

President's Message

Belinda T. Pruitt, CLAS



*H*ello To Everyone! I thank you for your vote of confidence in electing me President of the North Carolina Paralegal Association for a second term. I have enjoyed working with each of you the past year and appreciate the opportunity to do so again.

I have been a member of NCPA for 10 years and have served as Second Vice President, District IV Director, Chairman of the Board and CLA Review Course Chair. I have been employed by the firm of Vernon, Vernon, Wooten, Brown, Andrews & Garrett, P.A. for 15 years where I work primarily in the area of domestic law. Even though this is a hectic and stressful area of the law, I have felt that I have been able to contribute ideas and develop an expertise in my field.

Working with other NCPA members has been rewarding, first of all, because of the wonderful friends I have made. I have been able to call on a host of people to help me with personal issues as well as professional ones.

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Networking in NCPA is invaluable. Many times I have needed names of appraisers, cases that have just come down from the Court of Appeals, the costs of football tickets, copies of deeds, names of local attorneys and the usual every day crisis information. Invariably a fellow NCPA member has been there to give me the information with just the click of a few keys by email! I cannot imagine working without the

contacts all over the state. Our members are super knowledgeable but most of all willing to help. Don't miss out on becoming a more active member of NCPA by serving on a committee or officer position. The benefits are boundless to you personally and to your career!

Please feel free to call or email me with concerns or suggestions. We can't make improvements if we don't know what the problem is. On the flip side, it is encouraging to receive your ideas and comments when we're doing things right. Just let me hear from you.

So off we go to another year. I'm excited about the future of NCPA and my part in it. I hope each of you will take an active role and get on board today!

Chairman's Message

Theresa (Terry) Irvin, CLA



*"If a man empties his
purse into his head no one
can take it away from
him. An investment in
knowledge always pays
the best interest."*

Benjamin Franklin

*H*ow do you think of NCPA? Aside from the seminars, meetings, scholarships, and other programs that NCPA offers, have you considered all that NCPA has to offer you?

NCPA can provide you with:

- ◆ networking opportunities with your colleagues;
- ◆ educational opportunities to keep your skills current;
- ◆ avenues to bolster your strengths;
- ◆ avenues to strengthen your weakness;
- ◆ public speaking opportunities;
- ◆ the latest news and events affecting your professional career;
- ◆ writing opportunities;
- ◆ teaching opportunities;
- ◆ management experience;
- ◆ skills and education for your resume;
- ◆ a platform to learn from others in your field;
- ◆ possibilities to change your area of specialty;
- ◆ a path to excel in your professional career;
- ◆ a way to further your professional development in a safe environment;
- ◆ a chance to give a little back for the pioneers who have paved the road before you;
- ◆ a voice in the paralegal profession;
- ◆ job opportunities;
- ◆ news and information about the changing practice of law;
- ◆ a way to demonstrate your professional commitment.

How many of these have you thought about? What skills have you wanted to develop or improve upon? NCPA is here to help you in all these ways and more. We look forward to hearing from YOU!

"Our ability to achieve success depends on the strength of our wings gained through knowledge and experience. The greater our knowledge and experience, the higher we can fly."

Catherine Pulsifer