

# Michigan Paralegal

The official newsletter of the State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

## Message from the Chair



I am very happy to serve, once again, as the chair of the SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section. I have been an active member of the section since returning to Michigan 15 years

ago, when my husband retired from the U.S. Coast Guard. I was born and raised in Traverse City, and that is where we decided to make our home. I met my husband when he was just a “kid in the Guard” stationed in Traverse City and watched him advance from enlisted to officer rank.

I am a litigation paralegal at the Traverse City offices of Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge, and I love my job. I graduated from Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts with a BA in political science and a paralegal certificate from Fisher College in Boston, Massachusetts. As a USCG wife, I moved many times during my husband’s active duty career. When my husband retired in 1997, I was sad that my moving days were over, but we had experienced life in many great areas of our country—Kodiak, Alaska;

Rancho Cucamonga, California (LA area); Cape Cod, Massachusetts; and Washington, D.C.

My goal for this next year is to reach out to you and enlist your help in making our section vital and provide all members with a variety of continuing education, networking and social activities. It is your section, so please contact me with ideas and suggestions on how to help our section meet the needs of the members and in what direction you would like to see us grow.

I would love to hear from you. Please contact me if you would like to assist in the work of the section—we have openings on several committees, including our Scholarship, Annual Meeting, and Annual Day of Education committees—or if you would like to contribute an idea or write an article for the *Michigan Paralegal*. I look forward to hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [kblunck@shrr.com](mailto:kblunck@shrr.com).

—Kathy Ann Blunck

Issue 4, 2011

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#### Disclaimer

Articles and columns that appear in the *Michigan Paralegal* do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section of the State Bar of Michigan, and their publication does not constitute an endorsement of views that may be expressed. Publication and editing are at the discretion of the editor. The *Michigan Paralegal* encourages republication and dissemination of articles it publishes. For information regarding permission to reprint articles, please address inquiries to the editor.

#### Editor's Note

The newsletter is published quarterly.

Newsletter submissions (calendar-of-events items, letters to the editor, paralegal association announcements, Section or other news and business, Section committee reports, personal stories) and advertising should be sent to the attention of Jeanne Nyhuis at [jnyhuis@wnj.com](mailto:jnyhuis@wnj.com).

#### Section Mission

The Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, the website, public service programs, and publication of a newsletter. Membership in the Section is open to qualified paralegals, legal assistants, and to all members of the State Bar of Michigan. Statements made on behalf of the Section do not necessarily reflect the views of the State Bar of Michigan.

### 2011-2012 Council

**Chairperson—Kathy Ann Blunck**  
(231) 486-4526, [kblunck@sbr.com](mailto:kblunck@sbr.com)

**Chair-Elect— [vacant]**

**Secretary—Jeanne M. Nyhuis, CP (2010-2012)**

**Treasurer—Tracy Muck (2011-2013)**

**Ex Officio Chairperson—Casey Mobley**

#### Council

Dorothy J. Grant, PP (2010–2012)  
Renee J. Jent, CLA (2010–2012)  
Cheryl J. Nodarse, CLA (2010–2012)  
Kelly J. Dufty, CP (2011–2013)  
Jennifer M. Petty (2011–2013)  
Megan G. Vogrig (2011–2013)

# Michigan's Super Drunk Drivers Now Face Greater Punishment

By Patrick T. Barone, Esq., Barone Defense Firm, Birmingham, Michigan

Beginning on October 31, 2010, Michigan drivers with a bodily alcohol content (BAC) of .17 or greater face significantly enhanced penalties. MCL § 257.625(1)(c). These new and enhanced penalties are based on Public Acts 461 and 462, which Governor Granholm signed into law on January 9, 2009. Collectively known as Michigan's "super drunk" law, these public acts amend several sections of the Michigan Vehicle Code and most notably add a new definition of drunk driving carrying enhanced punitive and license sanctions.

## To whom does the law apply?

These newly enhanced sanctions are applicable only to a *first-time* offender with a bodily alcohol content (BAC) of .17<sup>1</sup> or greater ("super drunk offender"). Second- and subsequent-offense license and punitive sanctions remain unchanged regardless of the driver's BAC, presumably because the overall punishment for repeat offenders is still greater than will be applicable to super drunks.

