

PAP History 1998-2000

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In April 1998, NFPA's conference was held in Anchorage, Alaska, where Robin Solomin was elected to be the new NFPA President. NFPA contemplated issues of policy on paralegals regarding character and fitness of an individual who can be called a paralegal. By the end of 1998, President Clinton was still facing the Starr report and its consequences, we saw John Glen return to space and we said a sad farewell to *Seinfeld*. Six years after its inception, the Day Backward Program in the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas finally came to an end and cleared the backlog in the court system and became a model to be used nationwide. The Paralegal Education and Regulation of the Supreme Court of New Jersey Committee introduced a proposal to regulate paralegals in New Jersey.

The year of 1999 brought the death of John F. Kennedy, Jr., the introduction of the new saga of *Star Wars* and the *Blair Witch Project*. At the same time, a new president of PAP was appointed, Sheila D'Avino. The relationship between PAP and YLD (Young Lawyers Division) and the Philadelphia Bar Association was very strong, and PAP set reasonable goals to improve communication with its members and find ways to increase membership and participation in PAP events. On July 22, 1999, PAP hosted its first *Spirit of Philadelphia* dinner cruise with great success. In this year, the Job Bank was re-instituted. Kirsten Fullerton and Lois Master co-chaired the new committee.

As we all survived Y2K, the election of George Bush and the heartbreak story of Elian Gonzalez, Mary L. Creekmore was voted President of PAP in 2000. NFPA held its Spring Convention in Hawaii and Alex Angelo and Siobhan Logan represented PAP. On July 20, 2000, PAP held its 2nd dinner cruise aboard the *Spirit of Philadelphia* and 68 members took part. Education, membership growth and volunteerism were the major goals of 2000; each was met with unbridled enthusiasm and PAP became all that much stronger because of it. The PAP Website was established and an email account was set up for PAP allowing email access for all of its members. The Professional Development Committee was formed by Kirsten Fullerton. This committee's work included the first Student Forum, a seminar on Hiring and Salary Trends, and the beginning of outreach and contact with the local paralegal schools. The South Jersey Paralegal Association held their 20th Anniversary Dinner June 3 (Mary Creekmore and Wanda Grooms attended on behalf of PAP). Keystone Alliance held a Regulation Conference May 19, 2000. Attendees from PAP included Mary Creekmore, Kirsten Fullerton and Bernadette McClelland. The Pro Bono committee was re-activated and participated in a Habitat for Humanity event with the Young Lawyers Division of the Philadelphia Bar Association. This committee also took an "Adopt a School" project.

As PAP enters the 21st Century, we look forward to more professional growth as the paralegal profession continues to develop and change!!"