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[www.gdpa.org](http://www.gdpa.org)

## Inside this Issue

**1** President's Message

**2** New Members

Committee Reports

Notices and Updates

**3** Paralegal Spotlight

**4** Upcoming Events

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

# GDPA Newsletter

## President's Message

*Rima Davidson*

As many of you know, my vision for GDPA is to become a mentoring organization that provides continuing legal education and networking opportunities to its members. You may recall that I recognized my mentors at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala. Through their daily walk of unwavering professionalism and work ethic, they prepared the foundation for me to succeed as a paralegal. Through GDPA's mentoring program, you too can prepare the foundation for success by mentoring a paralegal student or junior paralegal. You are also never too old to be mentored. Whether as a mentor or mentee, it is a resource that will only enhance your career goals. Visit [www.gdpa.org](http://www.gdpa.org) (Members Area) for an application to get started. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephanie Tracy, Mentoring Committee Chair, at [sdtracy@ssallc.com](mailto:sdtracy@ssallc.com).

I would also like to encourage all of you to visit the website on a regular basis for on-going updates to current events. GDPA's committees meet at various locations to plan and strategize events for the year. If you have talents that would benefit a committee or simply just want to participate on a task basis, please feel free to go to a committee meeting, or contact the committee

chair for more information. Every committee meeting is an open invitation to membership. You do not need to be on the Board of Directors to join a committee. So many of us are being pulled from different directions, and it is difficult to make long term commitments. Committees are an excellent way to participate in GDPA on a short-term basis.

Please join me at our October 14<sup>th</sup> Membership Meeting to welcome our speaker Mike Kells of Central Business Group. Mr. Kells' presentation will focus on legal record storage, scanning and filing. Stay tuned for more information.

*"The greatest good you can do for another is not just to share your riches but to reveal to him his own."* – Benjamin Disraeli



# NEW MEMBERS

## STUDENT MEMBERS

Brenda Leffel  
Julia Schieltz  
Julie Thompson  
Mary Woeste  
Jane L. Howard  
Dawn Bellinger  
Brittany Nicole Radin  
Kelly Coleman

## ACTIVE MEMBERS

Erica M. Smith-Forth

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Sinclair Community College  
RETS College  
Dionne M. Carpenter, Miami Jacobs  
Career College

wrap, please contact Chair Stephanie Tracy at [sdtracy@ssallc.com](mailto:sdtracy@ssallc.com). Otherwise, please plan to stop by and let us wrap your gifts!

### **Events Committee**

A social was held on September 10<sup>th</sup> at Michael's Jazz Club. Members had the opportunity to relax with an evening of conversation, food, drink, and music. Please direct suggestions for future events to Chair Jenni Blessing at [jablessing@ssallc.com](mailto:jablessing@ssallc.com).

### **Public Relations Committee**

A press release was sent to the Dayton Daily News about our new Mentoring Program. Please feel free to read about it at <http://www.daytondailynews.com/b/content/oh/tools/press/press.html?p=5698>.

### **Pro Bono**

A Juvenile Clinic was held on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Future dates for pro bono opportunities will be posted online and in upcoming newsletters. Contact Chair Kathy Miller at 937-461-3857 or [gdlvp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gdlvp@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### **Mentorship Committee**

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, Rima Davidson and Stephanie Tracy attended Sinclair's New Paralegal Student Orientation. We met roughly 60 students, and we are going to work directly with Sinclair's Student Association to identify appropriate mentors for the program. The mentorship application deadline has been extended—we invite more paralegals to participate. Mentoring will enhance and sharpen your leadership and networking skills. Let's give back to our profession by ensuring that new paralegals and recent graduates have the skills and professionalism our membership

possesses. For more information, contact Chair Stephanie Tracy at [sdtracy@ssallc.com](mailto:sdtracy@ssallc.com).

