



PERSPECTIVE

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Spring 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By JoAnne Haffeman

Greeting my fellow members – I have several items to report to you as the winter winds yield to the promise of spring and the warmth of summer (how's that for poetic?)

First, the Federation of the Bar Association of Japan and the Japanese Association of Legal Assistants & Paralegals has requested a meeting with the Executive Board to discuss various aspects of the formation and operation of our Association. The Executive Board will be meeting with a group of 12 representatives from Japan in June. Needless to say we are very honored and flattered to be selected by these distinguished groups to participate in these discussions.

As this President's Message is being written, the New Jersey Paralegal Convention is working to put together the 2013 Convention. The "Save the Date" flyer is in this Newsletter. Please mark your calendars and tell all your friends and colleagues. Better yet, volunteer to work on the Convention Committee. Many hands make short work!

Next, PANJ is working to go Green. It is our intent to start delivering Perspective via email. Our tentative plan is put a link to the newsletter on our webpage, www.NJPara.org and then send an email notifying you that the newsletter is available. We will keep you posted as to the details. In the meantime, please make sure that we have a current and good email. If you have any doubt or have not received any emails regarding dinner meetings, please email me with a current address at johaff@gmail.com. Please remember that if you have provided your work email and you change law firms, you will need to provide this information.

As you will note, in addition to DGR and Guaranteed Subpoena, who have been fantastic supporters of the Association, there are two more advertising sponsors for the newsletter, the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals (NADN) and The Union Anesthesia Associates and Raritan Anesthesia Associates Pain Management. NADN consists of ADR professionals distinguished by their hands-on experience in the field of civil and commercial conflict resolution, and by their commitment to the practice of alternative dispute resolution. The NADN recently established a chapter in New Jersey. If you have an ADR or Mediation case and your case involves an NADN member, you can click on the link at www.NJMediators.org/quicksearch, and check the member's schedule and schedule your arbitration/mediation online. What is important is that this service is free!

The Union Anesthesia Associates and Raritan Anesthesia Associates Pain Management, in addition to providing treatment for neck and back pain can also provide timely medical reports regarding injuries and treatments.

As a reminder, the PANJ website now includes a page for the Job Bank. Members can either consult the Job Bank page for recent job listing or post a job listing at your law firm on the website. The login and password is published in each issue of *Perspective*. In addition, you may contact Carol Synder, our newest Board Member and chair of the Job Bank Committee, at carolsnyder96@gmail.com to obtain the current login and password.

Finally, a word about the New Jersey State Bar Special Committee on Paralegals. Paralegals are eligible to join the New Jersey State Bar as associate members, which basically gives you all the benefits of attorney membership except for voting rights. Once a member, you are eligible to join the Special Committee. The Committee works tirelessly to promote and further the paralegal profession in New Jersey. I have served on the Special Committee longer than I care to think about and hope that you will give some thought to serving as well. The meetings are held every six weeks. If you want to have a voice in deciding the future direction of the profession, this is the place to be.

With that I wish you all a safe and happy summer!

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NALA News

by Kandi Moncelsi, ACP

If you've ever thought about sitting for the CLA exam, now is the time! NALA has recently announced two new advanced paralegal certifications: Real Estate Principles and Family Law-Child Custody, Support & Visitation. The NALA Certifying Board has also announced new specifications for the Certified Paralegal examination, effective with the September 2013 testing. The NALA press release announces the changes as follows:

The new examination specifications call for minor adjustments to the number of points per topic within all sections of the examination. No new topics were introduced in any examination area.

The most significant modification is the elimination of several practice area tests under the Substantive Law section. The Job Task Analysis study demonstrated that, on a nationwide basis, a low percentage of paralegals utilize the knowledge and skills tested by these practice area examination sections on a regular and routine basis in the workplace.

In addition, the option to test in certain specialty practice areas will no longer be available to examinees. All examinees will take the same Substantive Law section of the examination, as is the case with all other sections of the Certified Paralegal examination.

