

P A R A L E G A L S P A G E

Paralegals Throughout Pennsylvania Honored With Paralegal Week

BY VALERIE A. DOLAN

Special to the Legal

Paralegal Day in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania is recognized by proclamation by Gov Edward G. Rendell, and the issuance of the proclamation signifies the "value of talented paralegals" who provide "lawyers with a variety of skilled professional services throughout their practice."

The proclamation pays tribute to all of the paralegals and various member associations in Pennsylvania for their dedication to the advancement of the profession. The Pennsylvania Keystone Alliance of Paralegal Associations, a consortium of paralegal associations throughout Pennsylvania, includes the Philadelphia Association of Paralegals (PAP), Central Pennsylvania Paralegal Association, Chester County Paralegal Association, Lancaster Area Paralegal Association, Lycoming County Paralegal Association, Montgomery County Paralegal Association, Pittsburgh Paralegal Association, and the York County Paralegal Association.

This year, Paralegal Day is July 28, the culmination of Paralegal Week here in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Association of Paralegals formed a committee, including myself; Kirsten Fullerton, McCarter & English; Sharon A. DeNofa, Lucas & Cavalier; Kim Bittinger, Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis; and Erica Engstenberg. Abelson Legal Search brought various events to PAP members during this time frame. Thanks to their efforts, PAP began its celebration of Paralegal Week with a kickoff luncheon on July 18 at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel.

PAP sought to bring the attention of Philadelphia's legal community to Paralegal Week by reaching out to its own members and recognizing many of the outstanding professionals that provide leadership and support to the association.

Beginning with the elected leadership, PAP recognizes its board members and their



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supportive firms and companies: me, serving as president; Barbara I. Nield of Schnader Harrison; Kathy Merlino of Cozen O'Connor; Donna McDonald of Toll Brothers; Christine Hewlett of Hangley Aronchick; Sharon A. DeNofa of Lucas & Cavalier; Barbara McBride of Hangley Aronchick; Lyndora Patterson-Tiller of Independence Blue Cross; Adena Tuckman of Rohm & Haas; Renee Mazzeo of Kent McBride; and Gisela Miller of Hangley Aronchick.

Simply stated, PAP would not function like a well-oiled machine without its committee and section chairs: Trudy Bozzuto, Pepper Hamilton; Marybeth Eaves, Sheet Metal Workers' Funds of Local Union No. 19; Anita Lemms, Fox Rothschild; Anastasia Faracchio, Astor Weiss; Joseph Kranyk, Schnader Harrison; Bridget Logue, Saul Ewing; Joy Williams, Ballard Spahr; Kirsten Fullerton, McCarter & English; Kim Bittinger, Schnader Harrison; and Judith Bardsley, Blank Rome.

The National Federation of Paralegal Associations (NFPA) at its annual convention, staged in May in Chicago, selected Robert S. Hrouda, Hangley Aronchick, as the organization's 2006 outstanding local leader. The award, sponsored by LeapLaw, is given to an individual who has promoted interest and participation in the activities of his/her local association and has been recognized by the legal community as a professional dedicated to the advancement of the legal profession. Phyllis Johnson, an employee with the School District of Philadelphia, a student at

Pierce College and student member of PAP, was a recipient of the NFPA/Thomson West Scholarship.

