

# Mississippi Legal Professionals Association

April/May 2021

## REDISCOVERING MSLPA



2021-2020

### OFFICERS

Christopher Pickreign, CHMT, CSS, President  
Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS, President-Elect  
Jennifer Parks, Vice President  
Lee Cummings, ALP, Executive Secretary  
Lorraine Knight, Treasurer  
Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS, Parliamentarian  
Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP, Executive Advisor

# THE PROFILE

## Message from the President



Greetings:

As the time for our annual meeting approaches, I hope everyone is making plans to attend the Membership meeting scheduled in Gulfport for May 21-23, 2021.

This has been quite a year with many ups and downs. The Association, I believe, has grown in moving towards the future with utilizing technology in order to conduct meetings through Zoom. Furthermore, this year has helped to push the resiliency of MSLPA by allowing members to grow in understanding and knowledge of technology and utilizing it. I think that there has been such amazing progress done within this year in bringing together members strengths and versatility. However, this does not mean that this year has not brought its own share of change. One such change was the loss of one of the most beloved members of MSLPA, Jamie Roddey. She will forever be missed and remembered as a true treasure of MSLPA.

Again, I look forward to seeing you in Gulfport in May. The members of Gulf Coast LP have worked tirelessly on this meeting so that we can gather together in person safely and comfortably. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful association and continuing to grow with us as we fight this virus and become stronger together!

*Christopher Pickreign, CHMT-CSS*

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### PRESIDENT

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134 Faust Dr.  
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Phone: (228)  
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Email: [christopher-clarkeros@gmail.com](mailto:christopher-clarkeros@gmail.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Parks  
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### EXECUTIVE ADVISOR

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### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS  
418 Apple Valley  
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Phone: (601) 953-5072  
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### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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### PARLIAMENTARIAN

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## DIRECTORS

### Gulf Coast Legal Professionals

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### Jackson Legal Professionals Association

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### Metro Legal Professionals Association

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### Pine Belt Legal Professionals

Rabbiyah Camara

Email: [rabimcamara@gmail.com](mailto:rabimcamara@gmail.com)  
[rcamara@elmrepeterson.com](mailto:rcamara@elmrepeterson.com)

### South Mississippi Legal Professionals

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Email: [jhobson@cctb.com](mailto:jhobson@cctb.com)  
(during work week)  
[jhobson777@aol.com](mailto:jhobson777@aol.com)  
(all other times)



This issue of the MSLPA Profile  
is dedicated in memory of  
Jamie Phillips Roddey, PLS



## COMMITTEE ROSTER

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>AWARD OF EXCELLENCE</b><br>Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS<br>2427 Perkinson Silver Run Road<br>Perkinson, MS 39573<br>Phone: (228) 669-8208<br>Email: <a href="mailto:karosel15@aol.com">karosel15@aol.com</a>  | <b>CERTIFICATION</b><br>Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP<br>134 Faust Dr.<br>Gulfport, MS 39503<br>Phone: (228) 838-3984<br>Email: <a href="mailto:barrypickreign@gmail.com">barrypickreign@gmail.com</a>  | <b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</b><br>Evelyn Harper, CLP<br>302 Rexford Church Rd.<br>Florence, MS 39073<br>Phone: (601) 847-4893<br>Email: <a href="mailto:eharper4893@yahoo.com">eharper4893@yahoo.com</a>  |
| <b>COURT OBSERVANCE</b>   | <b>FINANCE</b><br>Evelyn Harper, CLP<br>302 Rexford Church Rd.<br>Florence, MS 39073<br>Phone: (601) 847-4893<br>Email: <a href="mailto:eharper4893@yahoo.com">eharper4893@yahoo.com</a>  | <b>HISTORIAN</b><br>Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS<br>418 Apple Valley<br>Pearl, MS 39208<br>Phone: (601) 953-5072<br>Email: <a href="mailto:sf@barrettlawms.com">sf@barrettlawms.com</a><br><a href="mailto:stephfloyd@aol.com">stephfloyd@aol.com</a>                         |
| <b>HUMANITARIAN</b>   | <b>MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b><br>Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS<br>24080 E. Dubuissou Rd.<br>Pass Christian, MS 39571<br>Phone: (228) 234-0005<br>Email: <a href="mailto:billiejr@wetzellawfirm.com">billiejr@wetzellawfirm.com</a>   | <b>MARKETING/MEMBERSHIP</b><br>Jennifer Parks<br>301 Brenmar St.<br>Brandon, MS 39042<br>Phone: (601) 953-8403<br>Email: <a href="mailto:jennwb2w@yahoo.com">jennwb2w@yahoo.com</a>   |
| <b>NOMINATIONS &amp; ELECTIONS</b><br>Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP<br>134 Faust Dr.<br>Gulfport, MS 39503<br>Phone: (228) 838-3984<br>Email: <a href="mailto:barrypickreign@gmail.com">barrypickreign@gmail.com</a>  | <b>SCHOLARSHIP</b><br>Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS<br>108 Country Estates Rd.<br>Florence, MS 39073<br>Phone: (601) 353-0054 (work)<br>(601) 594-3488 (cell – on silent at work)<br>email: <a href="mailto:rpeden@elmorepeterson.com">rpeden@elmorepeterson.com</a>                       | <b>SEMINARS (MEETINGS)/CLE</b><br>Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS<br>108 Country Estates Rd.<br>Florence, MS 39073<br>Phone: (601) 353-0054 (work)<br>(601) 594-3488 (cell – on silent at work)<br>email: <a href="mailto:rpeden@elmorepeterson.com">rpeden@elmorepeterson.com</a> |
| <b>SPECIAL SEMINAR – LAST CHANCE CLE</b><br>Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS<br>418 Apple Valley<br>Pearl, MS 39208<br>Phone: (601) 953-5072<br>Email: <a href="mailto:sf@barrettlawms.com">sf@barrettlawms.com</a><br><a href="mailto:stephfloyd@aol.com">stephfloyd@aol.com</a> | <b>SPECIAL SEMINAR – CRUISE TO LEARN</b><br>Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS<br>108 Country Estates Rd.<br>Florence, MS 39073<br>Phone: (601) 353-0054 (work)<br>(601) 594-3488 (cell – on silent at work)<br>email: <a href="mailto:rpeden@elmorepeterson.com">rpeden@elmorepeterson.com</a> | <b>STATE PUBLICATION (PROFILE)</b><br>Karen Shearer<br>4013 Brighton Cove<br>Brandon, MS 39042<br>Phone: (601) 955-3632<br>Email: <a href="mailto:shearerks@bellsouth.net">shearerks@bellsouth.net</a>  |
| <b>TECHNOLOGY</b><br>Karen Shearer<br>4013 Brighton Cove<br>Brandon, MS 39042<br>Phone: (601) 955-3632<br>Email: <a href="mailto:shearerks@bellsouth.net">shearerks@bellsouth.net</a>   |   |    |

## A TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

By Karen Shearer and friends



This issue of the *Profile* is dedicated to our dear friend, Jamie Roddey, PLS.

Jamie was a vibrant and dedicated member of this Association, beginning in the late '60s, when we were the Mississippi Association of Legal Secretaries (MALS). Her local chapter at that time was Jones County Legal

Secretaries, which later merged with the Hattiesburg Legal Secretaries Association to become Pine Belt Legal Professionals. All who knew her know how much MSLPA meant to Jamie. As many of us "seasoned" members know, Jamie's daughters, Renee' and Sheila, grew up attending meetings with Jamie, and Renee' later became a member in her own right. Both girls are loved by MSLPA. Over the years, members and Presidents alike looked to Jamie for advice. Jamie was often asked by state presidents to serve as the Association's Parliamentarian or as Executive Advisor.

Jamie obtained her PLS certification in 1980 – back in the day when members sitting for the certification exam had to bring their own typewriter to the testing site! In 2018 Jamie retired after 50 years of being a legal professional. Her dedicated service did not go unnoticed, evidenced by the luncheon with which she was honored, a celebration attended by family, friends, and many members of the judiciary and legal community of Jones County.

Jamie's accomplishments in MSLPA are too numerous to list, but I would be remiss if I didn't mention in this Tribute that she served as President in 1996-97 and 2013-14, that she received the Award of Excellence on several occasions, and that she was named Honorary Member as a recognition of her 50 years of service in the legal profession.

I knew Jamie from West Laurel Baptist Church even before I knew she was a legal secretary and involved in the state association. My first encounter with her in MALS was at the state meeting hosted by JLSA in the early '90s – JACKSON JUBILEE. Although I was a

member of the host chapter, I had never attended a state meeting. Jamie immediately made me feel a part of more than just our local chapter JLSA. After that meeting, I was hooked and looked forward to seeing Jamie in the years to come. Both of us were "Jones County" girls (graduates of West Jones High School and Jones County Junior College) and our connection through West Laurel Baptist Church, where my parents were members, gave us a special relationship that I will always treasure.

Jamie had lots of "loves" – she loved her Lord, she loved her parents James and Mayzelle Phillips, she loved her daughters and son-in-law, Renee Roddey and Sheila and Doug Van Fleet, she loved her sisters, Sandra Hatton and Sallie Ruston, and her brother Max Phillips, and she loved her extended family – too many to name without leaving someone out! Jesse and James Van Fleet, her grandsons, were the light of Jamie's life! She was so proud of both boys. Jamie loved people and she loved her friends. She loved living across the road from her sweet parents and she loved living "in the country" and helping her daddy tend the farm animals. She loved her mama. (In a much different way, Jamie loved her mama's teacakes and would often share a batch with us at meetings hosted by Pine Belt.) Jamie was a crank about her dogs -- Dudley, Brownie and Otis and probably others I don't know about. (She used to visit with us at Mama's when our "Charlie" had puppies and she told me she loved "puppy breath"). She loved nature and was always excited when we would have a meeting at a state park. She loved birds – especially cardinals which she called "red birds." You could bet a "red bird" would show up at the Pine Belt Christmas "Dirty Santa" game. And Jamie loved the USA! Finally, if you are -- or were -- a member of MSLPA, or MSNALS, or MALS – she loved you!

