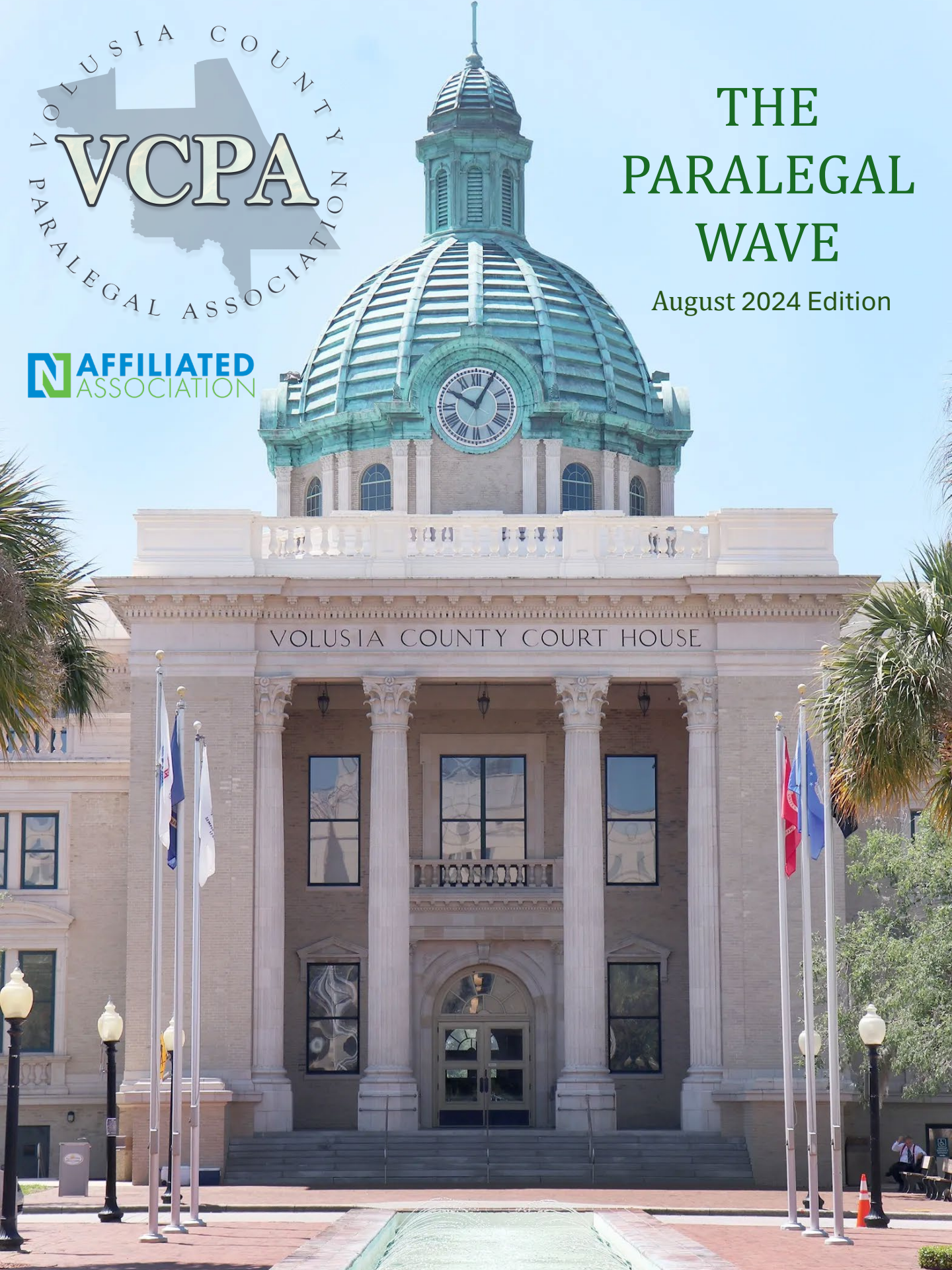


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THE PARALEGAL WAVE

August 2024 Edition



Message from a Board Member	3
VCPA Upcoming Events	4
How VCPA Began in the Words of Jazmin Mason	6
Daytona State College Student Spotlight	7
Volusia Florida Bar Association Upcoming Events	8
Letter From Daytona State College Paralegal Program Director	9
NALA Update	11
Our Sponsors	12
Interested?	13

Student Liaison Message

By Jazmin A. Mason



I was presented with a rare opportunity to join VCPA through my enrollment in the Paralegal Studies program at Daytona State College at the beginning of 2024. Seeking to network and gain knowledge in the paralegal field, this felt like the right decision. Networking and attending CLE member sessions have been particularly enjoyable, providing valuable insights from knowledgeable

paralegals. Additionally, I joined the Pre-Law Society at my college and plan to run for President next term. I encourage more students to get involved with VCPA to support their studies and future careers, and for those already in the field, to supplement their experience and network to continually strive for excellence.

