

# THE PROFILE

MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS  
ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2016

## *President's Message— Sherry Baran*

I want to thank the members for trusting and electing me your President; I am very humbled. I'm very excited for the opportunity to work with each of you and I'm looking forward to a great year. Together we can accomplish great things! My hope is that each member will gain knowledge, confidence, and most of all continue to make lifelong friendships that will uplift and encourage our growth as legal professionals.

My theme for this year's installation ceremony was "A vision of the future rooted in tradition and

innovation". For me, it means a new and enhanced organization where members speak up and put their ideas forward for the betterment of our association, where communication is a key factor, and sticking to some of our traditions is a must. I am just a phone call away, please feel free to contact me if you need anything.

The Executive Board is brainstorming ideas to get more involvement from our chapter members for activities and CLEs. Hopefully, we will hit on that engaging spot that

will bring together more member involvement and attract new members; it's a work in progress.

I hope everyone is geared up and ready for another productive and fulfilling MSLPA year. We have some really great educational opportunities coming up at our September membership meeting and hope everyone will make it a priority to attend, as it seems too long since I saw all your friendly faces.



I close with this quote "Yesterday is gone, tomorrow has not yet come, we have one today, let us begin" (Mother Teresa).

See everyone In September; please bring a guest.



## *2016-2017 Statewide Officers*

President: Sherry Baran

President Elect: Barry Pickreign, ALP

Vice-President: Gina Knight, PP, PLS

Executive Secretary—Christopher Clark

Treasurer—June Hobson, PLS

Appointed Officers:

Parliamentarian—Anita Campbell, PP, PLS

Executive Advisor: Karen Shearer

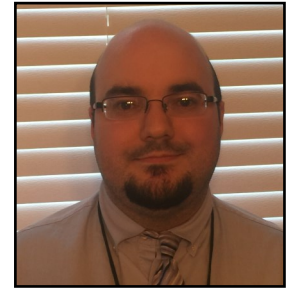


## Barry Pickreign, ALP — President Elect

Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I have been elected and installed as your President-Elect for this year, which means in May of 2017 I will be installed as your President. I feel honored that you have bestowed upon me this great title, and that you trust in my skills and abilities to lead this association. We will have a lot of fun next year, but I cannot do it without your help. I have attached a Committee Preference Sheet to this message. I would request that you fill it out and return it to me with your preference as to which committee you would like to Chair next year. If you feel you are not ready to Chair a

committee, but would like to learn more about a particular committee, feel free to ask me about it and I would be glad to help you get your feet wet working on a committee. This association cannot function without its Committee Chairs' and Officers. Our combined dedication and hard work help make this association operate and grow.



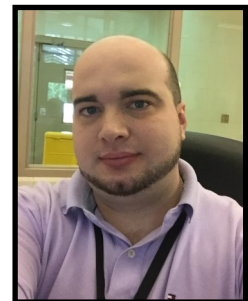
## Chris Clark—Executive Secretary

Hello Members,

I want to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Secretary this year. It is the Secretary's job to take minutes during the meetings and ensure that the minutes are recorded and correct. Once the minutes are typed out, it is my job to send the minutes to the President for inspection and then to the Executive Counsel. It is furthermore the job of the Secretary to know who is on what committee and to handle the

Alternate Director forms. I am going to do my best this year and make it a fun and interesting year. I know that our President has many wonderful things planned and I cannot wait to experience them with the membership.

I hope to see everyone at the September meeting!



## Anita Campbell, PP, PLS—Parliamentarian

It's an honor to be asked to serve as your Parliamentarian once again this year under the leadership of Sherry Baran, our current President. Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me.

As Parliamentarian, I'm here to answer questions regarding the State governance documents, to revise the documents as instructed and to perform any other procedural tasks as requested by the membership. As members, it is your responsibility and duty to read, review and become familiar with our governance documents. Everything you need to know about our Association, including, but not limited to, the duties of the officers, committee chairs and procedures to follow for the successful continuation of our Association, are contained within these documents. Please, take the time to review these documents. The documents, consisting of the By Laws, Manual of Policies and Procedures and Standing Rules, are available on the State website under the Members Only page, located under the Membership tab. If you need the login and password information, please let me know and I'll be happy to provide that information to you.

Please call on me at any time with your questions, comments and/or suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you!



## NALS Code of Ethics & Professional Responsibility

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## *2016—2017 Committee Chairs*

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



## *Technology Report—Anita Campbell, PP, PLS*

Technology – it changes so quickly these days. Are you keeping up with it? What cutting edge information are you interested in? I'd like to know, and we can learn together.

For instance, do you ever need to share a large file but don't have a file sharing program? You can use [www.beamit.com](http://www.beamit.com). This site has some restrictions on how you can transfer your files, such as the recipient needs to be online at the same time and the link is only good for ten (10) minutes. However, if this is a requirement you can

live with, this can be a good option to transfer large files. This site can also be used to receive large files (in case the person you need to receive files from isn't aware of this site). For more information, visit <https://www.justbeamit.com/help>.



