



WELCOME TO THE NCPA

Quarterly Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!

ABOUT THE FORUM

Our goal is to provide this newsletter every three months, bringing you laughter, helpful tips, and important updates. Here's what you can expect:

- Engaging Articles – We'll share interesting and insightful pieces we think you'll enjoy.
- Upcoming Events – Stay informed about key dates and events within NCPA.
- Community Updates – Important announcements and information to keep you in the loop.

We look forward to staying connected and sharing this space with you. Send us your ideas!



Welcome Summer!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings NCPA!

We are just a little over a month past our Annual Seminar and Meeting, and it was so wonderful to gather in person at Durham Tech. We had outstanding speakers, vendors, and attendees who helped make the event such a success. Crystal Robinson, NCCP, did an exceptional job coordinating the speakers for the day. Thank you to the entire Board for stepping up and doing whatever was needed to ensure we were able to host an in-person event.

Speaking of the Board, we have had some changes for 2026–2027. Heather Padgett, NCCP, has decided it is time to step down as Chairman of the Board. I truly cannot express how grateful I am for her service as COB. We will certainly miss her on the Board, but we know she is only an email away if we need her. Heather, thank you for your unwavering support and the incredible knowledge you have shared with me and NCPA over the past years. Best wishes to you!

Elizabeth Vance, ACP, NCCP, has graciously agreed to serve as COB in addition to her duties as NALA Liaison and assisting with the newsletter. Thank you, Elizabeth!

I also want to welcome Toni Harrison, NCCP, and Anne Nolan to the NCPA Board. We are so excited to have them join us!

To our returning Board members — Patti Clapper, ACP, NCCP; Abigail Powell, NCCP; Jennifer Smith-Sutphin, ACP, NCCP; Jennifer Eason, NCCP; Vikki Quarles, NCCP; Crystal Robinson, NCCP; and Elizabeth Vance, ACP, NCCP — thank you for your continued support and dedication. I am so fortunate to work alongside each of you.

I am excited to see what 2026–2027 holds for NCPA. If you have not joined us on Facebook, please do! Our page is active, and you never know what might pop up. I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer, and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming NCPA event soon!

Beverly K. Moore, NCCP
President

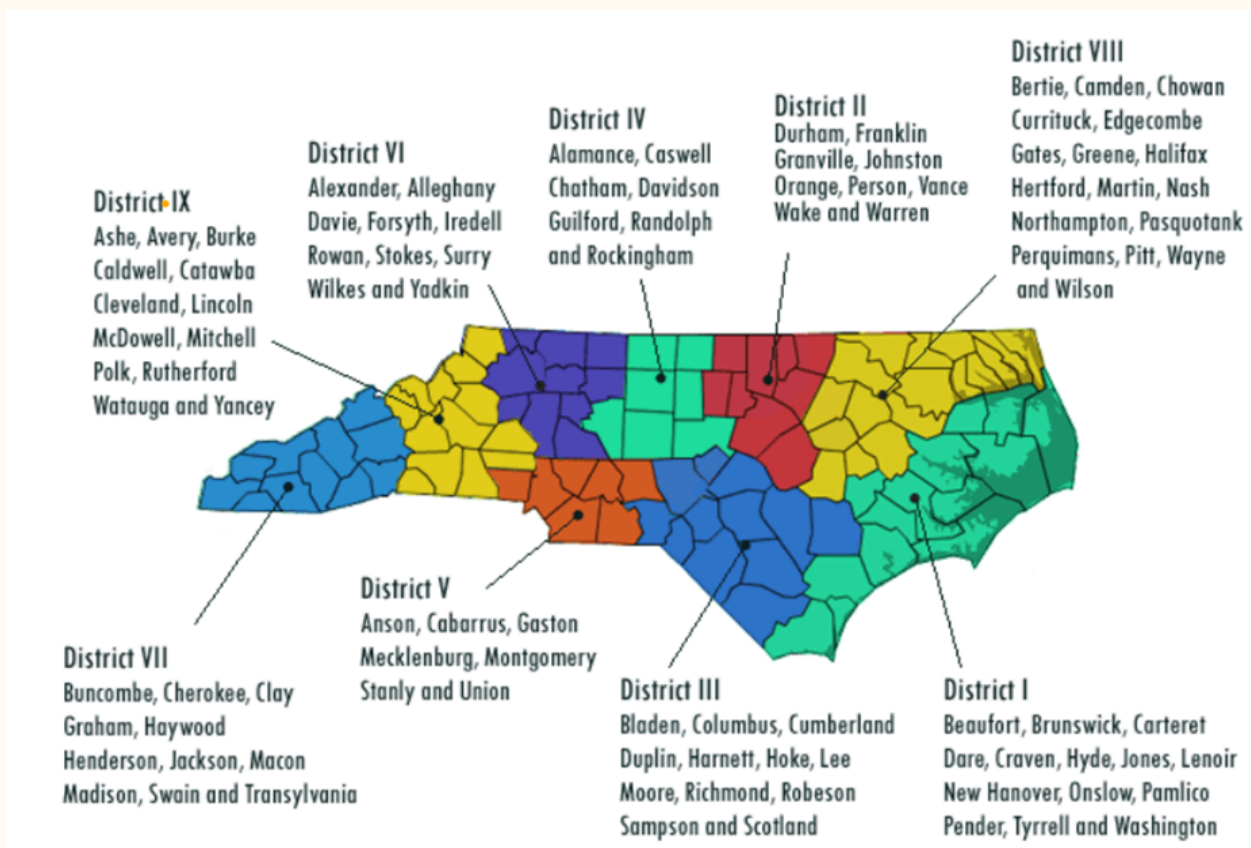
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am honored to serve as NCPA's new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Heather Padgett, NCCP, recently stepped down from this role after an extraordinary tenure. Heather holds the distinction of being the longest-serving Chairman in NCPA history, and we are deeply grateful for her dedication and leadership over the past nine years. During some of the organization's most challenging periods, she provided invaluable insight, wisdom, and stability. Her contributions to both NCPA and our Board have been tremendous, and she will be greatly missed in this position. We look forward to welcoming Heather back into a leadership role when her schedule permits.

