

JULY 2009

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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

The GDPA ended the 2008-2009 year with class hosting its 25th Anniversary Gala at the Presidential Banquet Center on June 12th. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Events Committee; our Sponsors, Boerger Investigative Services LLC, Dayton Power & Light Co., Sebaly Shillito + Dyer, and Mike Kells of the Central Business Group; and Speakers, the Honorable Mary Katherine Huffman and Jesse Nutt, for making this a memorable event.

The Board of Directors had their annual retreat on July 18th to plan GDPA's 2009-2010 year. Great opportunities lie ahead, and I am excited to introduce a new committee to GDPA. The Mentoring Committee, chaired by Stephanie Tracy, has created a program, which will assign Senior Paralegals (experienced) to Junior Paralegals (new) and Paralegal Students within GDPA's membership. Ms. Tracy will be sending out applications to the membership to start the process. As paralegals, we have a plethora of knowledge and wisdom that could be given to one another to make us more

successful. As paralegal students, you have an outstanding network of Dayton's finest paralegals to learn from and guide you in your journey in becoming a paralegal. Please give consideration to participating in this worthwhile program. Make a difference and be rewarded!

I am also pleased to announce that our speaker for the August 12th membership meeting will be Jim Rickey with SS+D Financial. During these times of financial uncertainty, it is important to have a plan and not panic. Come join us as we learn how to stay calm and protect our financial security.

"Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction."

John Crosby



NEW MEMBERS

STUDENT MEMBERS

Jean Hankisen

Erin Kennedy

John Petry

Sandra Perry

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Megan L. Barger

Fran Davidson

Tina M. Denlinger

Sarah A. Nickell

Laurie Smalley

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Mike Kells, Central Business Group

Sebaly Shillito + Dyer

Dayton Power & Light

Contact Chair Krista Smith at kristas@lsplaw.com with ideas.

Events Committee

25th Anniversary Gala was held on June 12, 2009 at the Presidential Banquet Center. The Honorable Mary Kate Huffman and Jesse Nutt were guest speakers. Gift cards, a Tastefully Simple gift set, Lia Sophia jewelry, and a Pampered Chef gift bag were raffled. The evening was a fun time and it was great to see all those in attendance. A meeting date will be set to discuss the holiday party and other scheduled events for the GDPA.

A meet and greet event was held at Boston Stoker in Englewood on July 29th at 5:45 p.m. This informal gathering was used to meet new board members and answer any questions new members had about the organization.

Marketing Committee

See "Upcoming Events" for meeting details.

Pro Bono

There was a Juvenile Clinic held on June 25th and a Bankruptcy Clinic held on June 30th. Future dates for pro bono opportunities will be posted on the GDPA online calendar and in upcoming newsletters. Any questions about events, you can contact Chair Kathy Miller at 937-461-3857 or gdvlp@sbcglobal.net.

Mentorship Committee

The Board of Directors has now established a mentoring

committee. We will travel to the local colleges in the area to promote the program, as well as send special invitations to our newer paralegal members. We have received positive feedback, and we encourage some of our more experienced members to donate time at least once a month to new paralegals and students, to assist them in establishing goals, answering any questions they may have, and hopefully, renewing their excitement for the profession! You will be able to log on to the website soon for an application and quarterly updates about our progress. Our deadline for applications will be September 30th. Contact Chair Stephanie Tracy at sdtracy@ssallc.com.

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, GDPA Membership Chair at kristas@lsplaw.org.

Committee Reports

CLE Committee

This committee will soon begin work on developing a CLE opportunity for members. If you have any suggested topics or speakers, please contact Chair Barbara Furman-Ashby at bjashby@ssallc.com.

Newsletter Committee

Contact Chair Nicole Wilson at KNicoleWilson1977@gmail.com if you have any information or events that you want to have posted in an upcoming newsletter.

Membership Committee

A meeting will be scheduled in the near future to discuss ideas about how to gain new members, and benefit current members.



PARALEGAL SPOTLIGHT

“RIMA M. DAVIDSON”

Welcome to a new article that will run in the bi-monthly newsletter and placed on the GDPA website called “Paralegal Spotlight.” Each month, the GDPA’s Board of Directors will spotlight a paralegal from its membership. Please be on the look out for your invitation to appear as Paralegal of the Month. This month’s featured paralegal is the GDPA President, Rima M. Davidson.

Rima received her paralegal degree from Sinclair Community College in 1991. She has worked as a paralegal for 15 years, and she is currently employed as a paralegal by Sebaly Shillito + Dyer in its Creditors’ Rights Department. Rima is married to her husband of 20 years, Ty Davidson, and they have two children—a daughter age 15 and a son age 10. She is serving her second term as the President of the GDPA. Her hobbies include, playing in her flower beds, reading, watching movies, bowling and football (Go Creek! Go Bucks!). She states that once her children go off to college, she plans to travel abroad to historical places. “I want to see this beautiful world and all it has to offer.”

If Rima were not a paralegal, she would have been a forensic scientist or a librarian. “I love research and books. Working a puzzle and finding answers is right up my alley. However, while in high school (early 80’s), I read an article about a newer field called Paralegal Studies. It sounded incredibly interesting and my plan was to start there and continue my education toward forensics. At the time, I didn’t realize my stepping-stone would be my career. I soon discovered that I enjoyed law, and being a paralegal would be very rewarding. It has been just that, and then some.”

Rima’s most memorable moments she has experienced as a paralegal are many, but two stand out. “Assisting the Dayton Volunteer’s Lawyers Project with its Juvenile Court Clinic is exuberating to me. To have an individual look at you and speak with appreciation and thankfulness, no matter how large or small your contribution, is very rewarding. The result of helping someone in need could move mountains. Second, working together with your colleagues to give the client first class service. There is nothing like seeing your work as a paralegal come full circle when a client wins a jury trial. Teamwork is very powerful, and with the right people, makes a good recipe for success.”

Join myself and the GDPA Board of Directors in congratulating Rima M. Davidson as our “Paralegal of the Month.”

Submitted by:
Donna L. Middlebrook
GDPA Trustee



GDPA Board Members

Rima Davidson, President
rdavidson@ssdlaw.com

First Vice-President (Vacant)

Krista Smith, Second Vice-President
kristas@lsplaw.org

Jennifer Blessing, Secretary
jblessing@ssallc.com

Stephanie Tracy, Treasurer
sdtracy@ssallc.com

Donna Middlebrook, Trustee
dmiddlebrook@yandalaw.com

Barbara Furman-Ashby, Trustee
bjashby@ssallc.com

Nicole Wilson, Trustee
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, August 12, 2009
Time: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Speaker: Jim Rickey, S S+D
Financial

*Kettering Tower, 19th Fl.
Conference Room*

PLEASE NOTE THE
CHANGE IN LOCATION

MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, October 14, 2009
Time: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Speaker: TBD

*Kettering Tower, 13th Fl.
Conference Room*

Details to come in an upcoming
newsletter, membership email,
and online at www.gdpa.org

**PRO BONO
OPPORTUNITIES
JUVENILE CLINIC**
Kathy Miller, Chair

August 27, 2009
September 24, 2009
October 29, 2009
November 19, 2009
December 17, 2009

**MARKETING
COMMITTEE MEETING**
Stephanie Tracy, Chair

September 19, 2009 at 10:00
a.m. at Panera Bread on
Miller Lane in Dayton, OH