



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
PARALEGAL ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION



September 24-27, 2026

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Bloomington, MN/Mall of America

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NATIONAL
FEDERATION OF
PARALEGAL
ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

Mission Statement

*The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc., promotes a **global presence** for the paralegal profession and **leadership** in the legal community.*

Core Purpose

To advance the paralegal profession.



SCHED

NFPA is utilizing Sched as its virtual platform. All up to date Convention information will be available via this platform. Download the Sched app from your smart phone or device app store. Or access it via the web: <https://2026nfpaannualconvention.sched.com/mobile-site>



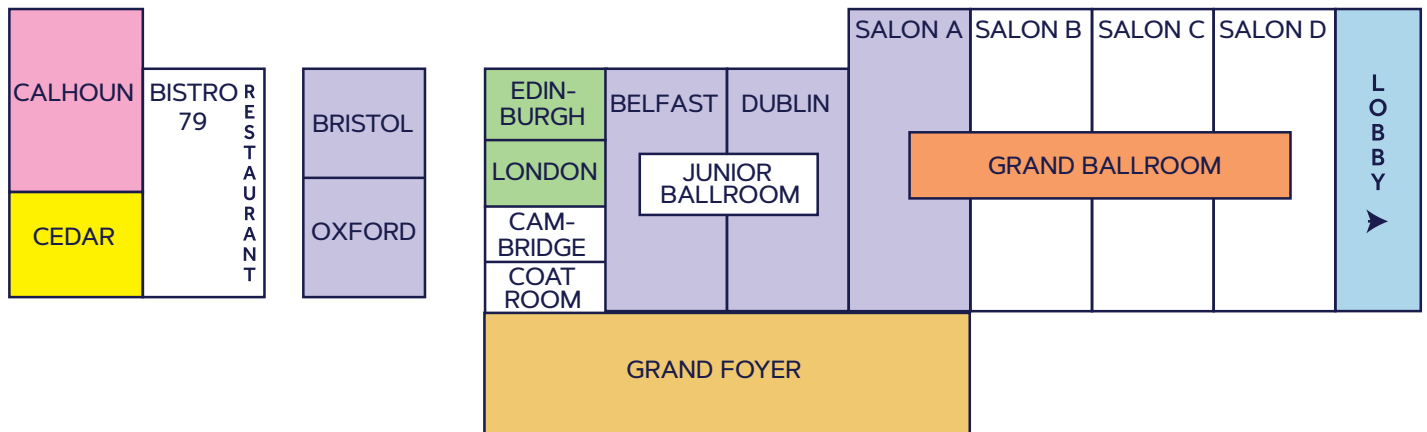
Cluster

Download the Cluster app now so you'll be ready to share your Convention photos and memories! Join the NFPA Convention Cluster group at <https://cluster.co/i/R9DYKQU8>

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VENUE MAP



- Registration
- Keynote Sessions
- Concurrent Sessions
- NFPA Board Meeting
- Exhibits
- Networking Breaks
- Meals (Breakfast & Lunch)
- Student Networking Breakfast
- Region 1 Meeting (Salon A)
- Region 2 Meeting (Dublin/Belfast)
- Region 3 Meeting (Bristol/Oxford)
- Region 4 Meeting (Edinburgh/London)
- Region 5 Meeting (Cedar)
- Thursday Night All-Attendee Reception
- Friday Night Social
- Saturday Game Night (Dublin/Belfast)

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

3:00 – 5:30 PM	Registration Open	Grand Foyer
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

7:30 AM – 5:30 PM	Registration Open	Grand Foyer
7:30 – 8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast Sponsored by Veritext Legal Solutions	Grand Ballroom B - D
7:30 – 8:00 AM	Student Networking Breakfast	Cedar
8:00 – 8:20 AM	Welcome	Grand Ballroom B - D
8:30 – 9:30 AM	Concurrent Education Sessions #1	See Concurrent Sessions Schedule for locations
9:30 – 10:00 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors	Exhibitor Area
10:00 – 11:00 AM	Concurrent Education Sessions #2	See Concurrent Sessions Schedule for locations
11:00 – 11:30 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors	Exhibitor Area
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Lunch Sponsored By 3M & Keynote Speaker: The Evolving Attorney-Paralegal Relationship: Past, Present, and Future	Grand Ballroom B - D
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors	Exhibitor Area
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions #3	See Concurrent Sessions Schedule for locations
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Networking Break Sponsored by Cogency Global	Exhibitor Area
3:00 – 4:00 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions #4	See Concurrent Sessions Schedule for locations
4:15 – 5:00 PM	Wellness Workshop: Clarity in Chaos	Grand Ballroom B - D
5:15 – 6:00 PM	NFPA Board Meeting	Calhoun
6:15 – 7:30 PM	Networking Reception with Exhibitors	Exhibitor Area

