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Greater Dayton Paralegal  
Association, Inc.  
PO Box 10515, Mid City Station  
Dayton, OH 45402

# GDPA Newsletter

## President's Message

*Rima Davidson*

Happy New Year!

As you know, GDPA has a plethora of talented paralegals diverse in many areas of law. Some of these paralegals are certified either through the Ohio State Bar Association or the National Federation of Paralegal Associations. You may have asked yourself at some point in your career questions like: "Do I need to be certified?" or "Which examine should I take?" The Board of Directors would like to provide you with an opportunity to educate yourself on paralegal certification by providing a panel of its certified members at the February 10<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. I am also pleased to announce that in conjunction with the GDPA scholarships given in May, we will also have applications available to GDPA membership for one person to receive an application fee up to \$250.00 to apply for a paralegal certification of his or her choice. The Scholarship Committee will post this application on the website in the near future. If certification has been a career goal for you, you won't want to miss this meeting.

In efforts to provide you with career tools, such as mentoring and certification, the Board of Directors is looking to become involved with

the organization *Clothes That Work*. This organization provides interview appropriate clothing and confidence building image services to its clients. *Clothes That Work* relies on individual and business donations of business appropriate clothing, time and financial resources. Please keep this in the back of your mind when renewing your closets, and visit [www.clothesthatwork](http://www.clothesthatwork) for clothing donation guidelines. Stay tuned for more information in the days to come.

Continue to visit [www.gdpa.org](http://www.gdpa.org) for updates and announcements. I look forward to seeing you at our February 10<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.

*"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves"* – Viktor Frankl



## NEW MEMBERS

No New Members to Report at this Time.

## Committee Reports

### CLE Committee

We are currently working on CLE classification requirements and will continue to update the membership on our progress. Contact Chair Barbara Furman-Ashby at [bjashby@ssallc.com](mailto:bjashby@ssallc.com) with speaker or topic suggestions.

### Newsletter Committee

Contact Chair Nicole Wilson at [KNicoleWilson1977@gmail.com](mailto:KNicoleWilson1977@gmail.com) if you have information to include in an upcoming newsletter.

### Membership Committee

A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss how to gain new members, and benefit current members. Contact Chair Krista Smith at [kristas@lsplaw.com](mailto:kristas@lsplaw.com) with ideas.

### Fundraising Committee

We are raffling off two tickets to "The Aluminum Show" by Ilan Azriel at the Victoria Theatre for March 9, 2010. The tickets have a value of \$107.00. According to their website: "Aluminum is a new performance combining movement, dance and visual theater unique to the stage. Through the use of special effects, creative mechanisms and acrobatic dance, inanimate objects come to life with energy, emotion and even personality, as silver industrial

materials create a luminous and reflective world. The concept for Aluminum had been churning in Ilan Azriel's mind for a long time. With first-hand experimentation he mastered the avant-garde uses of these various materials. Throughout the process he was aided and assisted by Yuval Kedem, one of the leading experts in Israel for designing accessories and special effects." Please contact Chair Stephanie Tracy at [sdtracy@ssallc.com](mailto:sdtracy@ssallc.com).

### Events Committee

We would like to have your ideas for events in 2010. Please direct suggestions for future events to Chair Jenni Blessing at [jablessing@ssallc.com](mailto:jablessing@ssallc.com).

### Pro Bono

A Juvenile Clinic will be held January 28, 2010. Future dates for pro bono opportunities will be posted online and in upcoming newsletters. Contact Chair Kathy Miller at 937-461-3857 or [gdvlp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gdvlp@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### Mentorship Committee

Mentorship applications are still being accepted. For more information, contact Chair Stephanie Tracy at [sdtracy@ssallc.com](mailto:sdtracy@ssallc.com).

### GDPA Facebook Page

We're now on Facebook! Check us out at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Gr eater-Dayton-Paralegal-Association-Inc/140137151217?v=info>

## Notices, Updates & Changes

### Have You Changed Jobs or Moved?

To make sure you receive your newsletter bi-monthly and special announcements from GDPA, you must let us know when your contact information changes. Therefore, if you have changed jobs, moved, or have new contact information, contact Krista Smith, Membership Chair at [kristas@lsplaw.org](mailto:kristas@lsplaw.org).

### Elections

GDPA Elections are rapidly approaching! If anyone is interested in pursuing a Board position, please contact Krista Smith at [kristas@lsplaw.com](mailto:kristas@lsplaw.com) for further information.

### OSBA Paralegal Committee News

The OSBA is seeking volunteers from the Paralegal Committee to review Secretary of State forms that will be included in the new OSBA Online Forms Database. Experience in corporate law would be helpful. The project can be divided among several volunteers. Please contact Jessica Emch at [jemch@ohiobar.org](mailto:jemch@ohiobar.org) if you are interested in volunteering.



# PARALEGAL SPOTLIGHT

## “NELTA D. MCNAUGHT”

Please join the GDPA Board and myself in congratulating Nelta D. McNaught, our Paralegal of the Month for January 2010.

Nelta is a graduate of Sinclair Community College. She has been working as a paralegal for three years, and she is currently employed at Flanagan, Lieberman, Hoffman & Swaim, where her primary focus is Criminal, Domestic Relations and Personal Injury Law.

Nelta is married to Bob McNaught, and she has two adult step-children and three step-grandchildren. Her hobbies include reading novels and walking and hiking—especially in parks and the woods.

Nelta chose to become a paralegal after working 25 years in the information technology field. It's difficult to say what else she would be if she were not a paralegal. When she decided to pursue education for another career field, her second choice was medical coding. She is confident, however, that

she made the right choice in becoming a paralegal. She states that hopefully, her next step will be retirement.

Nelta says that because of the areas of law in which she works, there are memorable moments almost daily because of the unique, often profound problems and emotions many of the clients face and that she is exposed to as they go through the legal process. One experience that stands out is when her law office moved to another location shortly after she started at FLH&S. Trying to learn a new job, while packing and keeping a busy practice running was something she won't soon forget!

On behalf of the board, thank you Nelta McNaught for sharing your story with us and congratulations for being Paralegal of the Month.

Submitted by:  
Donna L. Middlebrook  
GDPA Trustee

# GDPA Board Members

Rima Davidson, President  
[rdavidson@ssdlaw.com](mailto:rdavidson@ssdlaw.com)

First Vice-President (Vacant)

Krista Smith, Second Vice-President  
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Jennifer Blessing, Secretary  
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Stephanie Tracy, Treasurer  
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Barbara Furman-Ashby, Trustee  
[bjashby@ssallc.com](mailto:bjashby@ssallc.com)

Nicole Wilson, Trustee  
[KNicoleWilson1977@gmail.com](mailto:KNicoleWilson1977@gmail.com)

Trustee, 2008-2010 Term (Vacant)

Interested in serving the GDPA Membership in a rewarding position as a Board Member? Contact any Board Member listed above for more information about how you can fill a vacant position.

## Upcoming Events

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

**Time: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

**Speaker: Paralegal Panel**

**Topic: Certified paralegals will discuss the various certifications available to paralegals**

***Kettering Tower, 13<sup>th</sup> Fl. Conf. Rm.***

Details in an upcoming membership email and online at [www.gdpa.org](http://www.gdpa.org)

### **PRO BONO: JUVENILE CLINIC**

**January 28, 2010**