdemeanor convictions.

In short, the legal definition of moral turpitude is fuzzy around the edges. It may be hard to define, but it comes into clearer focus when you consider individual offenses that demonstrate the individual’s unfitness to perform official duties, in this case, being a Notary Public.

What about Notary laws in other states?

States that do not have moral turpitude provisions in their Notary laws may still disqualify persons convicted of certain crimes from serving as Notaries. For example, Florida disqualifies any Notary commission applicants who have been convicted of a felony unless the applicant has had his or her civil rights restored. Florida Notaries may also have their commissions suspended for fraud, unauthorized practice of law or other types of misconduct (FS 117.01).

Questions about convictions and Notary commission eligibility

Many readers have contacted the NNA asking if crimes committed as a juvenile or a conviction that has been vacated or pardoned will affect eligibility for a Notary commission. These situations often include sensitive personal information and the NNA is not authorized to answer specific legal questions about criminal convictions. If you have an unusual legal situation in your personal record and want to know if it affects your eligibility to serve as a Notary, the NNA recommends directly contacting your state Notary regulating agency for help to protect your privacy.

Reprinted from The National Notary Bulletin

David Thun is the Editorial Manager at the National Notary Association.

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CFPA recorded its first all virtual CP Review Course which took place in August 2022!



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MEMBER MATTERS

with Natalie Rimmer, Membership Chair



IN THE KNOW: Join CFPA on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn and stay up-to-date on all of our events!!

CFPA INVOLVEMENT: CFPA is a top association because of our members and their involvement with events, committees, community outreach, and networking. If you are someone who excels in these areas please reach out and we would be happy to discuss getting you involved!

CFPA is looking for members who have time to join and help us grow and excel CFPA! Please contact membership at: membership@cfpainc.org.

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Hello Friends –

Experience the opulent Harrah's Resort Atlantic City in

the Marina District of Atlantic City, New Jersey, when you attend the 2025 NALA Conference & Expo from July 10-12. You can acquire up to 12.5 hours of CLE and attend a range of exclusive networking and socializing opportunities. Furthermore, you can visit the Expo Hall and interact with different vendors face-to-face. You will also receive a conference goodie bag. Once you [register](#) for the conference, be sure to preorder the 2025 NALA conference recording bundle [here](#) with 42 CLE hours for FREE.

In response to the unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, NALA remained steadfast in its commitment to providing high-quality professional development and CLE opportunities to our conference attendees. In 2020 and 2021, the annual conference was held completely virtually, allowing participants to join from their homes and offices across the country. From 2022 through 2024, NALA adopted a hybrid conference model, offering both in-person and virtual options to accommodate the evolving needs of our attendees. **Now, after five years of pandemic-related accommodation, NALA has decided to return the live conference to an in-person only format.** We look forward to welcoming attendees to this vibrant, immersive experience.

NALA's National CLE Sessions/Events:
https://nala.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/National-CLE-Sessions_01272025-1.pdf

Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Diminich with any questions or concerns about NALA at nalaliation@cfpainc.org.

[Click Here to Register for NALA Seminars](#)

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From the Editor ...



Cassie D. Snyder, ACP, FRP

I hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Carpe Diem. We would love to hear from you! Have you written an article that has been published that you would like to have placed in our newsletter? Does your attorney write articles that he or she would like to share with our group

for publishing? If you are interested in writing an article for the newsletter let me know.

Big THANKS to Legal Realtime Reporting, Milestone Reporting, NorthStar Legal, S.K.I. Investigations and Beacon Hill Legal for sponsoring the newsletter for 2025!!

Thank you,
Cassie Snyder, ACP, FRP
Editor

Carpe Diem Archived Issues



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