The state website has been updated ([www.MississippiLPA.org](http://www.MississippiLPA.org)) with some new content, and specifically a "How Are We Doing?" comment box on the Contact Us tab. I was asked to create something that would allow for a completely confidential comment box that would also be completely anonymous, and this new feature does just that. So, do you have a suggestion? A complaint? An issue that bothers you about our meetings or leadership? Please use this comment box. Nothing is tracked, and no

personal identifying or contact information is requested. However, comments will be shared with the EC and Board of Directors so that issues can be resolved. As we all know, nothing can be corrected if issues are not voiced, and hopefully this will be a good method of communication to voice those issues.

If you have any other suggestions for our website or other social media sites in which our Association has a presence, please let me know.

## *Gulf Coast ALSP Director's Report— Nancy Gates, PP, PLS, CLAS*

GCALSP has been busy so far this year. First of all our officers for this year are:

Christopher Clark, President; Barry Pickreign, Vice President; Karen Kuhn, Secretary; Theresa Wilson, Treasurer; and I, Nancy Gates, serve as Director. Our Parliamentarian is Billie Ruddick.

We are planning a membership drive and Court Observance meeting for October. We hope that while we observe the theme of Miranda, More Than Words, we will also be able to increase our membership and further our recognition in the legal community.

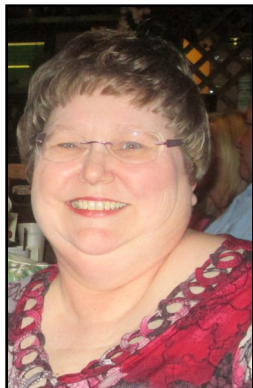
Since school is starting soon, our humanitarian project for August is to collect school supplies. For those of us who no longer have children in school it brings back memories and the excitement of a new school year as we shop and provide help for students who need it.

Our main focus for this year will be planning the annual meeting for 2017 and the installation of Barry Pickreign, ALP, as our state president. We look forward to inviting all the state members to join us in Taking Chances and enjoy a great conference. Location and details will be announced soon. Start making your

plans now.

We will be looking forward to our annual Christmas Party in December and will start making those plans soon.

I look forward to seeing everyone and learning who our new state officers will be for the next year.



## *Executive Advisor—Karen Shearer*

I appreciate the confidence that President Sherry Baran expressed in me by appointing me to the position of Executive Advisor. As Executive Advisor, I am available to not only the President and Executive Committee but also the members. Generally, the Executive Advisor has previously served in the office of President and is familiar with the Association's by-laws, standing rules and manual of policy and procedures. The Executive Advisor's primary responsibility is to ... well ... provide advice regarding various matters.

In September, I am looking forward to sharing fellowship with my MSLPA "family" from throughout the state. And if you're not already active on

the state level, I hope you will step out and join us at the membership meeting in Meridian.

To conclude this message as Executive Advisor, let me leave you with this thought:

*When life gets hectic and you feel overwhelmed, take a moment to focus on the people and things you are most grateful for. When you have an attitude of gratitude, frustrating troubles will fall by the wayside."*

Dana Arcuri, *Harvest of Hope: Living Victoriously through Adversity, a 50-day Devotional*

Hope to see you in September!



## *Pine Belt LPA Director's Report—Reba Peden, PP, PLS, SC*

Pine Belt would like to welcome you to Meridian for our September Membership Meeting. It has been my pleasure to work on this meeting along with my Chapter. We would like to thank Bill Ready, Jr., for sponsoring the room at The Riley Center and for his time as seminar speaker for this event. Lenette McDonald procured the goodie bags from the Meridian Convention and Visitors Bureau. Good job!

Since the last meeting, Pine Belt has been busy with the CLE for the Procrastinator seminar, our annual fundraiser for the chapter in conjunction with the Jones Coun-

ty Bar Association. We changed locations this year due to over-crowding last year (this is a good thing). We held the seminar at the Howard Industries Technology Center on the Jones County Junior College Campus. We had approximately 50 people in attendance. Refreshments were provided by Jones County Junior College's cafeteria.

We have also chosen our Humanitarian project for this quarter which was to provide \$50 to Morton Elementary School to go toward supplies needed for students there.

Pine Belt has doubled in size in the last year and we are pleased to have 11 members now. We have started a study group for the certification exams and the following members have signed up:

Maria Franco – PLS/CPL  
Karla Elmore – PP  
Tatiana McDonald – PP  
Rabiyyah Camara – PP  
Lenette McDonald – PLS/CPL  
Congratulations to these ladies for taking the first step in gaining their certifications.

Our meetings have been moving around some due to the spread-out nature of our



membership and we have met several times at Miss Martha Diehl's home in Mount Olive and several times at the Bank of Forest in Forest, MS. A big thank you goes out to Miss Martha for her hospitality and wonderful food and to Sheila Roddey for obtaining permission for us to utilize the Bank's conference room and for the time she gives on a Saturday to allow us to be there.

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

Metro LPA has increased to 20 members. Our Welfare Committee organized efforts to collect school supplies for Youth Villages in Ridgeland, MS. Youth Villages is a non-profit designed to help children with emotional and behavioral problems overcome their challenges and live successfully at home. They were very appreciative of our donation to their children.

We also conducted a summer fundraiser selling World Finest Chocolates, which is al-

ways a profitable and yummy endeavor!

