



The Legal Star

Message from the President:

Welcome to the first edition of RVPA's quarterly newsletter, *The Legal Star*!

This first edition is being published a little later than we originally planned. The unexpected situation with the COVID-19 epidemic played a little havoc with our schedule of events for this year. As a result, we had to take a step back, regroup, and figure out new ways to get things done. As I am sure each of you out there can relate, we are working hard to adapt to this new "normal" of working from home, holding meetings via Zoom, spending more time at home. This, too, shall pass, and we will get through it together.

This year, RVPA began seeking NALA CLE credit approval for our monthly Lunch & Learns. The CLE credits can be used to meet the requirements to maintain your Virginia Registered Paralegal (VARP) and Certified Paralegal (CP) certifications. As you know, current social distancing guidelines prevent us from holding our usual Lunch & Learns in person at local restaurants. However, beginning in May, we will experiment with holding a virtual Lunch & Learn using Zoom. You should have received the email invitation to the May Lunch and Learn earlier this week - if you did not, check your junk or spam folder. More details for the May Lunch and Learn are in this newsletter below. We hope you will join us!

I want to recognize this year's RVPA officers and board members for the outstanding work they have done so far. We have an amazing group of people working hard behind the scenes to keep RVPA moving forward. Thanks to each of you, you guys rock!

Remember, first and foremost, RVPA is YOUR association. Please feel free to reach out to me or any of our board members at any time by emailing us at rvpa2018@gmail.com, with your ideas, feedback, CLE

speaker suggestions, or whatever is on your mind. We want to hear from you!

I hope all of you reading this are doing well, keeping busy, and staying healthy. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President in 2020. I look forward to seeing all of your faces again!

Shannon Honaker - RVPA President

May Virtual Lunch & Learn



SPEAKER:

Leah M. Stiegler, Esq.,
Woods Rogers PLC

TOPIC:

Positive Tests
in the Workplace

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**RSPV By May
12th to get the
information.**

DATE AND TIME

05/14/20
12:00pm-05/14/20
1:00pm



RVPA will be having an online Thirty One party fundraiser!

**Start Shopping
Now!**

While you are stuck inside, it is a great time to do some shopping and help the RVPA raise some funds!

**Party ends on
May 11th.**

American Bar Association Paralegal Definition Change

At the February 2020 ABA mid-year meeting, the American Bar Association adopted a resolution to change its official definition of paralegal, as recommended by the Standing Committee on Paralegals. The resolution removed the term "legal assistant" from the ABA's definition of paralegal, replacing the previous definition adopted in 1997.

You can read the full resolution by following the link below.

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Weird Laws

Coin Flips

In Richmond, Virginia, it is illegal to flip a coin to decide who pays for coffee.

In the past, many decisions have been made on a coin flip. Orville and Wilbur Wright, the brothers who invented the airplane, decided who would perform the first test flight with a coin toss. Two New England natives tossed a coin to decide the name of Portland, Oregon when it was settled. The last seat on Buddy Holly's plane in 1959 was decided on a coin and ultimately sealed the fate of the winner, Ritchie Valens, who died in the subsequent crash.

Gambling has been a point of debate in the state of

Virginia. Title 18.2-325 of the Code of Virginia defines this as “making, placing, or receipt of any bet or wager [...] in exchange for a chance to win a price, stake, or other consideration or thing of value, dependent upon the result of any game, contest, or any other event”. Those who engage in the type of gambling as described in this code could face charges of a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Contradicting this law is Title 24.2-674, also known as “Determination by lot in case of tie”. During elections concerning public officials, such as mayor of a city or a seat in the House of Delegates, if two or more persons involved in the election are tied, then the tie should be broken simply by luck: drawing straws, picking a name from a hat, dealing a card, or flipping a coin.

It could be that flipping a coin in Richmond is interpreted as gambling. Laws are easily interpreted differently from person to person, city to city. But it is hard to overlook that flipping a coin has been prevalent in decision making for centuries. Maybe a coin toss to decide who pays for coffee is simply just a fun way to settle a disagreement with a friend.

