



The Legal Star

Message from the President

WE HAVE SEEN THE END!

The end of the year 2020, that is, and I know we are all thankful for that. Last year was a tumultuous year, to say the least. But in retrospect, it wasn't all bad. As the year winds down, I'd like to take a few moments to look back at some of the positives that came out of the past year, and then focus on the journey ahead.

In spite of the unexpected challenges we faced, I think we can all be proud of what we have accomplished as an organization in 2020. In February, we hosted our first paralegal educational conference and it was by all measures a huge success. We have continued to host outstanding speakers for our monthly Lunch & Learns, albeit virtually, and for the first time we were able to offer our members NALA CLE credit for attending. We hosted our third annual Evening with the Judges, and although it too had to be a virtual event, our attendance numbers were close to what we would expect any other year.

RVPA also hosted our very first Jaunt for Justice 5K in October, with the proceeds being donated to Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley. This was a massive undertaking, requiring over a year of planning, and I could not be prouder of the result. Our board and volunteers did an amazing job! We already have plans in the works for the second 5K on October 2, 2021 – save the date!

Okay, time to put 2020 in the rear view, and look ahead to the new year!

RVPA already has big plans for 2021. We will be hosting our second Practically Legal conference in February, as a virtual conference. The planning committee is working on a fantastic lineup of CLE speakers and topics for the conference – stay tuned!

RVPA's CLE committee is also hard at work scheduling our monthly Lunch & Learn speakers for next year. We will be requesting NALA CLE credit approval for each Lunch & Learn presentation – this will greatly benefit our members who require CLE credits to maintain their VARP and/or CP certifications. (If you want to learn more about VARP and CP certification – please visit RVPA's website, or reach out to the RVPA board – we are happy to answer any questions you have!)

While the virtual format for CLEs was born out of necessity, this is something that RVPA will continue to offer as an alternative even after we are able to resume in-person events – we plan to livestream in-person CLE presentations so that even members and guests who are unable to attend in-person can take advantage of our monthly CLE offerings. Continuing education is a very important part of RVPA's mission to encourage our members to grow personally and professionally, and I am pleased that we are able to make these opportunities more accessible to all of our members, no matter their locations or work schedules.

In closing, I want to thank this past year's RVPA officers and board members for all of their efforts and creativity in finding ways to keep things running this year, in spite of the challenges. There are not words to express my gratitude for everything they have done. I also want to welcome our new RVPA board members for 2021 – I am looking forward to working with everyone this year!

Happy New Year to you and yours!

Shannon Honaker - RVPA President

It's that time again! Renew your RVPA Membership



If you have not yet renewed your RVPA membership for 2021, there is no time like the present! Renewing your RVPA membership is easy and convenient – simply visit RVPA's website to fill out the renewal application.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

You can pay your annual membership dues online, OR if you prefer to pay by check (we understand that many firms prefer to pay by check), you can still fill out the online application and just indicate that you will be paying by check. Payments by check may be sent to:

RVPA
P. O. Box 1505
Roanoke, VA 24007

If you pay by check after submitting your application online, please be sure to note on the check that it is for your membership renewal.

Are you on our email list but not yet a member? We would love for you to join us! As a member of RVPA,

you are eligible to receive exclusive notifications of local paralegal job openings, a discount on the cost to attend our monthly Lunch & Learn CLEs (once we resume in-person meetings – currently there is no cost to attend the virtual meetings), and, as a member of a VAPA affiliated paralegal organization, you are eligible to apply for [Virginia Registered Paralegal](#) (VARP) certification.

LEARN MORE ABOUT RVPA MEMBERSHIP

If you have any questions about RVPA membership, or about the VARP program, please ask a board member or email rvpa2018@gmail.com.