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration Open	Grand Foyer
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast	Grand Ballroom B - D
8:00 - 8:20 AM	Welcome	Grand Ballroom B - D
8:30 - 9:30 AM	Concurrent Education Sessions #5	See Concurrent Sessions Schedule for locations
9:30 - 10:00 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors	Exhibitor Area
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Concurrent Education Sessions #6	See Concurrent Sessions Schedule for locations
11:00 - 11:30 AM	Networking Break with Exhibitors	Exhibitor Area
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch & Keynote Speaker: A Justice System Built by the People for the People	Grand Ballroom B - D
1:00 - 1:30 PM	Networking Break with Exhibitors	Exhibitor Area
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions #7	See Concurrent Sessions Schedule for locations
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Networking Break Sponsored by McLane Middleton	Exhibitor Area
3:00 - 4:00 PM	Concurrent Education Sessions #8	See Concurrent Sessions Schedule for locations
4:00 - 4:15 PM	Break	
4:15 - 5:00 PM	Wellness Workshop: Secondary Trauma In Legal Practice	Salon A
7:00 - 9:00 PM	Friday Night Social Event (Extra Charge): Sponsored by Minnesota Paralegal Association and Barbara Peppersack	Grand Ballroom B - D

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration Open	Grand Foyer
7:30 - 8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast	Grand Ballroom B - D
8:30 - 10:00 AM	State of Federation & Awards	Grand Ballroom B - D
10:00 - 10:30 AM	Networking Break	Exhibitor Area
10:30 - 11:45 AM	Region Meetings	See Venue Map
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch & Keynote Speaker: The Rise of the Paralegal: Redefining Value, Power, and What's Now Possible	Grand Ballroom B - D
1:15 - 5:00 PM	Region Meetings	See Venue Map
5:00 - 8:00 PM	Region Dinners	Offsite
8:00 - 10:00 PM	Board Game Night	Dublin/Belfast



HELPING PAWS ASSISTANCE DOGS



ABOUT *Helping Paws*

Helping Paws is a **Minnesota nonprofit with over 39 years** of experience breeding, training, and placing assistance dogs such as service dogs with individuals who have physical disabilities, service dogs with veterans living with service-related PTSD, and facility dogs with professionals in courthouse, educational, and mental health settings.



Helping Paws is proudly accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI), a global coalition of nonprofit programs and the leading authority in the assistance dog industry.

OUR *Volunteers*



Host Homes open their hearts and homes to our dogs, while our staff trains them during the daytime. Foster a future service dog!



Volunteer Dog Trainers care for and train our dogs from puppies to service dogs, attending weekly classes and practicing cues at home.



Dog Sitters help care for our dogs in training when their Volunteer Dog Trainers or Host Homes travel! Choose the dates that work for you!



WELCOME FROM NFPA BOARD PRESIDENT

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NATIONAL
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Dear NFPA 2026 Convention Attendees,

It is my honor and pleasure, on behalf of The National Federation of Paralegal Associations, to welcome you to this year's Convention! We are thrilled to bring together paralegals from across the country to learn, share ideas, celebrate our profession, and strengthen the connections that make our Federation so valuable. Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a longtime member and Convention attendee, your presence helps make this event special.



This year's Convention is designed to provide opportunities for professional growth, meaningful education, and valuable connections with colleagues who understand the challenges and rewards of our profession. Over the next several days, I encourage you to take full advantage of everything Convention has to offer. Attend educational sessions and workshops, engage with our speakers and exhibitors, exchange ideas with colleagues, and take time to build new relationships. Some of the most meaningful experiences at Convention happen in the conversations between sessions and the connections made along the way.

We are incredibly thankful to our speakers, session leaders and most importantly, Patty Meagher, NFPA Convention Chair, Amy Sellheim, Events Manager, and the MHQ team as well as the entire Convention Planning Committee, who gave their time, expertise, and heart to make sure Convention is a success.

As we look toward the future of the paralegal profession, there has never been a more exciting time to be part of this community. Our knowledge, skills, adaptability, resilience, and commitment continue to strengthen the legal profession and the clients we serve. Thank you for your dedication to the Federation and to the paralegal profession. I hope you have an inspiring, productive, and memorable experience!

Welcome, and enjoy the Convention!

Lori A. Wagner, RP, IRP
NFPA President

WELCOME FROM THE NFPA CONVENTION COMMITTEE



NATIONAL
FEDERATION OF
PARALEGAL
ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

On behalf of the 2026 Convention Committee, welcome to the National Federation of Paralegal Associations, Inc.'s Annual Convention in Bloomington, Minnesota!!

This year's Annual Convention will offer you three wonderful keynote speakers, two full days of continuing legal education seminars, two wellness workshops, and plenty of networking opportunities all which will empower you to become resilient in your legal profession, in your local association, and in your local community.

As you walk around during the Annual Convention, we encourage you to visit our exhibitors and see all of the products and services they offer for our legal profession. Be sure to say "thank you" to them for their continued support of NFPA. Without them, it would be difficult to do our job.