Almost everyone who knew Jamie well will have your own special memories. Me too. When I remember Jamie, I will remember a dear friend who loved to laugh, loved her family, loved her friends, and loved the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association. Jamie, you are missed!



*This article continues throughout this publication with pictures and comments from friends.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

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Wow, despite being the weirdest and longest year ever (trying to not get infected with Covid-19 while maintaining my job and not seeing friends or family), the last eleven months have gone by so quickly. I'm glad that everyone chose to heed the warnings of our governor and state health officials and we, ultimately, held our meetings virtually. President Chris has done an outstanding job this year holding us together with our virtual meetings; but I can't help but empathize for him because he didn't get to enjoy the interaction with us one-on-one in person throughout the year. Now, it is time to come together once again for another annual meeting and to finally be able to visit and reconnect with our friends. Chris must be ecstatic that we finally get a chance to see everyone at our upcoming meeting, while **Rediscovering MSLPA's** greatest attribute – networking in person with fellow members. I know am!

After a long wait to see whether or not we could actually conduct an in-person annual meeting, the Gulf Coast Legal Professionals Association is working very hard to put everything together for an enjoyable weekend. I am personally very grateful to the association and want to say thank you for approving a grant so that we could offer the weekend at no charge to the first 25 current members who send in their registration forms. **The registration deadline is May 7th**, which is also the deadline for booking hotel rooms with our private link.

The Friday Night Social is “dutch treat” and will be held at 7pm at Salute Italian Restaurant in Gulfport (just west of the hotel). [Be sure to RSVP for this event on the scrip ticket.] Make sure you arrive a little early here since we will be ordering off the menu. If you are on the current EC or incoming EC – this means you, in particular, since you will need to be back at the hotel for a meeting at 9pm.

The hotel has included two breakfast vouchers per room per night – so that is why breakfast was not listed on the Scrip Ticket. You can go for breakfast any time you like, just please allow enough time to arrive in the room a little early for the meetings so that they can

promptly start at the time stated on the schedule.

The Saturday Celebration & Recognition luncheon is when we will recognize our certified members. This year, we have changed things up a little and there will also be other recognitions to be celebrated at this event. Be sure you sign up!

President Chris decided everyone needed Saturday afternoon as free time and hopes you will use that time to visit with other members that you haven't seen since last year. Maybe you'd prefer to grab one or more friends to go shopping; possibly go to the beach or pool; or just take a nap & recharge. Whatever you choose to do with your free time – let's have no regrets! Do something to make you happy!

The Saturday evening Black & White Gala is when the next year's officers will be installed and we will find out who is the latest recipient of the Award of Excellence. The dress code for this event is “dressy to semi-formal.” So, anything from a church/work dress to a cocktail dress, to a formal evening gown is welcome... just, please, remember to try to stick to only black and/or white for your attire color scheme. You can always add a pop of color with your nails, lipstick, jewelry, handbag, hair adornments, or a necktie. Just sticking to the basics with black & white might prove to be an opportunity for a very simple and sophisticated event. [Be sure to select your preferred protein on the scrip ticket.] Make plans to arrive early for chapter & group photos!

Last, but not least, I have included a Committee Preference Sheet in this edition of *The Profile*. Please take a moment to consider which “unfilled” committee you would like to chair, fill out the form and get that emailed back to me before May 7th. Thank you.

I can't wait to see you in person in Gulfport – May 21st to May 23rd! **Don't forget your mask!**

*Stephane*



**COMMITTEE PREFERENCE SHEET**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairs for the following committees will be needed for the fiscal year 2021 to 2022, which will begin May 23, 2021.  
 If you are willing to serve your state association during the coming year, please indicate your preference opposite those chairmanships listed below. Refer to the Bylaws, Standing Rules and Manual of Policy and Procedures for the duties and responsibilities of each chairmanship.

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS   | <b>EXECUTIVE ADVISOR</b> [Appointed by President]   |
| Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS       | <b>PARLIAMENTARIAN</b> [Appointed by President]   |
| Darleen Dozier, ALP, ACP  | <b>AWARD OF EXCELLENCE</b> (conduct annual competition)   |
| N/A                       | <b>BAR LIAISON</b> (maintain contact with attorneys and bar associations)   |
|                           | <b>CERTIFICATION</b> (promote the ALS/ALP, PLS/CLP, and PP certification programs)  |
| Evelyn Harper, PLS        | <b>CORRESPONDING SECRETARY</b>  |
| N/A                       | <b>COURT OBSERVANCE</b> (promote Court Observance activities with local chapters)   |
| N/A                       | <b>DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS</b> (publicity and press releases for state association)  |
|                           | <b>FINANCE</b> (coordinates fund-raising projects)  |
| N/A                       | <b>HISTORIAN</b> (compiles history book)  |
| Lorraine Knight           | <b>HUMANITARIAN</b>   |
| Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS       | <b>MANUAL OF POLICY &amp; PROCEDURES</b> (requires two years' service on Executive Committee; coordinate preparation and/or modification of the written operational policy in accordance with Bylaws and Standing Rules)                  |
| Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP | <b>NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS</b> (conducts elections of officers)   |
|                           | <b>SCHOLARSHIP</b> (coordinates program to provide scholarship(s) to qualified applicants)  |
|                           | <b>SEMINARS – GENERAL</b> (organize and promote association-sponsored seminars)<br><b>and CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION</b> (assist local chapters with legal education; submits legal education articles to <i>Profile</i> for publication) |
| Jennifer Parks            | <b>SEMINARS– LAST CHANCE CLE</b> (organize and promote Last Chance CLE seminar(s) in Biloxi and other locations as may be designated from year to year)   |
| Karen Shearer             | <b>STATE PUBLICATION</b> (editor of <i>Profile</i> )  |
|                           | <b>TECHNOLOGY</b> (receive and disseminate information regarding technological advances; serves as Association webmaster)   |

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY MAY 7TH TO PRESIDENT-ELECT Stephanie Floyd: [sf@barrettlawms.com](mailto:sf@barrettlawms.com)**

# CALL FOR BIDS



If your chapter would like to place a bid to host any of the state meetings for the 2021-2022 year, please email your written intent by May 2nd to:

President Christopher Pickreign, CMHT  
[christopherclarkeros@gmail.com](mailto:christopherclarkeros@gmail.com)

with copy to:

President Elect Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS  
[sf@barrettlawms.com](mailto:sf@barrettlawms.com)

Please specify which meeting your chapter will be submitting a bid for:

- August Board of Directors' Meeting
- November Mid-Year Membership Meeting (& Election of Officers)
- February Board of Directors' Meeting
- 2022 Annual Meeting

**I'm really tired of people who  
complain about the price of  
everything...**

**\$2.00 for a cup of coffee  
\$3.00 for coat check  
\$4.00 an hour for parking**

**I'm just going to stop inviting  
them to my house.**

**Singing in the shower  
Is all fun and games  
Until you get  
Shampoo  
in your mouth,  
Then it just  
Becomes a soap opera.**



### NOTICE OF MEETING

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, LOCAL CHAPTER  
DIRECTORS, AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

The Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association, for the fiscal year 2020-2021, will be held at **Courtyard by Marriott in Gulfport, MS on the 22nd day of May, 2021**. The Meeting will commence at 9:30 am.

The Executive Committee Meeting will be held at **Courtyard by Marriott in Gulfport, MS on the 21st day of May, 2021**. The Meeting will commence at 9:00 pm.

### REPORTS

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** You are requested to prepare brief, single-spaced, typewritten reports, formatted for 8 ½" by 11" paper. Reports should be submitted electronically to the President with a copy to the Executive Secretary and to the Technology Committee Chair. **The deadline for receipt of reports to be presented at this meeting is Thursday, May 6, 2021.**

### DIRECTORS

**DIRECTORS:** In the event the duly elected Director is unable to attend this meeting, your chapter shall elect an Alternate Director from its membership. The Alternate Director shall act only in the absence of the elected and certified Director. In the event the duly elected Director is unable to attend this Board Meeting and an Alternate Director is elected to attend this meeting, **certification of the election of an Alternate Director shall be furnished to the Executive Secretary at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of this Board Meeting.** Such certification of election of an Alternate Director shall be upon the form prescribed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors. A certification form is attached.

Executive Secretary  
Lee Cummings, ALP  
Address: 146 W. Pinebrook Drive  
Brandon, MS 39047  
Email: cummings-lee28@att.net

DATE: 04/11/2021

cc: President: Christopher Pickreign  
Address: 134 Faust Drive  
Gulfport, MS 39053  
email: christopherclarkeros@gmail.com

**FORM ES-1**



**CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OF ALTERNATE DIRECTOR**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(mailing address)

a member of \_\_\_\_\_  
(local chapter)

has been duly elected Alternate Director of said local chapter to serve only in the absence of the elected Director at the Board of Directors Meeting of the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association, to be held on **Saturday, May 22, 2021**. Said **Alternate Director** shall act only in the absence of the elected Director.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LOCAL CHAPTER RECORDING SECRETARY

DATED: 04/11/2021 2021.

