

Tennessee Paralegal Association

An affiliate of the National Association of Legal Assistants

*A monthly publication of the Southeast Tennessee Chapter
April 2008*

I hope you enjoy SETPA's online member newsletter! The Officers are very excited to get this out to you and we hope you enjoy reading it, and find it helpful. We look forward to members' comments, critiques, articles, "tricks of the trade" and announcements. What can we do for you? Let the Editor know at melinda@tombiblelaw.com

The Chapter Chair Communiqué

The Southeast Chapter's goal this year is all about numbers!!! We hope to double our membership and encourage the paralegal students to get active. We also want our members more involved and an increase of participation. Our officers have been busy working to make this Chapter up to par! We hope you will join us in this journey towards perfection.

Melissa Ledbetter
Chapter Chair, Southeast Chapter

SETPA 2008 Officers

Southeast Tennessee Chapter

- ❖ Melissa Ledbetter, CP, Chair
- ❖ Melinda Killian, Secretary
- ❖ Lynn Hager, Treasurer
- ❖ Heather Pierce, Program Chair

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FINANCIAL ACCOUNT

SETPA financial account was rather low when we started out our year in 2008. We have temporarily stopped our payment towards the Ronald McDonald fund. We have been in contact with a representative of the Ronald McDonald House and we told them that our goal was to build our account up and then we would continue to help the Ronald McDonald House again.

NETWORKING

SETPA has sent out a letter to each individual law firm in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This letter is addressed to the Human Resource Director of each firm. In this letter, we urge the law firm to encourage its paralegal employees to be a part of TPA. We also enclosed an application in the letter.

PARALEGAL STUDENTS

On Monday, February 11, 2008, we had the opportunity to speak with the paralegal students who attend Chattanooga State Technical College. There are currently One Hundred (100) active paralegal students attending Chattanooga State Technical College. Thirty-One (31) of those students attended this presentation; extra credit was given to them by Professor Paul Ray. Information packets were given to each of these students that contained information about TPA, application form and information regarding the Spring Seminar along with a registration form. After speaking with the students, my findings were somewhat alarming. Out of those 31 students, 2 of them had heard about the Tennessee Paralegal Association. The main point stressed to the students were the benefits of TPA. It would benefit them to join now, as a student, rather than waiting until they graduated.

The main concerns that the students expressed were the following:

1. Application fees, and
2. Qualification of being a full time student in order to be a member.

We plan to work with the State Officers to correct these issues.

We have also been in contact with Karen McGuffee, Paralegal Professor at University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. There are Fifty (50) paralegal students at UTC. We sent Ms. McGuffee a PDF of the information packet. Ms. McGuffee distributed this packet among the students at UTC.

Both Professor Ray and Ms. McGuffee have agreed to offer extra credit to each student who attends our SETPA monthly meetings.

Upcoming CLE Programs



TPA Spring Seminar

Dates: Friday and Saturday, April 18 & 19, 2008

Location: Hilton Garden Inn
2343 Shallowford Village Drive
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37421
(423) 308-4400
chattanooga-hilton-place.stayhgi.com

If you have not registered yet, or have not received a brochure, please email Louise Mulderink at Louise.Mulderink@huschblackwell.com

Topics to be featured include:

PDF + DSL = RAS = BFF – Records Discovery Made Simple: A discussion of how current technologies aid in discovery.

Civil Rights & Employment Law: An overview of the legal issues involving Civil Rights and Employment Law covering the topics of Age Discrimination, Gender Discrimination, Violation of FMLA Rights and ADA.

How the Mall Works: An overview of commercial law practices centering on shopping center law and commercial real estate acquisition and development.

Bankruptcy Practice: An overview of bankruptcy under BAPCPA including a discussion of eligibility for relief, types of relief, exemptions and discharge issues.

Don't Let Your Trial be a Trial Run: On Using Trial Consulting in Case Preparation An overview of trial consulting services that are currently available to assist attorneys with litigation support. These services are used by attorneys to prepare for mediation and trial. The psychological aspects of a variety of litigation support tools will be discussed including witness preparation, focus groups, mock trials, jury selection, mediation assistance and change of venue studies.

Appeals Process and the Paralegal: A overview of the Tennessee Criminal Appeals process and the paralegal's role

Time Management Tips for Paralegals: Strategies to get the most out of your day.



CONTEST

We currently have a competition going on in our chapter. I have challenged the members to reach out to the paralegals in their law firms and encourage them to join. The outstanding members who accomplish this will receive rewards for their efforts. The following items will be the rewards:

- 5-9 non-members to join TPA will receive a \$25.00 visa gift card;
- 10-20 non-members to join TPA will receive a \$50.00 visa gift card; and
- The member who recruits the most people will receive a \$100.00 visa gift card.

Condition being that you must have 20 or more to qualify.

Please join in and work for our association.

Monthly Meeting Minder

Mark your calendars for April's Meeting!

Tuesday, April 15th 11:30 A.M.

Location: United Way Conference Room

Speaker: Diane Angel from Angel & Associates

Speakers from previous quarter's meetings:

January 15, 2008

Tony Hullender, Senior Counsel, BCBS, 423-535-7665, William.Hullender@BCBST.com

Speech Topic: Legal Issues for Health Insurers in Tennessee

Bio:

Tony Hullender was born and raised in Chattanooga. He has a B.A. from the University of Georgia and a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law where he graduated *summa cum laude*. Mr. Hullender served as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Army for twelve years before attending law school. After law school, he worked in the litigation department of Chattanooga's Miller & Martin for seven years. He is now in his third year at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee where, as Senior Counsel, he provides legal advice and drafts and reviews contracts for BCBST's Product Development and Underwriting Division, its Pharmacy Management Division and its Special Investigations Unit. He also serves as primary counsel for BCBST's subsidiary, Shared Health which is in the business of providing a health information exchange and electronic medical records service.

February 19, 2008

Vickie Whited-Engineering Forensics Group

vwhited@efgforensics.com

2904-B Tazewell Pike, Suite B

Knoxville, Tennessee 37918

Phone: 865-281-0068

Fax: 865-281-0022

Speech Topic: Accident Reconstruction: Experts and the Litigation Process

A few of the services that EFG provides are obtaining data from SDMs, tire examinations, mechanical failure, seatbelt examinations, organic data, research, traffic operations and construction practices. If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, please email Heather Pierce at hpierce@chattanooga-law.com

March 18, 2008

Jeff Stoneking-Document Solutions

jstoneking@dsionline.biz

Document Solutions of Nashville

Litigation Support Consultant

414 Union Street Suite 1210

Nashville, TN 37219

(615) 255-5343 Main

(615) 255-4160 Fax

(615) 870-9807 Cell

Speech Topic: Scanning

Document Solutions focuses primarily on litigation support services. They offer a wide range of services including scanning documents, key word searches, de-duplication, file filtering and forensic services.

If you would like a copy of the PowerPoint presentation, please email Heather Pierce at hpierce@chattanooga-law.com