I work for Assurant, Inc., and have been with the company since I began my career 20 years ago, in July 2004. Currently, I am an assistant in the Legal and Compliance department, reporting to the Mergers and Acquisitions and Global Auto Legal executives. While attending school, I am also receiving training as a junior paralegal. My goal is to complete the program and eventually become a Certified Paralegal.

Pursuing a career in the legal field was unexpected. However, working with a great team of paralegals and attorneys, reviewing contracts, and attending meetings sparked my interest in law. I realized the vast and ever-changing landscape of the legal field captivated me, and I embraced the idea of lifelong learning within the law.

Despite my ambitious goals in the legal field, my greatest accomplishment is my family. I am a mother of two wonderful boys and married to my best friend and the love of my life. My family's unwavering support for my new passion for law has been invaluable, as they pitch in to help when I'm studying or attending meetings.

Upcoming VCPA Events

<https://volusiacountyparalegal.com/event-timeline/>

Membership Meeting - August 15, 2024, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Houligan's at 1725 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Our guest speaker will be Mr. James J. ("J.J.") Partlow, Esq who will present "*Family Law – Navigating Recent changes in Legislation*". You will receive 1 hour of Continuing Legal Education for this attendance. Interested? Please email VolusiaParalegals@gmail.com by August 13 to RSVP.

Annual Seminar - September 14, 2024, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Hampton Inn and Conference Rooms, Daytona Airport. 1715 W. International Speedway, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. We have some very great speakers lined up for our first annual seminar "Road Map to the Professional Paralegal". During this seminar we will explore the many opportunities for paralegals along with discussions on professionalism and networking to expand our role as paralegals. Linda McGrath Cruz with Perfectly, Paralegal, along with Cindi Beissel, Esq. and Kelly Purcell. Vice Chair of the FRP Awareness Subcommittee. This is a seminar you won't want to miss. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 – 9:00. You will receive 3.5 Continuing Legal Education hours for this attendance.

Simple Self Defense for Women® - September 26, 2024, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., at Shores Resort & Spa, 2637 South Atlantic Avenue, Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118. This seminar is being sponsored by the Law Firm of Charles Vega, P.A. and the location is being sponsored by Shores Resort & Spa. Bring your mom, sisters, and daughters along. This is for women 9 – 91. Simple Self Defense for Women's® mission statement is "*Simple Self Defense for Women® is on a mission to teach EVERY Women and Child in America to Prevent, Avoid and Escape a Potential Threat Attack or Abduction.*" Interested? Register by clicking on www.simpleselfdefenseforwomen.com and click on "Next Workshop". The event is free, but they are accepting donations for a good cause, Domestic Abuse Council of Volusia County, a non-profit organization. A voluntary donation could be blankets, socks, children and adult clothes, gift cards and cash.



TV Guest Appearances



FREE Simple Self Defense for Women® Workshop

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Great Location
Shores Resort & Spa
Thursday September 26, 2024
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Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118
Space is Limited to 75 participants!

More Information & Register Online

www.simpleselfdefenseforwomen.com

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/s2z3ycv/lp/6daadd12-05dd-4522-8991-9561675cb584>

tvega@simpleselfdefenseforwomen.com

*Whatever you're thinking about
self defense, this is NOT it!*

How VCPA began in the words of Jazmin Mason

I'm thrilled to connect with the members of this incredible association, founded in 2023, and work with VCPA President Kathy, who initiated this journey. In August 2022, Kathy sent a mass email to all Florida Registered Paralegals in Volusia County to gauge interest in forming a Paralegal Association, and the response was positive. Michelle Williams and Taylor Hurley-Apking joined her, and they met with various established associations to gather feedback. Initially, they tried to join the Volusia County Bar Association (VCBA), but their by-laws

prevented non-attorneys from joining. However, the VCBA supported them and invited them to their events. Lori Sandman, Esq., a Bar Association member, offered to help with the incorporation of the VCPA.