INSTRUCTIONS:      **Submit the certification form at least 20 days prior to the meeting at which the Alternate Director will vote, as follow:**

(1)      ORIGINAL to the Executive Secretary:

Lee Cummings, ALP

146 W. Pinebrook Drive

Brandon, MS 39047

Email cummings-lee28@att.net

(2)      COPY to the President:

Christopher Pickreign, CMHT

134 Faust Drive Gulfport, MS 39503

Email christopherclarkeros@gmail.com

**FAILURE TO ELECT AND CERTIFY AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR  
AT LEAST 20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH SAID  
ALTERNATE DIRECTOR WILL BE VOTING RESULTS IN THE LOSS  
OF YOUR CHAPTER'S VOTE AT SAID MEETING, IF THE DULY  
ELECTED AND CERTIFIED DIRECTOR IS NOT PRESENT.**



**MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**  
59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Educational Conference

**May 21-23, 2021**

Courtyard by Marriott Gulfport Beachfront  
1600 E Beach Blvd, Gulfport, MS 39501



**SCRIP TICKET**

|   | <u>MEMBER</u>                                | <u>GUEST</u>              |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Meeting Registration Fee .....  | \$0.00 _____                                 | \$0.00 _____              |
| <b>PLEASE CHECK BELOW</b> if you prefer to attend meetings via Zoom:                      |  |                           |
| _____ Saturday – Annual Meeting (FY 2020-2021)  |  |                           |
| _____ Sunday – Board Meeting (FY 2021-2022)   |  |                           |
| <b>FRIDAY SEMINARS <i>no cost for MS LPA members (see separate registration form)</i></b> |  |                           |
| Friday Night Event [7pm - Salute Restaurant - dutch treat order from menu]                | <b>MUST RSVP</b> _____                       | <b>MUST RSVP</b> _____    |
| Saturday Breakfast <i>On Your Own</i> (2 vouchers per hotel room) .....                   | \$0.00                                       |                           |
| Saturday Lunch – Celebration & Recognition .....  | <b>FREE / MBR</b> _____                      | <b>\$29.00</b> _____      |
| Saturday Dinner – Black & White Gala (Awards and Installation) .....                      | <b>FREE / MBR</b> _____                      | <b>\$64.00</b> _____      |
| (see dress code below) <b>MUST INDICATE PREFERRED PROTEIN:</b>                            | _____ Pork or _____ Steak                    | _____ Pork or _____ Steak |
| Sunday Breakfast <i>On Your Own</i> (2 vouchers per hotel room) .....                     | \$0.00                                       |                           |
| <b>LATE FEE</b> (if mailed after May 3, 2021 / received after May 7, 2021)                | <b>\$5.00</b>                                | <b>\$5.00</b>             |
|   | <b>TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ for Guest(s)</b> |                           |

Name and Certification(s), if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Address / City, State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS May 7, 2021,</b><br/><b>after which a late fee of \$5.00 will be assessed.</b><br/><b>All Registration Forms and payments must be received by that date.</b></p> <p><b>LODGING:</b> last date to book your room with our group room rate is <b>MAY 7th</b><br/>A block of rooms has been reserved at the hotel - nightly rate of <b>\$109</b> plus taxes for king or double (<b>\$129</b> plus tax for suites). Hotel reservations made through the group's private link: <a href="https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1614722337452&amp;key=GRP">https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1614722337452&amp;key=GRP</a> or by calling the hotel at 228-864-4310. Our group block is reserved under the name: <i>Mississippi Legal Professionals Association 2021.</i><br/><b>After May 7, all reservations will be charged the current room rates at time of booking.</b></p> | <p><b>Please make checks payable to MSLPA Annual Meeting Fund and mailed so as to be RECEIVED by May 7th:</b></p> <p>Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP<br/>MSLPA Annual Meeting Chair<br/>P.O. Box 644<br/>Gulfport, MS 39502</p> |
| <p><b>MANDATORY MASK MANDATE</b> – In consideration of the health and safety of our members and guests (whether or not such may be required by venue &amp; local government) we <u>will</u> have a mandatory mask mandate. Masks <u>must</u> be worn at all times once inside the hotel's front door, which includes lobby, all meeting rooms &amp; pre-function area, restaurant, public restrooms. The <u>only</u> exceptions are while you are: (a) eating a meal, and (b) in your personal sleeping room. <u>Bring your own masks!</u> The committee will <u>not</u> be providing masks for attendees.</p>   | <p><b>DRESS CODE:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Business Casual for all events except Saturday Night</li> <li>➤ <b>"BLACK &amp; WHITE"</b> dressy to formal for Saturday Night</li> </ul>              |



**MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**  
59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Educational Conference

**May 21-23, 2021**  
Courtyard by Marriott Gulfport Beachfront  
1600 E Beach Blvd | Gulfport, MS 39501



## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

### **Friday, May 21st**

12:30pm – 4:00pm Registration Open (seminars and conference)

**SEMINARS:**

1:00pm – 2:30pm Session 1 (1.5hrs)

2:30pm – 2:45pm BREAK

2:45pm – 3:45pm Session 2 (1hr)

3:45pm – 4:00pm BREAK

4:00pm – 5:00pm Session 3 (1hr)

7:00pm – 9:00pm Dinner / Social (*Dutch Treat | order from menu*) (Salute Restaurant, 1712 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Gulfport)

9:00pm – 10:00pm Joint EC Meeting (location TBA)

### **Saturday, May 22nd**

8:30am – 11:30am Registration Open

7:00am – 9:30am Breakfast On-Your-Own (2 vouchers per hotel room included for each night)

9:30am – 11:00am **MS LPA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

11:30pm – 1:00pm Celebration and Recognition Luncheon

1:00pm – 6:30pm FREE TIME

6:30pm – 7:00pm President's Reception (*and opportunity for group photos*)

7:00pm – 9:00pm Black & White Gala (Awards & Installation) (Dress Code: Black & White | dressy to formal)

### **Sunday, May 23rd**

**PLEASE CHECK OUT OF HOTEL ROOM BEFORE COMING TO MEETING** (*check out time is 11am*)

7:00am – 9:30am Breakfast On-Your-Own (2 vouchers per hotel room included for each night)

10:00am – 11:30am **MS LPA BOARD MEETING**

**WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR TIME ON THE COAST!**

**MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION  
2020 FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2020  
VIA ZOOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Christopher Pickreign, CMHT (Gulf Coast LP) called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

President Pickreign called on Sue Allmon, CLP (Pine Belt LP) to give the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE U.S. FLAG**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in unison.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission Statement was read by President Pickreign.

**CODE OF ETHICS**

The Code of Ethics was read by President Pickreign.

**OPENING REMARKS**

President Pickreign gave brief opening remarks.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

President Pickreign introduced the Executive Committee members:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| President           | Christopher Pickreign, CMHT (Gulf Coast) |
| President-Elect     | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS (Gulf Coast)    |
| Vice President      | Jennifer Parks (Jackson)                 |
| Executive Secretary | Lee Cummings, ALP (Metro)                |
| Treasurer           | Lorraine Knight (Pine Belt)              |
| Parliamentarian     | Billie Ruddick PP, PLS (Gulf Coast)      |
| Executive Advisor   | Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP (Gulf Coast)   |

**RECOGNIZE SPECIAL GUESTS**

President Pickreign recognized the following:

- a) All past or current officers, committee chairs, and committee members;
- b) Past State Presidents;
- c) Honorary Members;
- d) Members At Large;
- e) Certified Members;
- f) Life Members;
- g) Local Chapter Presidents;
  - a. Jackson – Jennifer Parks

- b. Metro – Darleen Dozier, ALP, ACP
- c. Pine Belt – Lorraine Knight
- d. Gulf Coast – Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS
- e. South MS – Renee Cast
- h) Current Local Chapter Directors (or Alternate Directors);
  - a. Jackson - Director – Marilyn Mills
  - b. Metro – Director – Darleen Dozier
  - c. Pine Belt – Director - Rabiyyah Camara
  - d. Gulf Coast – Director – Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS
  - e. South MS – Director – June Hobson, PLS
- i) The 2020 Award of Excellence Recipient, Marilyn Mills (Jackson LP);
- j) Attending a state meeting for the first time
- k) Other guests.

#### **INSTRUCTIONS AS TO VOTING BY PARLIAMENTARIAN**

President Pickreign recognized Parliamentarian Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS, who presented the appropriate instructions to the board.

#### **MINUTES OF LAST STATE MEETING**

President Pickreign recognized Executive Secretary Lee Cummings, ALP, to present the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting held on May 30, 2020 in Gulfport, MS. Executive Secretary Cummings made a motion that the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting held on May 30, 2020 in Gulfport, MS be approved as distributed to the membership. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS. The motion carried.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President Pickreign recognized Executive Secretary Cummings to present the recommendations of the Executive Committee. Secretary Cummings reported that there were four items, as follows:

Secretary Cummings advised that it was a recommendation of the Executive Committee, and she so moved, that the membership ratify the Executive Committee's action taken by the Board at its annual meeting held on August 15, 2020, in approving the "Rules for Electronic Meetings" as the rules to govern that day's virtual board meeting as well as any future virtual board meetings. The motion carried.

Secretary Cummings advised that it was a recommendation of the Executive Committee, and she so moved, that the membership ratify the Executive Committee's action taken by email on September 24, 2020, in approving that South Mississippi Legal Professionals host the November Membership meeting and CLE session on Saturday, November 14, 2020 via Zoom. The motion carried.

Secretary Cummings advised that it was a recommendation of the Executive Committee, and she so moved, that the membership ratify the Executive Committee's action taken by email on October 14, 2020, in approving the "Rules for Electronic Membership Meetings" as the rules to govern today's virtual membership meeting as well as any future virtual membership meetings. The motion carried.

Secretary Cummings advised that it was a recommendation of the Executive Committee, and she so moved, that the membership ratify the Executive Committee's action taken by email on October 19, 2020, in approving the November 14<sup>th</sup> continuing legal education seminar topic of "The ABCs of Youth Court Practice" to be presented by Kim Davis Phifer, Esq. The motion carried.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

President Pickreign recognized Treasurer Lorraine Knight to present the financial report. Treasurer Knight presented a report dated November 14, 2020 with explanation of each item and asked if there were any questions. The reports were accepted, as presented, and will be filed subject to financial review.