## One-year treatment requirement

Super drunk offenders are required to undergo one year of treatment—the longest treatment requirement yet mandated for those convicted of any drunk-driving offense.

## Enhanced punitive sanctions

Super drunk offenders are exposed to an array of enhanced punitive sanctions, including fines ranging from \$200 to \$700 (versus \$100 to \$500) and potential jail time of 180 days (versus 93 days). MCL § 257.625(9).

## Enhanced license sanctions

Upon notice of a conviction for a super drunk offense, the Secretary of State will suspend driving privileges for one year. The first 45 days of this suspension is a "hard" suspension, meaning no driving is allowed. During the remaining 320 days, the super drunk offender is entitled to restricted privileges, but only if he or she

pays to have a breath alcohol ignition interlock device placed in his or her car during this period. MCL § 257.319(8)(g) & (h).

## New offense—operating without an ignition interlock device

The new law creates a new offense related to the monitoring of the ignition interlock device. A super drunk offender who violates the conditions of the restricted license or operates or attempts to operate a vehicle not equipped with a breath alcohol ignition interlock device when the offender has a BAC of 0.025 or greater will see his or her license penalty doubled. In other words, a second set of identical driver license sanctions will be imposed—a new 45-day period of no driving followed by 320 days of restricted driving with the ignition interlock device. MCL § 257.319(i).

## Breath alcohol ignition interlock devices

Once installed, a typical breath alcohol ignition interlock device requires a driver to blow into the device when that person first starts his or her car, and then retest within the first 5 to 15 minutes. The device will not allow the car to be started if it detects a BAC of .025 or greater. MCL § 257.20d. When driving for longer periods of time, the driver must test about every 30 minutes. The device records the date and time of each test, and any violation is reported to the monitoring agency. If a BAC of .025 or greater is detected during operation, a "warning signal" will be emitted, MCL § 257.625k(5)(B)(I) & (II). After coming to a complete stop, the car cannot be re-started until the driver has a BAC of less than .025, MCL § 257.625k(5)(B)(II). A person only permitted to operate a vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device may not operate a vehicle not equipped with such a device. MCL § 257.625l(2).

## Impoundment of vehicles not equipped with ignition interlock devices

The amended law also provides for impoundment where a person required to have a breath alcohol ignition interlock device is

Patrick T. Barone offered a two-hour session on Michigan's "super drunk" law at the section's annual meeting on September 16, 2011. Here is an excerpt from the article he distributed at the meeting.

## Michigan Super Drunk ...

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stopped in a car not equipped with such a device. If that vehicle is individually or jointly owned, the vehicle registration plate will be confiscated and destroyed, a new temporary plate will be issued, and the Secretary of State will be notified. MCL § 257.6251(7). This is considered to be an “offending vehicle” sanction, meaning the owner and not necessarily the driver of the car remains liable for all expenses incurred in the removal and storage of the vehicle. MCL § 257.6251(10).

### Drunk driving now more expensive than ever

The new law makes drunk driving far more expensive because it is the driver’s responsibility to pay the cost of installing the breath alcohol ignition interlock device as well as the monthly fees required to maintain it. Although the state does not regulate the cost of ignition interlock devices, the legislature previously limited the amount that can be charged to people on low incomes to a maximum of \$1.00 per day. The new law increases this maximum to \$2.00 per day, although for certain low-income drivers the installation fee is waived. MCL § 257.625k(5)(d). Drivers who do not meet the low-income deferment requirements must pay the vendor’s usual rates. In Michigan, installation fees are around \$50 and, depending on the vendor, monthly fees can be as high as \$100.

### Fewer “local” prosecutors

Michigan law provides that a village, charter village, township and charter township may create and enforce ordinances with penalties of up to 93 days, and cities with populations of under

10,000 may create and enforce ordinances with penalties of up to 180 days. However, most cities have adopted charters that put them under the Home Rule City Act, which limits prosecutions to crimes punishable by up to 93 days.

