

SFPA Legal Journal

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2011, Volume II

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newsletter@sfpa.info

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Calendar

CLE Luncheon <i>Ten Times You Should Think About Intellectual Properties</i> Presented by Leslie Lott, Esq.	April 26th 12:00 p.m. Holland & Knight 701 Brickell Ave. 30 th Floor
Administrative Professionals Day	April 27th
CLA Review & Study Course for September 2011 CP Exam	June 4th 10:00 a.m.

President's Message

By Mayda Nahhas

Welcome to a new year at SFPA! I am excited and honored to have been elected as President of your paralegal association in such an energizing year for our profession. Thank you to all our members who attended the Annual Meeting at Fadó Irish Pub in Mary Brickell Village. It was great to see so many new faces join us as well as our regulars as we installed your new board members for this term.

The 2011-2012 term began with the filing of two very significant bills up for review by the Florida legislature, which if passed, will require mandatory licensure of our profession. We will keep you informed of all the latest news as it relates to the paralegal licensing bill and you may also stay informed at the Florida Alliance of Paralegal Association's [website](#). (See Q&A pg 5).

For the 2011-2012 SFPA term, the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will continue to work hard to bring fresh and exciting speakers and topics at our monthly CLE luncheons as well as provide you with our annual Fall seminar so you can stay on top of your educational requirements.

We are also pleased to inform you that the possibility of starting a Broward Chapter of the SFPA is forthcoming, stay tuned for information related to this exciting endeavor.

If you would like to get more involved, we have several vacancies throughout various committees and welcome your input and new faces.

On behalf of the SFPA Board Members, we look forward to another successful year serving your association! If you have a passion for our profession and are interested in becoming an active member of the association by volunteering your time we would love to hear from you.



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SFPA Broward Chapter in the Works!



You talked. We listened. SFPA is in the process of developing a Broward chapter. Please send your suggestions for this exciting endeavor to Debra Byrne-Mathews at DBMathews@sfpa.info.



Annual Meeting and Elections at Mary Brickell Fadó Irish Pub

On March 22nd, SFPA's Annual Meeting and Elections were held at [Fadó Irish Pub](#) in Mary Brickell Village. Thanks to the elections committee, composed of Lisa Vessels, Dania Vazquez, Nora Portuondo and Elizabeth Reiher, both members and non-members came together for an evening of drinks, food and some serious legislation talk (See [Q&A](#), pg 5)

This year's honorary guest was Criminal Circuit Court Judge Daryl Trawick. Judge Trawick conducted the ceremony with nothing but class and charm, swearing in each elected officer with an oath to fulfill their respective responsibilities to the best of their ability in accordance with SFPA by-laws. The new board consists of: President **Mayda Nahhas**; Vice President **Lissette Yahia-Jimenez**; Secretary **Vivian Fusco**; Treasurer **Lisa Vessels**; NALA Liaison **Linda Nottestad**; and, NFPA Liaison **Nora Portuondo**. (See [Meet the Board](#), pg 9).

Most notable, however, was the swearing in of the members in attendance. An oath, with right hands raised, that each member support the endeavors of their new officers and to "enthusiastically" cooperate in SFPA activities for the effectiveness of the board, members and SFPA.

Many thanks to our gracious sponsor, [Iris Data Services](#), an e-discovery, computer forensics, document review and online hosting service provider. Last, but not least, a big thank you to the servers, hosts and bartenders at Fadó - may we all receive a little luck of the Irish.



SFPA's new board after voting (from left): NFPA Liaison Nora Portuondo, NALA Liaison Linda Nottestad, Treasurer Lisa Vessels, Secretary Vivian Fusco and President Mayda Nahhas



The boys at Iris Data Services, Zeke Alicea (left) and Damon Goduto (right,) raffled a \$100 gift certificate to Fadó and sponsored the event.



Judge Daryl Trawick is warmly welcomed at the Annual Meeting. In this picture (from left to right): Newsletter Chair Jessica A. Giraldo, Judge Trawick and SFPA President Mayda Nahhas.



Judge Trawick swears in the membership.



Lisa Vessels answers thought provoking questions from members regarding the new proposed legislation.



Members Mary Webb (left) and Nanette Orange (right) mingle with Membership Chair Sharon Staples (center).



