

# THE PROFILE

MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS  
ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2017

## *President's Message— Sherry Baran*

Dear Members:

My symbol for the year was a Bonsai tree. My theme "A vision of the future, rooted in tradition and innovation." was to honor our traditions of the past while modernizing our future. We are a family of professionals and together this association is unlimited.



I would like to thank all the members and committee chairs for their continued commitment to our association and a special thank you to the Annual Meeting Committee as they've worked very hard to make a very educational and informative weekend for all.

I truly believe that we had a prosperous year as we had some wonderful ideas come to life and I know that President Barry Pickreign, ALP will do a wonderful job.

It's been an honor to serve you as Mississippi Legal Professional Association's President and hope I lived up to your expectations. Our membership stays strong with friendships that have lasted decades and I know I've gained a knowledge that would not be possible if not for this association

Sincerely,

**Sherry Baran**

2016-2017, President

Mississippi Legal Professionals Association



## ***CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO THE 2016-2017***

### ***Statewide Officers for a great year!***

President: Sherry Baran

President Elect: Barry Pickreign, ALP

Vice-President: Gina Knight, PP, PLS

Executive Secretary—Christopher Clark

Treasurer—June Hobson, PLS

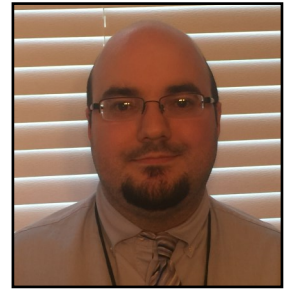
Appointed Officers:

Parliamentarian—Anita Campbell, PP, PLS

Executive Advisor: Karen Shearer



### *Barry Pickreign, ALP — President Elect*



I am very excited for the upcoming Annual Meeting in May. At this event I will be installed as the 2017-2018 President of our state association. In an attempt to help get the year kicked off to a good start I would like to put a few requests out there. I would like for each chapter to consider hosting a meeting for the 2017-2018 year. We have 3 meetings that we need to have hosted. We have a Membership Meeting in September, a Board of Director's Meeting in January, and then the 2018 Annual Meeting in April/May where Karen Shearer will be installed as President of the state association. We take bid for these meetings at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 6. If there are still meetings to be hosted after that the bid will be called again on Sunday, May 7. It is a great honor to host a state meeting and show the hospitality of your chapter.

Also, I still have committees to fill. If you haven't thought about which committee you would like to chair, now is the time. I still have the following committees open:

- Advertising
- Bar Liaison
- Certification
- Director of Public Relations
- Historian
- Marketing
- Nominations and Elections
- Scholarship



If you are interested in any of these, please let me know ASAP. If you have any questions about any of them please ask. I am here to help. Also, if you do not see a certain committee there that you would like to work on, please let me know. Someone else may be chairing it, but you are certainly able to work with them on the committee.

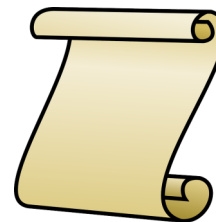
One last thing, if you have any suggestions on how we can improve our association, please let me know. Your Executive Committee is here to serve you. We are always looking for ways to help improve the association to make it better for our members.

I hope all of you make plans to come to the Annual Meeting. It will be a lot of fun, as always. I look forward to serving you as President of our state association.

## NALS Code of Ethics & Professional Responsibility

Members of NALS are bound by the objectives of this association and the standards of conduct required of the legal profession. Every member shall:

- Encourage respect for the law and administration of justice
- Observe rules governing privileged communications and confidential information
- Promote and exemplify high standards of loyalty, cooperation, and courtesy
- Perform all duties of the profession with integrity and competence
- Pursue a high order of professional attainment



Integrity and high standards of conduct are fundamental to the success of our professional association. This Code is promulgated by NALS and accepted by its members to accomplish these ends.

**Canon 1.** Members of this association shall maintain a high degree of competency and integrity through continuing education to better assist the legal profession in fulfilling its duty to provide quality legal services to the public.

**Canon 2.** Members of this association shall maintain a high standard of ethical conduct and shall contribute to the integrity of the association and the legal profession.