Because a Michigan super drunk offender can now be incarcerated for up to 180 days, only a small number of city prosecutors will be able to prosecute this new crime. The super drunk offender will be prosecuted at the state level, i.e., by the elected county prosecutor in the county in which the crime was committed, rather than at the local level. This change may have an impact on the availability of plea bargaining for first-offense super drunks.

### Conclusion

It is unclear whether this new law will have any meaningful impact on driver safety. Under the pre-amendment law, it was quite common for first-offense drunk drivers to plead guilty to the lesser offense of impaired driving. Depending on how plea bargaining is handled for the new offense, the new law will either have no impact or clog court dockets with unnecessary trials. This is because it seems entirely plausible that super drunk offenders will be offered the option of pleading guilty to traditional operating while intoxicated (OWI) or operating while visibly impaired (OWVI), thereby avoiding the requirement for installation of a breath alcohol ignition interlock device and other enhanced sanctions altogether. It is also entirely plausible that more trials will result if such reductions are not offered.

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*Patrick T. Barone is the principal and founding member of The Barone Defense Firm, of Birmingham, whose practice is limited exclusively to defending drinking drivers. He can be reached at 248.594.4554 or on the web at [www.drunkdrivinginmichigan.com](http://www.drunkdrivinginmichigan.com).*

### Endnotes

- 1 Rule of thumb: Every unit of alcohol (0.6 fluid ounces of pure alcohol) raises BAC by .025 in women and .015 in men.

## This Year's Scholarship Winners



Pictured: Andrea Barragan, Cheryl Nodarse (Scholarship Committee chair), Teri Rhadigan, Theresa Ergang, Amber Gingiloski, and Casey Mobley (section chair).

The SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section awarded \$3,000 in scholarships for calendar year 2011 to the following applicants:

### **\$1,000 to Theresa Ergang, Davenport University student**

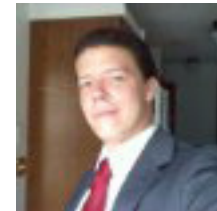
Theresa Ergang, of Grand Rapids, has a 3.42 GPA and expects to graduate from Davenport's paralegal program in 2012. She served in the United States Air Force as an emergency medical technician and, following an honorable discharge, worked in the aerospace industry. Both of her parents were military police officers, and she has always had a passion for the law. She has been inducted into the Davenport University chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success and is president of The Legal Assistants @ Davenport University club. She volunteers at the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center, a 69-bed facility that provides temporary confinement for juvenile offenders who are awaiting court action. She hopes to pursue a career in law enforcement at the federal level.

### **\$750 to Amber Gingiloski, Madonna University student**

Amber Gingiloski, of Farmington, has a 3.88 GPA and expects to graduate from Madonna University's paralegal studies program in 2013. While working for a computer forensics firm, Amber found she especially enjoyed the research aspect of her job. She represented herself in small claims court—preparing and filing all the paperwork, representing herself at the hearings—and was told by an observant attorney that she should consider becoming a paralegal. She is active in a number of Madonna University service organizations, including TRiO, a tutoring program for low-income, first-generation and disabled students; the Paralegal Studies Student Club's Christmas for Kids Program; and EVO (Ecological Volunteer Organization), a student-run organization that seeks to help the community preserve the environment. She has been a notetaker for Madonna University's Office of Disability Resources for three semesters.

### **\$500 to Joseph Benedict, Eastern Michigan University (EMU) student**

Joseph Benedict, of Tecumseh, has a 3.8 GPA and expects to graduate from EMU's paralegal studies program in 2013. He decided to pursue a degree in paralegal studies when he discovered a love for the law in a class on the American legal system in his last semester at EMU before completing a bachelor's degree in history in June 2010. He chose to pursue a second bachelor's degree in paralegal studies rather than go on to law school because he believes he can benefit the client in a similar way but at a lower cost. He works as a student assistant at EMU's Halle Library and as a records clerk at Bodman PLC, in Ann Arbor. He hopes to work in a small- to mid-sized law firm, where his work can have the greatest impact.