As part of its Paralegal Week activities, PAP is recognizing members who have indicated to us that they have been a working paralegal for over 20 years. These members received a special token of appreciation at the July 18 luncheon. The honorees included: Karen J. Aloia, Lisa Bearinger, Linda Bergin, Christine Betson-Smith, June Bickel, Regina Bodimer, Toby Bosniak, Trudy H. Bozzuto, Sarah M. Brennan, Ann Marie Bruski, Karen Christy, Christopher Cortese, Karen Daemer, Susan Davey, Marie DeCarlo, Robert Deporter, Frank Dietrick Jr., Maxine M. DiRenza, Cynthia C. Ely, Deborah Ford, Nancy Frank, Kirsten Fullerton, Barbara M. Ganley, Kyle Gibson, Judy Greif, Andrea Halprin, Liz Hammonds, Melodie M. Herron, Julie A. Himbert, Lisa James, Katherine A. Jordan, Meganne Kenny-Cusato, Judith P. Knobler, Barbara Ann Krouzeczyk, Lucy H. Lane, Bernadette Leddy, Frances I. Levanios, Betsy Free Liberato, Diana Lindy, Wendy Logan, James C. Lopresti, Mary N. Marks, Kathy Massimo, Lynn A. McDowell, Christina McGee, Mary Katherine Merlino, Linda Mitchell, Gina C. Monaco-Laurita, Mary O'Donnell-Green, Cheryl Parker, Harris Platt, Jo Ann Recchiuti, Stephanie A. Ristvey, Nancy Rosensweig, Gregory Ryan, Marlene Schleifer, Joseph Sine Jr., Janet D. Slavin, Stanley Smith, Nancy P. Smith, Leigh Anne Smith, Stacy Splaver, Kathleen Stevenson, Janet Sullivan, Eve Thomas, Rosalie Tomasello, Ruth M. Watson, and Lisa Ann Zolna.

The highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the President's Award. This year's recipient was Nield of Schnader Harrison. Nield is most deserving of this special acknowledgment for all of the hard work she has put into the association, including late nights, endless meetings, the constant communications with members, and even the long distances that needed to be traveled to competently perform association business. Nield

looks forward to the future where paralegals are regulated, where there are standard educational requirements for all paralegals, and where the Paralegal Advanced Competency Examination (PACE) exam is the standard that paralegals will strive to meet. She also hopes that continuing legal education is made available for all in the profession. Nield has achieved much advancement in her own career, always moving forward in each position that she took and each firm that she worked. Nield is very likeable, easy to work with, and has a big heart.

Also announced at the luncheon was this year's recipient of the Joan Weldon Memorial Scholarship Award, honoring one of the great past leaders of PAP during its formative years. The scholarship program was established more than 15 years ago to honor Weldon's memory, and is presented to a paralegal student who is exemplary in his or her studies, and who possesses outstanding academics and other achievements. This year's \$1,000 scholarship goes to Phyllis Johnson, a student at Pierce College with an honorable mention to Monica Londo.

Planned events for Paralegal Week include a special event, co-sponsored by Abelson Legal Search and Document Technologies Inc., on July 27 at Tir Na Nog, and a special surprise for all of PAP members sponsored by MCS.

PAP would like to thank everyone who participated in the community service hosiery event at the July luncheon. This event benefited the Career Wardrobe.

Another reason PAP would like to highlight Paralegal Week is to have each law firm, public sector agencies and private sector corporations recognize all their hard working paralegals. As stated by many, including Rendell at the association's 30th anniversary gala, paralegals are the backbone of a case and the right hand person for any lawyer. Paralegals work long hours, including weekends, stay late many nights, and are often overlooked as professionals. So stand up and recognize those dependable individuals -- they are called paralegals.

Philadelphia Association of Paralegals Events for July and August

The Intellectual Property Committee will meet July 27 at Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, 1735 Market St., Philadelphia. The guest speaker will be Roberta Jacobs Meadway of Ballard Spahr. For additional information contact Kathy Merlino at (215) 665-4697, or by e-mail at mmerlino@cozen.com.

Market St., Philadelphia. For additional information contact Kirsten Fullerton at (215) 979-3871, or by e-mail at Kfullerton@McCarter.com.

Paralegal Day in Pennsylvania, by proclamation of Gov. Edward G. Rendell, will be held July 28

Logan Square, 18th and Cherry streets, 27th floor, Philadelphia. Please note this special meeting date. For additional information contact Christine Hewlett at (215) 496-7193, or by e-mail at Chewlett@hangley.com.

The Pro Bono/Community Service Committee will