## OFFICER REPORTS

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| President           | Christopher Pickreign, CMHT no further report other than that submitted             |
| President-Elect     | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS – no report  |
| Vice President      | Jennifer Parks – no report  |
| Executive Secretary | Lee Cummings, ALP – no report   |
| Treasurer           | Lorraine Knight – Today's registration fees will be reflected in the 02/2021 report |
| Parliamentarian     | Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS – no report   |
| Executive Advisor   | Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP – no report   |

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Pickreign recognized each committee chair to present a report.

| <u>Committee</u>              | <u>Chair</u>              | <u>Reports?</u>   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Corresponding Secretary       | Evelyn Harper, PLS        | Mailed cards      |
| Award of Excellence           | Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS       | No report         |
| Certification                 | Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP | No report         |
| CLE/Seminars                  | Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS    | No report         |
| Finance                       | Evelyn Harper, CLP        | No report         |
| Historian                     | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS  | No report         |
| Humanitarian                  |                           |                   |
| Manual of Policy & Procedures | Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS   | No further report |
| Marketing                     | Jennifer Parks            | No report         |
| Nominations & Elections       | Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP | No report         |
| Scholarship                   | Reba Peden,               | No report         |
| State Publication             | Karen Shearer             | No report         |
| Technology                    | Karen Shearer             | No report         |
| Cruise to Learn               | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS  | No report         |
| Last Chance CLE               | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS  | No report         |

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Pickreign called for any unfinished business to be addressed by the association.

- There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

| Chapter           | # attending |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Jackson           | 3           |
| Metro             | 2           |
| Pine Belt         | 7           |
| Gulf Coast        | 8           |
| South Mississippi | 2           |
| Guest(s)          | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>22</b>   |

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All NALS certification exams (PP, PLS/CLP, and ALP) are held monthly.

The February Board of Director's Meeting will be hosted by Jackson LPA.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was adjourned by President Pickreign at 2:23 p.m.

---

Christopher Pickreign, CMHT President

---

Lee Cummings ALP, Executive Secretary

*I loved Jamie and I love her family -- Renee, Sheila, Sallie, Sandra, and those awesome boys she spoke of with a twinkle in her eyes and so much love in that beautiful smile. I am a better person from having known this beautiful friend. "Cousin" you will always be a part of my heart.*

Linda Adair



*I met Jamie when I joined the legal secretaries' association. I am so sorry that she is gone. She was the ultimate legal professional. She was true to her profession and an inspiration to all of us who joined the association through the years*



Sarah Brannon



Those we love  
don't go away,  
They walk beside  
us every day.  
Unseen, unheard,  
but always near,  
Still loved,  
still missed  
and forever dear.  
Kelly's Treehouse



*You will be missed so much by all of those who knew and loved you. I am sad for us but rejoicing with you that you are well and happy and having a glorious reunion with your parents and other loved ones there. Best of all, you are in the very presence of our Savior, Jesus Christ! When a little while ago He said, "Jamie, it's time to come home," I know you ran straight into His loving arms. What a day that will be when we who are left here can experience the joy you now have! Thank you for being my friend all these years!*

Sue Allmon

*Jamie exemplified perfectly the term "Professional Legal Secretary". She took pride in her work product, cultivated relationships with younger legal professionals to guide them, and continually learned new skills and equipment to enhance her value to her attorneys and firm.*

Patti Gandy, Past President

## **NOTICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, LOCAL CHAPTER DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AND MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

The first Board of Directors' Meeting of the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association, for the fiscal year 2021-2022, will be held at the **Courtyard by Marriott Gulfport Beachfront (1600 Beach Blvd, Gulfport, MS 39501) on Sunday, May 23, 2021**. The Meeting will commence at 10:00 a.m.

This is a BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING and, in accordance with the Mississippi LPA Bylaws, Article VI, all state elected and appointed officers and local chapter directors (or alternate directors) who are in good standing will be eligible to vote at this meeting.

### **REPORTS**

**OFFICERS, CHAPTER DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** You are requested to prepare brief, single-spaced, typewritten reports, formatted for 8½" by 11" paper. Reports should be submitted electronically to the President with a copy to the Executive Secretary and to the Technology Committee Chair. **The deadline for receipt of reports to be presented at this meeting is Sunday, May 2, 2021.**

### **CHAPTERS & DIRECTORS**

**CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OF DIRECTOR FORM** – Each chapter, having duly elected its Director to serve for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, shall complete the **Certification of Election of Director** form and **furnish a copy to the Executive Secretary at least twenty (20) days prior (by May 2nd) to the date of this Board Meeting**. Such certification of election of an Alternate Director shall be upon the form prescribed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors. A certification form is attached (ES-5).

**CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OF ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FORM** --- In the event that a duly elected Director is unable to attend this meeting, your chapter shall elect an Alternate Director from its membership. The Alternate Director shall act only in the absence of the elected and certified Director. In the event the duly elected Director is unable to attend this Board Meeting and an Alternate Director is elected to attend this meeting, **certification of the election of an Alternate Director shall be furnished to the Executive Secretary and President at least twenty (20) days prior (by May 2nd) to the date of this Board Meeting**. Such certification of election of an Alternate Director shall be upon the form prescribed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors. A certification form is attached (ES-2).

*s/ Jeannie M. Shaw*

DATED: April 5, 2021

Executive Secretary Jeannie M. Shaw, Emeritus PP, PLS  
14458 Old Hwy 49  
Gulfport, MS 39503-9172  
[JeannieShaw1950@gmail.com](mailto:JeannieShaw1950@gmail.com)

cc: President 2021-2022:



Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS  
121 Colony Crossing, Suite D  
Madison, MS 39110 [sf@barrettlawms.com](mailto:sf@barrettlawms.com)

Technology Chair (2020-2021):

Karen Shearer  
[shearerks@bellsouth.net](mailto:shearerks@bellsouth.net) **AND**  
[karen\\_shearer@mssd.uscourts.gov](mailto:karen_shearer@mssd.uscourts.gov)

**CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OF ALTERNATE DIRECTOR**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(mailing address)

a member of \_\_\_\_\_  
(local chapter)

has been duly elected **Alternate Director** of said local chapter to serve only in the absence of the elected Director at the BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING of the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association, to be held on **Sunday, May 23, 2021**. Said **Alternate Director** shall act only in the absence of the elected Director.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LOCAL CHAPTER RECORDING SECRETARY

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** (1) Submit original via U.S. Mail and copy via email to the Executive Secretary at the address shown below **(at least 20 days prior to the meeting at which the Alternate Director will vote)**

Lee Cummings, ALP  
MS LPA Executive Secretary  
146 W. Pinebrook Drive  
Brandon, MS 39047  
cummings-lee28@att.net

**and** (2) Email a copy to President Christopher Pickreign, CMHT at:  
christopherclarkeros@gmail.com

**and** (3) Email a copy to President-Elect Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS at:  
sf@barrettlawms.com

**and** (3) Email a copy to incoming Secretary Jeannie M. Shaw, Emeritus PP, PLS at:  
JeannieShaw1950@gmail.com

FAILURE TO ELECT AND CERTIFY AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR  
AT LEAST 20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH SAID  
ALTERNATE DIRECTOR WILL BE VOTING RESULTS IN THE LOSS  
OF YOUR CHAPTER'S VOTE AT SAID MEETING, IF THE DULY  
ELECTED AND CERTIFIED DIRECTOR IS NOT PRESENT.



**CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION OF DIRECTOR**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(mailing address)

a member of \_\_\_\_\_  
(local chapter)

has been duly elected **DIRECTOR** of said local chapter to hold office for a term of one (1) year, said term to commence at the close of the 2021 Annual Meeting and to end at the close of the 2022 Annual Meeting. **Said Director officially takes office at the first Board of Directors' Meeting for fiscal year 2021-2022, which will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2021.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
LOCAL CHAPTER RECORDING SECRETARY

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** (1) Submit original via U.S. Mail and copy via email to the Executive Secretary at the address shown below **(at least 20 days prior to the meeting at which the Alternate Director will vote)**

Lee Cummings, ALP  
MS LPA Executive Secretary  
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christopherclarkeros@gmail.com

**and** (3) Email a copy to President-Elect Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS at:  
sf@barrettlawms.com

**and** (3) Email a copy to incoming Secretary Jeannie M. Shaw, Emeritus PP, PLS at:  
JeannieShaw1950@gmail.com

FAILURE TO ELECT AND CERTIFY AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR  
AT LEAST 20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH SAID  
ALTERNATE DIRECTOR WILL BE VOTING RESULTS IN THE LOSS  
OF YOUR CHAPTER'S VOTE AT SAID MEETING, IF THE DULY  
ELECTED AND CERTIFIED DIRECTOR IS NOT PRESENT.

## WHAT 2020 TAUGHT US

*An excerpt from Motivational Monday April 5, 2021 – The Power of Perspective  
by Dale Thomas*

- 1) **Life is SHORT** - We can't waste our lives waiting for the right time. We have to take that leap of faith. Write that book. Tell people that you love them. Pay attention to now and be in the moment. If you feel the impulse to call someone or share something with someone, do it! We are not guaranteed tomorrow. Do not miss that chance to hug those that you love and tell them how special they are. Don't wait to follow whatever dream that has continued to tug at your heart. Tomorrow is not guaranteed. The time is NOW.
  
- 2) **Mindfulness is more critical than ever.** Mindfulness stops the fight. It actually strengthens your mind to "observe" your thoughts and feelings without trying to change them. If you practice mindfulness and observing what you are feeling you train your brain to let thoughts and feelings come and go. When our lives are thrown upside down and we can't control anything that is going on around us we have to stop, pay attention and be mindful. When we are mindful of ourselves and our surroundings, we focus on what is happening right at that very moment and accept things as they are, even if we do not like or agree with the event or circumstance.  
  
Make the decision to control the controllable, which is ourselves only. You can make the time to pause, get quiet and get in touch with how you are really feeling.
  
- 3) **Self care must be a priority not just a lifestyle trend.** This past year forced us all to slow down and take care of ourselves. We had to pay attention to what our bodies and souls were telling us. As we begin to slowly move back to a less restricted life I truly hope we all remember that self care is not selfish. What is your self care ritual? Do you have one? I have one. I have written about it many times. I am up everyday at 5:00 a.m., without an alarm clock. My coffee is on a timer and it is made when I get up. I spend the next hour and sometimes 2 hours reading, meditating and journaling. Right now I am working on opening up new creative pathways in my brain. I read that learning to write with your left hand will do that, and I am working on that skill. It's not pretty and it's definitely challenging, but I am getting better.
  