[continued on next page](#)

**Scholarship Winners**

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**\$250 to Andrea Barragan, Oakland Community College student**

Andrea Barragan, of Lincoln Park, has a 3.36 GPA and expects to graduate from Oakland Community College's paralegal associate's program in 2012 and earn her bachelor's degree in 2014. She began working in the legal field as a file room clerk six years ago; in the fall of 2010, she completed a paralegal internship at Plunkett Cooney, where she has worked since 2008; and, at the beginning of this year, she was promoted to litigation support paralegal. She describes paralegal work as her passion; she especially loves the investigative work. She currently volunteers at Gleaners Community Food Bank and hopes to volunteer her paralegal services to a legal aid organization.

**\$250 to Teri Rhadigan, Macomb Community College student**

Teri Rhadigan, of St. Clair Shores, has a 3.8 GPA and expects to graduate with an associate's degree from Macomb Community College's paralegal studies program in December 2011. She began working at Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA, in a part-time clerical position in 2005 while pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Oakland University, which she completed in 2006. In 2007, she changed her career plan by accepting a promotion to full-time legal secretary and taking evening classes in paralegal studies at MCC. In 2008, she was promoted to litigation paralegal. In May 2010, she was promoted

to supervisor. She was one of six employees chosen to participate in her firm's inaugural Leadership Development Program, designed to develop leadership skills through biweekly discussion groups, readings, and mentoring. Presently, Teri is the president of MCC's Legal Assistants Association and a member of the MCC Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa national honor society.

**\$250 to Darryl Todd, Davenport University student**

Darryl Todd, of Muskegon, has a 3.9 GPA and expects to graduate from Davenport's paralegal program in 2012. At one time, he planned to go to law school, but then had a successful career in sales. When his employer closed its Grand Rapids office, he took the opportunity to enter the field in which he had always held a strong interest. He enjoys legal research, analysis, and problem-solving. He has volunteered with children for the past 12 years. He has coached boys' basketball and served on the board of Pathfinders, an organization dealing with at-risk inner-city youth. Presently, as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer, he commits to working for at least one year with a family with children in foster care. As a SIMBA (Safe in My Brother's Arms) mentor, he mentors at-risk preteen boys. Darryl's goal is to specialize in employment or bankruptcy law so he can help people on an individual basis.

**Notice**

We are gathering historical materials related to the SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section for our archives. If you have any photos, articles, minutes, etc., related to the Section gathering dust in your basement or closet, and you are willing to share, please contact Jeanne Nyhuis at [jnyhuis@wnj.com](mailto:jnyhuis@wnj.com) or (616) 396-3104.

Thank you.

## Section Receives Accolades for 2011 Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting of the SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section was conveniently located at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn, in the Detroit Metropolitan area, the morning of September 16, 2011. A two-hour continuing education session was offered at no charge to the section's 400-some paralegal members and any non-members who might want to attend.

Those who attended had great things to say about DUI defense attorney Patrick Barone's presentation on Michigan's new "super drunk" law:

- *Excellent speaker; very knowledgeable.*
- *Knowledge above and beyond what most presenters bring to a topic.*
- *Information presented in an understandable and entertaining format.*
- *Excellent knowledge of background of law and science of alcohol.*

The best thing about the meeting...

- *Current/new law was highlighted.*
- *Love the videos—even with the vomit [referring to video of Steve Carell as a passenger in the vehicle of his very drunk blind date].*
- *The many anecdotes.*
- *Great questions and answers.*
- *Networking with paralegals.*

Watch for photos of the annual meeting to appear on our website at [www.michbar.org/paralegal](http://www.michbar.org/paralegal) (click on News link). Hope to see you next year!



## Nominations for Shining Star Award

The State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section welcomes nominations for its monthly “Shining Star” Award to honor paralegals who have gone above and beyond what is expected of them professionally by contributing to charitable and community service organizations. Each award winner will be featured on the SBM website and in this newsletter and will receive a congratulatory certificate and a gift card.

Please submit your nomination at <http://www.michbar.org/paralegal/shiningstaraward.cfm>.

For more information, contact Casey Mobley at [mobleyc@northwood.edu](mailto:mobleyc@northwood.edu).