New faces for a new SFPA year. Welcome!



Member Peter Suarez and wife, Suzette M. Suarez, R.T.



Long time SFPA veteran member Margarida Veliky (right) and Nadeige Pochette (left).



What's the proposed legislation all about? A Q&A with Lisa Vessels

At SFPA's Annual Meeting on March 22nd, Lisa Vessels, who serves on SFPA's board and also as vice president of the Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations (FAPA), discussed the recently proposed legislation for the licensure of paralegals. This is a summary of the main point surrounding the proposed legislation and the question and answer session held at the annual meeting. For further background information and copies of the proposed bills, along with the initial bill, please visit FAPA's [website](#).

Q: Is this legislation different than the Florida Bar's paralegal registration program, the Florida Registered Paralegal designation?

A: Yes. This would make compliance mandatory for all paralegals in Florida. The standards established by the FRP program would be essentially the same in the legislation. What's also different is we proposed an independent governing board with a majority of paralegals plus attorneys and paralegal educators which would be elected by those that they represent. The Florida Bar's FRP Standing Committee has a majority of attorneys and the paralegals that sit on the Committee are handpicked by the Florida Bar. And, oversight would be by the Florida Supreme Court rather than the Florida Bar.

Q: If the legislation passes, will paralegals be issued a license number with a card, like Florida Bar members receive?

A: I would assume we'd have some identifying number for paralegals licensed just as you have an identifying number with the Florida Bar if you're an FRP. Whether a card will be issued to show that would make sense, but there's no specific provision yet. None of the administrative rules have been written yet.

Q: If the legislation passes, will Florida Licensed Paralegals still be working under the direct supervision of a Florida Licensed Attorney?

A: Absolutely. The word "licensed" does not grant any additional authority than what is defined in the standard. There is no anticipation or provision within the proposed legislation to change how paralegals are currently supervised by attorneys. That's addressed in Rule 4-5.3 of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar. If anything, it more accurately defines that role. Most members of the public would look at Florida Statutes before they would ever think to look at Rules Regulating the Florida Bar to govern how paralegals work.

Q: If the legislation passes, who will oversee the Florida Licensed Paralegal's continuing education program?

A: There was no specific proposal with regard to creating a separate program for continuing education. However, I could see that there would be a need for approval of paralegal continuing education programs, just as NALA or NFPA approve local paralegal continuing education programs.

Q: Would you compare the paralegal license to a nurse or physician's assistant?

A: It's a very good parallel. A nurse or physician's assistant still has to be under the supervision of a doctor. There are certain restrictions placed on them in those independent roles. This is exactly what a license for paralegals would do for the paralegal profession.

Continued on next page

Q: If this legislation passes in July 2011, what is the time frame to see any changes in our profession?

A: My guess would be at least one year before administrative rules could be agreed upon and implemented. It took us close to a year to come up with the proposal that we offered. I would imagine even more people involved in the process could make it take longer. The deadline of July 1, 2011 in the proposed legislation is merely to create the independent board that will create the administrative rules for the program.

Q: Where can I find more information about the progress of the legislation?

A: You may join FAPA's mailing list by subscribing at www.fapainc.org. You may also email FAPA at admin@fapainc.org with any questions. In the meantime, FAPA encourages all Florida paralegals to educate themselves about the proposed legislation and submit emails to the Bill sponsors supporting mandatory regulation of the paralegal profession. Their contact information is as follows:

Senator Garrett Richter
322 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
richter.garrett.web@flsenate.gov
(SB 1612 – Mandatory Regulation of the Paralegal Profession)

Representative Richard Steinberg
Room 1401, The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
richard.steinberg@myfloridahouse.gov
(HB 1149 – Mandatory Regulation of the Paralegal Profession)

Save the Date!
July 16, 2011
FAPA Tech Seminar
Ft. Myers, Florida
Click [here](#) for details!

*What do you think
about paralegal
regulation?*



Send your thoughts and
Letters to the Editor to
newsletter@sfpa.info.

*Florida Bar's Board of Governors to Hear
Recommendations on Paralegal Regulation.*

Click [here](#) for full story. [See](#) the Report of the Special Committee to Study Paralegal Regulation.