Metro LPA continue to have wonderful speakers join us each month for our luncheons. In June, Thomas Watson, Esq., was our guest speaker, discussing Landlord/Tenant law in MS. Tray Hairston, Esq. met with us in July to share plans for the Downtown Jackson Renovation Developments. Francis Springer, Esq., joined us in August to discuss felony crimes. The CLE our members receive during meeting remains very valuable.

We are currently planning events for Court Observation Week and working toward a fall community service/fundraiser event.



Darleen Dozier, ACP, President; Terri Spurk, CP, Vice-President; Roslynn Solis-Champion, PLS, Recording Secretary; Lynn Gibbs, Treasurer; Renee Dean, MHA, Director; and Frankie Springer, CP, Parliamentar-



Pictured: June Hobson, PLS, and President Sherry Baran presenting the donation to the Pink Hearts funds director Melinda Rosetti-Spence.

## Director's Report—South MS

SMLP is rapidly growing and we now have a total of twenty-two members with four of those members having joined us within the last three months.

As a chapter SMLP has helped several of our members find jobs within the local legal community and we provide each member the opportunity to learn and earn CLE credit at our monthly meetings.

We have been involved with the community from the start and one of our most recent humanities projects was to

the Pink Heart Association in the amount of \$1,565.00.

We have taken on a continuous charity project with Betty's Back Pack Blessings which is an outreach program that provides free meals to children in our public school system. Betty's Back Packs was founded by Collette Towles and her daughter Olivia when they discovered that many parents can't afford to feed their kids on the weekend. Together Collette and her daughter Olivia single handedly pack 1,000 meals out of their dining room each week.

SMLP members contribute to this project by bringing a snack or dinner item to each monthly meeting.

For our end of summer fundraiser we will be having a raffle for a Saints Labor Day Cooler that has been filled with items for a day at the beach. Inside the cooler, members filled it with items such as Yeti Colsters, beach towels, sunscreen, a swimsuit coverup and other items.

SMLP will be having a membership appreciation party on August 27th that will be hosted at President Sherry Baran's home where we will also be hosting the raffle for the Labor Day Cooler.



## Humanitarian Report—Karen Shearer

This year as our main Humanitarian project, we will be assisting Betty's Kids Backpack Blessings (henceforth, Backpack Blessings), an outreach program which is administered by Attorney E. Colette Towles in Gulfport.

Backpack Blessings was started nearly five years ago assisting ten (10) children in a local school. This year, their extended outreach serviced 300 children. Ms. Towles and her daughter personally provide 1000 meals a week out of their dining room to children in four local schools. They were blessed to provide 37,800 meals this school year, and the extensions of their outreach delivered an additional 79,800 meals. Along with the meals, they also provided each child in the program with Christmas toys and stockings, and goodies at Valentines, Easter and

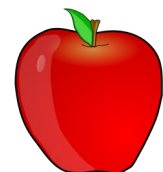
Halloween. When I read those numbers, all I can say is ... WOW!

The typical food which is sent home in back packs each week includes: Ravioli, Chicken Noodle Soup, Ramen Noodles, Vienna Sausage, saltine crackers, tuna, mac and cheese, peanut butter and jelly, cereal bowls, individual packets of instant oatmeal and grits, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, cookies, peanut butter crackers, chips, fruit juices and fruit snacks, and, when they can afford it, fresh fruit.

MSLPA has already donated \$50.00 to the program. If you would like to make a donation to supplement the MSLPA budgeted contribution, you will have that opportunity at our September membership meeting in Meridian by contributing food items as noted above or through your monetary donation. If you are

not able to attend the meeting but want to contribute, please let me know and I will coordinate accordingly. Any type of donation – food and/or monetary – is greatly appreciated. According to Ms. Towles, the practice of law is her chosen career, but the Backpack Blessings outreach is her calling! She is very grateful for our support.

Thank you for participating in this worthy project. If you have another project which you would like for us to consider as a part of our Humanitarian outreach this year, please let me know. **We are blessed as we bless others!**



## MSLPA Certified Members, as of July 2016

Sue Allmon, PLS, CFE

Anita Campbell, PP, PLS

Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS

Nancy Gates, PP, PLS, CLAS

Evelyn Harper, PLS

Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS

James Gini, PLS

Reba Peden, PP, PLS, SC

Diane Roark, PP, PLS

Lisa Roberts, PLS

Jamie Roddey, PLS

Jeannie Shaw, PP, PLS

Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS

Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS

Rosalyn Solis-Champion, PLS

Janine Williams, PP, PLS, ALP

Ginger Parmentier, ALP

Laura Green, PP, PLS, SC

Gina Knight, PP, PLS

Barry Pickreign, ALP

Anna Austin, LLP

Melissa Stricklin, ALP

Terri Spurk, CP

Darleen Dozier, ACP

Frankie Springer, CP

Renee Dean, MHA



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



## EXERCISING CIVILITY IN AN UNCIVIL PROFESSION

By Troy Farrell Odom

*“Civility costs nothing, and buys everything.”* Mary Wortley Montagu

Legal professionals are charged with guardianship of an important ideal: equal justice for all. Civility should be a part of any discussion about improving the profession. This past year, I chaired the Professionalism Committee of the Mississippi Bar Association, a labor of importance. The Mississippi Bar President (at that time), Roy Campbell, and I shared a common goal: to increase awareness of civility – or lack thereof – in the legal profession. Toward that end, we widely disseminated the Deposition Guidelines, focusing on educating judges and local bar presidents. We also proposed amendments to the Lawyer’s Oath, to include a charge to all lawyers to treat legal professionals with respect and kindness, not simply with fidelity.