### **Operation Iraqi Children**

We will continue to accept supply or monetary donations through October 31<sup>st</sup>. The supply list is as follows:

- Pair of blunt-end scissors
- One 12-inch ruler with metric markings
- 12 pencils with erasers
- Small pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- One box of colored pencils
- One pack of notebook paper
- One composition book
- Three folders with inside pockets
- One zippered pencil bag

Contact Stephanie Tracy at [sdtracy@ssallc.com](mailto:sdtracy@ssallc.com) for more information.

### **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).

## 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 will be wrapping gifts for donations at Town and Country on December 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you would like to donate some of your time to help



## PARALEGAL SPOTLIGHT

### “MARILYN BOURDOW”

Please join the GDPA Board and myself in congratulating Marilyn Bourdow, our Paralegal of the Month for September.

Marilyn received her Paralegal Degree from Sinclair Community College in 1986. She later received her Bachelor of Arts in Paralegal Management from Capital University in 1996. Marilyn has been a paralegal for 26 years— starting her career as NCR’s first paralegal in 1983. She is currently employed at Coolidge Wall Co., L.P.A. where she works in Employment Law and Litigation.

Marilyn is married to Norris Bourdow, a Retail Merchandiser at Procter & Gamble. She has one son, Kevin and his wife Melissa who live in Colorado, and two grandsons Declan (3) and Ashton (5). She also has two dogs Chewie & Cricket, two cats Cookie and Heidi, one granddog Hayley and a grandfish Dorothy. Her hobbies include quilting, boating, reading, rescuing animals, and spoiling grandkids.

If Marilyn were not a Paralegal, she would either be a crime scene investigator, veterinarian, or a rock star.

Marilyn has experienced many memorable moments as a Paralegal. “[A]s a Paralegal for NCR, I traveled all over the country, interviewing witnesses, investigating cases and assisting at trials and arbitrations. One memorable moment that most Paralegals can identify with involved one of my attorneys at NCR who was ALWAYS late with court filings. I would have to run to my car (which was way out in the NCR lot), race downtown, try to find a parking place, run to the courthouse, go through security and pray that the clerk’s office was still open. One time, it was so late that he even had to go with me and jump out of the car and run in himself while I drove around. Every court filing was a stressful event. One day while at the Federal Court clerk’s office, I noticed that they had changed their hours from a 4:00 p.m. closing time to 5:00 p.m. Well, I decided that I was going to keep that little secret to myself. So, now when my boss had a ‘last-minute’ filing, it was really not last minute and I could take my time and not almost have a heart attack. However, after a few months, some blabbermouth told him that the Federal Court clerk’s office had changed its closing time to 5:00 p.m. He came to me and said, ‘Why didn’t you tell me that?’ I said, ‘you didn’t ask me!’ He said, ‘Okay, MARILYN CLINTON!’ So, from then on, I was Marilyn Clinton to him. So, my stress-less court filings did not last very long. And, I learned my lesson when the court changed its closing hours back to 4:00 p.m.—he didn’t believe me.”

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  
[kristas@lsplaw.com](mailto:kristas@lsplaw.com)

Jennifer Blessing, Secretary  
[jblessing@ssallc.com](mailto:jblessing@ssallc.com)

Stephanie Tracy, Treasurer  
[sdtracy@ssallc.com](mailto:sdtracy@ssallc.com)

Donna Middlebrook, Trustee  
[dmiddlebrook@yandalaw.com](mailto:dmiddlebrook@yandalaw.com)

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, October 14, 2009

Time: 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Speaker: Mike Kells, Central Business Group

*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)

### MARKETING COMMITTEE MEETING

To Be Determined

### EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Time: 5:45 pm

Location: Don Pablo's at Fairfield Commons

### PRO BONO

### WILLS FOR HEROES

September 19, 2009

(Washington Township)

### PRO BONO

### JUVENILE CLINIC

September 24, 2009

October 29, 2009

November 19, 2009

December 17, 2009

### OPERATION IRAQI CHILDREN

Deadline: October 31, 2009

Donations can be brought to October Membership Meeting.

### SAVE THE DATES...

November 7, 2009: Outlet mall excursion (details coming soon)

December 4, 2009: Annual Holiday Party (tentative)