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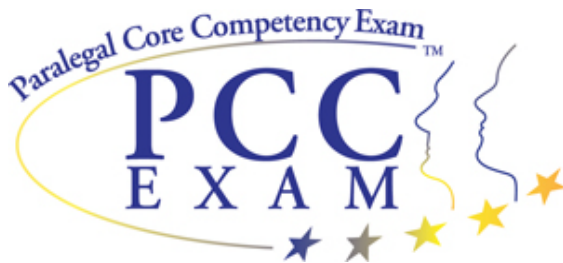
We all need it.

We want to make you like it.
Send your ideas for topics and
speakers to Linda Nottestad at

lnottestad@sfpa.info.



NFPA introduces pilot tests for new PCC Exam



The [PCC Exam](#) will be having pilot tests at selected locations throughout the contiguous United States on June 11, 2011. Those wishing to participate will need to apply online through MemberClicks between April 1 - 30, 2011.

The pilot exam will be a pencil and paper version. It is a valid exam and any candidate with a passing score will be entitled to use the CORE Registered Paralegal (CRP) credential. The pilot tests will be administered in New York, Kansas, Texas, Tennessee, Colorado, California, South Carolina, Illinois and Washington.

The regular fee for the computer-based PCC Exam will be \$215.00 and it is expected to debut in November 2011. The full Handbook is expected to be available by download in August. Additional questions may be directed to pcce@paralegals.org.



We can now offer you the following ad packages per issue for 2011:

Full page \$75

3/4 page \$50

1/2 page \$25

1/4 page \$15

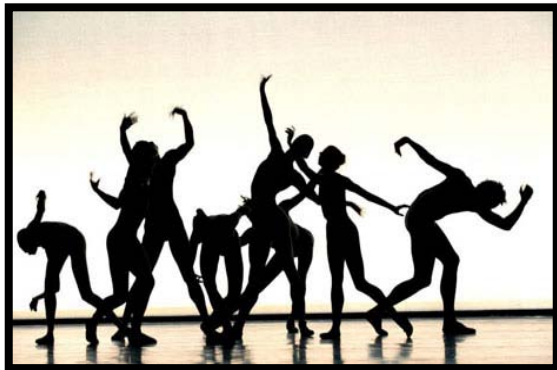
Contact Newsletter@sfpa.info for details



MEET THE 2011-2012 SFPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Mayda Nahhas

Mayda Z. Nahhas, CP, is a senior litigation paralegal for the law firm of Stearns Weaver Miller. Ms. Nahhas has been a paralegal for over 14 years and participates in all aspects of trial preparation and participation. Mayda earned the designation of Certified Paralegal (CP) from the National Association of Legal Assistants in 2004. In 2006, she obtained a B.S. degree in legal studies from Barry University and her A.S. degree in legal assisting from Miami Dade College in 2003. She currently serves as the President for SFPA and is looking forward to continuing her dedication to the association.



LEGAL TECH BUZZ WORD

CONCEPT SEARCHING

In the industry, concept searching grasps various aspects of text that are basically saying the same thing and groups those documents together. That makes it much quicker for the attorney reviewing documents to determine whether they are relevant to discovery.

Specialty Areas: Complex Commercial Litigation defense with heavy trial practice

Career highlight: Teaching at FIU

Future Goals: Opening a SFPA Broward chapter

Paralegal Practice Tip: Be a person people like to work with and stay on top of all aspects of your cases. When the attorney doesn't remember something, he has you.

Favorite Web Source: Google

Favorite Legal Software: [Summation](#)

Do you use social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs) for career or case development? I use LinkedIn for career development and Facebook for social networking

Fun Fact: I love to take dance classes in my spare time!

Favorite Movies: St. Elmo's Fire

Cats or Dogs: I'm a huge dog person!

Recipe You Love to Cook or have Cooked: I love to make a Brie cheese and fruit dish

One Gadget You Can't Live Without: My blow dryer

Favorite Quote: "It's really hard to walk in a single woman's shoes -- that's why you sometimes need really special shoes!" From Sex and the City

Professional Associations: SFPA

Professional Links: [LinkedIn](#) and [SFPA](#)



Vice President Lissette Jimenez-Yahia

Lissette Jimenez-Yahia is currently the Regional Paralegal for the Latin American Division of Teva Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Lissette has been a paralegal for over 13 years. She earned her A.A. in Paralegal Studies from Jones College. She then attended Nova Southeastern University and American Intercontinental University where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and an MBA in Global Technologies. She previously served as SFPA's President, Parliamentarian and School Liaison. She is the current Vice President of SFPA.