## “Shining Star” Award Winners

By Casey M. Mobley

The State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section presented its “Shining Star” Award to the following Michigan paralegals, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to charitable and community service organizations.



### July 2011 winner:

**Charlie Campbell** received the award for his work helping low-income people in Kent County. He is the program coordinator at Legal Assistance Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation in Grand Rapids. He began working at the center as a student intern and continued to volunteer at the center even after he graduated from Davenport University and had been hired by an attorney in private practice. His dedication and work as a volunteer were of such a high caliber that the center hired him on staff. He is a valuable asset to the center and very enthusiastic about his job and his profession. (Photo by Cynthia Price, Grand Rapids Legal News)



### August 2011 winner:

**Vicki Voisin** has worked as a paralegal for more than 20 years and has become a nationally recognized author and speaker, widely known for her paralegal seminars, her work mentoring other paralegals, and her unique approach to ethics training for legal staff. She writes comprehensively about how paralegals can enhance and advance their careers in *The Paralegal Mentor: Strategies for Paralegals Seeking Excellence*, a biweekly magazine. She is co-host of “The Paralegal Voice” on Legal Talk Network. And she writes a weekly online magazine called *Paralegal Strategies*. She has served as president of NALA and president of the SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section.

Each winner received a congratulatory certificate and a gift card.

Please submit a nomination at <http://www.michbar.org/paralegal/shiningstaraward.cfm>.

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*Casey Mobley, a paralegal at Capitol Bancorp Ltd., in Lansing, is ex-officio chairperson of the State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section.*

## New Council Members

*Elected to Council at the Section's Sept. 16 Annual Meeting*



**Tracy Lee Muck, Treasurer**  
**2011-2013**

Tracy graduated from the University of Michigan in Flint in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in political science. She earned a post-bachelor paralegal certificate from Lansing Community College in 2009. She is employed part-time as a paralegal in the Compliance Department at the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) and part-time as a pharmacy technician in the UMHS Cancer Center's infusion pharmacy. She has served on the section's Annual Meeting Committee since January 2011. She lives in Howell with her husband, David, and their four-year-old son, Samuel.



**Jennifer M. Petty, Council Member**  
**2011-2013**

Jennifer graduated from Oakland University's Legal Assistant Program in 1998 and became a section member in 2003. She has worked for the Michigan Attorney Discipline Board in Detroit for the past 12 years; she also serves as its webmaster. She sits on the Advisory Board for the Paralegal Program at Henry Ford Community College. Jennifer served as a section council member in 2005-2006 and spoke on the topic of ethics at the section's Annual Day of Education in 2004. Her special interest is pro bono opportunities for Michigan paralegals. She lives in Redford with her son, Keith.



**Kelly J. Dufty, Council Member**  
**2011-2013**

Kelly graduated from Saginaw Valley State University in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and French. She earned a post-bachelor paralegal certificate from the American Institute of Paralegal Studies in 2007 and CP certification from NALA in 2008. She is currently pursuing a certificate in translation, with a focus in legal and commercial translation, from New York University. She is founder and manager of Linguistic Arete, LLC, based in Lansing, which offers legal and business/commercial translation services. Kelly has just completed a 2009-2011 term on the council and has been re-elected to a second term. Kelly lives in Lansing and is engaged to be married later this year.



**Megan G. Vogrig, Council Member**  
**2011-2013**

Megan graduated from Grand Valley State University in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and legal studies. She was employed for four years with Dodge & Dodge, P.C., in Grand Rapids, and worked in criminal defense. She is currently employed as a litigation paralegal with Warner Norcross & Judd LLP, in Grand Rapids. She is a member of NALS. She lives in Rockford with her husband, Scott, and their four-year-old daughter, Emma.

# Council News

By Jeanne Nyhuis, CP

## *Highlights of recent meetings of the council of the SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section*

**July 23, 2011:** The council met on Saturday, July 23, 2011, at 10:50 a.m., at Hubbard Law Firm, P.C., in Lansing.

The Annual Day of Education Committee reported that Oakland Community College in Bloomfield Hills has been locked in as the location for the 2012 Day of Education on May 4, 2012.

