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AAfPE Regional Spring Conference
March 7-9, 2019

Sheraton Mission Valley

San Diego, California



**American Association for Paralegal Education
Regional Spring Conference
March 7-9, 2019
San Diego, CA**

Thursday, March 7

2:00 p.m. – Registration Opens

2:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Welcome

Dwight Dickerson, California State University, East Bay, Hayward, CA
AAfPE Director, West Region

3:00 - 4:30 p.m. – Forensics Science in the Courtroom, What Legal Practitioners Don't Know May Hurt Them.

Marissa J. Moran, J.D., CUNY – New York City College of Technology, Brooklyn, New York

Learn about the various methods and approaches when teaching forensic science in the legal studies curriculum. This presentation will also include an examination of a recent decision in which the judge relied upon forensic science to determine the various issues that arose in a contested divorce action.
CA MCLE Credit Hours: 1 (Pending)

6:00 p.m. – A Visit to Old Town San Diego

OLD TOWN is the historic heart of **San Diego**. Created in 1769, **Old Town San Diego** was California's first settlement with only a mission and a fort. Wander through lush gardens, browse at one of the many specialty shops for treasures from around the world, or enjoy a great meal at one of the many restaurants in the area.

Friday, March 8

8:15 a.m. – Registration Opens

8:30 a.m. – Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 10:15 a.m. – Multiculturalism in the Curriculum and Beyond!

Lisa S. Hutton, J.D. John F Kennedy University, Pleasant Hill, CA
Juliet Jonas, J.D. John F Kennedy University, Pleasant Hill, CA

Incorporating multicultural awareness and education into the curriculum is a must! The panelists will discuss ways that John F. Kennedy University is incorporating multicultural issues using practical exercises and resources, and ask for input on what other programs are doing as well. They will also share how the incorporation of multicultural issues into the curriculum had the added benefit of sparking awareness on the part of program faculty at John F. Kennedy University, opening up further opportunities to engage and communicate with students in an empathetic and respectful manner.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. – Break with Exhibitors

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. – Best Practices in Online Education

Mary Sessom, Cuyamaca College, El Cajon, CA

Dora Dye, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA

Online education is here to stay! Many programs have integrated online education into their curriculum or are seriously considering doing so. Our panelists will lead a round table discussion on creative steps and ideas for keeping your program attractive, relevant and cutting edge in meeting the needs of students interested in online education.

11:45 – 12:00 p.m. – Break with Exhibitors

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. - Lunch, AAFPE Business Meeting & Board Updates

Dwight Dickerson, California State University, East Bay, Hayward, CA

AAfPE Director, West Region

1:30-2:45 p.m. – The Ethical Duty to be Technologically Competent; The Role of Artificial Intelligence

Douglas Lusk, National Society for Legal Technology, Studio City, CA

Doug Lusk, Founder and CEO of National Society for Legal Technology, will be discussing how the use of Artificial Intelligence is playing a role in the ever changing world of Legal Technology and what this means for the future role that Paralegals will play in this new tech-savvy world. A look into how to best prepare your student for a career full of automation and intelligent software. The requirements and implications of ABA Model Rule 1.1 that has now been adopted by 33 states will also be incorporated in this presentation.

CA MCLE Credit Hours: 1 (Ethics)

2:45 - 3:00 p.m. – Break with Exhibitors

3:00 – 4:15 p.m. – Catching the Wave: Using Your LMS to Help Capture Survey Assessment Data for ABA Reporting

Jeffrey Watts, Lone Star College – North Harris, Houston, TX

Samantha Ward, Lone Star College – North Harris, Houston, TX

Ongoing assessment is an important tool for maintaining and increasing the effectiveness of a paralegal program. Capturing survey assessment data is an important component. Why reinvent the wheel? Our panelists will discuss ways you can use your institution's learning management system to do some of this work for you.