Lauren Gray - Guest Writer

Save the Date:

Jaunt for Justice 5K
October 3rd, 2020

The RVPA will host the first annual “Jaunt for Justice 5K” a 5K Run/Walk to benefit The Legal Aid Society of the Roanoke Valley (LASRV).

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RVPA Publications Committee

Are you looking for a way to get more involved with RVPA? Maybe the Publications Committee is the right choice for you. We are currently looking for additional members to volunteer. The Publications Committee helps by keeping our website updated, managing our social media accounts and helps publish the RVPA's newsletter, The Legal Star. We look forward to working with you.

To volunteer, please email the Publications Committee Chair, Audrey Gray at gray@fmwm.law.



Law Day, held annually on May 1st, is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law in our society and to cultivate an understanding of the legal profession. Law Day provides an opportunity to understand how law and the legal process protect our liberty, strive to achieve justice, and contribute to the freedoms that all Americans share.

This year's theme is "Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy: The 19th Amendment at 100," to commemorate the centennial of the historical constitutional amendment that guaranteed that American women would not be denied the right to vote on account of sex.

The Library of Congress is currently hosting an exhibit titled "Shall Not Be Denied: Women Fight for the Vote," which celebrates the ratification of the 19th Amendment. You can explore the exhibit online by clicking the link below.

practically ★ legal

The Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association's first full day educational conference, Practically Legal, was held on February 21, 2020, and it was a HUGE success! We had 37 paralegals and 13 VWCC paralegal students attend, exceeding our original dream of having 30 people attend. I want to give a special shoutout to the chair of the Paralegal Studies Program at Virginia Western, Jennifer Armentrout, for her many contributions. I also want to give a special thank you to our two student volunteers, Joe Mollo and Christina Smith, who helped us plan and work on the day of the conference.

We would not have been a success if it were not for the local law firms who sponsored the conference: Anderson & Friedman, Frankl, Miller Webb & Moyers, Frith, Anderson & Peake, Ellerman & Davis, Gentry Locke, Glenn Feldmann, Glenn Roinson Cathey Memmer & Skaff, Guynn Waddell, Carroll & Lockaby, Johnsons Ayers & Matthews and Steidle Law Firm. Thanks to them, we were able to provide student scholarships for the conference for 5 VWCC students: Amy Still, Dana Steffey, Jamie Dyer, Christina Smith, and Joe Mollo.

We would also like to thank each one of our vendors who participated at the conference: Arara Language Solutions, LLC, Virginia Court Reports Association, Virginia Court Services, Mode5, and Planet Depo. It was a great opportunity to finally meet the people many of us use day after day in our normal course of work. Thanks to our vendors, we were able to give away eight door prizes throughout the day.

And of course, we can't forget to thank all of our wonderful speakers who donated their time to spend part of their days with us sharing their knowledge in order to keep our whole community educated on very important topics that all paralegals use daily. Patrick Kelly, Esquire, from the Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley, kicked off the day with a great presentation about drafting discovery, something most of us do every day. We then had Thomas Miller, Esquire, and Johanna Schmersal, from Frankl Miller Webb & Moyers, share their guide to understanding Medical Billing and Coding, which is used not only in Workers' Compensations cases but also in personal injury, defense litigations, and medical malpractice cases. Then, to get us warmed up for lunch, Ben Byrd, Esquire, from Stickland, Diviney, Segura, and Byrd, talked to us about researching and impeaching expert witnesses. Following lunch, Honorable Judge Michael Urbanski, our ethics keynote speaker, shared his very entertaining discussion about the Ethical Implications of Social Media in the Courtroom. To wrap up the day, we had Michael Yager from Woods Rogers share his Paralegal Practice Points for E-Discovery.

The RVPA is looking forward to bringing the community more options for CLE Credits throughout the year. We look forward to seeing how our members take advantage of our continued education opportunities to help further our community. If you would like to help our community grow, we can always use more hands to make more events like Practically Legal possible in the future. Plans are in the work for our next conference in 2021 and we hope to see you all there. Stay tuned!

If you are interested in volunteering for the CLE Committee, please reach out by emailing RVPA at rvpa2018@gmail.com.

Audrey Gray, RVPA Vice President

Something to Brighten your Day



 Roanoke Valley
Paralegal Association

