

The Paraview



Quarterly Publication of the Metrolina Paralegal Association Summer 2021 Edition



President's message:

As a new MPA fiscal year is upon us, a continuing legacy of systemic racism is once more out in the spotlight. Along with recognition of inequities and injustices against black Americans, we must also take a stand in alliance with our Asian American and Pacific Islander community both in our acknowledgment and in our actions. But me saying this issue is now “in the spotlight” incorrectly conveys that racism against the AAPI community only just started during the pandemic. And as an Asian American friend of mine recently spoke about the current Stop AAPI Hate movement, her personal reminder that the legacy of violence and hate against the AAPI community has long pre-existed the pandemic had me once again personally reflecting inwardly about how, in the past, I have been guilty of walking around with blinders on. Acts of violence and racism against the AAPI community did not begin with the pandemic. And although some people may have incorrectly assumed license to be bolder in their violence and openly racist actions against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders since the onset of Covid-19, this is by no means a new form of racism.

As members of the legal community, I would personally ask that we each reflect on what we can do to educate ourselves and become active allies with our fellow AAPI legal colleagues as well as the AAPI community as a whole, in addition to making a commitment to speaking out and taking action against AAPI hate and systemic racism. Whatever your position is on the Pledge of Allegiance, I think as legal professionals we would all agree that “liberty and justice for ALL” is something in which we should not only strive to uphold, but in which we should strive to be bold in our pursuit of making assurances that these basic rights are equally measured out.

“It does not matter how slowly you go, as long as you do not stop.”

—Confucius

And as we approach summer, I hope everyone is able to find time to relax and rejuvenate the mind, body, and spirit whether with family, friends, alone, with strangers, or wherever the road may take you.

Also, remember to be gentle with yourself,
Ali



Introducing our MPA 2021-2022 Board Members:

Alison E. Foster, NCCP – President
Carrie J. Marshall, NCCP – 1st Vice President
Rhianon Fionn-Bowman – 2nd Vice President
Shafia Rangoonwala, NCCP – 3rd Vice President
Jack Randolph, NCCP – Secretary
Tyler Murphy, NCCP – Treasurer
Catherine Stenmark, ACP, NCCP – NALA Liaison
Sarah Weed – Student/School Liaison
Gail T. Nathan, NCCP – Paraview Editor/Parliamentarian
Tim Chamness, NCCP – Audit Chair
Donna Glenn – Program Committee member

Thanks to our Board members!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CLE SEMINAR!

The [MPA Annual Spring CLE Seminar](#) was virtually held on Friday, May 21, 2021. We had about 100 attendees!

Our Spring CLE was full of great information and a variety of topics:

Ann McNellis Elmore, Legal Specialist, Investor Education Program, Securities Division,
NC Department of the Secretary of State
“Investment Fraud: Guarding Your Assets in a Scary World”

Shalanna L. Pirtle, Partner, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Chair,
Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP
“Understanding Implicit Bias to Build a Stronger Team”