If you see a new attendee be sure to introduce yourself to them and make them feel welcome!

Finally, thank you to the entire 2026 Convention Committee and MHQ events team for all their hard work, time, and dedication in making this Annual Convention a huge success! We could not do this without their knowledge, ideas, and expertise.

If you enjoyed yourself this year, be sure to come and join us in St. Louis, Missouri, for the 2027 Annual Convention!

Sincerely,

Cherylan Shearer, IRP

Secretary and Director of Leadership Development

Patty Meagher, MnCP

Convention Chair

2026 CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Patty Meagher, MnCP (Chair)
Convention Chair, Chair
Minnesota Paralegal Association

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Director, Region V

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Chester County Paralegal
Association

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Catherine Curtis, CP
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Cindy Moss
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Minnesota Paralegal Association

Barbara Peppersack, RP
Minnesota Paralegal Association

Amy Sellheim
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Rachel Gaul
Associate Executive Director

Amy Sellheim
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Mike Swan
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Minnie Sota Welcomes You for the NFPA Annual Convention!



When you receive Minnie Sota in your convention bag, make sure you take her with you and photograph her doing all the fun things you are doing at the NFPA Convention in Bloomington/Mall of America!

Then, upload your photos with Minnie Sota to the Convention Cluster app and NFPA social media using the hashtags [#MinnieSota](#) and [#NFPA2026](#) so everyone can see your adventures.

You never know, there just might be a prize for the most creative place Minnie Sota is pictured!

Essential to the Team. Essential to the Practice.

Paralegals bring the knowledge, initiative, and dedication that keep legal teams moving forward. At MacElree Harvey, we recognize their essential role in strengthening our practice and delivering exceptional service to our clients.



"The paralegal has a critical role to play in any legal team. Working with a group of attorneys, paralegals, and legal support staff who effectively collaborate and empower each other leads to great success!"

**Donald P.
Bristol, RP®**

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*Presenter at the 2026 NFPA Annual Convention
Effectively Utilizing the Paralegal in Estate and Trust Administration*

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KEYNOTE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 | SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Thursday, September 24, 2026
12:00 – 1:00 PM

The Evolving Attorney-Paralegal Relationship: Past, Present, and Future (1.0 CLE)



KEVIN RHODES

Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Affairs Officer and Corporate Secretary

This program examines the evolving attorney-paralegal relationship through the lens of past practice, present realities, and future opportunities. Attendees will explore how this professional partnership has developed from a traditional support model into a more collaborative and strategic working relationship shaped by changing client demands, legal technology, and operational expectations. The session will also feature practical examples and stories illustrating paralegal involvement in areas such as product enforcement, litigation, M&A transactions, and other key legal functions, highlighting the breadth and value of the paralegal role in supporting complex legal work.

Friday, September 25, 2026
12:00 – 1:00 PM

A Justice System Built by the People for the People (1.0 CLE)



PAUL THISSEN

Associate Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court

This session will discuss the Minnesota Legal Paraprofessional program and process that the state went through to approve the program. As background, in September 2020, the Minnesota Supreme Court issued an order adopting Court Supervised Practice Rule amendments authorizing the Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project, effective March 1, 2021, in two areas of civil law: landlord-tenant disputes and certain family law disputes. In 2025, the Legal Paraprofessional Program became permanent with additional practice areas approved.

Saturday, September 26, 2026
11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

The Rise Of The Paralegal: Redefining Value, Power, and What's Now Possible (1.0 CLE)



JACLYN FOSTER

Paralegal, Founder of The Paralegals in Business Society

The paralegal profession is entering a defining moment. Across the legal industry, expectations are shifting, opportunities are expanding, and the work of paralegals is becoming more visible, strategic, and essential than ever before. In this presentation, Jaclyn Foster will explore the evolving role of the modern paralegal, the value paralegals bring beyond traditional job descriptions, and the new possibilities emerging across law firms, legal departments, and independent professional paths. This session is designed to challenge outdated assumptions, reignite professional confidence, and inspire paralegals to see themselves not just as part of the legal industry, but as professionals helping shape what comes next. Attendees will leave with a renewed sense of what is possible, a deeper understanding of their professional value, and a bold reminder that the next era of legal work will not be built without paralegals at the center of it.

CLE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

The educational sessions are designed to enhance your knowledge of specific areas of law in ways that can elevate your paralegal career.

Each session provides 1.0 CLE credit unless noted otherwise.

Presenter biographies are listed in Sched and on the NFPA website.

8:30 a.m. CLE SESSIONS

Beyond The Draft: Engineering File-Ready Motions Through Strategic Collaboration (1.0 CLE) **SALON A**

In litigation, excellent motion work is more than just persuasive argument; it is meticulously constructed pleading process where every fact and legal citation is bulletproof. This session explores the sophisticated partnership between an attorney and senior litigation support. We will pull back the curtain on the workflow used to synchronize legal research, fact and legal-cite checking, and complex exhibit management. Attendees will learn how to transform a standard filing into a high-caliber file-ready work product that builds immediate credibility with the court.