**Canon 3.** Members of this association shall avoid a conflict of interest pertaining to a client matter.

**Canon 4.** Members of this association shall preserve and protect the confidences and privileged communications of a client.

**Canon 5.** Members of this association shall exercise care in using independent professional judgment and in determining the extent to which a client may be assisted without the presence of a lawyer and shall not act in matters involving professional legal judgment.

**Canon 6.** Members of this association shall not solicit legal business on behalf of a lawyer.

**Canon 7.** Members of this association, unless permitted by law, shall not perform paralegal functions except under the direct supervision of a lawyer and shall not advertise or contract with members of the general public for the performance of paralegal functions.

**Canon 8.** Members of this association, unless permitted by law, shall not perform any of the duties restricted to lawyers or do things which lawyers themselves may not do and shall assist in preventing the unauthorized practice of law.

**Canon 9.** Members of this association not licensed to practice law shall not engage in the practice of law as defined by statutes or court decisions.

**Canon 10.** Members of this association shall do all other things incidental, necessary or expedient to enhance professional responsibility and participation in the administration of justice and public service in cooperation with the legal profession.

*A very special “thank you” to those serving on our  
2016—2017 Committee Chairs*

Corresponding Secretary—Evelyn Harper, PLS  
 Executive Advisor—Karen Shearer  
 Parliamentarian—Anita Campbell, PP, PLS  
 Award of Excellence—Reba Peden, PP, PLS, SC/Christopher Clark (co-chairs)  
 Bar Liaison—Tene Wansley  
 Certification—Darleen Dozier, ACP  
 Continuing Legal Education & Seminars—Anita Campbell, PP, PLS  
 Finance—Darleen Dozier, ACP  
 Historian—Lorraine Knight  
 Humanitarian—Karen Shearer  
 Manual of Policy & Procedures—Nancy Gates, PP, PLS, CLAS  
 Marketing—Gina Knight, PP, PLS  
 Nominations and Elections—Sue Allmon, PLS, CFE  
 Scholarship—Reba Peden, PP, PLS, SC/Christopher Clark (co-chairs)  
 State Publication—Darleen Dozier, ACP  
 Technology—Anita Campbell, PP, PLS/Leigh Branch  
 Task Force—Billie Ruddick



*Technology Report—Anita Campbell, PP, PLS*

The website is being maintained as requested. Thank you, one and all, for your patience during the past few months. If you are looking for some technology ideas for a seminar,



please let me know and I'll be happy to assist you.

Chapter Presidents, please provide me with current information regarding meeting location, time, date and any special upcoming events. Please also provide me with your

current roster of officers and any committee chairs you would like listed on your website, as well as any pictures you would like included.

Thank you for allowing me to serve in this capacity, and thank you to Karen Shearer and Myra



Penton for volunteering to assist me with the technology issues for the upcoming year.



## *Executive Advisor—Karen Shearer*

As a final farewell as the 2016-17 Executive Advisor, I am challenging members to be active in our Association. To get the most of your membership, you need to be active. In preparing this report, I searched the internet looking for information on volunteering. Dawn C. Carr, MSG, Ph.D., a psychologist, listed five reasons it is beneficial to make volunteering a part of your life. Her reasons are listed below, followed by my personal commentary.

- **Volunteers live longer and are healthier.**
- **Volunteering establishes strong relationships.**

*I can attest to this – some of my best friends are members of this Association and I am so very blessed to have them in my life!*

- **Volunteering is good for your career.**

*Employers like to see a resume that shows the applicant is willing to go above and beyond. Volunteer work in a professional association such as MSLPA is a good way to show your commitment to the legal profession.*

- **Volunteering is good for society.**

*In lieu of “society,” **let’s say volunteering is good for the Association!** Organizations like ours will die unless we can maintain a strong volunteer workforce.*

- **Volunteering gives you a sense of purpose.**

*The nature of volunteering means choosing to work without being paid for it. We choose to spend our time on things that are meaningful to us – on issues that we feel strongly about. I hope for each of you that this includes the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association.*

I know that everyone has plenty on their plates – between family, work and our participation in a legal professional’s organization. I hope you will consider being actively involved for 2017-18. I know our incoming President, Barry Pickreign, ALP, would appreciate all the help he can get!