The section's annual meeting will be held on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, 9 a.m. to noon, at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn, beginning with the business meeting. DUI defense attorney Patrick Barone will speak for approximately 90 minutes on Michigan's "super drunk" law.

Grand Rapids paralegal Charlie Campbell is the first winner of the section's Shining Star Award. He has been given a \$15 gift card to Biggby.

The Scholarship Committee reported that, although a smaller number of scholarship applications was received this year, the quality of the applications is high. After reviewing the 12 applications, the council voted to award a total of \$3,000 in scholarships to six applicants, in the following amounts: one \$1,000 scholarship, one \$750 scholarship, one \$500 scholarship, and three \$250 scholarships. The recipients will be formally awarded their scholarships at the section's annual meeting in September.

The Membership Committee reported that the section currently has 419 paralegal members.

A council member's suggestion that the council devote greater attention to offering leadership training and support to the section's membership led to a discussion of various ways to encourage more paralegals to get involved in the section. Suggestions included posting council minutes on the website, sending out email blasts inviting paralegals to upcoming council meetings, adopting a service requirement for section membership, engaging in more one-

on-one mentoring, and sponsoring functions in various regions of the state. The council will recruit individuals from the general section membership to serve on a new committee devoted to this endeavor.

**September 15, 2011:** The council met on Thursday, Sept. 15, 2011, at 8:55 p.m., at Giulio & Sons Restaurant, in the Hyatt Regency Dearborn, site of the SBM annual meeting.

The council discussed final preparations for the section's annual meeting and the need to gather and preserve all important records for the 2010-2011 year for a permanent record.

The Membership Committee reported that the section currently has 480 members.

**September 16, 2011:** The annual meeting of the SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section was held on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, at 9 a.m., at the Hyatt Regency Dearborn.

Kelly Dufty, Jennifer Petty, and Megan Vogrig were declared elected to the three open council seats for a 2011-2013 term; Tracy Muck was declared elected as treasurer for a 2011-2013 term.

Section scholarship winners Andrea Barragan, Teri Rhadigan, Theresa Ergang, and Amber Gingiloski were formally recognized and presented with their scholarships.

Renee Jent presented a short history of LAAM (which dissolved in 2007) and announced that all funds remaining in LAAM's general account, totaling \$5,642.23, have been donated to the SBM Access to Justice Fund.

**September 16, 2011:** The council met on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011, at 12:30 p.m., at Big Fish Seafood Bistro, in Dearborn, Michigan, to schedule upcoming meetings and committee assignments.

**Complete minutes are available to section members upon request to the section secretary.**

**The council scheduled the following meetings (all open to the public) for 2011-2012:**

- **November 12, 2011**, at 10 a.m. (at SBM headquarters, in Lansing)
- **January 21, 2012**, at 10 a.m. (location tbd)
- **March 3, 2012**, at 10 a.m. (location tbd)
- **May 3, 2012** (at Oakland Community College, day before Annual Day of Education)
- **July 21, 2012**, at 10 a.m. (location tbd)
- **September 20, 2012** (day before section's annual meeting).

*Jeanne Nyhuis, a paralegal at Warner Norcross & Judd LLP, in Holland, is secretary of the State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section.*

# Report on NALA's 2011 Annual Convention

By Kelly J. Dufty, CP

I had a great opportunity this year to attend NALA's 36th Annual Convention & Exhibition, held in Dallas, July 27-30. I had some concerns that, since this was a national convention, I might not benefit from the legal aspect as much as I would from a Michigan-oriented conference. I was wrong.

NALA offered several institutes, in essential skills, corporate, estate planning, litigation technology, real estate, personal injury, and Social Security. In addition to sponsoring the continuing legal education tracks, NALA provided the opportunity to attend its annual meeting to get an inside look at how the association functions.

The convention kicked off with a keynote speaker who discussed social media and how it has impacted the legal profession and can be utilized in trial. After hearing the keynote, I attended the Corporate Institute, presented by Joel Farrar, an attorney with Foster Swift Collins & Smith P.C., in Lansing. The presentation was three days long and provided a great, in-depth overview of corporate law. Although the presenter is from a Michigan firm, the institute covered corporate law in general, from start-up, through contracts, down to dissolution. Being part of a national audience was actually quite advantageous because my classmates brought up situations and solutions on various issues from a variety of perspectives. Although state laws vary, useful strategies somewhat common to all were shared and analyzed.