Paramount to understanding our work is to differentiate the term “civility” from “professionalism”. Professionalism is governed by rules which, if broken, carry the threat of disciplinary action from an authoritative agency. Civility, on the other hand, concerns the manner in which legal professionals treat fellow humans, preferably with kindness and respect. In only the most extreme circumstances will professionals be disciplined for incivility.

Because incivility is not a sanctionable offense, many professionals could not be bothered to exercise it. In fact, in my experience, many professionals believe being uncivil gives them an advantage. It creates tension and intimidates the other side, causing the recipient to alter their normal course of representation to avoid confrontation. It may also make the antagonist more emboldened and aggressive.

It is tough in our combative profession to maintain civility. But being uncivil and disrespectful does not give you an edge; it just means you are not being nice. Do not give in. You do not have to be like that. You can still be successful by maintaining civility. More important, you can be respected and emulated.

Below are five of my conclusions regarding civility. I believe you will be a better legal professional if you follow these rules.

**1. Your level of civility is the foundation of your reputation.**

We would all like for our professional reputation to be based on our intelligence and legal ability. Eventually, it will; your core ability and work ethic is innate. However, it may take years for your reputation as a capable, industrious, and intelligent professional to filter through. In the meantime, your reputation will be based on how you treat others. Aside from your appearance, others will first notice how you treat them. That impression will not easily fade. Stop focusing on impressing others with your dazzling intelligence; first impress on them you intend to be kind.

**2. You will be cut no slack by the opposing side if you proceed in an uncivil manner.**

There is little motivation to extend grace to someone who treats you in an unkind manner. Moreover, it is possible to discount the legitimacy of that person’s legal arguments and/or the quality of their client. Whether that line of thinking is right or wrong, it is inescapable human nature. Unfortunately, we all know those professionals with a reputation for incivility, and they all start out with one foot in the litigation grave.

The opposite is true. The court, opposing counsel, and their staff will give you the benefit of the doubt if you treat them and the profession with respect and kindness. I find this rule to be particularly true for attorneys before a judge. Sometimes we need all the help we can muster.

**3. Opposing professionals will return your level of civility in spades.**

Many in our profession will gauge your level of civility before breaking out with their own level of nicety. Many want to feel comfortable they are dealing with a good person on the other side of the “v”. This gives you the opportunity to set the tone. Even if baited, if you demonstrate you will keep your cool and remain nice, the other side will often be pressured into behaving the same way. Everyone’s foot slips sometimes; however, if another is continuously extending us grace, we will likely change our behavior, making the entire situation more pleasant.

**4. Your civility impacts how others learn to practice.**

Young legal professionals soak up everything. You have an opportunity to make an impact on the next generation, including attorneys you may work with for a long time. Take advantage of that opportunity.

It is axiomatic that students do not learn how to practice law in law school. They learn the practical aspects on the street, by modeling legal professionals working closely with them. The best students closely watch everyone they come in contact with, gleaning different aspects and filing that knowledge away.

I learned how to practice law from the attorneys in my firm *and* the paralegals and staff. Without question, I remember the times incivility was used against me or another in my firm. Beware! Those times make for great stories at cocktail parties and coffee klatches years after they are committed. But I also remember when grace and kindness were extended, and will not likely forget. Set the right example; you may end up making an impression that lasts a career.

**5. You will be able to sleep better at night.**

Being courteous and civil will make being a legal professional more rewarding. It will improve your relationships with co-workers, the bar and the bench, it will increase the good of your reputation, and you will always know you traveled the high road. Equally important, your firm’s clients will appreciate your efforts to represent them with distinction. Unfortunately, if you don’t, your conscience will get the better of you. However, so long as you conduct yourself with civility and kindness, you never have to be ashamed.

J.D., Ole Miss School of Law (2002). [Troy](#) is a partner with [Blair & Bondurant, P.A.](#), Brandon, Mississippi. In 2015-16, Troy chaired the Mississippi Bar Association’s Professionalism Committee. He currently serves as President of the Rankin County Bar Association, and on the Executive Committee of the Natural Resources Section (SONREEL) of the Mississippi Bar. Email: [troy@bbfirm.com](mailto:troy@bbfirm.com).

The Deposition Guidelines, adopted by the Board of Bar Commissioners in 2013, can be found at the Mississippi Bar Website

The current Lawyer’s Oath can be found at [Miss. Code Ann. § 73-3-35](#). The amendments proposed by the Professionalism Committee have not been acted upon by the state legislature.

For example, the [Mississippi Rules of Professional Conduct](#) for lawyers; the [Code of Judicial Conduct](#) for judges; and the [NALS Code of Ethics & Professional Responsibility](#) for certified legal professionals.