LEGAL TECH BUZZ WORD

EARLY CASE ASSESSMENT

Early Case Assessment (ECA) was a way to look at your material ahead of time and determine whether certain parts of it were worth reviewing. In a step before concept searching, data is uploaded for review, and unnecessary data is eliminated to highlight data that is most relevant.

Specialty Areas: Bankruptcy, Securities Litigation and Corporate Governance

Career highlight: Going in-house

Future Goals: Achieving Certified Fraud Examiner certification

Paralegal Practice Tip: Keep your skills sharp and fresh.

Favorite Web Source: [Intellius](#)

Favorite Legal Software: Lexis/Nexis

Do you use social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs) for career or case

development? LinkedIn for career development and Facebook for social networking

Fun Facts: I was a contestant on Wheel of Fortune in 2004. Hobbies: scuba diving, Bikram yoga, reading and cooking. Sign: Taurus

Favorite Movies: Signs

Cats or Dogs: Love cats. Have a dog.

Recipe You Love to Cook or have

Cooked: I make the best Puerto-Rican style *pernil* you'll ever taste!

One Gadget You Can't Live Without: Cell phone

Favorite Quote: "If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things." - Albert Einstein

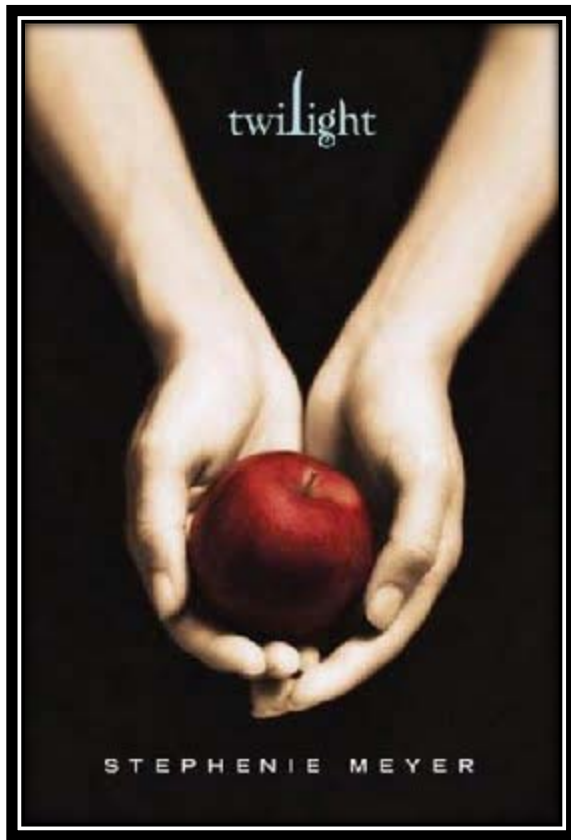
Professional Associations: NFPA, FAPA, SFPA, [Paralegal Alliance](#)

Professional Links: [LinkedIn](#) and [SFPA](#)



Secretary Vivian Fusco

Vivian Fusco, CP, has more than 20 years of experience as a paralegal. She is currently employed as an insurance defense litigation paralegal at Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, P.A. She earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Florida International University, and a paralegal certificate from Barry University. She has served as Secretary for the South Florida Paralegal Association for the past 4 years and also serves as Chair of the Employment Committee.



Specialty Areas: Insurance defense litigation

Career highlight: Obtaining my bachelor's degree

Future Goals: Traveling (Top 3 destinations are Australia, Japan and Thailand)

Paralegal Practice Tip: Never assume *anything*.

Favorite Web Source: Google

Favorite Legal Software: Lexis/Nexis

Do you use social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs) for career or case development? LinkedIn for career development and Facebook for social networking

Fun Fact: I have 12 nieces and nephews.