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. – Meet and Greet Welcome Reception in the Hotel Lobby /Pool Bar
(Not sponsored, i.e., pay for yourself and maybe treat a friend.)

6:00 p.m. – Dine Around

Saturday, March 9

8:30 a.m. – Breakfast

9:00 – 10:15 a.m. – Bridging the Gap: Working with your Local Paralegal Associations

Julia Dunlap, University of California, San Diego La Jolla, CA
P. Darrel Harrison, San Diego Miramar College, San Diego, CA
Emily Morissette, Southwestern College, Chula Vista, CA
Tara Murphy, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA
Mary Sessom, Cuyamaca College, El Cajon, CA
Julie A. Schwartz, San Diego Paralegal Association, San Diego, CA

How do you stay connected with your alumni network, keep students engaged, and recruit new students. This session consists of a panel of local program directors who have found ways to make this happen by working with their local paralegal association. Bridging the Gap is a collaboration between the local paralegal programs and the San Diego Paralegal Association. The primary purpose of this all day conference is to provide students and program alumni with up-to-date information about the paralegal profession, meet with practicing paralegals for networking and potential mentorships and to provide MCLE credit for practicing paralegals and attorneys.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. – Break with Exhibitors

10:30 – 11:45 a.m. – Establishing and Helping Your Students Reap the Benefits of a Mentoring Program

Robyn Ice, J.D., M.F.A., Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Robyn's presentation will focus upon the value of mentoring in ensuring professional success. She will also discuss the practical aspects and considerations for developing a successful mentoring program at your institution.

12:00 p.m. – 12:15 p.m. – Closing Remarks

Dwight Dickerson, California State University, East Bay, Hayward, CA
AAfPE Director, West Region



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Speaker List

Dwight Dickerson, J.D., California State University, East Bay

Dwight Dickerson is the Director of the Paralegal Studies Program at California State University East Bay in the Division of Continuing and Education and a former member of the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals Approval Commission. Dwight is a member of the AAfPE Board of Directors representing the West Region. Dwight has been a member of the faculty of the CSUEB Paralegal Studies Program since 1991, and is an instructor of Contract Law and Nonprofit Law on the CSUEB Hayward Hills campus. Dwight graduated from Brandeis University with honors majoring in American & Urban Studies and received his J. D. from the University of Michigan Law School. He has been an active member of the State Bar of California since December 1977.

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Julia M. Dunlap, Esq., University of California, San Diego

Julia M. Dunlap, Esq., is the director of business, legal, and safety programs for UC San Diego Extension's Business certificates, ABA Approved Paralegal Certificate Program, the Intellectual Property Certificate Program, and OSHA Training Institute Education Center. Ms. Dunlap received her Bachelor of Art's degree in English from the University of California at Berkeley. She earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of San Diego, School of Law, and became an active member of the California State Bar in 1993. She is licensed to practice before California and Federal courts. In addition to her duties at UC San Diego, she is a sole practitioner specializing in estate planning. Ms. Dunlap has played an active role in education for over 18 years and is the past president of the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE).

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Dora Dye, City College of San Francisco

Dora Dye is the paralegal program coordinator and CurricUNET administrator at City College of San Francisco and was a real estate/corporate paralegal for over 15 years. She received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Spanish from the University of California at Berkeley.

Dora has been an active member of AAFPE since 1994 and has served on several committees, contributed content to model syllabi, and reported on events in the Pacific Region. She is AAFPE's long-time Listserv Manager and served two terms on the AAFPE Board as Director of Associate Programs.

Dora is the 1993 and 1994 president of the San Francisco Paralegal Association. She taught the legal research and writing component of the Paralegal Advanced Competency Exam Review Seminar as well as co-authored the chapter on "Factual and Legal Research" in the PACE Study Manual with her husband, David Dye. In 1999, Ms. Dye completed the development of the PACE Review Course delivered by the Consortium for Advanced Legal Education.