*PLANNING AHEAD (2017-1018).....*

COMMITTEE PREFERENCE SHEET

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



Chairs for the following committees will be needed for the fiscal year 2017 to 2018, which will begin May 1, 2017. If you are willing to serve your state association during the coming year, please indicate your preferences 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.

- \_\_\_\_\_ CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
- \_\_\_\_\_ EXECUTIVE ADVISOR
- \_\_\_\_\_ PARLIAMENTARIAN
- \_\_\_\_\_ ADVERTISING CHAIR (sells ads for the *Profile*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ AWARD OF EXCELLENCE (conduct the competition)
- \_\_\_\_\_ BAR LIAISON (maintain contact with attorneys and bar associations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ CERTIFICATION (promote the ALP/PLS;CLP/PP certification programs in state)
- \_\_\_\_\_ CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION & SEMINARS (assist state association and local chapters with legal education & organize and promote association-sponsored seminars)
- \_\_\_\_\_ DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS (publicity and press releases for state association)
- \_\_\_\_\_ FINANCE (coordinates fund-raising projects)
- \_\_\_\_\_ HISTORIAN (compiles history book)
- \_\_\_\_\_ HUMANITARIAN
- \_\_\_\_\_ MANUAL OF POLICY & PROCEDURES (requires two years service on Executive Committee; coordinate preparation and/or modification of the written operational policy in accordance with *Bylaws* and *Standing Rules*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ MARKETING (promotes state association and assists local chapters)
- \_\_\_\_\_ NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS (conducts elections of officers)
- \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOLARSHIP (coordinates program to provide scholarship(s) to qualified applicants)
- \_\_\_\_\_ STATE PUBLICATION (editor of *Profile*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ TECHNOLOGY (received and disseminate information regarding technological advances; serves as Association webmaster)
- \_\_\_\_\_ STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO PRESIDEN-ELECT T BARRY PICKREIGN, AT

[barry.pickreign@gmail.com](mailto:barry.pickreign@gmail.com)

## **NALS COURT OBSERVANCE WEEK**

**OCTOBER 10-14, 2016**

On October 14, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford signed a proclamation designating the second full week of October as NALS Court Observance Week. This proclamation established the basis for a NALS tradition of recognizing the skill and dedication to the system we serve.

NALS has continued this tradition over the years by establishing an annual theme which our states and chapters promote when hosting Court Observance Week events locally. The theme for 2016 is "Miranda: More Than Words."

Each chapter and its individual members are encouraged to organize, publicize, and participate in an event during NALS Court Observance Week in celebration of the constitutional freedoms our courts protect. What can you do to get involved? Get a local committee together to plan a mock trial for staff members in your firm and invite staff members from other firms in your area to attend as well. Coordinate and promote a courthouse tour. The possibilities are limited only by your creativity and dedication.

Need more ideas? Network with your NALS friends, or search the internet to learn what other chapters have done in the past. A search using the term "court observance week" will produce several useful links. Look at our statewide website at [www.MississippiLPA.org](http://www.MississippiLPA.org) for more information.

I ask that each local chapter president provide me the name and contact information for their local court observance chair, and also have that chairperson contact me and let me know what their chapter is planning.

Theresa Wilson, PP, PLS  
2016 Court Observance Chair  
Aultman Law Firm, Ltd.  
Post Office Box 607  
Gulfport, MS 39502  
228-863-6913





## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

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

The September Membership Meeting of the Mississippi Legal Professionals Association, for the fiscal year 2016-2017, will be held at the Mississippi State University Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts on September 10, 2016. The Meeting will commence at 1:15 p.m.

### **REPORTS**

**OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS:** You are requested to prepare brief, single-spaced, typed reports, formatted for 8 1/2" 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 August 26, 2016.

### **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 Membership 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 Membership 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.

/s Christopher Clark

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Address: 134 Faust Dr.  
Gulfport, MS 39503  
E-mail: christopherclarkeros@gmail.com

DATE: July 21, 2016

President: Sherry Baran  
Address: 187 Lemeuse St.  
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# MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

September 10, 2016

Membership Meeting

**HOSTED BY: PINE BELT LEGAL PROFESSIONALS**

**MEETING ROOM SPONSORED BY: BILL READY, JR., ESQ.**

Mississippi State University

Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts

2200 Fifth Street

Meridian, Mississippi 39301

## SCRIP TICKET

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 (\$5 LATE FEE AFTER 9/1)**

	Price	Member(s)	Guest(s)	Guests Names and ages off children
REGISTRATION	\$ 10.00		N/A	
LUNCH	\$ 15.00			Catered by McAlister's Deli includes Spud Max Bar and Salad with Sweet/Unsweet Tea and water
TOTAL ENCLOSED FOR LUNCH AND MEETING: \$ _____				

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

PLEASE MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:	SCHEDULE
Sue Allmon, PLS, CFE 56 Steelman Road Purvis, MS 39475 Email: <a href="mailto:sallmon@firstam.com">sallmon@firstam.com</a> Phone: 601-268-6095	Registration: 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. Seminar: 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. Lunch: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Membership Mtg.: 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.
Chapter/state t-shirts and slacks/jeans or other comfortable clothing (keep it appropriate, please)	

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

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

*This facility is fully ADA compliant and has several HC parking spaces for the convenience of our members who require this. Please let us know if you require one of these spaces. HC Tags or Placards are required.*

# MISSISSIPPI LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION

September 10, 2016

Mississippi State University

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2200 Fifth Street

Meridian, Mississippi 39301

## SEMINAR REGISTRATION—EARLY REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED

TWO SESSIONS PRESENTED BY: William (Bill) Ready, Jr., Esq.