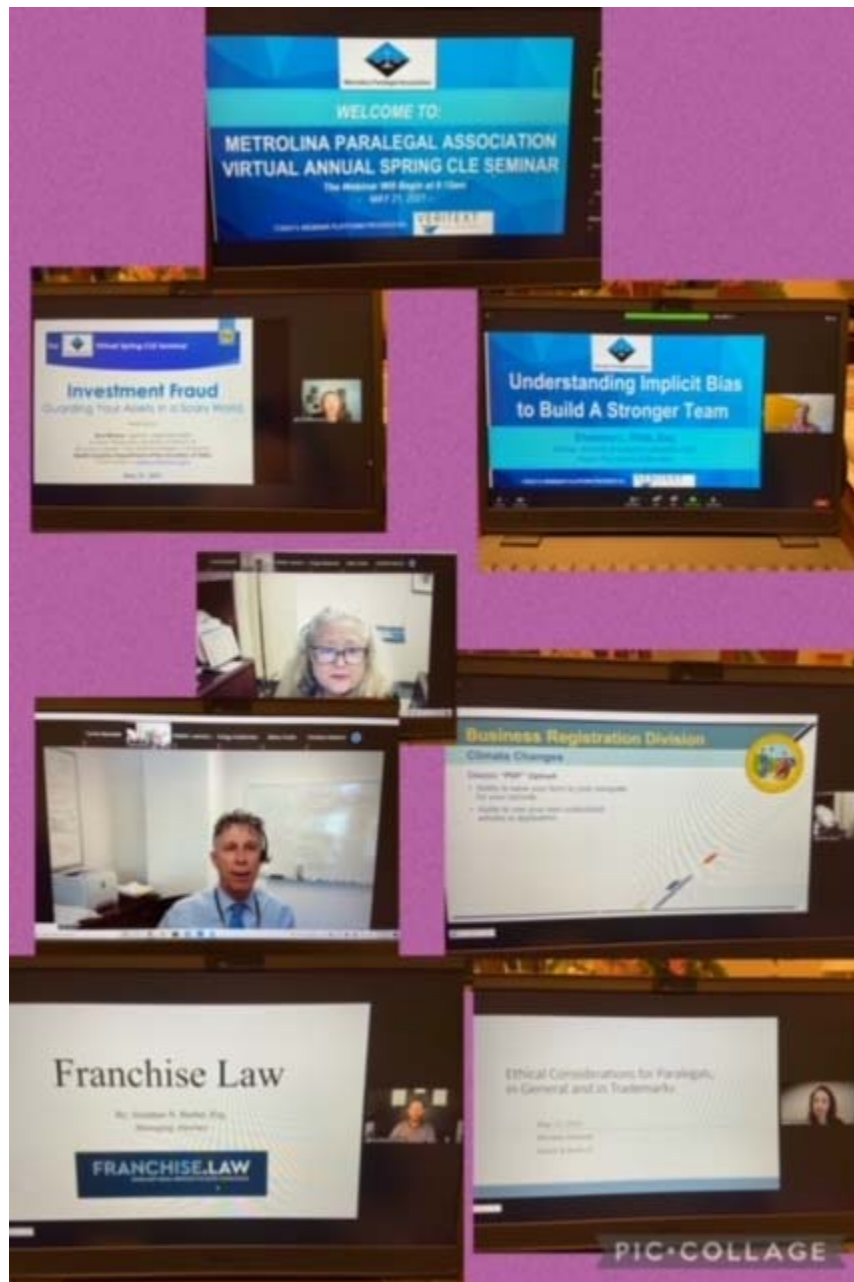
Cheri Myers, Director, Business Registration Division,
NC Department of the Secretary of State and
Bill Toole, Director to the North Carolina Secretary of State,
NC Department of the Secretary of State
“Business Registration Using SOS Services”

Ryan M. Arnold, Associate, Rosenwood, Rose & Litwak, PLLC
“Recent Developments in North Carolina Case Law”

Jonathan N. Barber, Managing Attorney, Franchise.Law
“Franchise Law”

Michele Glessner, Partner, Alston & Bird LLP
“Ethical Considerations for Trademark Filings”

