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CFPA Empowers Paralegals to Grow
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Development, and Community Service.



CENTRAL FLORIDA PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION, INC. Monthly E-Newsletter

CARPE DIEM - AUGUST 2025



WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

ACTIVE:
Audra Albright

ASSOCIATE:
Nancy Valencia
Hilary Powell

**ALREADY A
MEMBER??**

Happy August! I hope everyone is having a wonderful

Summer!

Our Mid-Year Mixer was at Gravity Tap Room on July 17, 2025. What a marvelous turnout! This was the biggest yet! Welcome to all of the New Members and we look forward to meeting you soon! The fun that we had was phenomenal! Everyone was singing while playing Music Bingo! Thank you to our Sponsors for making this happen!

We had a blast at the Ronald McDonald House making cookies as Baking Buddies! We made rice crispy treats, cup cakes, brownies and chocolate chip cookies! Great times with good people giving back to the community!

We are in the process of obtaining lapel pins with the CFPA logo. I will keep you posted in the Yahoo Groups blast!

Enjoy the rest of the Summer! Prayers and Blessings for those getting ready for the new school year!

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. 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

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

8/6/25 - Bingo

8/19/25 - CLE Event

8/26/25 - Winter Park Lunch

9/13/25 - GKTW Event

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



President:

Deborah A. Kallas, ACP, FRP

CFPAPresident@cfpainc.org

g

**COME CELEBRATE
NATIONAL PARALEGAL DAY
WITH US!**

Sponsored by:




**August 6, 2025
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.**

**Carlton Field's
The Network Exchange Building
200 S. Orange Ave., 10th Floor
Orlando, FL 32801**

**This event is FREE to CFPA
Members**

Non-Members \$5.00

COME JOIN THE FUN!!!

RSVP by 8/5/2025

**RSVP:
PublicRelations@cfpainc.org**



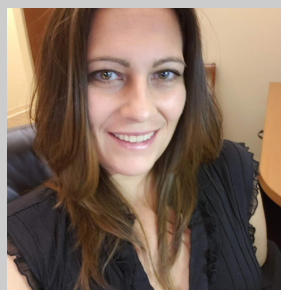

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NALA Liaison:

**Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes Promises a Seat at the
Table for Every Lawyer**
By Samadhi Jones, Senior Editor
Jun 30, 2025





Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes: 'We're not just opening doors. 'We're saving a seat at the table for all of us. A seat for the new lawyer unsure of where they belong. A seat for the seasoned practitioner with ideas still to share. A seat for every attorney who wonders if their voice still matters. Because it does.'

In a historic moment blending pride, purpose, and vision, Rosalyn Sia Baker-Barnes was installed as the 77th president of The Florida Bar on June 27 during the Bar's Annual Convention in Boca Raton. She made history as the first Black woman to lead the Bar.

Her father, retired 15th Circuit Judge Moses Baker, administered the oath, using the same Bible he swore on at his own installation in 1994.

Acknowledging the Bar's 75th anniversary and its broader roots stretching back to 1889, Baker-Barnes noted the apparent numerical anomaly in her new title.

"History rarely moves in a straight line. It twists and turns. . . Our Florida Bar history is not perfect. . . But with our imperfection comes opportunity," she said.

In a speech that moved between heartfelt personal reflection and a clear roadmap for the year ahead, Baker-Barnes called on Florida's legal community to lead with intention and reimagine what it means to thrive in the legal profession.

"As I begin this role, I carry with me a spirit of gratitude, a deep sense of legacy, and a clear purpose," she said. "And now — it's my turn, your turn, it's our turn. Not just to preserve that legacy — but to build on it."

Baker-Barnes opened by honoring her grandmothers, Bessie Dawson and Mary Baker — women who, despite having no formal education, shaped generations through their values.

"They didn't have high school diplomas on the wall. No college degrees. No law degrees," she said. "But what they had was far more enduring: faith, family, and a fierce commitment to excellence."

Their legacy, she said, gave rise to six first-generation college graduates in her family and ultimately to her own success in law.

"I am standing here because in me they saw no limits,"

Jennifer Diminich, ACP, FRP

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Wendy E. Gory, FRP

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Denise Marsters

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she said. “Because they showed us that excellence is not just a goal — it’s a duty.”

She extended heartfelt thanks to her parents, who celebrated 50 years of marriage last year; to her husband, Edrick, whom she called her “anchor, protector, and everything;” and to her children, Selia, Emri, and Edan. “Every step I take, I take with you in mind,” she told them.

Turning to her vision for the Bar, Baker-Barnes emphasized the importance of creating a profession where all lawyers feel seen, supported, and heard.