To President Sherry Baran, thank you for the opportunity to serve this year as your Executive Advisor! It has been a pleasure to serve you and the members.

*(Taken from 5 Reasons You Should Volunteer | Psychology Today)*





## *Metro LPA Director's Report—Renee Dean*

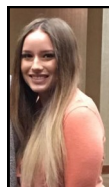
Metro LPA has had an exciting year with professional speakers at each month's luncheon. We've learned about various issues in family, wills and estates, and criminal law; heard about problems and possible solutions with the MS Vulnerable Persons Act; and were honored to be joined by Hinds County Sheriff Victor Mason. Our Luncheon Committee Chairman, Felicia Turner, has done an excellent job over the last few years in providing educational and interesting speakers for our meetings. We greatly appreciate her efforts in ensuring our luncheons are informative and entertaining.



We were proud to present Roslynn Solis-Champion with the 2017 Award of Excellence for her hard work and dedication to the Metro LPA.



Corinne Crowder was the 2017 Scholarship recipient for Metro LPA. She is a paralegal major at Holmes Community College and was very appreciative of the local award and the chance at the statewide award.



## ***Certifications Committee Report—Darleen Dozier***

In September 2016, directors of the MS Community Colleges offering Paralegal Technology degrees met for a curriculum revision. In an effort to give students something valuable to leave college with, in addition to a degree, they voted for a mandatory exit exam consisting of a national certification. The two exams chosen were the ALP from NALS and the CP from NALA. Directors have an option of which exam to require students to take, however, directors agreed that NALS' ALP exam would probably be the choice they would make.

Itawamba Community College began giving the ALP last year voluntarily. Holmes Community College will give the ALP beginning in April. All other community colleges will have mandatory testing beginning with the Fall 2018 semester. NALS is working with each college for special testing dates that will enable students to take the exam in the final month before graduating.

Holmes Community College offers a last-semester class that prepares students to take the ALP. Other colleges discussed implementing the same type of preparation. Not only will this enlarge our memberships, but it will bring more awareness in the area of NALS and the certifications offered as students are applying for and obtaining legal employment.

## *Humanitarian Report— Karen Shearer*

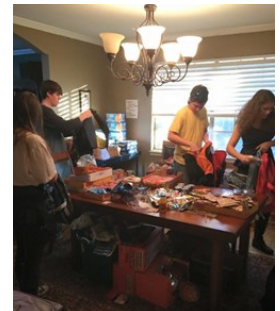
As you may recall, this year the MLSPA voted to assist Betty's Kids Backpack Blessings, an out-reach program for school kids who might otherwise not have meals. We selected this program in particular because of its connection with the legal community -- the program is administered by Attorney E. Colette Towles in Gulfport.

During the year, MSLPA donated \$75.00 cash from budgeted funds. Additionally members gave additional cash donations totaling \$30.00 as well as generously contributing food items. While our contribution may seem

small, the value far exceeded the monetary amounts which were contributed. Many thanks to Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS, and Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS, who have both made deliveries to Backpack Blessings on behalf of our Association.



***BUT the year is not over!*** While we have exhausted our Humanitarian budget for the year, members can still contribute additional food items and/or cash contributions to Betty's Kids' Backpack Blessings at the annual meeting in May. (As a reminder, the typical food which is sent home in back packs each week includes: Ravioli, Chicken Noodle Soup, Ramen Noodles, Vienna Sausage, saltine crackers, tuna, mac and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, cereal bowls, individual packets of instant oatmeal and grits, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, cookies, peanut butter crackers, chips, fruit juices and fruit snacks, and, when they can afford it, fresh fruit.) I learned from the Facebook page that some area grocery stores provide Ms. Towles significant discounts for this program, so monetary contributions go further than you might think!