- 4) **Find happiness in the simple things.** In 2020 we were reminded over and over again how much happiness we all found in the simple things. Simple things like a hug, a handshake, or waiting for a table at great restaurant. I will never take for granted again the joy I have had through the years of meeting new people out on the road at my engagements and giving them a big hug. I challenge you to truly think back on this past year and write down what you no longer take for granted. I will never complain again about it being too hot when we are sitting in the sun at a Titan's game. :)

This year took many things from all of us but it also gave us many things. We learned to pause and reflect and simply be present. I hope that you will continue to be mindful and truly present as we continue into 2021 !

Winners By Choice, Inc.

PO Box 2446

Brentwood, TN 37024

615-609-0049

[dale@winnersbychoice.com](mailto:dale@winnersbychoice.com)

**MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021  
ZOOM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Christopher Pickreign, CMHT called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**INVOCATION**

Sue Allmon gave the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge was led in unison.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission Statement was read by Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS.

**CODE OF ETHICS**

The Code of Ethics was read by Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP.

**INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS & OPENING REMARKS**

President Pickreign gave a brief opening statement.

President Pickreign introduced all members of the Executive Committee serving for the 2020-2021 term:

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| President           | Christopher Pickreign, CMHT (Gulf Coast) |
| President-Elect     | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS (Gulf Coast)    |
| Vice President      | Jennifer Parks (Jackson)                 |
| Executive Secretary | Lee Cummings, ALP (Metro)                |
| Treasurer           | Lorraine Knight (Pine Belt)              |
| Parliamentarian     | Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS (Gulf Coast)     |
|                     | Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS (Gulf Coast)         |
| Executive Advisor   | Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP (Gulf Coast)   |

President Pickreign also recognized the following persons: NALS past or current officers, task force member(s), committee chairs, and committee members

State Past Presidents  
Certified Members  
Honorary Members

### Life Members

President Pickreign then recognized the local chapter presidents for 2020-2021:

|            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Jackson    | Jennifer Parks           |
| Metro      | Darleen Dozier, ALP, ACP |
| Pine Belt  | Lorraine Knight          |
| Gulf Coast | Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS      |
| South MS   | Renee Cast               |

President Pickreign also recognized the following local chapter directors (or alternate directors):

Jackson – Marilyn Mills  
 Metro – Darleen Dozier, ALP, ACP  
 Pine Belt – Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS  
 Gulf Coast – Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS  
 South MS – June Hobson, PLS

President Pickreign recognized the 2020 Award of Excellence recipient, Marilyn Mills.

President Pickreign asked if there were any attending a state meeting for the first time and if there were any other guests.

### INSTRUCTIONS AS TO VOTING BY PARLIAMENTARIAN

President Pickreign recognized Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS, who presented the appropriate instructions to the Board.

### MINUTES OF LAST STATE MEETING

President Pickreign recognized Executive Secretary Cummings to present the minutes: Executive Secretary Cummings stated that there were (2) sets of Minutes for the Board Meetings held on May 31, 2020 and August 15, 2020 to be presented for approval.

- Executive Secretary Cummings made a motion that the minutes of the May 31, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting held in Gulfport, MS and the minutes of the August 15, 2020 Board of Directors' meeting held via Zoom, be approved as distributed. The motion was seconded by Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS. The motion carried.

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Pickreign recognized Executive Secretary Lee Cummings to present the recommendations of the Executive Committee. Secretary Cummings reported that there were three items, as follows:

- Secretary Cummings made a motion that the membership ratify the Executive Committee's

action taken in approving memoriam in the amount of \$200.00 be donated to the Steele Baptist Church Building fund in honor of Jamie Roddey, PLS. The motion carried.

- Secretary Cummings made a motion that the membership ratify the Executive Committee's action in approving the scrip ticket for the meeting held on Saturday, February 20, 2021 via Zoom. The motion carried.
- Secretary Cummings made a motion that the membership ratify the Executive Committee's action in approving the February 20<sup>th</sup> continuing legal education seminar topic of "Digging Deeper with Medical Records Discovery" to be presented by Kathleen Christmas. The motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

President Pickreign recognized Treasurer Lorraine Knight to present the financial report. Treasurer Knight presented the financial report and; there being no discussions or questions regarding the report, it was accepted and will be filed subject to financial review.

### **OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Pickreign called on the officers for reports:

#### **Officers:**

|                 |                             |           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| President       | Christopher Pickreign, CMHT | No report |
| President-Elect | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS    | No report |

|                     |                           |                                   |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Vice President      | Jennifer Parks            | Oral report – As of today, MS LPA |
| Executive Secretary | Lee Cummings, ALP         | No report                         |
| Treasurer           | Lorraine Knight           | No report                         |
| Parliamentarian     | Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS       | No report                         |
| Executive Advisor   | Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP | No report                         |

President Pickreign then called on the Committee Chairs for reports:

#### **Committee**

Corresponding Secretary  
Award of Excellence

#### **Chair**

Evelyn Harper, CLP  
Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS

#### **Report**

No report.  
Oral report – The deadline for the nominations for the Award of Excellence is March 15, 2021. The deadline for the personal data forms is April 10, 2021. Karen will email the



|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Certification                                | Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP                           | forms to the chapter presidents and directors.<br>No report   |
| CLE/Seminars                                 | Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS                              | Oral report-Reba reported that 45 people registered for today's CLE Seminar. Forty-one people attended. Fifteen attorneys registered. |
| Finance Historian                            | Evelyn Harper, CLP<br>Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS      | No report<br>Oral Report-Stephanie asked for items for Christopher's memory book – photos, notes, etc.                                |
| Humanitarian Manual of Policies & Procedures | Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS                             | No report   |
| Marketing                                    | Jennifer Parks                                      | No report   |
| Nominations & Elections Scholarship          | Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP<br>Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS | No report<br>Oral report – The application deadline to submit is April 1  |
| State Publication                            | Karen Shearer                                       | The deadline for the Profile is March 30  |
| Technology                                   | Karen Shearer                                       | No report   |
| Cruise to Learn                              | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS                            | No report   |
| Last Chance CLE                              | Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS                            | Oral – Panning is in progress   |

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- President Pickreign asked if there was any unfinished business. There was no unfinished business.

## NEW BUSINESS

- 2021 Annual Meeting
  - The 2021 Annual Meeting is scheduled in person for May 21-23, 2021 at the Courtyard Marriott in Gulfport, MS. In the event of COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting will be held May 22 via Zoom. May 7, 2021 is the final deadline for payment of fees for the annual meeting.
  - Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP made a motion to request a \$5,000.00 grant from MS LPA for convention planning from the annual meeting fund. Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Report on Meeting Attendance: Secretary Cummings was recognized and gave the report as follows:

| <b>Chapter</b>       | <b># attending</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Jackson LPA          | 4                  |
| Metro LPA            | 2                  |
| Pine Belt LP         | 4                  |
| Gulf Coast LP        | 6                  |
| South Mississippi LP | 1                  |
| Guest(s)             | 0                  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>17</b>          |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) NALS Certification Exams (PP, PLS/CLP and ALP) - online monthly.
- b) Annual Meeting, May 21-23, 2021 Gulfport, MS
- c) Deadlines
  - Award of Excellence –
    - Deadline for nominations – March 15, 2021
    - Deadline to receive PDF of Information – April 10, 2021 (Nominees who do not submit their PDF by April 1 will be disqualified)
  - Scholarship
    - Deadline for receipt of applications – April 1, 2021
  - *Profile* report deadline – March 30, 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned by President Pickreign at 2:06 p.m.

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Christopher Pickreign, CMHT President

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Lee Cummings, ALP Executive Secretary

A beautiful day begins with  
a beautiful mindset. When you wake  
up, take a second to think about  
what a privilege it is to simply be alive  
and healthy. The moment you start  
acting like life is a blessing, I assure you  
it will start to feel like one. Time  
spent appreciating is time  
worth living.

## Booster Club

Sue Allmon, CLP  
Sherry Baran  
Lee Cummings, ALP  
Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS  
Evelyn Harper, CLP  
June Hobson, PLS  
David Killgo  
Lorraine Knight  
Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS  
Susan J. Mano (*Pennsylvania & Philadelphia*)  
Treless and Carol Martin  
Marilyn Mills  
Jennifer Parks  
April Ruddick  
Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS  
Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS  
Karen Shearer

*Thank you,  
MSLPA Boosters!*



### ***NALS Code of Ethics & Professional Re- sponsibility***

***Members of NALS are bound  
by the objectives of this Asso-  
ciation and the standards of  
conduct required of the legal  
profession.***

***Every member shall:***

- ***Encourage respect for the law  
and the administration of justice;***
- ***Observe rules governing privi-  
leged communications and confi-  
dential information;***
- ***Promote and exemplify high  
standards of loyalty, cooperation  
and courtesy;***
- ***Perform all duties of the profes-  
sion with integrity and compe-  
tence; and***
- ***Pursue a high order of profes-  
sional attainment.***





I can't think of just one favorite memory with Jamie! To know Jamie was to have memories; that in one way or another, they all became favorites! She was always filled with so much laughter and joy and kindness. To see her in a room conducting business, you would see this professional lady, filled with knowledge and a strict business ethic beyond anything I had ever known. Jamie could then walk out of a meeting and become the life of the party!

I learned so much in the way of being a legal professional from her. She taught me how to "Be the Best that I can be". I shall miss her so much and I thank God every day that our paths crossed and I was able to share in her life and call her my friend.

We lost one of the best! Till we meet again!

Bonnie Parkison, Past President

Friends  
fill your  
life with  
joy,  
your soul  
with  
sunshine  
and your  
heart  
with love.