Welcome RVPA's 2021 Officers & Board

President - Shannon Honaker
Vice President - Audrey Gray
Secretary - Stephanie Rodgers
Treasurer - Whitney Jennings
VAPA Representative - Beth Cundiff
NALA Representative - Whitney Jennings

Board Members:

Pamela St. Clair
Bonnie Roope
Lisa Noell
Michael Yager
Susan Fitzgerald

March Virtual Lunch & Learn



SPEAKER:

Macel Janoschka, Esquire

Frith Anderson + Peake

TOPIC:

How to Try a Case in
General District Court

[Learn More](#)

RSVP by March 8th

DATE AND TIME

03/11/21

12:00pm-03/11/21

1:00pm

No,
maybe
next
time.

practically ★ legal

Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association is proud to be hosting its second educational conference for paralegals.

This year our conference will feature four (4) virtual sessions – one per day during the week of February 15, 2021.

Stay tuned for more information.

**1st Annual Jaunt for
Justice 5K was
a Huge Success!**



RVPA's first annual Jaunt for Justice 5K, held on Saturday, October 3, 2020, at Fallon Park, was an overwhelming success!

A total of 136 people registered for the 5K. Of those,

25 registered as virtual participants and 110 registered for the in-person 5K.

Thank you to our Jaunt for Justice 5K sponsors, without whom this event would not have been possible!

Gentry Locke

Mode 5

Glenn Feldmann Darby &
Goodlatte

Planet Depo

Chadwick Washington
Moriarty Elmore & Bunn

Lutins & Pilgreen

Frith Anderson & Peake

Frith Ellerman & Davis

Woods Rogers

Arara Language Solutions

Steidle Law Firm

Frankl Miller Webb &
Moyers

CLB Court Reporting

Runabout Sports

After all expenses were paid, the race earned a net profit of \$3,142.35. RVPA donated 257.65, to bring the total donation to Legal Aid Society to **\$3,400!** For a first-year race event (during a pandemic no less), we could not be more pleased with the outcome. A huge thank you to all of our members who volunteered!

RVPA will host a second Jaunt for Justice 5K on Saturday, October 2, 2021. Save the date – you won't want to miss it!

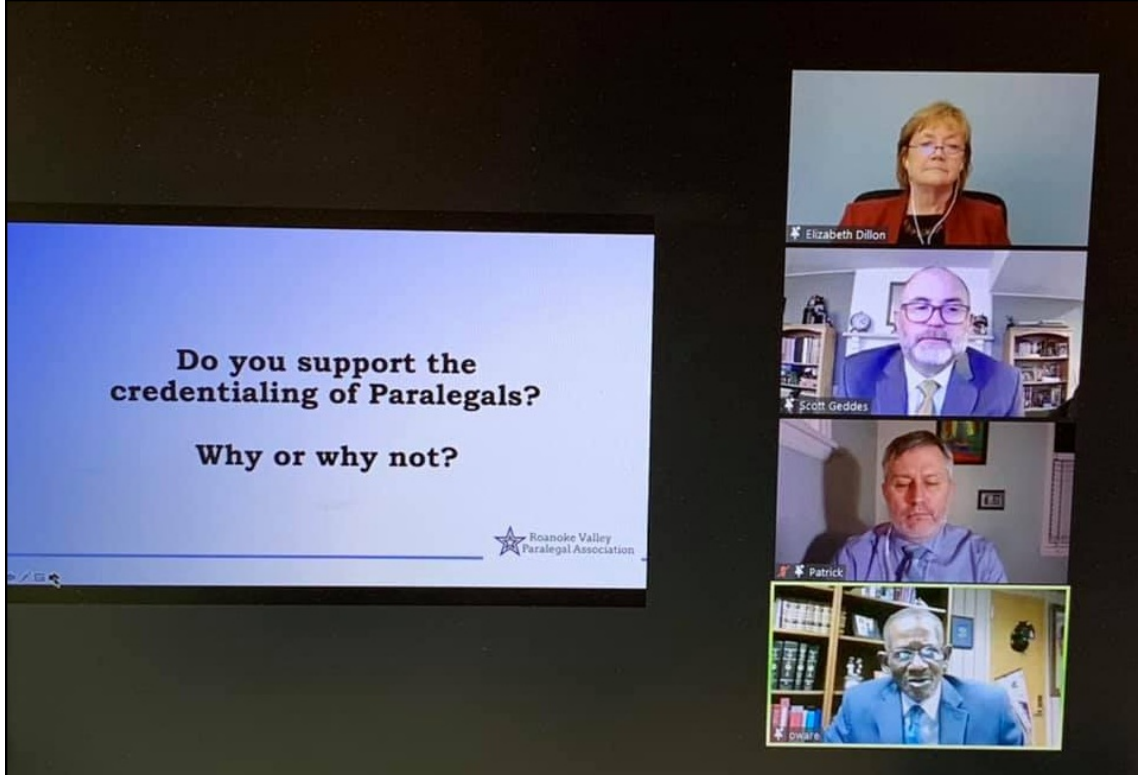
If you are interested in helping to plan the second 5K, please reach out to Shannon Honaker at rvpa2018@gmail.com.