Looking ahead, we are accepting nominations (and volunteers!) to serve as District Directors. These are crucial positions to ensure NCPA's continued statewide presence. This is not a time-consuming role – but it does require a desire to strengthen our association, serve our current members and recruit new members. We mostly need enthusiasm and commitment! If you are interested in learning more, or if you would like to nominate someone, please reach out to evance878@gmail.com.

We hope to hold several District Events this Fall. If you are interested in attending an event, or in helping to organize one, please let us know! Even suggestions of a Meet & Greet location or venue in your district would be extremely helpful - please email me with suggestions.

Elizabeth Vance, ACP, NCCP



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**As of June 1, 2026, NCPA has 205 Members,
categorized as follows:**

- 3 Associate**
- 1 Educational**
- 113 General**
- 2 Sustaining**
- 75 Student**

We appreciate each and every one of our members. If you have questions about your membership status, please login and check your Member Profile at [Member Login](#) or send an email to info@ncparalegal.org. If you would like to join NCPA, visit our website for details on levels of membership and application forms: [Join NCPA](#).

Patti Clapper, ACP, NCCP
Second Vice President, Membership

Annual Seminar 2026



2026 SEMINAR IN REVIEW

The NCPA Annual Seminar was held on April 24, 2026, at Durham Technical Community College. After several years of presenting via Zoom, we were so excited to bring back a live, in-person format. Thank you to the paralegals and paralegal students who attended and contributed their time, energy, and paralegal passion to this event. We are grateful to all of our speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors. Check out our Facebook page Albums for photos and more information.

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EXHIBITORS

DURHAM TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARALEGAL PROGRAM,
NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR BOARD OF PARALEGAL CERTIFICATION
PRECISION FORENSICS, CASE-CLOSED INVESTIGATIONS, INC., AND
NORTH CAROLINA PARALEGAL ASSOCIATION