Presented by: Molly Gulbrandson, Founder and Senior Paralegal, ParaOne Legal Services, LLC; Jeffrey P. Justman, Partner, Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP

A Litigator's Playbook (1.0 CLE) **DUBLIN/BELFAST**

This CLE will delve into the complexities of modern trust and estate litigation, covering topics such as breach of fiduciary duty, will contests, and trustee removal. Participants will gain practical insights about how discovery impacts these claims and how litigators can prepare for and mitigate potential family conflict. The session will also address recent case law and legislative updates impacting trust and estate administration and litigation.

Presented by: Evan Nelson, Partner, Maslon LLP

Evolving Legal Practice in An Age of AI – An Inhouse Perspective (1.0 CLE) **OXFORD/BRISTOL**

This CLE program examines how artificial intelligence is reshaping legal practice from an in-house counsel perspective. The session will explore emerging opportunities and risks associated with AI, including professional responsibility, confidentiality, accuracy, governance, and practical considerations for legal departments adopting AI-enabled tools. Participants will gain insight into how inhouse teams can support innovation while maintaining sound legal judgment, regulatory awareness, and ethical compliance.

Presented by: Andrew J. Neuharth, Strategic General Counsel & Corporate Secretary, 3M Company

CLE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

10:00 a.m. CLE SESSIONS

The Role Of The Paralegal in IP and Brand Protection, Including The Art of Becoming Trademarkable (1.0 CLE)

OXFORD/BRISTOL

Trademark paralegals play a vital role in the registration process and beyond, supporting portfolio management and brand enforcement across an increasingly complex IP landscape shaped by AI-driven innovation. Working in both law firms and in-house legal teams, they contribute throughout the lifecycle of a brand—from search and clearance, filing applications, managing foreign associates, and preparing specimens of use, to navigating TEAS, docketing, responding to Office Actions, handling maintenance filings, supporting TTAB proceedings, and overseeing brand enforcement and portfolio management. This session reviews these core responsibilities while focusing on three essential pre-filing steps that are critical to achieving successful outcomes. With more than 70% of applications receiving an initial refusal, the ability to overcome these challenges often depends on the groundwork completed before filing. By mastering the art of becoming “trademarkable,” participants will learn how to improve success rates while reducing inefficiencies, time, and costs in the registration process.

Presented by: Cheryl Hodgson, Attorney, Remarkable Legal

Reimagining The Practice Of Law: The Paralegal’s Rising Role in a Deregulated Era (1.0 CLE)

DUBLIN/BELFAST

As states across the country explore or adopt deregulation models, the boundaries of who can deliver legal services are expanding. This presentation will break down what deregulation really means for paralegals including new opportunities, expanded responsibilities, and the shifting expectations of clients and firms. We will examine current regulatory developments, discuss what authorized practice looks like in a changing landscape, and outline practical steps paralegals can take now to prepare for a broader role in legal service delivery.

Presented by: Eric Voogt, Founder and Executive Chair, Proof Technology, Inc.

Access To Justice: The Paralegal’s Role in Equity (1.0 DEI CLE)

SALON A

This program explores how paralegals can meaningfully expand legal access for marginalized and underserved communities. Participants will examine the ways diversity, equity, and inclusion principles shape pro bono work and community ‘based legal services, gaining insight into how equitable practices strengthen the profession. The program also highlights emerging technologies that can reduce barriers and enhance access to legal information and support. Together, these elements underscore the essential role paralegals play in advancing fairness and justice within the legal system.

Presented by: NFPA DEI Committee - Jennifer Echikson; Elizabeth Dear; Kay Palacios; Patrice Givens

CLE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

1:30 p.m. CLE SESSIONS

Governance Isn't a Document, It's a System (1.0 CLE)

OXFORD/BRISTOL

Governance systems don't magically run themselves, paralegals keep them alive, aligned, and out of trouble. This session brings fresh energy to the fundamentals of board and entity management and shows why paralegals are the operational force that General Counsel and leadership rely on every single day. We'll kick off with a fast, practical Governance 101 foundation, then dive into the real-world role of the paralegal as the cross-department connector linking legal, compliance, finance, HR, operations, and board activity to keep governance transparent, consistent, and defensible. Through lively activities and group discussions, we'll unpack the good, the bad, and the "what now" moments of governance. You'll leave with new ideas, real strategies you can use immediately, and a network of professionals who understand the realities of governance work and how to do it well.

Presented by: Tracy Salwei, Vice President, Corporate Entity & Board Governance, iCapital

Post-Death Representation of Fiduciaries – Who is Your Client? (1.0 CLE)

DUBLIN/BELFAST

All of us will experience post-death situations in our lifetime, and some of us will be fiduciaries ourselves – professionally or personally. The role of a fiduciary in trust and estate administrations can be difficult to navigate, especially when the fiduciary is also a heir/beneficiary or friend of the family. In addition, states vary in terms of defining the "fiduciary exception" and whether the estate, fiduciary, or beneficiary is the client. We will discuss relevant factors to help paralegals work with their firms to strengthen their engagement letters. In addition, we will discuss tips for handling various situations and possible pitfalls that may lead to litigation or at the very least, uncomfortable administrations.