The networking opportunities were immeasurably valuable. I socialized with people in both of my current professions—with other paralegals and translators. As always, my networking contacts will be a resource I can utilize for years to come.

This convention is one that I would highly recommend to anyone in the paralegal profession, and I am already awaiting the 2012 agenda!

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*Kelly Dufty, a contract paralegal and owner/manager of Linguistic Arete, LLC, a translation services firm based in Lansing, is a council member of the State Bar of Michigan Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section.*

## New Section Members

- David S. Anderson (Lansing)
- Erin C. Cassaday (Detroit)
- Julie K. Cowles (Mt. Pleasant)
- Eric L. Duncan, Sr. (Detroit)
- Kathaleen M. Forde (Flint)
- Concetta P. Harsen (Mt. Clemens)
- Sherry M. McNamara (Traverse City)
- Steven J. Mogdis (Madison Heights)
- Linda G. Morrison (Petoskey)
- Rebecca Opiari (Bloomfield Hills)
- Leasha M. Padgett (Petoskey)
- Felicia D. Parent (Lansing)
- Doreen A. Stanard (Grand Rapids)
- Megan G. Vogrig (Grand Rapids)
- Laura E. West (Dexter)



## Calendar of Events

### NALS

[www.nalsofmichigan.org](http://www.nalsofmichigan.org)

- October 1, 2011, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
NALS of Michigan “Arm Yourself with Legal Education” full- or half-day seminar  
Holiday Inn Grand Rapids  
310 Pearl Street, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- November 5, 2011, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
NALS of Michigan “Special Education—Special Families” seminar  
Michael Franck Building  
(SBM headquarters)  
306 Townsend Street  
Lansing, MI 48933

### NALS

[www.nals.org](http://www.nals.org)

- October 13-16, 2011  
NALS 60th Annual Education Conference & National Forum  
Hyatt Regency Cincinnati  
151 West Fifth Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

**(Please verify date and information on the organization’s websites)**

### NFPA

[www.paralegals.org](http://www.paralegals.org)

- October 13–16, 2011  
NFPA 2011 Annual Convention and Policy Meeting  
Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America  
3800 American Boulevard East  
Bloomington, MN 55425

### SBM Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

[www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org)

- Friday, May 4, 2012  
2012 Annual Day of Education  
Oakland Community College  
2480 Opdyke Road  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

### NALA

[www.nala.org](http://www.nala.org)

- July 25–26, 2012  
NALA 37th Annual Convention & Exhibition  
Hilton Omaha  
1001 Cass Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

### SBM

[www.michbar.org](http://www.michbar.org)

- September 19–21, 2012  
SBM Annual Meeting  
DeVos Place  
303 Monroe Avenue, N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

### NALS HOSTS LEGAL SEMINAR

NALS of Michigan presents “Arm Yourself” with Legal Education, Saturday, October 1, 2011 at the Holiday Inn, 310 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Full- or half-day seminar.

Topics include:

- **Self-Defense Instruction** – Tony Danielski, West Michigan Krav Maga
- **Defense of CCW Charges** – Charles M. Kronzek, Esq., Kronzek & Cronkright
- **U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms** – Sonja Everitt, Bureau of ATF
- **The Cooley Law School “Innocence Project”** – Donna McKneelen, Esq., Cooley Law
- **A Senator’s View of CCW** – Senator Mike Green, 31st District
- **Grand Rapids Police Department** – Lt. Patrick Merrill, records management system and weapons offenses
- [Optional field trip] **Silver Bullet Firearms**, 5121 South Division – Firing Range

For cost, more information, or to register, see [www.nalsofmichigan.org](http://www.nalsofmichigan.org), or contact Carolyn Field at [cfield@wnj.com](mailto:cfield@wnj.com). Information regarding NALS of Michigan, membership, and certification can be obtained at [www.nalsofmichigan.org](http://www.nalsofmichigan.org).

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