

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN SECTION ANNUAL REPORT

Bar Year: 2007-1008

Section Name: Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section

The Section's name change request (from Legal Assistants Section to Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section) was approved by the Board of Commissioners in April, 2008.

Mission Statement: The Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section of the State Bar of Michigan provides education, information and analysis about issues of concern through meetings, seminars, this site, public service programs, and publication of a newsletter. Membership in the Section is open to qualified 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.

Officers and Council Members:

Officer	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
Chair	Cheryl J. Nodarse, CLA	P.O. Box 80857 Lansing, MI 48908-0857	(517) 886-7176	cnodarse@hubbardlaw.com
Chair-Elect	Nicole M. Cook	701 N. Oakland Laingsburg, MI	(517) 896-1016	ncook@lsaservices.com
Secretary	Jeanne Nyhuis	25 W. 8 th St, Ste 200, Holland, MI 49423	(616) 396-1803	nyhuis@butzel.com
Treasurer	Marianne Delaney, CLA	15041 Commerce Dr S, Dearborn 48120	(313) 253-7510	Mdelane6@ford.com

Member	Term
Cheryl J. Nodarse, CLA – Chair	'07-08
Nicole M. Cook – Chair-Elect	'07-08
Denise M. Gau – Ex Officio	'07-08
Jeanne M. Nyhuis – Secretary	'07-09
Marianne B. Delaney – Treasurer	'07-09
Ida Rose Farhat	'07-09
Rebecca C. Opipari	'07-09
Jaxine L. Wintjen	'07-09
Brian P. English	'06-08
Vanessa A. Lozzi	'07-08
Elsie I. Morren	'07-08

Section Committees:

- Annual Meeting Committee – KathyAnn Blunck
- Education Committee – Nicole M. Cook
- Job Bank – Margaret L. Agius, CLA
- Membership Committee – Kevin D. Gasiewski, CLAS
- Policies Committee – Kathleen D. Kasiorek, CP & Jaxine L. Wintjen, CLA
- Pro Bono Committee
- Public Relations Committee – Linda S. Jevahirian
- Scholarship Committee – Rebecca Opipari
- Section Name Change Ad Hoc Committee – Vicki Voisin, ACP
- Website Committee - Kathleen D. Kasiorek, CP

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Council Meeting Schedule:

Please attach any additional information needed regarding Council meetings as an addendum.

Meeting Type	Date	Location
First Meeting of New Council	September 28, 2008	Amway, Grand Rapids, MI
Council Meeting	November 10, 2007	Hubbard Law Firm, Lansing, MI
Council Meeting	January 12, 2008	Via Telephone Conference
Council Meeting	March 22, 2008	Via Telephone Conference
Council Meeting	May 1, 2008	St. Johns Inn, Plymouth, MI
Council Meeting	July 20, 2008	Via Telephone Conference
Last Meeting of Council	September 18, 2008	Hyatt, Dearborn, MI

General Budget Information: As of April 30, 2008 (prior to the Annual Day of Education event), the Fund Balance was \$33,427.49.

Events and/or Seminars:

Event or Seminar Title	Date	Location
Paralegal TasteFest	May 1, 2008	St. Johns Inn, Plymouth, MI
Annual Day of Education	May 2, 2008	St. Johns Inn, Plymouth, MI
Annual Meeting	September 19, 2008	Hyatt, Dearborn, MI
Scholarship Award Ceremony	September 19, 2008	Hyatt, Dearborn, MI

Paralegal TasteFest – This was a vendor/networking event held on the evening prior to the Annual Day of Education. It was very well attended and received by both vendors and participants. The event was attended by approximately 60 people, including council members. This event, and the Annual Day of Education, was coordinated with the assistance of State Bar staff. Heather Anderson, in particular, helped in a significant part.

Annual Day of Education – This year’s (18th) Annual Day of Education focused on ADR, with a presentation of “ADR 101” in the morning general session and the following breakout sessions in the afternoon: “How to Become a Mediator,” “Labor & Employment ADR,” “Construction Law ADR” and “Commercial Law ADR.” A noon luncheon was served in The Atrium at the St. Johns Inn. The event was attended by approximately 60 people, including council members.

Annual Meeting/Scholarship Award Ceremony – As in past years, this year’s Annual Meeting and Scholarship Award presentation will be held in conjunction with the State Bar Annual Conference. The Scholarship Award recipients will be notified in August, and invited to attend the meeting.

Legislative issues: Pursuant to Governor Proclamation, May 1, 2008, was declared “Paralegal/Legal Assistant Day” in the State of Michigan.

Section Membership: As of January, 2008, the Section has a total of 492 members.

Section Bylaws: The Section Bylaws are revised as of April, 2008, to reflect the Board of Commissioners’ approval of the request for a name change. The revisions are solely for the purpose of replacing all references to “legal assistant” with “paralegal/legal assistant.”

Section Publications: The council approved website distribution of the “Michigan Paralegal,” a periodical produced by the Section (Denise Gau, Editor). Previously, the “Michigan Paralegal” was published and mailed to all members at significant expense. In light of several other Sections converting to digital-only publications, the Paralegal/Legal Assistant Section decided to similarly publish directly to the website.

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Section Scholarships: Each year, the Section awards scholarships to college students currently enrolled in Michigan paralegal/legal assistant programs. Scholarship applications are due June 1, 2008, and award winners will be determined by the council in July. The award winners will be notified in August and invited to attend the Section's Annual Meeting in September, 2008, at which time the Section will hold a short award ceremony.

Recommendations for next Council: The next council should continue work on a comprehensive strategic plan, currently under development (Ida Farhat).

Reports must be submitted before May 31 of each year, to:

Heather K. Anderson
Sections and Committees Administrator
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