They decided to incorporate VCPA as a 501(c)(6) nonprofit educational association, and Heather Bragg, a paralegal with Lori Sandman, did the incorporation work. Heather filed the Articles of Incorporation on August 1, 2023. Once established, they started a membership drive with additional contacts from

NALA and interested attorneys. The VCPA's first meeting was held on October 12, 2023, with Chief Judge Leah Case as the guest speaker. VCPA became an affiliate of NALA on March 5, 2024.

Being part of this new association excites me, and I hope you share this enthusiasm as we make history together. I want to extend my gratitude to the remarkable women on our board who made this possible: Kathy, Michelle, Taylor, and Heather. Thanks go to Kathy for providing me with this wonderful background to share with you all.

Daytona State College

Student Spotlight

Greetings! I would like to highlight one of our recent outstanding graduates, Lisa Snipes. After working as a paralegal at Rue & Ziffra for more than 20 years, rising to the rank of Executive Litigation Manager, and birthing a beautiful baby girl, Lisa decided to enroll in the DSC Paralegal Program where she absolutely flourished. This busy working Mother took advantage of the livestream option, dutifully attended every class, and graduated in May as the Paralegal Program Outstanding Student for 2023-2024. Lisa is already continuing her education at DSC where she'll earn her bachelor's degree before applying to law school.

I recently received an email from Lisa sharing that she is



now a Florida Registered Paralegal and member of the Volusia County Paralegal Association. Way to go Lisa!

Nathan W. Kotas
Paralegal Program Director
Assistant Chair - School of
Business Administration
Daytona State College

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Volusia County Bar Association

Upcoming Events

<https://www.volusiabar.org/>

Bowling for Backpacks – August 7
@ 5:30 p.m. – Support children in
need this school year by providing
them with a backpack filled with
essential school supplies, and
enjoy a fun day of bowling with
VCBA YLD

Cybersecurity CLE – September 13
@ 12 p.m. – Learn how to protect
yourself, your clients, and your
business from guest speakers Josh
Nelson, WOM Technology Management
Group and David Kaletski-Maisel,
Brown & Brown, representing The
Center for Cyber Safety and Education

VCBA Happy Hour Social at Chart
House – September 19 @ 5 p.m. –
Join VCBA for a heavy hors
d'oeuvres and cocktails

Masquerade Ball – October 18 @
6:30 p.m. – An elegant evening
hosted by The Young Lawyers
Division of the VCBA

Letter from Daytona State College Paralegal Program Director

By: Nathan W. Kotas

Greetings! When Kimberly Weiss invited me to contribute an article to the very first Volusia County Paralegal Association newsletter, she told me I had “three pages of ten-point font.” Explained like a true paralegal! It reminded me of a time early in my career drafting a complaint in Times New Roman. The paralegal sent it back: “Partner only uses Courier New.”

If law school taught me how to think like a lawyer, then paralegals (and lots of trial and error – pun intended) taught me the rest. Without dedicated paralegals the legal profession would grind to a halt as lawyers tried to figure out the intricate systems and processes that made their job seem so effortless.

One of the goals of the Daytona State College

Paralegal Program is to build ties with the local legal community. To tap into your knowledge and experience and share it with our students. I am honored to be an Associate Member of the VCPA and thrilled to share some news about the DSC Paralegal Program and ways you can get involved.

The DSC Paralegal Program has significantly revamped and updated its curriculum since I became director in 2020. We have migrated away from generic textbooks to activity-based learning that engages students with the actual tools and resources they’ll use as a Florida paralegal. We’ve embedded technology certificates that expose students to legal specific software such as Clio, Lexis, and DocuSign as well as familiar tools such as Microsoft 365, Adobe Acrobat, and



Zoom.

One of the most successful changes has been livestreaming face-to-face classes. We serve many non-traditional students who work full-time and balance multiple commitments. Livestreaming has increased access without reducing quality. Students who would not have been able to advance their career have earned their Paralegal Studies, A.S. degree by taking advantage of this option.

Letter from Daytona State College Paralegal Program Director (continued)

This coming academic year welcomes a curriculum update that makes it easier for students who graduate from our program to pursue a bachelor's degree. And in keeping with our mission to deliver innovative legal education, the DSC Paralegal Program is proud to announce a new course starting Spring 2025 called "Artificial Intelligence and the Law" which will introduce students to the history of AI, legal and ethical issues, and practical applications in the law office. This undergraduate course is the first of its kind offered in the State of Florida. We are actively seeking input about how artificial intelligence is being used in the legal community. If you use AI in your law office, please reach out. We'd love to hear from you!