I hope to see you all in May – however, if you are unable to attend the annual meeting and would like to make a donation to Backpack Blessings, please let me know so I can coordinate delivery.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, *"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."* **Thank you for your compassion in this year's Humanitarian efforts of the Mississippi Legal Professional Association. Thank you for making a difference!**

It was my pleasure to serve as the Humanitarian chair for 2016-17.

## MSLPA Certified Members, as of July 2016

Sue Allmon, PLS, CFE

Anita Campbell, PP, PLS

Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS

Nancy Gates, PP, PLS, CLAS

Evelyn Harper, PLS

Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS

James Gini, PLS

Reba Peden, PP, PLS, SC

Diane Roark, PP, PLS

Lisa Roberts, PLS

Jamie Roddey, PLS

Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS

Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS

Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS

Rosalyn Solis-Champion, PLS

Janine Williams, PP, PLS, ALP

Ginger Parmentier, ALP

Laura Green, PP, PLS, SC

Gina Knight, PP, PLS

Barry Pickreign, ALP

Anna Austin, LLP

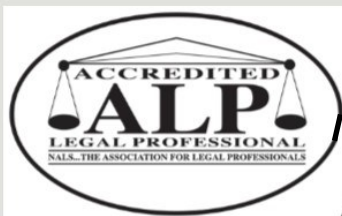
Melissa Stricklin, ALP

Terri Spurk, CP

Darleen Dozier, ACP

Frankie Springer, CP

Renee Dean, MHA



*Please contact the editor at [ddozier@holmescc.edu](mailto:ddozier@holmescc.edu) if you are certified by any professional group and you're name isn't on the list*



# Let's Bowl!



The Mississippi Legal Professionals Association invites you to a bowling party and membership drive. Please join us for some fun on April 22, 2017, at 1:00 p.m.

Hub Lanes  
7022 U.S. Highway 49  
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39402

I need confirmation by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know by calling or texting me at 228-669-8208, or by emailing me at [karosel15@aol.com](mailto:karosel15@aol.com).

I hope to see everyone there! Bring your bowling ball and shoes if you have them. The bowling, rental shoes, snack foods and soft drinks are on us!

Karen Kuhn, Membership Chair

## *South Mississippi Legal Professionals Meetings*



**Labor Day drawing winner!!!**

## Leadership Conference—March 11, 2017



## ***TAKE A CHANCE WITH MS LPA***



***The Gulf Coast Association of Legal Support Professionals  
Cordially invites you to attend the  
2017 Annual Meeting of  
The Mississippi Legal Professionals Association  
May 5, 6 and 7, 2017  
Courtyard Marriott Beachfront Hotel  
Highway 90  
Gulfport, Mississippi***

## TAKE A CHANCE WITH MS LPA

The Gulf Coast has been busy steadily making plans for a wonderful and exciting 2017 Annual Meeting for the members of the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association beginning May 5, 6 and 7, 2017 on the Gulf Coast – making plans for you to “Take a Chance with MS LPA”.

**COME** join us/ Make your Plans --- Take A Chance

Where? -- Courtyard Marriott Beachfront Hotel, Highway 90, Gulfport, MS

Cost? -- See Script Ticket – reasonable; hotel rate - reasonable

BEGINNING Friday, May 5, 2017, **Come Join Us** -- Take a Chance with CLE

**COME** tour the marvelous Dan Russell U S District Court

Visit the courtroom, the sophisticated technology, the judges’ chambers

Learn what takes place in our federal court system

Then relax that evening with a tour of the Chandelier Brewery

Visit our Hospitality Suite

**Take a Chance! Join Us!**

**Give it  
a  
Chance!**



**COME** to the Gulf Coast/ Join us Saturday, May 6, 2017, for networking, leadership, fun, food

Take a Chance! New plans, new officers, successes, ideas, recommendations

Learn more about our Youth Court and Programs

Participate in the business of MS LPA

Visit our Special Vendors – see what they have to offer

**Take a Chance! Join Us!**



**COME** to the Gulf Coast/ Celebrate the Evening

Take a Chance! Try your Luck!

Dine with the Best

Celebrate the Leadership

Enjoy the Entertainment – Try your Luck!