Presented by: Angela M. Gonzalez, SBWCP, Paralegal, Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C.

An Ethical Dilemma: How Legal Practitioners and Community Justice Workers Avoid the Unauthorized Practice of Law (1.0 Ethics CLE)

SALON A

This CLE examines the ethical challenges that legal practitioners and community justice workers, collectively, allied legal professionals, must be mindful of to avoid the unauthorized practice of law (UPL). Through a rules-based overview and real-world hypotheticals, participants will examine common ethical dilemmas that allied legal professionals face in their daily work life. This seminar emphasizes how allied legal professionals serve their clients and the public while meeting their professional ethical responsibilities. Attendees will gain an understanding of the rules that allied legal professionals navigate to identify potential pitfalls and to avoid UPL.

Presented by: NFPA Advocacy Committee - Brenda Cothary; Beth Bialis, RP; Donnie Shedd; Christine Flynn; Angie Vohsing; Michael Houlberg, Director of Special Projects, IAALS

CLE SESSIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

3:00 p.m. CLE SESSIONS

Succeeding at Trial (1.0 CLE)

OXFORD/BRISTOL

This presentation will discuss court rules and tips for succeeding at trial including: preparing client and lay/expert witnesses for testifying; preparing pleadings; identifying exhibits, preparing exhibits including demonstrative exhibits; creating charts, indexes, lists to facilitate a successful trial; suggestions for assisting with jury selection and guidance for assisting attorney in court.

Presented by: Theda Yandell, RP, Paralegal

Wounds From the Workplace: The Role of a Compassionate and Trauma-Informed Paralegal in Employment Law (1.0 CLE)

DUBLIN/BELFAST

Paralegals working in employment law are frequent witnesses to the effects of trauma. This presentation provides a foundation in the physiology of trauma and its impacts and the way it may influence behavior. Then Kristen will discuss compassionate care, which asks us to consider the other person's perspectives, what it might be like to be them, and how we can help. Finally, drawing on personal and professional experience, Kristen will suggest practical strategies for working effectively with clients impacted by trauma in the employment law context.

Presented by: Kristen Comstock, JD

AI is Changing Legal Work – Hear How Paralegals Can Stay Ahead and Work Smarter (1.0 Ethics CLE)

SALON A

This course is designed specifically for paralegals who are new to AI and want clear, practical guidance, without technical complexity or overwhelm. Artificial intelligence is already shaping how legal work gets done. Appearing in research, drafting, document review, and everyday tasks, whether it has been formally introduced in your workplace or not. The real difference today isn't who is using AI. It is who understands how to use it correctly, responsibly, and with confidence. For paralegals, that distinction matters. Because your work directly supports legal outcomes that must remain accurate, reliable, and aligned with professional responsibility expectations, including those outlined in ABA Formal Opinion 512 on generative AI.

Presented by: Tony Sipp, Professor, College of the Canyons; Nikki Mehrpoo, Esq., iGovernAI

CLE SESSIONS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

8:30 a.m. CLE SESSIONS

A Day at Trial for the Paralegal (1.0 CLE)

OXFORD/BRISTOL

This session will briefly discuss the culmination of the litigation process into Trial. It will also discuss courtroom technology; not just trial prep but actual multiple week attendance at trial. Discuss my use of Trial Director at Trial, but it won't be a tutorial of Trial Director. In my region there are not a lot of paralegals involved in multi-week attendance at trial. In a larger case they hire an IT individual to present exhibits at trial, when this can be done by the Paralegal. I have attended more trials than many attorneys, as many cases do not make it to trial.

Presented by: Presented By: Lucinda Miller, Principal and Paralegal, LKM Litigation Solutions, LLC

Why Mobile Data is the Legal Evidence (1.0 CLE)

DUBLIN/BELFAST

In this session we will focus on the most rapidly growing source of evidence in legal discovery, Mobile Device Data. We will discuss what is, and is not, available from cell phones, how to use it, and considerations for how to access it. We will provide a sample forensic report to attendees so they can see different data formats and provide best practices for reviewing and producing mobile device data.

Presented by: Shawn Huston, Co-Owner, LSP Data Solutions LLC

Algorithmic Bias: The Paralegal's Role in Ethical AI Auditing (1.0 Ethics CLE)

SALON A

This session empowers paralegals to move from passive users to "Active Auditors." We will deconstruct how bias enters the legal workflow—through training data, proxy variables, and "black box" logic—and provide a practical framework for performing internal AI audits. Attendees will learn how to champion Explainability and Traceability, ensuring their firm's use of AI aligns with the 2026 ethical updates to ABA Model Rules 1.1 (Competence) and 5.3 (Supervision).