Favorite Movies: Twilight

Cats or Dogs: Both

Recipe You Love to Cook or have Cooked: Key Lime Pie

One Gadget You Can't Live Without: Cell phone

Favorite Quote: "The only thing more expensive than education is ignorance." - Benjamin Franklin

Professional Associations: SFPA, NFPA, NALA

Professional Links: [LinkedIn](#) and Facebook



Treasurer Lisa B. Vessels

Lisa Vessels has worked at Duane Morris LLP since 2004. Lisa is currently the administrator for the firm's rules-based docketing software in use by the firm's U.S. offices. Lisa received her B.S. degree in Paralegal Studies from Nova Southeastern University in 2005, her A.A. degree in Computer Information Systems, and A.S. degree in Computer Programming from Miami-Dade College in 2002. She earned the Certified Paralegal credential from NALA in 2005. From 2006 to 2007, Lisa was an adjunct instructor for FIU's Legal Studies Institute. Lisa is now serving her second term as a non-lawyer member for The Florida Bar's 11th Circuit Committee for the Unlicensed Practice of Law. Lisa also currently serves as the Chairperson for Miami Dade College's Paralegal Studies Program Advisory Committee. Lisa has served SFPA over various terms since 2005 in the capacity of President, Immediate Past President, NFPA Delegate, FAPA Delegate, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Committee Chair, and has served as Webmaster continuously since 2005. Lisa has also been actively involved in SFPA's efforts for paralegal regulation in Florida. As primary delegate for SFPA for the state-wide Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations (FAPA), she has served as President, Immediate Past President, Webmaster and is currently serving as the Vice President. Lisa looks forward to taking on a new role on the SFPA board.

Career highlight: Regulation Review Coordinator for NFPA

Future Goals: Mandatory paralegal regulation!

Paralegal Practice Tip: Follow-up is key.

Favorite Web Source: Google

Favorite Legal Software: [Calendar Manager \(Elite\)](#)

Do you use social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs) for career or case development? LinkedIn for career development and Facebook for social networking

Fun Fact: I am a Parrot Head

Favorite Movies: too many – LOVE movies.

Cats or Dogs: Cats, but I have a dog too.

Recipe You Love to Cook or have

Cooked: Who said I cook? Reservations are my favorite!

One Gadget You Can't Live Without: Blackberry



NALA Liaison Linda Nottestad

Linda Nottestad is a Certified Paralegal and works in the Miami Office of Holland & Knight specializing in real estate for the last eleven years. She has more than 30 years experience in the legal field. Linda is an active member of both NALA and SFPA. This past year, Linda was honored to serve as the NALA Liaison, as well as the Education Committee Chair. Linda believes in arranging for diverse monthly lunch seminars and has proven to be able to increase attendance. Her hope during this next year is that she will be able to continue to entice members to the monthly seminars so that this growth continues. Linda is also heavily involved in teaching classes that SFPA offers to paralegals in our community who wish to prepare for the NALA Certification Examination. Linda looks forward to assisting SFPA in opening a Broward Chapter and continuously seeks the suggestions of SFPA members for CLE topics.

LEGAL TECH BUZZ WORD

CLOUD COMPUTING

Cloud computing can be defined in one word: Gmail...Unlike Outlook, which maintains data on your hard drive, Gmail stores your messages in the Internet netherworld, a place technologists have lovingly named "the cloud." It seems simple, although the cloud gets more complex as people collaborate over the Internet. Issues arise over control, retention, privacy, and protections, among others.

Specialty areas: Real estate

Future Goals: Retiring

Paralegal Practice Tip: Never assume

Favorite Web Source: Quizlet.com

Favorite Legal Software: None

Do you use social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs) for career or case development? No

Fun Fact: I have a puppy who is smarter than I am.

Favorite Movies: Gone with the Wind

Cats or Dogs: Both

Recipe You Love to Cook or have

Cooked: Chocolate Soufflé

One Gadget You Can't Live Without:

Cell Phone

Favorite Quote: Tomorrow is another day...

Professional Associations: SFPA, NALA

Professional Links:



NFPA Liaison Nora Portuondo

Nora E. Portuondo, CP, FRP, has 18 years of experience as a paralegal. She is currently employed as a litigation paralegal at the law firm of Shutts & Bowen, LLP. She attended the paralegal studies program at Florida International University.

Nora also volunteers every year during the Humane Society's spay/neuter weekend in Cutler Bay which offers spay/neuter services free of charge to anyone who has feral cats in their neighborhood, or people who cannot afford the cost of surgery.