DOOR PRIZE & SWAG DONATIONS

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DTCC PARALEGAL PROGRAM

NORTH CAROLINA MOCK TRIALS 2026



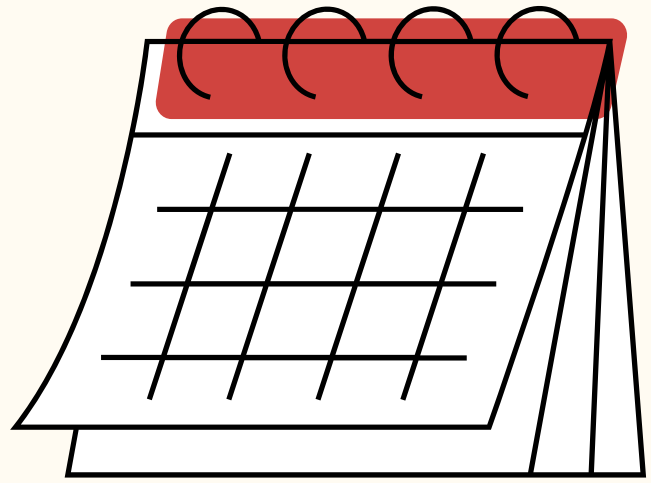
NCPA VOLUNTEERS

NCPA was represented at three North Carolina Mock Trial regional competition sites on February 7th. Patti Clapper (NCPA Coordinator and 2nd Vice President), served as site coordinator for the Hillsborough Region and Beverly Moore, NCPA President, was the site coordinator for the Lincolnton Regional. Patti and Beverly have many years of experience as coordinators for this full-day program. Elizabeth Vance, NALA Liaison, volunteered for the first time for the High Point Regional.

The competition is a massive undertaking, and each site simply cannot function without the many paralegals and law students who handle registration, welcoming the teams, staffing the information table, providing information to observers, serving as courtroom liaisons and monitors, helping with tabulation of results, preparing for the awards ceremony, and much, much more. Volunteers also get a front-row seat at the future stars of the legal profession.

The competition is held each year on the first Saturday in February, and volunteers are always needed. Check NCPA's Facebook page this winter and don't hesitate to volunteer at any one of the 12 regional sites throughout North Carolina.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM WITH THIS [LINK](#)



EVENTS

NCPA ANNUAL SEMINAR 2027

Will be in Person
Spring, 2027 - Details TBA

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR CERTIFIED PARALEGAL EXAM

August 15, 2026 is the deadline to register for the
October Exam

Details:

<https://www.ncbar.gov/paralegal-certification/why-become-a-certified-paralegal/important-dates/>

NALA CONFERENCE & EXPO

July 22-24, 2027: Indian Wells, California

July 20-22, 2028: Dallas, Texas

July 19-21, 2029: Charlotte Harbor, Florida

HELPFUL TIPS & RESOURCES

Anyone unable to attend the 2026 Seminar in person, the on-demand video replays of each session will be available soon for purchase as individual sessions. Stay tuned to our website for availability:

<https://www.ncparalegal.org/register-for-online-video-library>.

ARE YOU PLUGGED IN? Find ongoing blog posts and updates specific to North Carolina Civil law topics based on legislation, case law, and ethics from the **UNC School of Government**:

<https://civil.sog.unc.edu/>



PARALEGAL CORNER: RIDDLE ME THIS!

Take a quick break from deadlines and discovery and test your legal wit with this month's Paralegal Riddles! See how many you can solve before checking the answers.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWERS TO CRYSTAL AT
CRYSTALROBINSON1975@GMAIL.COM FOR A
CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE
1ST 5 CORRECT ANSWERS WILL WIN

Question 1:

I'm filed and stored, reviewed with care, I help decide if cases are fair. Emails, memos, texts, and more— I'm what discovery is for.

What am I?

Question 2:

I hold the truth in black and white, Signed and sworn, I'm used in fights. I'm read aloud, I make things clear— In court, you'll often find me here.

What am I?



Challenge for Members:

Got a great legal riddle of your own? Submit it for a chance to be featured in next month's newsletter!

Email to info@ncparalegal.org.

FAMILY LAW UPDATE

New Laws Regarding Deeds and Marital Rights Went into Effect on October 1, 2025

Session Law 2025-25 (enacted June 26, 2025) changes how marital rights – specifically those related to equitable distribution (N.C.G.S. 50-20) and elective life estates (N.C.G.S. 29-30) – are waived and extinguished among spouses in North Carolina.

Key Points

- **Equitable Distribution Rights Can No Longer Be Waived in a Deed.** Upon passage of Session Law 2025-25, a deed alone cannot sufficiently waive a spouse's right to equitable distribution. (See N.C.G.S. §39-13.3(a)(2)).
- **Elective Life Estate Rights Require Express Waiver Language.** To effectively waive a spouse's right to an elective life estate, the deed must include explicit waiver language. (See N.C.G.S. §39-13.3(a)(1)).
- **An Explicit "Deed Between Spouses" Provision Is Essential.** Incorporate the revised statutory language, below, into your next deed between spouses. If your deed templates are older than Dracula's cape, it's time for a refresh!