9:30 – 10:30 Understanding the Court Systems

10:30 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:45 Overview of Mississippi Rules of Civil Procedure

(An emphasis on Summonses, Discovery, ESI)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

PLEASE MAIL REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT TO:	REGISTRATION FEES
Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS 904 Augustine Dr Gulfport, MS 39507-2719 Email: <a href="mailto:karosel15@aol.com">karosel15@aol.com</a> Phone: (228) 669-8208 (cell)	Registration (members): \$20.00 (Non-Members) \$40.00  <b><i>This seminar is pending approval for 2.0 hrs.</i></b> <b><i>CLE by the Mississippi Commission on Continuing Legal Education</i></b> <b><i>Out of respect for our speaker, please register by</i></b> <b><i>September 7, 2016 so that an adequate supply of</i></b> <b><i>materials can be prepared for handouts.</i></b>

*This facility is fully ADA compliant and has several Handicap parking spaces for the convenience of our members who require this. Please let us know if you require one of these spaces. Handicap Tags or Placards are required.*

## MANUAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Anita Campbell, PP, PLS

Nancy M. Gates, PP, PLS, CLAS

A request was received by Stephanie Floyd, PP, PLS for suggested changes to our governance documents and, in particular, the Manual of Policies & Procedures ("MP&P"). These suggested revisions are as follows:

### **REQUESTED ITEMS FOR VOTE BY MEMBERSHIP**

- **Proposal to change the number of meeting dates/weekends in each fiscal year to two** (versus the current three). Each of the two (2) scheduled and duly-called meetings shall include a membership meeting and, where/when absolutely necessary, a board meeting

- **Mid-Year Membership Meeting** — change the date to later in the year so it will be approximately six (6) months after the annual meeting (in October or November) — the agenda should include the election of officers (which is required by secret ballot in writing) as well as any other matters which require vote by the membership (any changes to the governing documents of the association) or any matters which can be voted on by the membership (which are any matters before the association) [a board meeting here only if necessary, or an emergency arises]

- **Annual Membership Meeting (year-end) and Board of Directors' Meeting** (1st meeting of the newly installed board) — to be held as is currently being done and as outlined in the governing documents — agenda items to include approval of the budget for the coming year and approval of committee chairs, unless these items could be considered and approved at the Annual Membership Meeting.

- The change to this meeting structure may eliminate one or more committees / chairs — a review of the list of committees and their duties should be undertaken by either the current task force or a committee appointed by the current President which consists of the current president-elect and two past presidents that are not current members of the EC

- a change in meeting structure as well as any change in committee structure would necessitate revisions to the governing documents

- The Task Force Committee recommended a two meeting structure in their report to the association dated 05-21-16

- **Proposal to host at least one annual full day CLE event** — 8 hours substantive law including 1 ethics hour

- with target focus on marketing to attorneys & law firms in the area up to 40 miles radius (up to 90 miles if held in Jackson or any city/town on or north of I-20) from the designated site, or to the full list of MS Bar members if we can get the MS Bar to help market to (or provide us with) their full membership list at little or no cost

- to be held either (a) in conjunction with the annual meeting weekend or (b) between July 15 and August 31 (the deadline for CLE is July 31, but there is a grace period to get what is needed during August, or to get a head start on the new year), or both [SEE "NOTE" in "Leadership Training" below]

- open the registration up for anyone wishing to attend (including paralegals, legal assistants, legal secretaries, court personnel, whether or not they are members of our association), with pricing for attorneys and non-members to be the same across the board and a discount given for our association members



- ✦ schedule in 4 sessions of 2 hours each with 15 min break in morning and afternoon and at least 1.5 hour lunch break *[or one hour if (a) providing lunch at a separate cost; (b) restaurant(s) on-site; or (c) restaurant(s) within one block radius]*
- ✦ an affordable option for eight hours of CLE held in state
- ✦ suggestion of \$50 per session for attorneys and non-members and \$25/session for members — with a discount option buy 3 sessions & get 4th session as free bonus
- ✦ this CLE should NOT be held at a location in or near Hattiesburg, Laurel, or Meridian, and our event should NOT be publicized to anyone on the mailing list utilized by Pine Belt, so as not to interfere with the long-standing all-day-CLE already being offered by Pine Belt & their local bar associations in July of each year
- ✦ The Task Force Committee recommended this in their report to the association dated 05-21-16 — wherein they recommended holding "one in the northern district and one in the southern district" and the two locations do not necessarily have to be held on or near the same date

approval of this item would necessitate revisions to the governing documents (or inclusion if no section already exists to accommodate this CLE/fundraiser)

- **Proposal to host a Leadership Training Retreat** — attendance to be "required" for anyone wishing to be run for any office on the ballot (or nominated from the floor) for state officer at the mid-year membership meeting