I am excited to build our relationship. I promise to refer student members every semester, provide ongoing program updates, and supply informative articles by our adjunct faculty and other members of the legal community. And I

wish to thank VCPA President Kathy Reimann and everyone who worked so hard to establish and grow this much-welcomed addition to our legal community and inviting us to be part of it. Thank you!



paralegal

[par-uh-lee-guhl] noun

1. a person who babysits lawyers while writing a 10,000 word document and calls it a "brief".
2. someone who solves problems you didn't know you had in ways you do not understand.
See also superhero.

NALA Update

<https://nala.org/education/national-affiliate-cle-sessions-events/>

A Paralegal's Guide to Startup Law-Need to Know Terms and Transaction – August 13 – Virtual CLE Event Hosted by Houston Metropolitan Paralegal Association

Slip-and-Fall Matters: A Short Primer – August 14 – Hybrid CLE Event Hosted by Roanoke Valley Paralegal Association

SMPA 2024 Annual Seminar – August 16 @ University of TN Municipal Tech. – Hosted by Smoky Mountain Paralegal Association

Maximizing the Use of Clio Grow & Clio Manage – August 16 – Virtual CLE Event Hosted by Richmond Paralegal Association

Fundamentals and Ethics of Personal Injury Alternative Dispute Resolution – August 28 – Virtual CLE Event Hosted Capital Area Paralegal Association

Preparing for the Future: AI, Data Privacy, and Cybersecurity – September 13 – Virtual CLE Event Hosted by Central Oklahoma Association of Legal Assistants

Thank you to our sponsors. We appreciate your support!

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Interested in Becoming a Sponsor for our Seminar?



We are excited to announce the Volusia County Paralegal Association, Inc. will be hosting our Annual Seminar “Road Map to the Professional Paralegal” on September 14, 2024, at the Hampton Inn and Conference Room. The seminar will be attended by attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants working in the local legal community. The purpose of the seminar is to bring together our legal community while offering exciting, educational topics.

Your sponsorship is important in helping to ensure the success of this seminar and the continuing efforts of our Association. We have developed a list of opportunities and benefits for your information and consideration.

Seminar Sponsorship Opportunities

\$1000 Platinum Sponsor

Ability to display your own banner at the event, set up a table and distribute branded giveaways on tables, as well as recognition on tables, the event program, and sponsorship list included in seminar packets to attendees. You will further be recognized in a full-page ad in the Volusia County Paralegal Association, Inc. newsletter for one (1) year, as well as recognized on our website. Platinum Sponsors each receive admission for four (4) attendees to the seminar.

\$500 Gold Sponsor

Recognition on tables, the event program and sponsorship list included in seminar packets to attendees. You will further be recognized in a one-half (1/2) page ad in the Volusia County Paralegal Association, Inc. newsletter for one (1) year, as well as recognized on our website. Gold Sponsors each receive admission for two (2) attendees to the seminar.

Interested in Becoming a Sponsor for our Seminar? (continued)



\$250 Silver Sponsor

Recognition on tables, the event program and sponsorship list included in seminar packets to attendees. You will further be recognized in a one-quarter (1/4) page ad in the Volusia County Paralegal Association, Inc. newsletter for one (1) year, as well as recognized on the our website. Silver Sponsors each receive admission for one (1) attendee to the seminar.

\$100 Bronze Sponsor

Recognition on tables, event program and sponsorship list included in seminar packets to attendees. You will further be recognized in a business card size ad in the Volusia County Paralegal Association, Inc. newsletter for six (6) months, as well as recognized on our website.

Our association has been working diligently to promote the paralegal profession, and by extension the legal profession as a whole, by offering educational opportunities to enhance the professional growth of paralegals and providing a network for not only advanced-level professionals, but students just entering the career field. Our association is also very involved in supporting our community through a number of initiatives including a food drive, sponsorship of the Domestic Abuse Council of Volusia County by donating needed items during our upcoming Simple Self Defense for Women Workshop and other community involvement. We appreciate your help in continuing that effort by being a sponsor.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail. Thank you for your support!

Heather Bragg, Vice President
Volusia County Paralegal Association, Inc.
125 N. Ridgewood Avenue, Suite 100
Daytona Beach, FL 32114
Volusiaparalegals@gmail.com

Curious About Contributing?

We hope you found this issue of the Paralegal Wave engaging. We welcome your feedback and contributions! If you have authored an article that has been published elsewhere and would like to feature it in our newsletter, or if your attorney has written articles they wish to share with our community, please let us know. Additionally, if you are interested in contributing an article to our newsletter, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Feel free to email us at volusiaparalegals@gmail.com with any feedback or interest.