Nora is an active member of SFPA and acts as secondary FAPA Delegate. Nora is excited about her new role on the SFPA Board as NFPA liaison.



Specialty areas: Litigation

Career highlight: I was asked to leave the court by my boss when the jury's foreman winked at me after deliberation. Opposing had a fit, but the judge agreed with my boss and we won the case!

Future Goals: Obtaining my degree in Computer Science. I look forward to working with computer forensics.

Paralegal Practice Tip: Send a confirming email to your attorney after receiving an assignment so there is no misunderstanding.

Favorite Web Source: Google Translate

Favorite Legal Software: None

Do you use social media (Facebook, Twitter, blogs) for career or case development? No

Fun Fact: I'm a wine enthusiast

Favorite Movies: The Notebook

Cats or Dogs: Both, but I have 6 cats

Recipe You Love to Cook or have

Cooked: Seafood pasta

One Gadget You Can't Live Without:

Corkscrew ☺

Favorite Quote: Don't sweat the small stuff

Professional Associations: SFPA, NALA

Professional Links: [SFPA](#)

Welcome New Members!

January - March 2011



Barbara Perdomo
King & Lancaster, P.A.

Cindy D. Labranche
Town of Surfside

Donna L. Maus, Pa. CP
Nikolaus & Hohenadel, LLP

Estephany Acosta
Dewitt Law

Eunice M. Tillotson, CP
Butler Pappas

Ivonne M. Mercado, FRP
Packman Neuwahl & Rosenberg

Kim L. Congdon, FRP
Hinshaw & Culbertson

Linda Aguirre
Black, Srebnick, Kornspan & Stumpf, P.A.

Maria C. Pereira
Student – Florida International University

Mary Ann Myskiw-Jones
Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office



Last Quarter Membership Totals

Active	87
Associate	2
Student	15
Sustaining	4
TOTAL	108

Current Membership Totals

Active	100
Associate	2
Student	15
Sustaining	4
TOTAL	124



SFPA'S Review Course Information for September CP Exam

SFPA is proud to present its CP Review & Study Course for those preparing to take the NALA-sponsored CP Exam in the month of September 2011. This ten-week Study Course is scheduled to begin on **June 4, 2011** and continue **through August 13, 2011**.

Review classes are scheduled on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., or as otherwise indicated on the schedule. During Orientation on **June 4, 2011**, any questions you may have about the study course plan and the exam itself will be answered. You should have your CLA Review Manual at Orientation.

The study classes will span a nine-week period and provide students with the appropriate time period to study the material on their own, and participate in a weekly review of the material in the Saturday classes. The mock exam on **August 13th** provides students a further measure of confidence by simulating the testing environment.

COST:

Entire review (consists of certain classes required for all, plus 4 substantive law sections that you register to be tested on)

- SFPA members \$175.00
 - Non-members \$195.00
- Individual classes (per class):
- SFPA members \$25.00
 - Non-members \$35.00

Deadline to register (all registrations must be submitted online through this website, method of payment varies):

Payment by check: **May 28th**

Payment by card/PayPal: **June 3rd**

Payment by cash: **June 4th**

The schedule of classes is available at:

[ClassScheduleForSept2011test.pdf](#).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Each participant **MUST** secure their own copy of the CLA Review Manual, 3rd Edition (green) to participate in SFPA's Study Course. You must have the copy in time for the Orientation class on June 4, 2011 to study the material covered in the review for the following week. The CLA Review Manual may be purchased from NALA directly at <http://www.nala.org/publ.aspx>.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

Application with NALA for the exam and testing is now a two-step process, and arrangements are handled separately by the applicant directly with NALA, and/or the ACT Test Centers for registration. Instructions for application and testing center registration can be found online at NALA's website along with information about qualification: <http://www.nala.org/examinee.aspx>. NALA's booklet in PDF format outlining the complete procedure is:

<http://www.nala.org/Upload/file/PDF-Files/Certification/color-booklet-final.pdf>

**For more information on SFPA's Review/Study Course, please contact
Linda Nottestad, CP, FRP
NALA Liaison for SFPA
lnottestad@sfpa.info**



NFPA: Conferences, Scholarship and Annual Convention Info

NFPA Joint Leadership/Regulation/PACE Ambassadors Conference

April 28, 2011 - May 1, 2011

Cleveland, Ohio.