Presented by: June Hunter, Technical Enablement Lead, CS Disco; Tony Sipp, Professor, College of the Canyons

CLE SESSIONS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

10:00 a.m. CLE SESSIONS

Will Power: The Strength of Legacy Plans (1.0 CLE) SALON A

Estate planning (“legacy planning”) ensures clients’ final wishes are honored and helps families avoid costly disputes. In 2026, 56% of U.S. adults had no basic estate documents (will, trust, powers of attorney, etc.), even though 73% agree planning is personally important. Without a solid plan, state intestacy laws (which vary by state) dictate inheritance, often against the deceased’s wishes, and spouses may nonetheless claim forced shares. Studies show this gap has real consequences: a LegalShield survey found nearly 60% of Americans lack a will despite 90% saying one is important, and 58% have seen family conflict due to missing estate plans. Paralegals have a key role in closing this gap – through client education, careful document preparation, and ethical guidance – helping families preserve legacies and reduce drama.

Presented by: Scott Ruhsam, Attorney, Kennedy & Ruhsam Law Offices PA

From Overwhelmed to Efficient: How Paralegals Can Use AI (Copilot, ChatGPT and Claude) the Right Way (1.0 CLE) DUBLIN/BELFAST

This session introduces paralegals to three leading AI tool, Microsoft Copilot, ChatGPT, and Claude, and shows how they can be used to improve accuracy, save time, and support legal teams more effectively. Attendees will learn how AI can assist with tasks such as drafting correspondence, summarizing documents, analyzing contracts, legal research support, creating checklists, preparing discovery, and organizing case information. The program focuses on practical, real world use cases and ethical considerations specific to paralegals, including confidentiality, model limitations, and how to verify AI-generated content. Participants will leave with actionable prompts, workflows, and best practices they can implement immediately in their day to day work.

Presented by: Bathsheba Francis, Paralegal III, City of Atlanta

Effectively Utilizing the Paralegal in Estate and Trust Administration (1.0 Ethics CLE) OXFORD/BRISTOL

This session (authored by a paralegal and an attorney) will provide examples of how a well-crafted partnership between attorney and paralegal can effectively and successfully navigate the administration of trusts and estates. This area of law is frequently “paralegal heavy” and is a very client-relationship driven practice. The authors will address ways to avoid the pitfalls of unauthorized practice of law by paralegals, provide attorneys guidance on the impactful role the paralegal can play, and offer examples of cases that highlight an effective paralegal-attorney team.

Presented by: Donald Bristol, RP, Paralegal, MacElree Harvey, Ltd.; Carolina Heinle, Partner, Ferry Joseph, P.A.

CLE SESSIONS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

1:30 p.m. CLE SESSIONS

Bankruptcy Law for Paralegals: Decoding Tax Dischargeability Requirements (1.0 CLE)

DUBLIN/BELFAST

Contrary to common belief, discharging taxes in a Chapter 7 or a Chapter 13 bankruptcy is possible. The presentation will review the applicable law and discuss the process to determining the dischargeability of a debtor's tax liability.

Presented by: Julianne Di Benedetto, Executive Law Office Administrator/Senior Supervising Paralegal, Thinking Outside the Box Law, Inc.

eDiscovery Meets Legal Operations: Practical Strategies for Today's Paralegal

SALON A

As legal departments increasingly integrate legal operations principles into litigation support, paralegals are being asked to bridge the gap between eDiscovery execution and operational efficiency. This session explores how paralegals can apply legal ops thinking, including workflow design, vendor management, and data-driven decision making, to strengthen eDiscovery outcomes. Attendees will gain practical strategies for case planning, technology and vendor selection, and cross-functional collaboration that reduce cost and risk while improving case readiness. The session blends real-world eDiscovery experience with a legal operations lens to help paralegals add strategic value beyond traditional litigation support tasks.

Presented by: Tony Sipp, Professor, College of the Canyons; Joy Murao, Founder, CEO, Practice Aligned Resources (PAR) and June Hunter; Technical Enablement Lead, CS Disco

Ethics Without Borders: Professional Responsibility for Virtual and Traveling Paralegals (1.0 Ethics CLE)

OXFORD/BRISTOL

As virtual legal services expand, important professional responsibility considerations are raised for paralegals. This ethics-focused CLE examines unauthorized practice of law (UPL) boundaries, attorney supervision, confidentiality, and conflicts of interest in a virtual and mobile work environment. Using practical examples and real-world scenarios, the session explores how ethical obligations remain constant regardless of location. Participants will gain insight into maintaining professional standards while supporting attorneys in a location-independent practice.