To know Jamie was to truly love her at first meeting her. Sure, she was not one to hold back on expressing her opinion on various subjects, but it was always in love of the Association and all the members. She was a very gracious, loving and thoughtful person with a constant smile on her face even when she was not feeling her best. I have been a member long enough to remember her when she joined the Association. She was a member of the Jones County chapter and I remember some of the various State meetings they hosted. Once they had a hay ride on her parents' land and another time she and, Kay Warren, I think, did a very funny skit on how not to dress and act in the office environment. One of them had hair rollers in her hair and Jamie was the receptionist. She kept filing her nails and they were very unprofessional by constantly gossiping even in front of a client who came in and unprofessional in their appearance/dress. And who can forget the Christmas ornament exchange and meals. Jamie was a special friend to me and to many others and she will always be in my heart...

Evelyn Harper

## OFFICER REPORTS

### Vice President/Membership & Marketing Combined Report

I wanted to take the time to say *Thank you* to each of you for putting your confidence in me and allowing me to serve the association this past year as Vice-President. Wow the ups and downs we have all experienced over this last year, but we are working to be better and rediscovering old and new ways to be a part of this association.

To Christopher I hope this has been a good year for you. Although it has been very different amongst the pandemic, we have all weathered together through hosting virtual meetings and even a virtual membership party.

We had 15 people participate in the virtual membership party on March 20, 2021 where we each enjoyed our hot chocolate bombs together and played bingo while learning a lot about each other. Goodbye 2020 and hello 2021. I look forward to what this fiscal year for MSLPA will bring and I am honored to have served as your Vice-President.



Jennifer Parks  
MSLPA Vice-President 2020/2021

### Parliamentarian

My committee and I have been reviewing the state bylaws and standing rules to make sure they now conform with the new/amended NALS by-laws. We have them in final form and a copy will be mailed to your President and Director for distribution to each member. You, as the members, will be voting on the adoption of these at the 2021 May Annual meeting. Please review these and should you have any questions, please advise.

Also, I would like to thank President Chris for allowing me to serve as your 2020-2021 Parliamentarian. I especially would like to thank my committee members, Karen Shearer, Evelyn Harper, PLS and Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS for their valuable input in getting the state's bylaws and standing rules updated.

In Friendship,  
Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS

People say 60 is the new 40. The cop who just pulled me over didn't agree.



Do you need an  
**ATTORNEY?**

Were you injured in  
**ACCIDENT?**

You may be entitled  
to compensation  
for your injuries.

For a free consultation, call Attorney Cat, Esq. right now at  
**1-800-LAW-CATS**

*"We'll get the money you need, right meow."*<sup>TM</sup>

(Licensed in 49 states, sorry Tennessee)



*Jamie and I have been friends for over 30 years. We met due to MALS and have had many a good time in serving the members, creating events and avenues for the betterment of our members, and meeting so many others in our chosen field, the legal professional. We have had our ups and downs both professionally and personally. Our families have always been very close and Jamie is missed tremendously by all of us. She was a great mentor, full of knowledge, full of kindness, a great loving friend, willing to do anything for anyone. She left two wonderful daughters who take after her, Sheila and Renee, and her special joys and handsome grandsons, Jesse and James -- who will carry on her memories and legacy. She is loved and missed!*

Billie Ruddick

*I am thankful to have known Jamie Roddey and to have been her friend. She made me and Freddie feel loved from the first time we met her and she made us feel like she had known us forever. She always had great big ole hugs waiting. She was a great traveling companion, roommate, confidante and mentor. If I ever had a question or needed a form to go by, she was right there to help. I miss Jamie terribly and look forward to that big hug waiting when we meet again.*

Karen Kuhn



*Jamie Roddey really loved this association. Whether local... state... or national... our meetings & gatherings will not be the same without her. by Stephanie Floyd*



”

DON'T WAIT FOR THINGS TO GET EASIER, SIMPLER, OR BETTER. LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE COMPLICATED. LEARN TO BE HAPPY RIGHT NOW, OTHERWISE, YOU'LL RUN OUT OF TIME.

WEEKLY WORKSHOPS

## INSPIRATION

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Did you know that an eagle knows when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it.

The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm.

When the storms of life come upon us – and all of us will experience them – we can rise above them by setting our minds and our belief toward God. The storms do not have to overcome us. We can allow God's power to lift us above them.



God enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment in our lives. We can soar above the storm.

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down. It is how we handle them.

The Bible says, *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles."* Isaiah 40:31

*Author unknown*

*Photos used by permission –  
compliments of Jan D's Photography*



## CHAPTER REPORTS

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### Gulf Coast Legal Professionals

Our members have certainly done some “rediscovering” throughout the year due to social distancing with the Covid-19 pandemic and an active hurricane season. We adapted to changes in meeting venues and social events and remained active and supportive on all levels our organization.

Congratulations to our 2021 award winners: Boss of the Year - Ginger Brooks, CRR, RPR, RSA; Award of Excellence - Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS; and Member of the Year – Henrietta Caranna. Since no one applied for our local scholarship, it was voted to make those funds available to our members to be utilized for recertification, specialty certification and emeritus fees in lieu of presenting a scholarship award.

New officers for 2021-2022 will be installed at our April meeting. Congratulations to President: Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS; Vice President: Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS; Secretary: Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS; Treasurer: Barry Pickreign, CLP, ALP; Director: Christopher Pickreign, CMHT.

Our 2021 Mississippi Gulf Coast Legal Directory is hot off the press and members are working hard to distribute them from Hancock County to Jackson County. It is still a bargain for only \$12!

Plans are progressing for the 2021 Annual Meeting, and we look forward to welcoming all of you – whether you attend in person or virtually – on the Coast May 21-23.

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GCALP will be raffling this beautiful handmade crocheted beret, scarf and fingerless gloves set at the Board Meeting on May 23, 2021.



**Tickets are \$2 each or three for \$5.  
Contact Jeannie Shaw at 228-263-5801  
or [jeannieshaw1950@gmail.com](mailto:jeannieshaw1950@gmail.com)  
for more information.**

*Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS  
GCLP Director 2020-2021*

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### there are 8 layers to a Southern goodbye:

- "About to leave" warning
- A "We've gotta get going" statement
- Hugs
- Walking to the driveway
- One more conversation in the driveway
- More hugs
- Talking while everyone's piling in the car
- Rolling down the window to say bye one last time as you pull out of the driveway and someone yells, "Watch for deer."



## Jackson Legal Professionals Association

The last year has been trying to say the least! It has definitely been a less-than-normal year, but we have learned how to adjust in spite of the pandemic. For example, if it were not for Zoom (or other virtual resources) we would not have been able to meet at all, so we were at least able to still see each other's beautiful faces! We are also glad to announce we are now able to begin meeting in person at the Capital Club for our monthly luncheons, the first was held last month, and was a success.

We held our Court Observance luncheon via Zoom. Our special guest speaker was Arthur Johnston, Clerk, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi who spoke on "The Intersection of Technology and Tradition".

Due to the pandemic, JLPA voted to continue with the current leadership team for 2021-2022, which is:

**President:** Jennifer Parks

**Vice President :** Ginny Interrante

**Recording Secretary:** Hannah Mason

**Treasurer:** Christina Smith

**Director:** Marilyn Mills

**Parliamentarian:** Karen Shearer

The Recording Secretary position is currently open, and JLPA is in the process of holding elections to fill this position.

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to present the Award of Excellence and Boss of the Year winners for 2020 in person, but those winners were voted to also be the 2021 recipients, and we are glad to announce the Boss of the Year winner is Brian Hannula of Forman Watkins & Krutz, and the Award of Excellence winner is Marilyn Mills. There will be an official presentation later this month.



Even with the COVID-19 Pandemic, there have been many new job opportunities in the Jackson area, which is a good sign business in the legal field is still booming!



On behalf of JLPA, we want to express our sincere condolences and love for our dear friend Jamie Roddey, who always greeted everyone with a huge smile and hug, played a significant role in this organization, was an inspiration to everyone who crossed her path, was always concerned about how other members were doing in their personal and business life, and loved everyone in the association! We will always remember and miss her infectious smile, and we continue to keep her family in our thoughts and prayers!

*Marilyn Mills  
JLPA Director*



## Metro Legal Professionals Association

### 2020-2021 Year in Review

**MSLPA Secretary** – We are proud that Lee Cummings from Metro LPA served as MSLPA Secretary for the 2020-2021 year.

**MSLPA Annual Meeting** – Darleen Dozier (Metro President) and Lee Cummings (Metro Treasurer) attended the state annual meeting in May 2020 as representatives for Metro LPA.

**Summer Community Service Project** – Metro LPA donated 120 binders to MadCAAP (Madison Countians Alliance Against Poverty) to benefit Madison County students as they began school in August.

**NALS 2020 Virtual Conference** – Darleen Dozier and Hannah Arline received scholarships from MSLPA to attend the virtual conference.

**Fall Fundraising Project** – Metro LPA sold pecans from Golden Kernel Pecans to fund a student scholarship to be granted during the 2021-2022 school year; profits from this project totaled \$468.83.

**Monthly Speakers** – Sergio Cuenca, Meetings Committee Chair, has done a wonderful job of securing speakers for the last two years. While much of this year was spent in quarantine trying to determine how we could proceed, Metro was able to sponsor one meeting in September. Rebecca Wiggs, Esq. shared valuable information on what attorneys need to know from their assistants.

**2020 Award of Excellence** – Darleen Dozier, President, won this award for the 2019-2020 year; Metro did not award a Boss of the Year; Metro did not hold nominations for either award for the 2020-2021 year.

**Current Status** - Metro LPA has seen a decline in membership numbers and participation over the last few years and with the quarantine we all experienced last year, that trend has unfortunately continued. This upcoming year, MetroLPA Officers will be working with MSLPA and other local associations in considering its options in continuing to exist as a separation association or merging with another. Details will be provided as they unfold.