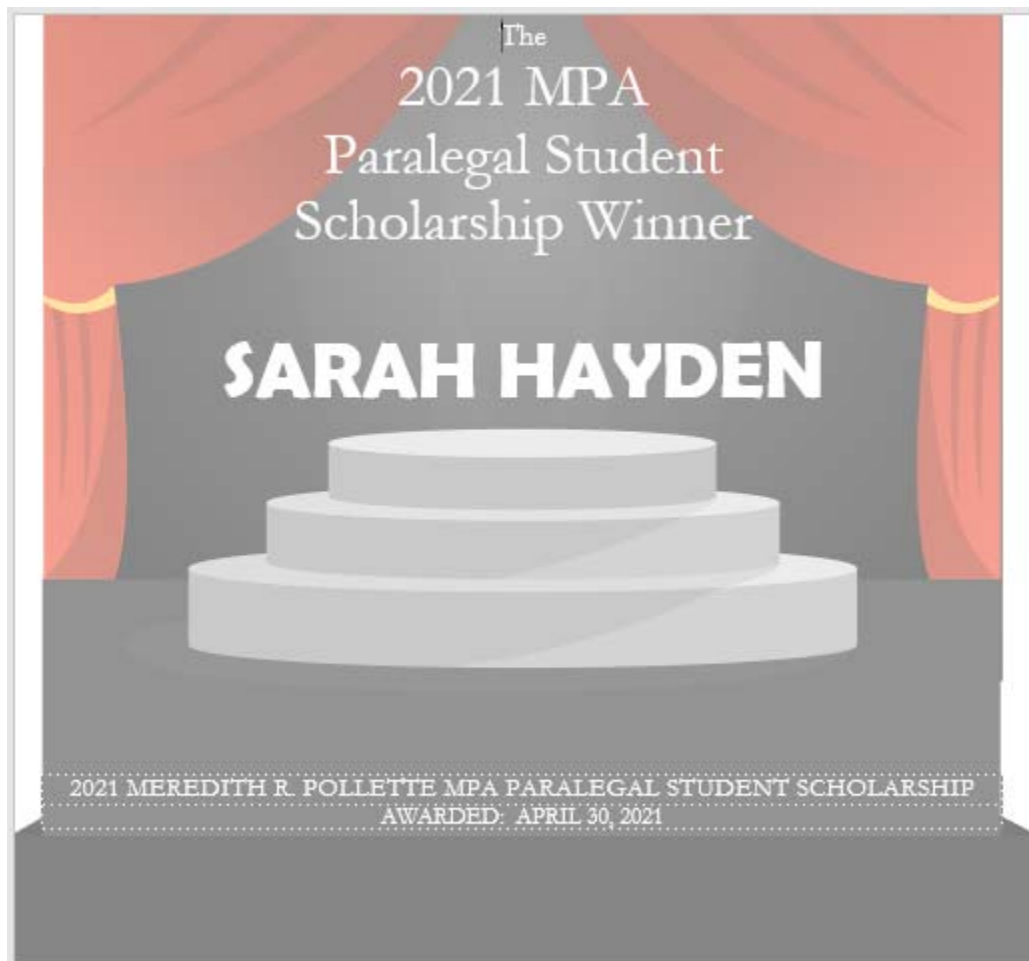
Thank you to all of our wonderful speakers!



MPA PARALEGAL STUDENT ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Congratulations to Sarah Hayden as our winner of the Meredith R. Pollette Paralegal Student Scholarship for 2021. She is enrolled in the post-baccalaureate Paralegal Technology Program at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC, and has a 4.0 GPA! She is currently an English teacher, and in her submission essay she summed up by stating: “Every moment of teaching requires multitasking. Even during periods without students, teachers are grading, planning new lessons, modifying old lessons, responding to emails, and participating in meetings. While a law office is an altogether different environment from the classroom, my time as a teacher has conditioned me to continuous multi-taking and adaptation that will serve me well in this new and demanding career.”

The MPA paralegal student essay scholarship is awarded to a paralegal student with a minimum 2.5 GPA who is attending (or has attended) an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical paralegal program in the Charlotte area between the dates of May 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021 (“Qualification Period”). The 2021 award is based on submission of an essay on the topic as stated in this announcement, proof of enrollment during the Qualification Period, and valid GPA standing. The first place award is \$500 cash, plus a one-year associate membership in the Metrolina Paralegal Association (“MPA”). All submitted essays are reviewed by an anonymous panel selected by the Executive Board of the MPA.



Lookie lookie! Alison Foster, our MPA President and Paralegal & Legal Coordinator at Belk based in Charlotte, North Carolina won the Best of Belk Award. Congratulations Ali!!



About the Impact Award

The Impact Award is given to associates who thrive in our organization and live our vision and values (Do the Right Thing, Care for Our Customers, and Grow Outstanding Teams). These individuals work hard and make coming to work easier and a little bit more fun. All nominations will be thoroughly reviewed and ranked by area HRBP and a cross-functional selection committee.

Rewards:

- 30% off for 1-year
- Virtual Celebration
- Branded Gift and Awards Crystal
- \$250 cash bonus

About Allison

Alison Foster personifies a Belk Top Performer in the adaptability, resiliency, and leadership she has shown during this atypical year through her demeanor, enthusiasm, and drive in how she shows up to work each day. Her work on priority projects across the company demonstrates how she has continued to drive results and contributed to the business by assisting with the documents for landlord abatements and deferrals associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, providing insight and support to the Creative Marketing team on planned Private Brands directions, and advising the business on important contract negotiations to introduce key new services this year. Ali always approaches projects from a customer-centric perspective and is often the one to chime in and provide insight by putting herself in the customer's shoes for a particular issue or experience.