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P. Darrel Harrison J.D., M.B.A., San Diego Miramar College

P. Darrel Harrison is a trained mediator who holds an MBA in organizational development and a JD degree. He is an instructor and the program director for the ABA-approved paralegal program at San Diego Miramar College. Mr. Harrison is also vice president and chief/grievance/arbitration officer for the San Diego Chapter of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), local 1931. He is also served as a member of City of San Diego Mayor's Citizen Review Board, which reviews citizen complaints filed against the San Diego Police Department.

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Lisa Hutton, J.D., John F. Kennedy University

Lisa S. Hutton is a Professor and serves as the Program Chair for the American Bar Association approved Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies Program and Paralegal Certificate Programs at John K. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, California. Lisa teaches Introduction to Law and Capstone in the Bachelor's and Certificate Programs. Additionally, Lisa is currently serving her 8th year as John F. Kennedy University's Faculty Senate President, the governing body for faculty at the University.

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Robyn Ice, J.D., M.F.A., Tulane University

Robyn Ice is a Professor of Practice and Director of the General Legal Studies Program at Tulane University's School of Professional Advancement, where she also teaches the capstone/practicum course each semester. She has worked closely with the New Orleans Paralegal Association to develop and implement its Paralegal Mentoring Program, which is now in its second year and serves alumni of paralegal programs throughout the region. Before joining Tulane in 2014, Ms. Ice practiced environmental and toxic tort law for 23 years, first in Atlanta and then in New York City, including twelve years as a partner with the firms Alston & Bird, LLC, Rosenberg & Estis, P.C., and Troutman Sanders, LLC; and four as in-house counsel with Zurich Insurance. Ms. Ice serves on the Approval Commission for the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Paralegals and is an active participant in and regular presenter at AAFPE conferences. Ms. Ice received her B.F.A. from West Virginia University, *magna cum laude*; M.F.A. from the University of Georgia; and J.D., *cum laude*, from Georgia State University College of Law, where she served as Editor in Chief of the Georgia State University Law Review. Before entering law school, Ms. Ice performed as a puppeteer and designed costumes and puppets for theatre and television for over a decade.

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Juliet Jonas, J.D., John F. Kennedy University

Juliet R. Jonas, Esq., is a core faculty member in John F. Kennedy University's Legal Studies program. Juliet earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the UC Davis School of Law, and became an active member of the California State Bar in 2007. Juliet teaches Torts, Litigation I and II, and Legal Technology. In addition to Juliet's teaching duties at JFKU, she is a member of the JFKU Faculty Senate Executive Board, JFKU Diversity Council, a board member of the litigation section of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, and is on the newly formed Membership and Education Committee with the Contra Costa County Bar Association. She also enjoys dabbling in motion work on civil litigation matters when time permits.

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Douglas Lusk, National Society for Legal Technology

Douglas Lusk is the Founder and CEO of National Society for Legal Technology (NSLT) <https://legaltechpro.wildapricot.org/>. Doug's goal, as Founder of the NSLT, is to promote the need for on-going legal technology education in the legal industry and works to connect students and professionals with legal technology educational resources. In November 2016, in recognition of the NSLT's new Legal Technology Certification program, the NSLT was nominated for an Innovation in Legal Technology Education award at abovethelaw.com. Doug also served in 2016 as Committee Chairman of the Legal Technology Committee of the Ready for Practice Section of the American Bar Association Law Student Division (try and fit that on a business card!). Doug's committee work involved working with the Ready for Practice Section Committee to develop best practice recommendations and informational seminars for the ABA to promote legal technology education as part of the law school curriculum. The NSLT's Legal Technology Certificate Program is currently required curriculum at more than 117 College & University programs.