○ no cost to attend but advance registration is recommended (registration forms to have a section to list each office in state and local chapters, with registrant to provide number of years served in any of the elected positions)

○ this leadership training could be done as part of annual meeting weekend or afterwards - so long as it is conducted before the deadline to accept nominations

○ NOTE: This could also be scheduled in conjunction with the all-day CLE event(s), to run either:

- ✦ in a separate room concurrent with a portion of the CLE sessions;
- ✦ in the evening following the 8-hour sessions; or
- ✦ the following morning (hopefully on a Saturday morning) at the same location
- ✦ the current EC should host this, inviting whomever they wish to speak on each officer's duties — and ask, in advance, those who have previously held elected office for suggestions of items to be included in discussion, things they found helpful during their term(s)
- ✦ the association's governing documents should be used to compile the outline for discussion of each office (with copies given to each participant)
- ✦ the host(s) shall pick a designee to serve as registrar (who must attend the event, and to receive the advance registrations) and that person shall provide a written report/list to the President and the Chairman of the Nominations and Elections Committee of the persons who attended all sessions and are, therefore, the only persons deemed eligible to be on the ballot (or nominated from the floor) in the coming election
- ✦ The Task Force recommended this leadership training in their reports to the association (08-01-15 and 05-21-16) approval of this item would necessitate revisions to the governing documents (or inclusion if no section already exists to accommodate this required leadership training event)

## **POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION REGARDING SCHEDULING OR REMOVING BOARD MEETINGS**

- The EC already currently and, typically, always has utilized whatever means necessary to conduct it's business with doing so at in person meetings (except in situations where they call/conduct a meeting to go over the new budget and/or any "emergency" items such as resignation of an officer)

- The Bylaws already provide:

- o Article VI (Board of Directors) Section 9 **Action Without a Meeting** states that "[A]ny action may be taken [by the Board of Directors] without a meeting, with at least a majority of the board members concurring in the action."

Article VII (Officers) Section 7 **Authority and Responsibility** states that "[T]he board of directors may take action in the place and stead of the membership between meetings on any matters, except those specifically reserved to the members by these bylaws" and that "[B]usiness of the board may be conducted by mail, telephone, electronic mail, or meetings."

The above items will be discussed at the September Membership Meeting and voted upon by the members in attendance. Please make every effort to attend this meeting so that your voice can be heard and recorded. After discussion and vote, the approved revisions will be made in redline format and submitted for review and distribution pursuant to MP&P Section II.M.3 at p.47.

### **Email dated August 1, 2016 from Stephanie Floyd**

Dear President Baran and members of the MS NALS Executive Committee:

I would like to request another item be placed on the agenda for discuss at the September 10 Membership Meeting:

☐ ☐ I would like to remind the EC and the Board of Directors that Amendments to the Bylaws and Standing Rules can only be made by the membership. Therefore, it stands to reason that any waiver of these provisions as written would require an advance notice and vote by the membership.

☐ ☐ I would like the EC and the Board of Directors of MS NALS to refrain from any future waivers of the governance documents without following these procedures.

☐ ☐ I thought everyone agreed, on numerous occasions, that deadlines were deadlines, without exception.

☐ ☐ It has now come to my attention that the Profile deadline and publication/distribution will not occur such that the membership will have the Profile in their hands at least thirty (30) days prior to the September 10, 2016,

membership meeting, as required by the Standing Rules.

☐ ☐ As a reminder, the issue of the timing and publication of the Profile has been moved at least two different times in the last two fiscal years and the fact that this deadline was "waived" by the current EC is simply not acceptable -- as the EC does not have the authority to make this waiver.

☐ ☐ **MS LPA Standing Rule No. 3. Calendar of Events and Deadlines, E. Publication** states as follows: "Two (2) issues of the State publication shall be published easy fiscal year and shall be delivered as follows: First Issue: At least (30) days prior to the First Membership Meeting."

☐ ☐ **MS LPA Bylaws, Article XI Amendments, Section 1. Procedures** states as follows: "These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members present at a membership meeting after a 30-day written notice of any proposed amendment has been give to local chapters."

Thank you, Stephanie Floyd

## **FINAL REPORT OF TASK FORCE MEETING**

**Saturday, May 21, 2016**

**Gulfport, MS**

The Task Force Committee appointed by President Reba Peden, PP, PLS, began with seven (7) members: Jamie Roddey, PLS; Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS; Leigh Branch; Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS; June Hobson, PLS; Darleen Dozier and Felicia R. Williams-Winston. During the year, Leigh Branch and Billie Ruddick served as co-chairs of this Committee. Unfortunately due to personal conflicts during the year, three members felt they needed to resign.

The Task Force held its first meeting in August 2015. Information from the state town hall meeting that was held on May 16, 2015, together with additional information from past discussions similar to the task at hand was reviewed in determining the failures, strengths and suggestions for improving state meetings, to encouraging increased membership, better membership participation, educational opportunities, marketing, leadership and communication among the state and local chapter members. Copies of the NALS and state bylaws, standing rules and the state manual were also provided to each committee member.