Additionally, Ali's ability to build relationships and truly connect with each person she interacts with across the company is a prime example of her ability to create a positive attitude and culture. She goes above and beyond to predict and deliver a response to someone's need or take the initiative to solve a problem before even being asked, and by doing so, increases efficiency across the company, and, even more importantly, takes a little work or stress off of someone's plate in what has been an unprecedented and unpredictable year. Ali also makes everyone's day a little brighter with her humor and demonstrates her incredible thoughtfulness by finding a way to personalize her connection to everyone she meets. Ali is an amazing team player and works hard on many significant cross-functional company initiatives and endeavors that drive value for Belk and Belk's customers, and does the right thing by how she interacts and works with associates across the business, as demonstrated by the numerous advocates she has across the organization.

Special thanks goes to Kristi Salvatore, Senior Manager, Corporate Recognition and Events, Sports Sponsorships with Belk, on contributing to the above article.

Info from NALA

The NALA Conference & Expo will be held virtually on July 22, 2021 – July 24, 2021. Registration is now open! For more information about the conference, please visit: <https://www.nala.org/conferences/nala-conference-expo>

UPCOMING NALA CONFERENCES

Save the date!

2022 – July 14-16 (Thur-Sat) JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa – Phoenix, AZ

2023 – July 12-14 (Wed-Fri) The Westin Copley Place – Boston, MA

2024 – July 11-13 (Thur-Sat) Louisville Marriott Downtown – Louisville, KY

2025 – July 10-12 (Thur-Sat) Harrah's Resort – Atlantic City, NJ



Note from the Editor

Hi MPA Members and Patrons - I hope you found the Paraview informative and enjoyable to read this past year. It has been a pleasure putting this newsletter together for you. I'm passing the baton on to Gail Nathan who I know will do a wonderful job, as I step into the 1st VP role. If there is any content you'd like to see in our publication, please let us know!

Hope to see you all soon!

Carrie J. Marshall

P.S. Don't forget about our website to find information about membership, upcoming CLEs and meetings and our member job bank listing at: <http://www.charlotteareaparalegals.com/>

MPA Patrons

Many thanks to all of our Patron Sponsors! Y'all are the best!

 <p>Contact: Jonathan D. Sanzone, Account Executive Phone: 302-362-3887 Fax: 866-775-0115 E-mail: jsanzone@coagencyglobal.com Web: COGENCYGLOBAL.COM</p>	 <p>Contact: Debbie Lawrence 1-800-955-0541 Debbie.1@casworksonline.com www.casworksonline.com</p>
 <p>Contact: Kathy Broom, Vice President Eagle Eye Investigations Group, LLC 1409 East Blvd Suite 1-D Charlotte, NC 28203 704-376-2728 704-376-2725 fax http://eagleeyengroup.com/</p>	 <p>Contact: James Crawford, East Coast Account Representative 1701 Directors Blvd., Suite 300 Austin, TX 78744 Phone: (815) 861-4560 Email: jcrawford@rasi.com Web: www.rasi.com</p>
 <p>Contact: Ruth Reynolds, Owner Phone: 800-814-8662 Phone: 704-338-1775 FAX: 704-338-1686 E-mail: Info@reynoldspprofessional.com Web: www.reynoldspprofessionalservice.com</p>	 <p>NIKI'S INT'L LTD. // Custom Language Solutions 24/7 Nationwide Phone: 1-877-567-8449 www.nilservices.com</p>



Contact: Robert Loughry, Marketing Manager

Phone: Direct: 843.416.7090 | 800.743.DEPO

F: 866.390.DEPO

E-mail: rloughry@scheduledepo.com

Web: www.scheduledepo.com



Contact: Rob Russo, P.I.

Business Development – North & South Carolina

(704) 942-4159 Cell

rob.russo@usforensic.com

<https://usforensic.com/>



Contact: Cathy Chaplin, Owner, CEO

Phone: 336-992-1954

704-606-1434

cathy@chaplinandassociates.com

www.chaplinandassociates.com

schedule@chaplinandassociates.com