“We’re not just opening doors,” she said. “We’re saving a seat at the table for all of us. A seat for the new lawyer unsure of where they belong. A seat for the seasoned practitioner with ideas still to share. A seat for every attorney who wonders if their voice still matters. Because it does.”

To support that vision, Baker-Barnes announced two major initiatives focused on broadening inclusion and strengthening the profession.

In response to in-house lawyers who felt disconnected from the Bar’s work, she launched the Corporate Counsel Committee, chaired by Michel Morgan, with Grasford Smith and Manny Farach as vice-chairs.

“These are brilliant attorneys, advising billion-dollar companies, shaping industries and feeling unseen,” Baker-Barnes said.

She identified sectors including healthcare, technology, banking, construction, and transportation, and named organizations like Brightline, the Miami Dolphins, Spirit Airlines, and Citibank as now finding a place within the Bar’s growing outreach.

She noted that Florida is one of the fastest-growing states for corporations and said more than 100 corporate counsels were attending the convention for the first time because of this expanded engagement.

Baker-Barnes is also introducing a Sustainability Committee, chaired by GC Murray and President-Elect Mike Orr, to address the growing strain of burnout, isolation, and exhaustion across the profession.

“We have too many lawyers quietly asking, ‘Can I really keep doing this?’ Not because they lack talent or commitment but because they are overwhelmed, isolated, and burning out,” she said.

The committee will explore the long-term health of the legal profession through tools and training in practice management, mentorship, mental health and support networks, and strategies for navigating the business of law.

“We are here for community — not just to open doors, but to pull up a seat at the table,” Baker-Barnes said.



Aimee Chentnik, CP
Director3@cfpainc.org



Martha Giller
Director4@cfpainc.org



CFPA Committees:

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Membership Chair:

Natalie Rimmer
Membership@cfpainc.org

Public Relations Chair:

Jennifer Diminich, ACP, FRP
Publicrelations@cfpainc.org

Her intent is to build on the Bar's legacy by "creating spaces where every lawyer sees themselves in the future of the profession," "designing systems that not only protect our standards but also adapt to the evolving realities of legal work," and enabling lawyers to thrive, not just survive, in the profession.

Throughout her remarks, Baker-Barnes expressed deep gratitude to those who helped her along the way — mentors, past presidents, colleagues, and peers. She named the seven women who previously served as Florida Bar presidents — Patricia Seitz, Edith Osman, Kelly Overstreet Johnson, Gwynne Young, Mayanne Downs, Michelle Suskauer, and Dori Foster-Morales — and acknowledged men who supported her, including former Bar Presidents Eugene Pettis, Greg Coleman, Gary Lesser, Scott Westheimer, and Roland Sanchez-Medina, Jr.

Saying leadership echoes through generations, she also cited examples set by trailblazers including Virgil Hawkins, Henry Latimer, and retired Justice Peggy Quince.

She also thanked her law firm, Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, for allowing her to "feel supported not just in my practice but in seeking to serve the legal community."

Baker-Barnes recognized incoming Young Lawyers Division President Arti Hirani as both a friend and an example of the profession's rising leadership, adding, "The Young Lawyers Division is the future of this profession."

She closed with a reminder that leadership is not about titles or accolades, but about impact.

"What we do as lawyers, how we lead, how we serve, how we show up, matters," Baker-Barnes said. "I'm saving a seat at the table for each and every one of you — for your ideas, for your leadership, for your distinct voice that only you can offer. Because what you do with that seat will echo through generations."

Article Reprinted from The Florida Bar News

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Newsletter - Carpe Diem

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Legal Realtime Reporting

"Supporting Green Justice"

Tara Slocum

SAVE THE DATE for the weekend of **May 1-3, 2026!** CFPA will be doing a joint seminar with Volusia County Paralegal Association and Brevard Paralegal Association at the Springhill Suites in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Friday evening will be a social, Saturday will be an all day seminar and Sunday will be free time to spend at the beach. Stay tuned for more information!!

CFPA LUNCH & LEARN:

SERVICE OF PROCESS



Speaker:
Kevin Fedotov
August 19, 2025
12:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial
255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 1260
Orlando, FL 32801



CFPA Members: FREE
Non-Members: \$20.00

Please RSVP by 8/18/25 to:
cle@cfpainc.org



www.cfpainc.org/cle

NALA Approved for 1.0 Hour of Substantive CLE

Any questions please email: cle@cfpainc.org

Community Service Corner

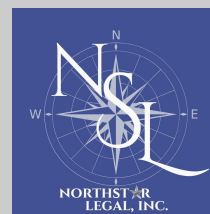


If you have any suggestions for volunteer opportunities feel free to contact our Community Service Chair, Aimee Chentnik: CommunityService@cfpainc.org

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Give Kids the World Volunteer Event

Dinner Service

Volunteers in Café Clayton assist our families during breakfast, lunch and dinner. Volunteers will be assigned to one of several different positions while volunteering at this location including: working the hot line serving food; assisting guests with their trays; bussing and cleaning tables; and assisting in the dish room

210 South Bass Road • Kissimmee, FL 34746

Saturday, September 13, 2025 5:30-8:30PM

7 slots available

RSVP no later than September 5 to communityservice@cfpainc.org



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Central Florida

JULY VOLUNTEER EVENT UPDATE

CFPA volunteered on **July 26** at the Ronald McDonald House's **Baking Buddies Program**, making yummy treats for the guests.