### 2021-2022 Metro LPA Officers

|                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| President       | Darleen Dozier, ACP, ALP |
| Vice-President  | Ken Tullis, ALP          |
| Secretary       | Hannah Arline, ALP       |
| Treasurer       |                          |
| Director        | Darleen Dozier, ACP, ALP |
| Parliamentarian |                          |



## Pine Belt Legal Professionals

This year has been a strange and difficult year for Pine Belt Legal Professionals. We have not been able to have in person meetings due to the Coronavirus and we lost a very important member, Jamie Roddey, PLS of our association. We have been having our meetings via Zoom, which is a great way to meet and carry out your business if you cannot meet in person.

We have pressed on carrying out our duties and responsibilities in the association. As our last humanitarian project we donated to Shower Power in Jackson, Mississippi which provides showers for the homeless. This project gives these people back their dignity. At our last meeting, we elected officers for 2021 -2022. Our officers are as follows:

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| President:      | Lorraine Knight     |
| Vice President: | Reba Peden, PP, PLS |
| Secretary:      | Renee' Roddey, CRNA |
| Treasurer:      | Sue Allmon, CLP     |
| Director:       | Rabiyyah Camara     |

Our installation of officers will be April 17, 2021. We are currently working on our fundraiser the Procrastinator's CLE. Our plans are to hold an in person and virtual event. Reba Peden, PP, PLS and Sue Allmon, CLP are working hard putting this event together.

Our chapter is looking forward to the Annual Meeting. We hope to see you all there.

*Lorraine Knight  
President*

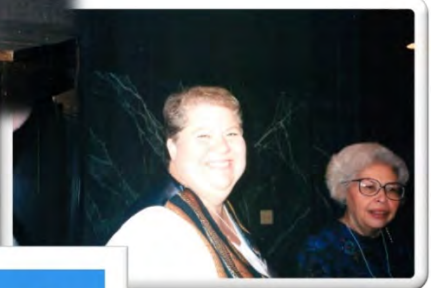




# Friends



We didn't realize  
we were making  
memories, we just  
knew we were  
having fun



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

It is an honor to report that I received two nominations for the 2020-2021 Award of Excellence. I have received the Personal Data Forms and have submitted them to the judges for consideration.

The following graciously agreed to serve as judges:

- **Banita Ford**

Banita Ford is an educator in the business program at St. Martin High School in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. She is also on the leadership team of the Mississippi Future Business Leaders of America. She used to be a legal secretary and is a past local chapter Award of Excellence recipient. She has been married to her husband, Drew, for 30 years and they have two grown boys.

- **Cheryl Johnson**

Cheryl Johnson is a recent retiree of Regions Bank after a successful 43-year career. Her tenure at Regions included serving as Senior Vice President and Lending Advisor for Regions Private Wealth Management, as well as Market Executive for the MS Gulf Coast. In her role as Lending Advisor, she served Regions' investment clients across the State of MS with tailored financial advice and market insights. Ms. Johnson's longstanding career focused on team leadership, market development and relationship management. She was honored as the 2017 Woman of Achievement at the annual MS Gulf Coast Success Conference. Additionally, she was recognized as one of Mississippi's 50 Leading Business Woman, as the South Mississippi Outstanding Community Leader, as the Corporate Woman of Achievement by Lighthouse Business and Professional Women, and received the Friendship Oak Award in appreciation of her dedication and support of the University of Southern MS. Ms. Johnson resides in Long Beach, and is married to her college sweetheart, Bobby Johnson.

*AOE report continued.....*

- **Kim D. Phifer**

Upon graduation from law school and passing the Bar exam, Kim D. Phifer worked as an Associate Attorney for a plaintiff law firm in Ocean Springs, where she worked as a paralegal while attending law school. She opened her own office about two years later, focusing her practice on Youth Court cases, family law, real estate, and wills. She prosecuted domestic violence cases for the City of Gulfport before beginning a full-time position as an instructor in the Paralegal Technology program at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. She spent 15 years there before the college closed the program. She is currently practicing law in her law office, where she handles mostly Chancery Court, will drafting, and GAL cases.

The recipient of this prestigious award will be announced at the Black & White Gala Awards and Installation Ceremony on Saturday, May 22, 2021, at the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & Educational Conference at Courtyard by Marriott in Gulfport.

*Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS  
2020-2021 Award of Excellence Chair*

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

I have continued to send cards out to membership and others as requested. When you make a request for me to send a card, please include the address for the recipient.

*Evelyn Harper, PLS*

*Jamie will be remembered for her kindness and happy disposition. She loved her family and friends unconditionally—just like Jesus!*

*Karen Shearer*

## FINANCE

The raffle drawing for a **PAMPERED CHEF 12" STAINLESS STEEL WOK** raised a total of \$260.00. This project would not have been possible without the generosity of Stephanie Floyd and Reba Peden who donated the Wok. Thank you, Stephanie and Reba! Additionally, I would like to thank all those who purchased tickets. Besides our members, many NALS friends from other states joined in on this fundraiser. **The winning ticket was purchased by Rory Hardy from the State of Washington. Congratulations, Rory, and thank you for caring about MSLPA! -**



The final fundraiser for this year will be held at our Annual Meeting and will be a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will be divided 50/50 between the state and the one who purchases the winning. As with other raffles, you do not need to be present to win. The ticket costs are:

- \$1 per ticket
- \$5 for 10 tickets
- \$10 for 20 tickets
- \$20 for 40 tickets

**I hope to see many of you at the meeting in May. If you will not be able to attend, you can send your check, payable to MSLPA, to me at 302 Rexford Church Road, Florence, MS 39073. Please include your mailing address so we can mail you a check if your ticket is drawn!**

**Together, we can make this a successful fundraiser for MSLPA!**

*Evelyn Harper, CLP*

## CLE/SEMINARS

Our seminars have been very profitable this year. In November our seminar was presented by Kim Davis Phifer, Esq. on the ABCs of Youth Court and we made approximately \$360 before paying for attorney CLE. In February, we had a great session on "Digging Deeper with Medical Records Discovery" which was presented by Kathleen Christmas which brought in another \$800. I am grateful to the Mississippi Electronic Court Filing System and to Karen Shearer for her role in getting these folks to put our seminars on e-blasts to the attorneys of the Southern District.

I am still looking for speakers for our May Membership Meeting and will update everyone once the speakers have been procured. Feel free to let me know if you have someone in mind that may be a good speaker or a topic you would like covered.

Thank you all for participating in our Zoom presentations.

*Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS*

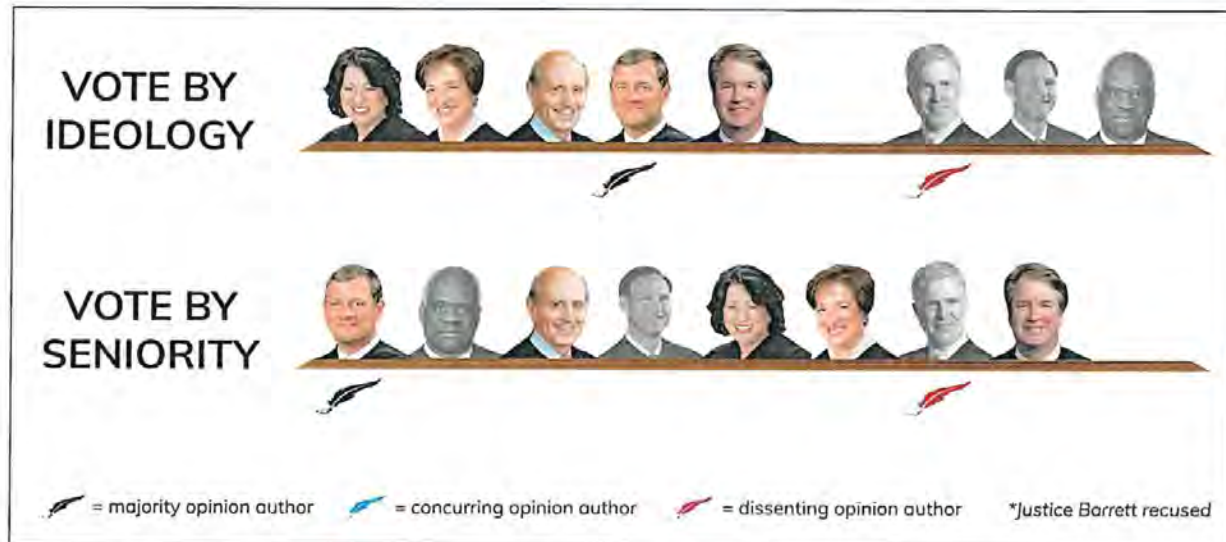




# Divided court issues bright-line ruling on Fourth Amendment seizures

By [Jeffrey Bellin](#) on Mar 25, 2021 at 5:15 pm

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Against a backdrop of increasing national attention to police violence, the Supreme Court on Thursday issued an opinion in a closely watched criminal-procedure case that clarifies the meaning of the term “seizure.”

The Fourth Amendment provides important constitutional limits on abusive policing. These protections take shape in two ways: limits on the introduction of evidence obtained unconstitutionally, and civil suits against police who violate constitutional rights. But the Fourth Amendment does not regulate policing generally. It only prohibits unreasonable “searches and seizures.” That’s why the court’s [ruling in \*Torres v. Madrid\*](#) preserving a broad understanding of the term “seizure” has important implications for regulating use of force by police.

The case concerned an attempt by two New Mexico police officers to stop a car driven by Roxanne Torres. The officers, who were trying to execute an arrest warrant for another person, approached Torres and her parked car. When they attempted to speak with her, Torres began driving away. Claiming to fear for their safety, the officers shot at the car, injuring Torres, who then drove off. The question the justices resolved on Thursday was whether this *unsuccessful* effort to stop Torres was a “seizure.” The officers claimed that people are seized only when they are stopped, while Torres kept



going. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit agreed, dismissing Torres' civil rights claim against the officers for violating her Fourth Amendment rights.