Another Successful Evening with the Judges!



RVPA held its third annual “Evening with the Judges” on November 12, 2020. Each year, RVPA hosts a panel of three local judges who will answer questions on a variety of topics, including their views on paralegal certification, what paralegals can do to best help their attorneys prepare for trial; their best and worst stories involving lawyers and paralegals in the courtroom, and more!

This year’s panel included Honorable Scott Geddes (Roanoke City and Roanoke County General District Courts), Honorable Onzlee Ware (Roanoke City and Salem Circuit Courts), and Honorable Elizabeth K. Dillon (United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia). Patrick Kelly, Esq., of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, served as our moderator.



This year's Evening with the Judges was held virtually via Zoom. In spite of the change in format, everything went smoothly and it was an enjoyable and informative event for all who attended. Thank you to everyone who helped to plan this event, and an extra special thank you to our three judges and to Patrick Kelly for his outstanding job as moderator!

We hope you will join us next year for our fourth annual Evening with the Judges. More info to come!

Want to Get More Involved with RVPA?

Are you looking for a way to get more involved?
Do you have ideas for future RVPA events?
Are you looking for a new way to network?

Join one of RVPA's Committees today to get started. There is a perfect place for everybody!

Much of the "behind the scenes" work of planning and coordinating RVPA's events and efforts throughout the year is accomplished by committees.

Joining a committee is a great way to get to know paralegals from other Roanoke area law firms. The time commitment is minimal - perhaps a couple of hours a month, but the rewards are infinite!

If you are new to the area, just started a new job at a local law firm, or are a paralegal studies student at VWCC or ANU, becoming active with RVPA provides excellent networking opportunities and a chance to interact with others in our tight-knit Roanoke legal community.

We hope you will become involved with a committee this year!

[Learn more and get involved!](#)

RVPA's 2020 Holiday Charity Donations



A heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to RVPA's holiday charity drive this year!

Thanks to your generosity, RVPA was able to deliver several boxes of non-perishable food items to **Feeding**

America SWVA.

Shout out to RVPA member **Cindy Graves** for volunteering to pick up everyone's donations and deliver the boxes to the food bank!

Additionally, our members collectively donated **\$200 to LOA Meals on Wheels** and **\$200 to Ronald McDonald House!**

Thank you all for joining RVPA in giving back to our community in this difficult year!

Get Your RVPA Swag On!



Get some RVPA Swag today to show off your RVPA Pride!

[Start Shopping Now!](#)

Something to Brighten your Day

Merry Christmas from your lawyer:

I wish you <sup>but in no way
guarantee</sup>
^{reasonably} a Merry Christmas <sup>and/or festive
period</sup>
<sup>including but
not limited to</sup> and a ^{reasonably} happy new year. <sup>+ twelve (12) months
from the date
hereof.</sup>



 Roanoke Valley
Paralegal Association