Presented by: Corrin Swintosky, Owner and Freelance Paralegal, Lucid Legal Support

CLE SESSIONS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

3:00 p.m. CLE SESSIONS

ADR 101: What Every Paralegal Needs to Know (1.0 CLE)

OXFORD/BRISTOL

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a key part of resolving legal disputes efficiently and effectively outside the courtroom, and as a paralegal, you play an essential role in the process. Whether you are new to ADR or looking to refine your skills, this session will provide you with the knowledge and tools to be an indispensable member of your legal team. We will break down the essentials of ADR, including when and why it is used, explore the differences between mediation and arbitration, and look at what happens behind the scenes of these processes. We will discuss how to best organize case materials, prepare confidential mediation statements, assemble arbitration books, and manage critical deadlines. Additionally, we will explore how to support attorneys and clients at every stage of the ADR process—helping clients feel confident and prepared for mediation or arbitration, as well as navigating ethical considerations and responsibilities. By the end of this session, you'll have practical tips and a solid understanding of how to effectively assist in ADR, ensuring smooth and successful out-of-court resolutions.

Presented by: Kristi Paulson, Founder and Attorney, PowerHouse Mediation

Navigating Mental Health Law: Legal Framework, Patient Rights and Ethical Consideration (1.0 CLE)

DUBLIN/BELFAST

This session is designed to equip paralegals with a practical understanding of mental health law and its application across civil, family, and criminal legal settings. As mental health issues increasingly intersect with legal practice, paralegals play a critical role in case management, client communication, and documentation involving individuals with mental health conditions. Participants will gain a foundational overview of key legal concepts, including mental capacity, informed consent, confidentiality, and the rights of individuals receiving mental health treatment. The session will also examine the legal standards and procedures governing voluntary and involuntary commitment, with attention to due process protections and the balance between individual rights and public safety. Through practical examples, attendees will explore how mental health issues arise in disciplinary areas such as guardianship, family law, estate planning, and criminal proceedings. Emphasis will be placed on recognizing legal and ethical obligations, maintaining confidentiality, and supporting attorneys in drafting filings, organizing records, and preparing case materials involving mental health components.

Presented by: Brenda Cothary, Paralegal, Coordinated Care

Building a Resilient Career as a Paralegal from Underrepresented Backgrounds (1.0 DEI CLE)

SALON A

This program focuses on practical strategies for navigating and thriving within the legal profession. Participants will explore common barriers faced by paralegals from marginalized communities and learn effective approaches for overcoming them. The session highlights networking techniques that foster genuine professional connections and open doors to advancement. It also addresses the importance of self advocacy how to speak up for one's needs and ambitions while maintaining well-being and avoiding burnout. Together, these insights support the development of a sustainable, empowered, and resilient paralegal career.

Presented by: NFPA DEI Committee - Jennifer Echikson; Elizabeth Dear; Kay Palacios; Patrice Givens

WELLNESS WORKSHOPS

Workshops are interactive and informative sessions, providing you with new tools and skills to help you grow in your profession.

Workshops are not eligible for CLE credits.

Presenter biographies are listed in Sched and on the NFPA website.

Thursday, September 24 | 4:15 - 5:00 PM

Clarity in Chaos

GRAND BALLROOM B - D

This presentation will focus on building a “bounce back” attitude, adaption to urgent demands and emotional health. Providing tools on practical stress management, growth mindsets, supportive work culture, setting boundaries and self-care to prevent burnout.



Presented by:

Patrice Givens

Paralegal, NFPA DEI Committee

Friday, September 25 | 4:15 - 5:00 PM

Secondary Trauma In Legal Practice

SALON A

This presentation will explain what secondary trauma is, explain other conditions including burnout, compassion fatigue, depression, anxiety and substance use disorder that can be the result of the stress we experience in repeatedly working with people’s traumatic experiences. The purpose of this program is to assist legal professionals in recognizing their exposure to other’s trauma and how that exposure can harm their ability to do their job. Finally, the presentation will give strategies for the individual and the institution to better equip themselves to handle the effects of working with this vulnerable population, in other words, how to employ strategies to assist the legal professional in self-protective behaviors.



Presented by:

Sarah MacGillis

Outreach Director and Attorney, Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers

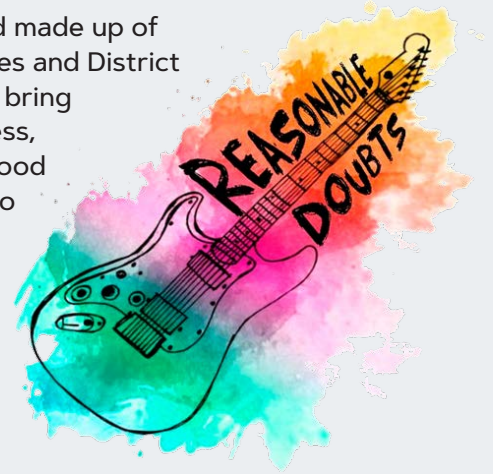
SOCIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY EVENING SOCIAL, FEATURING THE REASONABLE DOUBTS BAND

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026 | 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.



