



# **YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

## **SLATE OF CANDIDATES WITH BIOGRAPHIES FOR THE 2020-2021 TERM**

As required under the By-Laws of the South Florida Paralegal Association, the Nominations and Elections Committee introduces the Slate of Candidates who are duly qualified and seek your vote to represent you as your Board of Directors for the upcoming 2020-2021 term.

To cast your vote, you either must be in attendance at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2020 (elections open 5:45 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.); **OR** submit your Absentee Ballot via U.S. mail to our P.O. Box postmarked no later than Saturday, March 14.

We urge you to be present and elect the officers whom you feel will best represent you in the next year.

### **Office of President**

Janet Betancourt, CP, FRP

Summer Marshall, FRP

### **Office of Vice-President**

Ashley Bennett, FRP

### **Office of Treasurer**

David Barjon

### **Office of Secretary**

Catalina Hernandez, FRP

### **Office of NALA Liaison**

Arturo Rodriguez, CP, FRP

### **Office of NFPA Liaison**

Mary Ann Myskiw-Jones, ACP, CRP

PLEASE SEE THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIES WHICH PROVIDE  
PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION ON EACH CANDIDATE.

**SLATE OF CANDIDATES' BIOGRAPHIES FOR 2020-2021 TERM**

**CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT**

**JANET BETANCOURT, CP, FRP**

**Janet Betancourt, CP, FRP** is a paralegal at Kluger Kaplan Silverman Katzen & Levine P.L. Prior to joining Kluger Kaplan in 2018, she was at Aballí Milne Kalil, P.A. for over 18 years. Janet earned the Certified Paralegal credential from NALA in 2008 and became a Florida Registered Paralegal with the Florida Bar later that year. She also earned a Certificate in Law Office Management from Florida International University's Legal Studies Institute in 2015. She has served on the SFPA Board over various terms since 2009 in the capacities of Chair of the Nominations and Elections special committee; Ethics Chair; Treasurer 2012-2017; and NALA Liaison since 2017. Janet helps the paralegal community in any way she can and has mentored hopeful paralegals looking to get into the profession. She has also taught review courses in FIU for SFPA's CP Study/Review Course. Janet was selected for The Florida Bar Registered Paralegal Enrichment Committee in 2018 and also served on NALA's Professional Development Committee from 2016-2017.

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**CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT**

**SUMMER MARSHALL, FRP**

**Summer Marshall, FRP** is a litigation paralegal in Fields Howell LLP's Miami office defending companies in insurance defense, products liability, and construction defect. With over 14 years of experience, Summer excels in the day-to-day management of multiple cases. Summer has been a Florida Registered Paralegal with The Florida Bar for over 9 years and a member of the South Florida Paralegal Association for over 12 years, where she has served as both the Secretary and the Vice President for the past four terms. Summer has coordinated the previous two Fall Seminars, which were widely complimented by the attendees, speakers, and sponsors. It would be my honor to serve as President for the 2020-2021 term.

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## CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

### **ASHLEY BENNETT, FRP**

**Ashley Bennett, FRP** is a litigation paralegal at the Miami office of Rumberger Kirk, a leading litigation defense firm. She has experience in the areas of personal injury, premise liability, property damage, product liability, complex business litigation cases, family law, and government (working as a paralegal with Broward County Attorney). Ashley received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Grinnell College in 2011. Ashley served as an Executive Director of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers (Miami-Dade Chapter) upon graduation. Since joining the South Florida Paralegal Association, Inc., Ashley has held various positions, including Chair of the Nominations and Elections special committee, Chair of the Webmaster and Website standing committee; and volunteered in coordinator roles for the Annual Fall Seminar. Her non-career passions are traveling and cooking. Her personal goal is to create a life full of achievements and joy.

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## CANDIDATE FOR TREASURER

### **JACQUES D. BARJON**

**Jacques “David” Barjon**, holds a B.S. in Business Supervision & Management from Miami-Dade College, as well as an A.S. in Paralegal Studies from the same institution. He also has a Graduate Certificate in Music Business Law and Finance from Berklee College of Music. David has 3 years’ experience working as the paralegal for a solo practitioner in the litigation of primarily first-party claims , but also in premise liability and personal injury. For the past 3 years, David has been working for Estefan Enterprises, Inc., a multi-media & entertainment company, as the in-house paralegal; the bulk of David’s role pertains to the company’s Entertainment Department: David handles all music licensing for films and networks as well as talent agreements and artist union contracts; he supports artist royalty allocations; he handles financial statements like P&L, operational cash flow, and budget waterfalls for film productions (tied to the CFO’s general ledger, of course). David has also been the Treasurer for a member-managed non-profit Unincorporated Association in Miami called Beach & Bay Partners for the past 8 years. In this capacity, David is the gatekeeper of all transactions, reconciles bank statements, prepares financial reports outlying exposures and projected shortfalls. After being an active member of SFPA for the past year, David welcomes the opportunity to serve the SFPA Board and its members.

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**CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY**

**CATALINA HERNANDEZ, CP, FRP**

**Catalina Hernandez** (Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice) is currently employed with the Miami-Dade Police Department for the last 14 years as a litigation paralegal. Cate monitors the day-to-day management of multiple litigation and risk management cases for the police department, working daily alongside the County Attorney's Office. Cate has over 24 years of legal experience which includes working with the State Attorney's Office (Extraditions Unit), as well as few years in private practice (Criminal Law). She is a former volunteer member of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee "11A" (2016 – 2017). Cate is a Florida Registered Paralegal with The Florida Bar since 2017 and current committee member of the Animal Law Section of the Florida Bar (2019-2020). She has been a Florida Notary Public since 2009 and her Active memberships include NALA, NFPA, FAPA, ABA and the Dade County Bar Association. Cate has been a member of the South Florida Paralegal Association since 2011, currently serving as Secretary for the 2019-2020 Board. Cate is always searching for new growth and learning experiences within the legal community.

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**OFFICE OF NALA LIAISON**

**ARTURO RODRIGUEZ, CP, FRP**

**Arturo Rodriguez, CP, FRP**, is a risk-management paralegal for Greenberg Traurig's Office of Firm Counsel. He has served as SFPA's President for the past two terms. Previously, he was the NALA Liaison for four years. While under his direction, he has standardized the lessons for the NALA CP Reviews so that they are consistent. In addition, for three years now, he has coordinated the special memorandum-writing seminar with Virginia Koerselman Newman, author of CP Review Manual. Also, SFPA hosts the NALA CP exam on a regular basis to offer local examinees an affordable option. Arturo also has coordinated SFPA's annual student scholarship for the past four years.

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**OFFICE OF NFPA LIAISON**

**MARY ANN MYSKIW-JONES, ACP, CRP**

**Mary Ann Myskiw-Jones** has been a paralegal in the Gang Unit of the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office since 2010. She graduated with honors from Miami Dade College's ABA-approved paralegal program in 2010. She is currently on the South Florida Paralegal Association board as NFPA primary. She is a member of LEX Paralegal Honor Society and the Paralegal Advisory Committee at Miami Dade College. She was a NFPA Coordinator for CRP Renewals for 2015-2019. She earned her Advanced Certified Paralegal designation in Discovery and is a NFPA CORE Registered Paralegal. She is President of the Florida Alliance of Paralegal Associations and co-coordinated their 2017-2020 seminars. She would like to continue to support NFPA, SFPA, FAPA and the paralegal profession. Mary Ann has volunteered many hours with the Florida Immigrant Coalition, helping fill out immigration forms for applicant.