**Take a Chance! Join Us!**

**COME** to the Gulf Coast/Enjoy the Sunrise

Take a Chance? New beginnings, new board, networking

**Participate in MS LPA for 2017-2018**

**COME** to the Gulf Coast/ Experience MS LPA

What fun, what opportunities, what an experience

**IT'S HAPPENING in MS LPA**



The Gulf Coast Chapter is excited to Welcome you to the 2017 Annual Meeting of MS LPA  
At the Courtyard Marriott Beachfront Hotel - May 5, 6, and 7, 2017

# TAKE A CHANCE WITH MS LPA

Mississippi Legal Professionals Association

Courtyard Marriott Beachfront Inn

May 5, 6, 7, 2017

Gulfport, MS 39501

## SCRIP TICKET



		Member	Guest
Registration Fee.....	\$ 10.00	_____	_____
Friday Night Event.....	\$ ***	_____	_____
Friday (CLE) members \$20; non-members \$40 - (not part of scrip ticket)			
Saturday Certification Luncheon.....	\$ 30.00	_____	_____
Saturday Banquet.....	\$ 45.00	_____	_____
Sunday Breakfast.....	\$ 24.00	_____	_____
Total (excludes seminar fee)-----	\$109.00	_____	_____

\*\*\*Will have special event for Friday evening which will be an optional cost – Tour of Chandelier Brewery - (\$10.00 at door)

Name and Certification, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**The registration deadline is April 20, 2017, after which a late fee of \$5.00 will be assessed. Please make your check payable to MSLPA Convention Account and send to:**

Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS, GCALSP, P. O. Box 644, Gulfport, MS 39502

### **Lodging:**

A block of rooms has been reserved at Courtyard Marriott Hotel at the rate of \$109.00 (king or double) plus taxes. You can book your room reservation by contacting the hotel at (228) 864-4310. Suites are \$119.00 plus tax. Last date to book with the block is 4/13/17; thereafter it will be rooms available. [Book your group rate for MSLP Gulf Coast Chapter](#)

### **Meeting Information and dress:**

All meetings will be held at the Marriott in Coastal Room 3. A social time will be held on Friday night following the seminar. Dress for the meeting is business attire; dress of the banquet is church/business.

We Look Forward to your Joining us for “Taking a Chance with MS LPA”



# MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

Friday, May 5, 2017

Dan M. Russell, Jr. Building  
United States District Court  
2012 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gulfport, MS 39501

## SEMINAR REGISTRATION

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS April 28, 2017\*\***

### *COURTROOMS, CLERKS AND LIFETIME COMMISSIONS: AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE FEDERAL COURT*

hosted by

**Chief Judge Louis Guirola, Jr.**

**2:30 - 3:30 Session Begins in the Ceremonial Courtroom - 8th Floor**

Keynote presentation: Chief Judge Guirola

Demonstration of electronic evidence display

**3:30 - 4:30 Courthouse tour** (*including Judge Guirola's chambers,  
Clerks' Office and jury assembly room*)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Member's Guest\* \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATIONS: ☐ ALP/ALS ☐ PLS/CLP ☐ PP ☐ Other

CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

#### MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:

Karen Shearer  
4013 Brighton Cove  
Brandon, MS 39042

**Email:** [shearerks@bellsouth.net](mailto:shearerks@bellsouth.net)  
**Phone:** (601) 955-3632 (cell)

Details will follow about gathering at the Hotel  
and riding to the Federal Courthouse as a group.

#### REGISTRATION FEES

Members:	\$20.00 *
Non-Members	\$40.00

*\*Guests of members who are not in the legal field  
may attend at no cost. However, they must be  
registered.*

**\*\*For Court security reasons, registrations can-  
not be accepted after the deadline. Therefore, if  
you wish to attend, please register no later  
than April 28, 2017.**



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Find us on the web at  
[www.MississippiLPA.org](http://www.MississippiLPA.org)

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*Note from the Editor—Darleen Dozier, ACP*

Wow! This year really flew by! I enjoyed putting together the Profile for this year and am glad to know I'll be doing it for another year. If you have suggestions, please email me at [ddozier@holmescc.edu](mailto:ddozier@holmescc.edu).