The Reasonable Doubts, a band made up of Minnesota Supreme Court justices and District Court judges, began as a way to bring people together and relieve stress, "because music and art are so good for people." The name is a nod to the legal standard of proof in criminal cases because most shows are to entertain people in the legal profession and support free legal services for those who cannot afford an attorney. The band plays covers ranging from AC/DC to Elvis to Beyonce. The only rule at a Reasonable Doubts show is that you get up and dance.



T-Shirt Contest: Wear your favorite band, concert, or musician t-shirt. There will also be raffle drawings for great prizes.

Attending the Friday Evening Social requires an additional registration fee of \$40 for NFPA members, non-members and students.

SATURDAY EVENING GAME NIGHT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026 | 8:00 - 10:00 P.M.



Pack your favorite games for this year's Paralegal Game Night!

Game Night will be held Saturday night at 8 p.m. in the Dublin/Belfast room. Please come and bring any board or card game that you wish to share. Snacks, music and prizes to be provided. Instead of going to bed early, stay up late and have some fun!

This event is free and open to all attendees, family and friends.

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The Advanced Paralegal Institute (API), in conjunction with NFPA, offers



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Renee Sova

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Thursday Networking Break Sponsor

Cogency Global is a leading provider of regulatory corporate compliance, statutory representation, secured transactions, and lending due diligence solutions. Headquartered in New York, with offices across the United States and in London, Hong Kong, and Singapore, Cogency Global delivers responsive, reliable support to legal, lending, and business professionals worldwide.



Ashley Mackenzie

Membership: amckenzie@cogencyglobal.com

Basic Inquiries: info@cogencyglobal.com

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Friday Networking Break Sponsor

Founded in 1919, McLane Middleton is one of New England's premier full-service law firms with 115 attorneys and 25 paralegals throughout offices in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Driven by the firm's depth of sophisticated legal expertise and an unwavering commitment to client service, McLane Middleton has built collaborative and lasting relationships with a broad spectrum of domestic and international clients.



Michael McLean

Michael.McLean@MCLANE.com

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Management HQ

Friday Evening Social Sponsor

Driven by the vision of a thriving, vibrant community, MHQ is a woman-owned, world-class management company that delivers customized services. Founded in 2013, MHQ has provided association management services since its inception, as well as infrastructure to organizations in a range of industries. We serve professional and trade associations, as well as government and public sector entities. For more about MHQ, visit <https://management-hq.com/>.



SPONSORS

Minnesota Paralegal Association

Friday Evening Social Sponsor

MPA is a voluntary, non-profit professional association composed of paralegals living or working in the State of Minnesota dedicated to fostering the growth and development of the paralegal profession by:



- Promoting a high standard of professionalism and ethics to the legal community as well as the general public;
- Encouraging communication among paralegals and related organizations locally and nationally;
- Providing networking opportunities for our members;
- Supporting the ongoing education and professional development of paralegals;
- Maintaining relevancy in a changing world;
- Encouraging pro bono or community service involvement through MPA or other non-profit organizations; and
- Promoting diversity of its members.

Membership: membership@mnparalegals.org

Basic Inquiries: info@mnparalegals.org
mnparalegals.org

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Convention Lanyard Sponsor

Founded in 2007 by Russell Nicolet in Hudson, Wisconsin, Nicolet Law has grown into a leading Midwest personal injury law firm. The success that took us from a one-room office to a regional law firm spanning seven states is rooted in our commitment to serve others. Our paralegals play an essential role in every client's journey, and we are honored to support the National Federation of Paralegal Association and its commitment to advancing the profession.



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ACCIDENT & INJURY LAWYERS

Holly Mack

Holly@nicoletlaw.com
nicoletlaw.com

Barbara Peppersack, RP®

Friday Night Social Sponsor

Barb is a retired probate paralegal who worked at Larkin Hoffman in Minnesota. Over her 40-plus-year career, she has been a dedicated leader in the paralegal profession. She served as president of the Minnesota Paralegal Association after holding roles as vice president, treasurer, and chair of several committees. She also served as treasurer and director of finance for the National Federation of Paralegal Associations. Barb is truly a treasure to the paralegal profession as mentor, colleague and friend.



Tulane University

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Tulane's ABA-approved Paralegal Studies Program prepares students to step confidently into the paralegal workforce. Through focused eight-week courses, students gain practical experience in legal research, legal writing, litigation, legal technology, and professional ethics. Our exceptional faculty include experienced attorneys, paralegals, and legal professionals who bring real-world insight directly into the classroom.

Jacqueline Epstein

jepstein1@tulane.edu
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Thursday Breakfast Sponsor

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At Veritext we believe that our commitment to social responsibility, diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, and sustainable operations yield exponential value for our clients, independent contractors, and of course, employees. We're passionate about this belief and are committed to strengthening our existing programs to cultivate meaningful change for our society.

Juan Becerra

jbecerra@veritext.com
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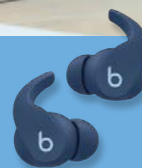


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