Free to NFPA members.

(SFPA members are NFPA members)

Click [here](#) for details.

2011 NFPA/Thomson Reuters Scholarship

Application and materials must be postmarked by July 1, 2011

The 2011 NFPA / Thomson Reuters Scholarship application (PDF) is now available.

"The economy has had a strong impact on the practice of law. As a paralegal student, who will soon be graduating, describe the current legal job market in your community, and how your paralegal education can give you an advantage in securing paralegal employment."

Additional scholarship information available [here](#).

NFPA Annual Convention: Fall into Minnesota Colors

October 13-16, 2011, Bloomington, MN



- 24 Seminars on all sorts of topics (includes ethics): October 13
 - NFPA's Pro Bono Conference: October 14 (free for NFPA members)
 - NFPA Region Meetings: October 14 (open to NFPA members)
 - NFPA Annual Meeting and elections of certain officers: October 15-16
- Fees vary for these events, click [here](#) for details

Please see [NFPA's website](#) for more information on any of these events.



NALA: Convention and Affiliation Award Nominations

36th Annual NALA Convention & Exhibition
Dallas/Plano Marriott at Legacy Town Center

The 2011 Convention Program

This is NALA's first "All Institute" convention and will feature seven institutes:

- Corporate
- Personal Injury
- Essential Skills
- Real Estate
- Estate Planning/Administration
- Social Security
- Litigation/Technology

The special NALA guest room rate of \$119/day is available three days before and three days after the meeting dates. Contact the Dallas/Plano Marriott directly at (800) 228-9290 or (972) 473-6444. (Be sure to invoke the special NALA rates.) Reservations must be made by Tuesday, July 5, 2011 for the special rates to apply.

July 27-30, 2011

Check the NALA website for costs and registration information – www.nala.org

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NALA Affiliate Awards Nominations

The NALA Affiliate Awards are presented each year to NALA members or committees of affiliated associations, where a majority of the committee members are NALA members, in recognition of their contribution to the goals and programs of an affiliated association. Designees are nominated by their affiliated association for such contributions as assisting with and organizing CP study groups, working with bar associations on behalf of the legal assistants in the area, planning educational programs, and developing a pro bono or other community involvement program for the affiliate. These are only examples.

May 1st is the deadline for Affiliated Associations to designate one recipient from their association for the **Affiliate Award**. Nominees will receive a framed award at the membership awards presentation held during the Annual Meeting of Affiliated Associations scheduled for July 28th. Nominations received by the May 1 deadline are automatically considered for the Outstanding Contribution Award. In addition, the Affiliates may also submit nominations for the **National Affiliated Association Achievement Award**, designed to recognize the achievements and contributions of an individual affiliate member, a committee of an affiliated association, or of an affiliated association itself which have a national and long-lasting impact.

Criteria and nomination forms for all awards may be found on [here](#).



Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

President

Mayda Nahhas, CP
mnahhas@sfpa.info

Vice President

Lissette Jimenez-Yahia, MBA
lyahia@sfpa.info

Treasurer

Lisa Vessels, CP, FRP
lvessels@sfpa.info

Secretary

Vivian Fusco, CP
vfusco@sfpa.info

NALA Liaison

Linda Nottestad, CP, FRP
lnottestad@sfpa.info

NFPA Liaison

Nora Portuondo, CP, FRP
nportuondo@sfpa.info

Education Committee

Linda Nottestad, CP, FRP

Employment Committee

Vivian Fusco, CP

Ethics Committee

Neysa Broche, FRP
nbroche@sfpa.info

FAPA Liaison Committee

Lisa Vessels, CP, FRP
Nora Portuondo, CP, FRP

Membership Committee

Sharon Staples, FRP
[sstaples@sfpa.info](mailto:ss Staples@sfpa.info)

Webmaster

Lisa Vessels, CP, FRP

Newsletter Committee Staff

Editor-in-Chief Jessica A. Giraldo
Assistant Editor Mayda Nahhas
Production Assistant Lisa Vessels

Get Involved!

SFPA needs your help. If you would like to serve on a committee, please email President Mayda Nahhas at mnahhas@sfpa.info. There are several committees that need volunteers: Newsletter Committee (quarterly), School Liaison Committee and Florida Bar Committee,

Want to be published?

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