Effective with the September 2013 testing, the Substantive Law section will consist of questions on the following subjects:

- American Legal System
- Civil Litigation
- Business Organizations
- Contracts

With these modifications, the Certifying Board listened to member and nonmember paralegals, and applied findings of the Job Task Analysis study to the exam specifications. The Certifying Board strives to link the Certified Paralegal examination directly to the day to day duties and responsibilities of paralegals in the workplace. The modifications announced for the September 2013 examination are a continued effort to ensure the Certified Paralegal examination remains an accurate and relevant reflection of the duties and responsibilities of today's paralegals.

A detailed list of specifications for the Certified Paralegal examination may be found on the NALA web site under "Certification/Certified Paralegal Exam Description" as well as a more detailed statement of these modifications.

The User ID for the Job Bank Page is: **jobbank**

The Password is. . . . **winter2013**



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Per the PANJ By Laws the election process requires those who are nominated for positions on the Executive Board must then accept the nomination. Although more than one person was nominated for certain Board positions, only one person accepted the nomination. Therefore, voting by the general membership is not required.

Celebrating 20 Years of Education to the Paralegal Community

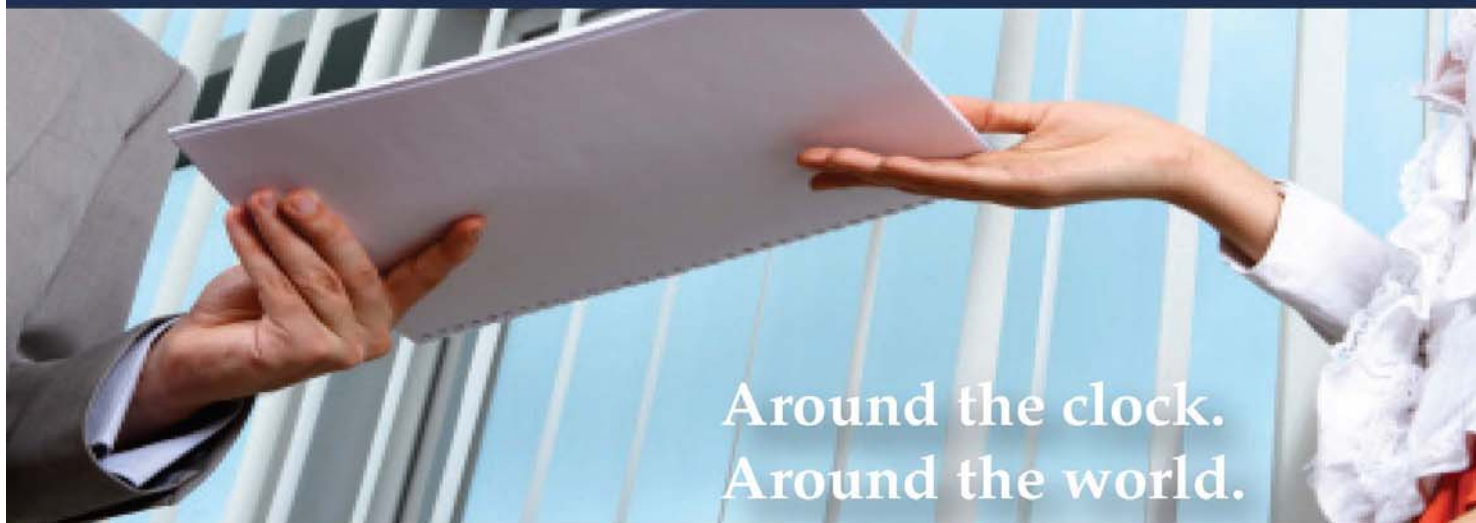


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* The National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals is an association of attorney mediators and arbitrators who have substantial experience in the resolution of commercial and civil disputes. All members have been recognized for their accomplishments through the Academy's peer nomination system and extensive attorney-client review process. Membership is by invitation-only and is limited to individuals who devote a substantial percentage of their professional efforts to ADR practice. To access our FREE National database of 800 attorneys across 45 states, visit www.NADN.org/directory and select preferred state.

For more information about the NJ Academy, please visit www.NJMediators.org/about



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