Thank you Aimee for making these opportunities happen and to all the CFPA Volunteers for showing up and making a difference!

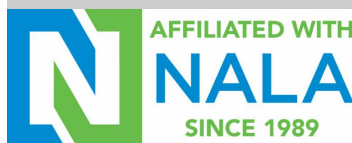
Kiara Ferris

Senior Consultant

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Newsletter Recognition:



**CFPA's 2025
Charity**



www.brittsbunch.org

Britt's Bunch is an organization founded by a young woman with Down syndrome dedicated to serving children and families living below the federal



BRAIN BREAK

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

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.

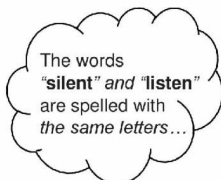
To make a monetary donation:

www.brittsbunch.org/donate

HEAR·SAY

Below are 18 sets of homophones (words that sound the same but are spelled differently). Can you fill in the missing letters of the matching homophones?

- | | | | |
|----------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. BAS__ | BAS__ | 9. ME_T | ME_T |
| 2. BL__ | BL__ | 10. P__R | P__R |
| 3. DE_R | DE_R | 11. PLA__ | PLA__ |
| 4. FA__ | FA__ | 12. PR_Y | PR_Y |
| 5. FE_T | FE_T | 13. SA__ | SA__ |
| 6. HE__ | HE__ | 14. S_N | S_N |
| 7. LO__ | LO__ | 15. TA__ | TA__ |
| 8. MA__ | MA__ | 16. WE_K | WE_K |



"TEST"imony



- | | | |
|----------|------|------|
| 17. T_ | T__ | T__ |
| 18. _ENT | _ENT | _ENT |

Can you name the following three homophones: The first word means "to consider carefully, the second word means "road", and the third word means "a watery liquid".

Try to read the paragraph below:

EYE-WITNESS



I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd
waht I was rdanieg.

The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid. Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch
at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttae inwaht oredr the ltteers in a
wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the
rghit pclae.

The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm.
Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but
the wrod as a wlohe.

Amzanig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas thought slpeling was ipmornatt!

Answers: 1. es, is; 2. ew, ue; 3. a, e; 4. ir, re; 5. a, e; 6. al, el (also ar, re); 7. an, ne; 8. de, id;
9. a, e; 10. al, ea; 11. in, ne; 12. a, e; 13. il, le; 14. o, u; 15. il, le; 16. a, e; 17. o, oo, wo; 18. c, s, sc;
weigh, way, whey

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PR CHAIR IS SEEKING A COMMITTEE – if interested, or know an Active, Associate, or Student Member who might be interested, please have them e-mail me at publicrelations@cfpaine.org or jdiminich@carltonfields.com

- **Social Media Liaison** – LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Tiktok: PR is seeking a member interested in assisting in keeping CFPA alive on social media.

CFPA PUBLIC RELATION SHOUT-OUTS:

CFPA's Mid-Year membership mixer at Gravity Tap Room was a fun night – venue surprised us all by playing BINGO – movies and music – a great time had by all. Shout-out to all of our sponsors!

**You're invited to CFPA's
Winter Park Luncheon**

This Luncheon is sponsored by



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YOUR PATH THROUGH LITIGATION

August 26, 2025

11:45AM TO 1:15 PM

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**Tommy Bahama Restaurant
Winter Park Village
438 N Orlando Ave.
Winter Park, FL 32789**



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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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NALA Conference in Atlantic City, New Jersey was a huge success! Days and nights full of networking, education and paralegal fun. We all dressed to impress and a fun time was had on the dance floor in celebration of 50 years of paralegal excellence.

Congrats to CFPA's **Peonca Grier** for her appointment

to the Vice President and **Aimee Chentnik** for receiving
NALA's Affiliate Award – **CFPA Proud!**



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From the Editor ...



Cassie D. Snyder, ACP, FRP
Editor

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.

Email me at Editor@cfpainc.org if you would like to be a sponsor for 2026 or if you would like to place an ad.

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

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