In a 5-3 opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, the majority reversed, concluding that the officers seized Torres even though she subsequently fled. The outcome fits neatly into the closest precedent, the 1991 case *California v. Hodari D.* In that case, the court explained that "[t]he word 'seizure' readily bears the meaning of a laying on of hands or application of physical force to restrain movement, *even when it is ultimately unsuccessful.*" (Emphasis added.) Pointing to this and other language in that case, the chief justice notes in the *Torres* opinion that "[w]e largely covered this ground in *California v. Hodari D.*"

Roberts takes pains, however, to set the opinion on its own feet. Over a strident dissent, he explains that whether or not the court is bound by stare decisis (the justices' on-again-off-again efforts to follow precedent), the justices "independently reach the same conclusions" here. The majority opinion does so on two primary grounds: history and text.

History often comes up short in Fourth Amendment cases because policing as we know it was almost non-existent in the 18th century. The majority insists, however, that this time, the "cases and commentary speak with virtual unanimity on the question before us today." But the majority's certainty rings hollow when it identifies "the closest decision" as the 1605 *Countess of Rutland's Case*. In that case, the "serjeants-at-mace" were executing a debt-collection judgment against Isabel Holcroft, an English noblewoman. The sergeants touched Holcroft with (you guessed it) a mace, while exclaiming "we arrest you, madam." The majority explains that since an arrest is undoubtedly a "seizure" and getting touched with a mace is like getting hit with a bullet, this history points the way toward today's holding.

To be fair, the majority cites other old cases and treatise excerpts. But the dissent by Justice Neil Gorsuch, which is joined by Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, points out that many cases of the era involved esoteric debt-collection practices. For example, debt collectors could only break into debtors' homes if they touched them first, often accomplishing this by reaching in through a window! And all the cases involve the "laying on of hands" (or maces), not guns or projectiles. Gorsuch scores rhetorical points when he scolds the majority for "wandering about" the vast legal library of the common law, "randomly grabbing volumes off the shelf, plucking out passages," "scratching out bits" and crafting a "new pastiche." But Gorsuch's argument is really a critique of the limits of originalism in this context, not the particular rule announced in this case.

The majority's textual interpretation is more straightforward. It recognizes that seizures most obviously occur when a person is stopped. But the majority points out that it is not ruling that Torres was seized from the point of the shooting onward. Instead, Roberts writes that "the officers seized Torres *for the instant* that the bullets struck her." (Emphasis added.) Quoting Justice Antonin Scalia in *Hodari D.*, the majority explains that a seizure "is a single act, and not a continuous fact." Thus, at the time the Constitution was adopted, "as now, an ordinary user of the English language could remark: 'She seized the purse-snatcher, but he broke out of her grasp.'" In prior cases, the court similarly explained that a seizure is the application of physical force that "in some way restrain[s] the liberty" of a person. Here, considering that Torres was shot twice in the back and suffered physical injuries, it seems reasonable to conclude that a restraint on her liberty, and thus a "seizure," occurred.

The opinion offers two surprises. The most important is the majority's broad holding. The majority goes out of its way to craft a clear line that reaches beyond the facts of this case. Both at the beginning and end of the opinion, the court announces: "We hold that the application of physical force to the body of a person with intent to restrain is a seizure even if the person does not submit and is not subdued." Notice that this captures not just significant restraints on liberty, but any touching at all. This is no oversight. Roberts downplays the implications of this breadth by explaining:

While a mere touch can be enough for a seizure, the amount of force remains pertinent in assessing the objective intent to restrain. A tap on the shoulder to get one's attention will rarely exhibit such an intent.

The majority is right that the intent requirement eliminates some minor touching from the "seizure" definition. But not all. Small intrusions, such as taps on the shoulder, will constitute seizures under the majority's reasoning if they are intended as a prelude to restraint, even when the tap-ee flees into a crowd. The dissent hints at other scenarios that may come within the broad rule: laser beams that damage the retina, pepper spray that irritates the lungs, and loud noises that damage a suspect's ear drums. Those are harder cases than the one presented here, and the court appears to (at least arguably) resolve them all with its broadly worded holding.

The second surprise is the amount of disagreement. Since the case followed directly from *Hodari D.*, a 7-2 textualist/originalist opinion penned by Scalia, some observers expected the court to come to greater agreement. Instead, the dissent spends 26 pages (nine more than the majority opinion) explaining why Scalia and the court were wrong in 1991 and Roberts and the majority are wrong in 2021. The dissent not only scoffs at the chief justices' arguments but accuses the majority of outcome-determinative reasoning: "an impulse that individuals like Ms. Torres *should* be able to sue for damages." Roberts

offers a pained response: “There is no call for such surmise. ... [W]e simply agree with the analysis ... set forth thirty years ago by Justice Scalia, joined by six of his colleagues, rather than the competing view urged by the dissent today.”

The bright-line rule announced by the court signals that remaining questions will now be the responsibility of the lower courts. For Torres, her civil rights claims against the officers can continue, although, as the majority notes, she will still need to overcome several other obstacles – such as showing that the seizure was “unreasonable” and that the officers are not entitled to qualified immunity – in order to ultimately prevail.

Posted in [Featured](#), [Merits Cases](#)

Cases: [Torres v. Madrid](#)

**Recommended Citation:** Jeffrey Bellin, *Divided court issues bright-line ruling on Fourth Amendment seizures*, SCOTUSblog (Mar. 25, 2021, 5:15 PM), <https://www.scotusblog.com/2021/03/divided-court-issues-bright-line-ruling-on-fourth-amendment-seizures/>

*This article was submitted by Reba Peden, PP, PLS, chair of the Seminars/CLE committee.*



"I think what you mean is to cite precedent. There is no statute of imitations."

# TECH TIPS:

## HOW TO CREATE STRONG, UNIQUE PASSWORDS

*Compiled by Karen Shearer, Technology Chair*

How many applications do you use that require a password? Seems like every time I turn around, I am having to change a password, and frankly, sometimes it is a real pain. Almost always that dreaded “change your password” message pops up at the worst times. Nevertheless, passwords are critical to maintaining security of your computer and systems you utilize on a regular basis. In this day and time, malicious actors are constantly working to hack passwords and break into systems and websites for “nefarious purposes.” Because of this, we need to create and maintain passwords that are memorable for the user, but difficult for hackers to guess. According to an article I recently read, the key aspects of strong passwords include:

- length (the longer the better)
- a mix of letters (upper- and lowercase), numbers, and special characters or symbols
- no ties to your personal information
- no use of dictionary words

I’m sure that’s not news to any of you.

However, I also learned that one way to create unique and strong passwords that are easy to remember is using CORE PASSWORD METHOD. Under this theory, you choose a **CORE** for the basis of your passwords – 6-8 characters, not a dictionary word, and not a proper name linked to you, and using at least one capital letter. Then a **RULE** is added.

For instance, choose a favorite song or phrase as your core, then use the first letters of that song or phrase as the basis for your CORE. For instance, Sitting on the Dock of the Bay would have “sotdotb” as the core. To that, you would add a capital letter, a number and a special character at designated positions, e.g., put a number at position 3 and a special character at position 6. Using S as the capital letter, 2 as the number and # as the special character, the combination– So2td#otb -- becomes the **CORE**.

After you have your **CORE**, then you determine your **RULE** – what do you want to add to your core for each account? You may consider adding an account identifier to the beginning or end of the core. For example, Email might be ESo2td#otb or So2td#otbE. The main thing would be to use something you can remember but it would not be easy for the dastardly hacker.

Finally, remember these tips for protecting your passwords:

- Do not share passwords with others.
- Do not use websites' or browsers' options to save your passwords.
- Do not reuse old passwords.
- Change your passwords every two to three months to avoid them being compromised.

*This piece was inspired by an article on Tech Tips published on J-NET, the Judiciary Network.*





## MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS



I am pleased to announce that we have extended our deadline for scholarship applications until May 1, 2021. Please be sure to get your applications in before the extended deadline. The application can be found on our website at [www.mississippilpa.org](http://www.mississippilpa.org).

Thank you for your participation.

*Reba Peden, PP-SC, PLS*

### THE HUSBAND REPORTS

When our lawn mower broke and wouldn't run, my wife kept hinting to me that I should get it fixed. But, somehow I always had something else to take care of first. There was always something more important to me. Finally she thought of a clever way to make her point.

When I arrived home one day, I found her seated in the tall grass, busily snipping away with a tiny pair of sewing scissors. I watched silently for a short time and then went into the house. I was gone only a minute, and when I came out again I handed her a toothbrush. I said, "When you finish cutting the grass, you might as well sweep the driveway."

The doctors say I will walk again, but I will always have a limp.

*What do you say about a very dear friend who is no longer with us. I have known Jamie for over twenty years, long before I ever became a member of MSLPA. She used to come to the football games when her nephew Joseph and my son Billy were playing Peewee football. We always had a good time at the games. If I were to choose one word to describe Jamie, it would be dependable. If Jamie told you she would do something, you always knew it would be done.*

*Jamie worked tirelessly to support MSLPA. She served wherever she was asked to serve. She came to all the meetings she was physically able to attend. Jamie supported the association in all its activities.*

*On the local chapter level she served as President many times. Her most recently held office was as Vice President. She would work tirelessly on our fund raiser the Procrastinator's CLE. She will be greatly missed by this association.*

*On a personal level, I will miss her vibrant personality, her laughter but most of all her loving friendship.*

*Lorraine*



***Jamie surely was a bright star in my life, and I'm sure she meant that and more to many others. Jamie, you are missed.***

***Carol Martin, friend and former member***

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### Mission Statement

We are committed to delivery of quality legal services through continuing education, increased professionalism, and networking.



## A Note from the Editor


I have enjoyed working with President Christopher Pickreign as the Editor of the *Profile* for 2020-2021. I hope that you have enjoyed this issue of *The Profile*.

It was my pleasure to dedicate this issue to Jamie Roddey, PLS, our dear friend and MSLPA Past President. Thank you to all who contributed your memories for that article. I have no doubt that Jamie would have been both humbled and honored by this memorial tribute.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions about the content. Also, if you have a cute graphic, cartoon or story you would like to be included, you can send it to me at [shearerks@bellsouth.net](mailto:shearerks@bellsouth.net).

Until next time...


*Karen Shearer*



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