Practical Points

- Both spouses should always execute the deed when marital rights are waived.
- Include clear, express waiver language for elective life estate and other marital rights; however, do not rely on a deed alone to waive equitable distribution rights.

Deed Between Spouses Provision:

This conveyance is made pursuant to N.C.G.S. 39-13.3(a), N.C.G.S. 41-56(b), N.C.G.S. 41-63(4), N.C.G.S. 52-10 and N.C.G.S. 52-10.1 in order to vest title to the within described property solely in the Grantee herein, free and clear of any right, title and interest of the Grantor herein. (For purposes of this provision, the "Grantor" shall mean any Grantor other than the individual Grantee spouse in whom title is to remain vested herein). This conveyance is made after fair and reasonable disclosure of the property and financial obligations, both real and personal, of each spouse to the other, as between Grantee and Grantee's spouse Grantor.

For this purpose and with regard to the property and any interests and rights described herein or related thereto, by execution of this deed, the Grantor hereby waives, releases and quitclaims forever unto the Grantee (1) any and all right to share in the estate of the Grantee upon the Grantee's death as provided in N.C.G.S. 29-14, or pursuant to a Last Will and Testament or codicil thereto of the Grantee, (2) all and every right to elect to take a life estate in said real estate pursuant to N.C.G.S. 29-30 upon the death of the Grantee, (3) all and every right to an elective share in the estate of the Grantee pursuant to N.C.G.S. 30-3.1 et seq, (4) any and all rights arising from application of the community property laws of any state, and (5) any and all other rights and interests in said real estate which the Grantor now has or may hereafter have or acquire arising out of or accruing to said Grantor by reason of past, current or future marital relationship with the Grantee.

NALA News
Elizabeth Vance, ACP, NCCP
NALA Liaison



ACCOLADES

Congratulations to these North Carolina paralegals who earned NALA's Certified Paralegal designation between January 2025 and February 2026: Anabella Roithner, Brooke Tilley, Lenore Vitale-Sadej, Brianna Jordaya Washington, and Laura Wyrick, and to these North Carolina paralegals who achieved NALA's Advanced Certified Paralegal designation in this same period: Julie I. Allen, Jamie H. Brice, Bethany J. Denney, Elizabeth R. Dennis, Patricia Herron, Briata Owens, Noelle G. Robertson, Mollie Schwam, Ellen C. Thomas, Cheryl A. Valentine, and Kristina Wade.

If you are connected to any of these super stars in the workplace or on social media, please reach out and congratulate them – these designations take intensive study and dedication to earn and are significant career milestones. To learn more about NALA certification, visit the NALA site at <https://nala.org/certification/>.

Congratulations also to the Raleigh Wake Paralegal Association for recently becoming a NALA Affiliated Association. RWP joins NCPA and Metrolina Paralegal Association as North Carolina's NALA Affiliated Associations. Through affiliation with NALA, local and state associations receive support and assistance in advancing the paralegal profession in their geographic areas. Members of Affiliated Associations get membership discounts and access to NALA resources.



IT'S CONFERENCE TIME!

NALA's 2026 Conference & Expo will be held in Denver, Colorado from July 16-18. Registration is now open. There is one track available for paralegals preparing for the Certified Paralegal exam, which is a great way to not only learn the material, but to build a support network as you prepare. There are four other concurrent sessions during the conference, so there will be a wide variety of topics to explore.

Honestly, though, the most beneficial part of the conference is meeting paralegals from all over North America, networking with vendors who offer cutting-edge services for all areas of legal practice, and simply being in the company of hundreds of people who love our profession. For the second year, I will have the responsibility and honor of representing NCPA at the Affiliate Showcase, promoting the value and contributions of NCPA.

Visit <https://nala.org/nala-conference-expo/> to learn more.

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We are currently seeking additional sustaining members to help support our mission. If you know a business or individual who may be interested in becoming a sustaining member, please feel free to let us know.

Email info@ncparalegal.org.

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NC Skip Alert - for Bail Bondsmen

NC Skip Alert is an online service that provides our Bail Bonds customers with the ability to track offenders that have skipped on their bail. This web based application tracks and monitors all pending liability as well as specific forfeitures that are entered by the client. After entering the data just one time a bondsman is able to keep up with all pending liability as well as the current status on bond forfeitures. If pending cases change for any reason an email alert is sent to the bondsman.