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Marissa J. Moran, J.D., CUNY – New York City College of Technology

Marissa J. Moran is an attorney and professor in the Department of Law & Paralegal Studies, New York City College of Technology, CUNY, where she currently teaches Legal Technology, Forensic Science & the Legal Process, and Legal Document Preparation. She has also taught business law courses as an adjunct professor at New York University, Stern School of Business. Her teaching concentration focuses on the blended areas of technology & law and forensic science & law.

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Emily Lynch Morissette, J.D., Southwestern College

Emily Lynch Morissette is presently the Program Director of the Paralegal Studies program at Southwestern College in San Diego, CA. She is an attorney, author and professor whose books include *Personal Injury and the Law of Torts for Paralegals*, as well as *Business Law and Organizations for Paralegals*. Emily has twenty-two years of experience in the legal industry and is managing partner of her own law firm.

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Tara Murphy, J.D., C.P.A, University of San Diego

Tara Murphy is presently the Director of Graduate Career Programs at the University of San Diego. She is an attorney who specializes in business transaction with an extensive accounting background. Tara also a part time Assistant Professor of Business Administration at Trident University
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Julie A. Schwartz, San Diego Paralegal Association

Julie Schwartz is currently employed at the Huerta Law Firm as a Paralegal/Business Development Manager, specializing in Bankruptcy, Criminal and Personal Injury Law. Prior to joining the Huerta Law Firm she worked at The Law Offices of Jeffrey R. Frank, specializing in civil litigation with an emphasis in personal injury law where she assisted in all phases from intake, investigation, property damage (inspection, evaluation, and settlement), coordination with medical providers and other professional/experts, claims presentation and evaluation, pleadings, discovery, law and motion, to ADR, and trial. She is also serving as President of the San Diego Paralegal Association.
president@sdparalegals.org

Mary Sessom, J.D., Cuyamaca College

Mary Sessom is presently Chair & Program Coordinator for the Business and Professional Studies Departments at Cuyamaca College. She practiced law extensively in the San Diego Area for over 20 years as well as served as a City Councilmember and Mayor of Lemon Grove, California.
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Samantha Ward, J.D., Lone Star College – North Harris

Samantha Ward is originally from Galveston, Texas. She received her J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law and received her B.A. in Spanish and Political Science from Central Methodist University. Samantha is a licensed attorney in Texas and Missouri and has her own law firm, Ward and Associates which specializes in business law, contracts, and wills. Samantha has designed curriculum for top-level executives, attorneys, bar associations, law schools, law firms, legal assistants, paralegals, law enforcement, the military, and many more. She has taught, presented, and consulted for the University of Phoenix, Post University, Grand Canyon University, Ohio Christian University, Austin Women's Small Business Alliance, the New Jersey Institute for CLE, Seattle University Law School, Cumberland Law School at Samford University (Birmingham, Alabama), the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Oklahoma Bar Association, the State Bar of New Mexico, the Association of Continuing Legal Education Professionals (ACLEA), the Missouri Bar, the Missouri Department of Revenue, Central Methodist University, Moberly Area College, Mineral Area College, and Lone Star College. She has been published in the Texas Bar Journal, the Atlanta Lawyer Magazine, the North Carolina Lawyers' Weekly, and Missouri Lawyers' Weekly. The American Bar Association is publishing her book, The ABA Spanish Legal Phrasebook.
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Jeffrey A. Watts, M.A., C.P., Lone Star College – North Harris

Jeff Watts is a professor and Program Director of the Paralegal Studies Program at Lone Star College, where he teaches Introduction to Law, Legal Research and Rules of Civil Procedure and winner of various teaching awards. Before joining Lone Star College, Jeff worked as a paralegal for more than 15 years in the Houston area. Jeff received his paralegal certificate from North Harris County College (now known as Lone Star College). He obtained his undergraduate degree and master's degree in Criminology from the University of Houston. In addition to paralegal studies, he is credentialed to teach criminal justice and political science. Jeff also serves as the coordinator of the Legislative Affairs Committee for the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, and the chair of the task force on the Future of Legal Education for AAFPE.

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