Following this first meeting and after reviewing and considering the information at hand, the Task Force made the following recommendations which were presented to the members by Co-Chair Leigh Branch at the September 19, 2015, Board Meeting of MSLPA that was held on the Gulf Coast. (Below is a short version of the recommendations, a copy of the First Report of the Task Force is attached for further review.)

1. One of the main recommendations for consideration was to encourage better communication between the state officers and the members as to the business to be discussed, the issues at hand, as well as the recommendations to be presented at state meetings – all to be made available to the members prior to any state meeting. It was suggested that perhaps a copy of the President's proposed agenda could be presented to the directors for distribution to the members prior to a state meeting. If there was a business matter for which a vote would be required, it could then be discussed ahead of time with the local chapter members and if any questions, the local chapter membership could explain the concept of the item to be presented for voting. Another means of communication would be a newsletter/e-mail to update the membership on the status of what is happening within the state association and as to upcoming events. While it was noted that such information should be on the website, it is not always there, and it was also noted that sometimes, some issues do not need to be openly placed on the website plus not all members have easy access to the website.

2. Leadership Training is necessary for state and local chapters. Some suggestions for providing leadership were to consider the Roundtable method of providing leadership for each office and committee chair at a meeting. This training is necessary not only for the state but for the local chapters.

It was suggested that we consider as encouragement for participation and leadership – to set aside a time at a state meeting to have a “Mock Meeting” wherein new members would get to serve as a state officer and conduct the business meeting. It would give the members an opportunity to understand what is entailed in being an officer and whether it is a leadership role they wish to pursue, or whether

they would prefer to participate as a committee member/chair or as a member only. Not all members want to serve as an officer and would rather just serve in other capacities.

3. Marketing – Membership – Finance: It was suggested that perhaps the state association should set up one big annual event. Having it annually so that each year, the community will look forward to such an event – which in turns provides recruitment for members, participation for members and a fun project for all. Proceeds going to a charity --- not necessarily the same charity each year. As word gets out, more people become more interested. This event would also help with financing for the state as well.

4. Seminars – Finance: Conduct state-wide seminar for attorneys' CLE – in the northern district and southern district. While this has always been discussed as a possibility, it has not been accomplished. The Task Force felt that it would be more attractive to the attorneys and other if it were be conducted on a Thursday as possibly an all-day seminar. Advertising would need to get out to the attorneys as well as the members and staff. Again, if this is done on an annual basis, it becomes known among the attorneys as “another opportunity” to get CLE closer to home and our fees may be not be as costly as other seminars for attorneys. It was suggested that these did not necessarily need to run concurrent in the districts, but perhaps have one in the spring in the northern district and one in the fall in the southern district.

5. Orientation of New Members – so they are aware of what is going on in the meetings. Possibly have a “mentor” sit with them during the meeting. Maybe have a 15-minute session prior to the actual start of a state meeting for new members attending a state meeting for the first time and suggest perhaps an “orientation committee” be appointed to accomplish this. This effort would not only provide information to the new members/first timers in attending such a meeting, they would have one-on-one type contact with a member/mentor who has attended several meetings. The Task Force feels this would make the first time member feel special, and may encourage them to really participate in the future.

6. Stress Leadership Development and Motivation at meeting – this would need to be discussed further for suggestions in promoting and encouraging leadership development and motivation. See Also, No. 2 above.

7. Lunch & Learn - Instead of having seminars at the one day board/membership meetings, have the CLE done during lunch. Have the lunch hour last possibly 1-1/2 hour. These lunch & learn sessions seem to work well. This can be utilized on the local level as well to encourage education and provide financial assistance. Just need to come up with a “catchy name” --- Blue Plate Special!

NOTED HERE --- at the one day board/membership meetings – suggest having the leadership, roundtable or motivational program in the morning, have the CLE during the lunch, and the business meeting after lunch. Different concept that may work better for the membership. The leadership, roundtable or motivational program is at no cost. The CLE with the lunch and learn could be combined with the lunch cost and become a part of the scrip ticket.

Also, as an update to this suggestion – This was done at the State January 2016 Board meeting and from the comments received, it was felt that this was a good way to provide CLE and conserve time at meetings for other business matters.



8. Two other concerns of the members was the need to increase membership and participation of membership -- the Task Force, after much discussion, agrees this must come from and starts with the Local Chapter. If you do not offer something to the chapter member, get that member involved, excited and want to be a part of the local chapter, it would be very difficult to get that same member to a state meeting in order to get them to attend, participate, share their experience and encourage others to join, etc. Commitment is hard to achieve if a person is a member only because his/her employer pays the dues or pays for the meals they attend and they in turn give nothing to the chapter and really nothing back to the employer.

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The second round of discussions for the Task Force consisted on telephone conferences with the remaining members, Jamie Roddey, PLS, Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS, Leigh Branch and Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS. Discussion regarding information received from NALS at the Tulsa Leadership Conference in February 2016, and discussion regarding past information and belief, the following new items are being presented as additional recommendations for discussion and consideration by the membership.

#### Task Force Committee

It was suggested that a Task Force Committee continue in order to oversee the recommendations presented by the 2015-2016 Task Force. Depending on how these recommendations unfold in the future would determine whether the Task Force is a viable committee.

Should it be determined that the Task Force Committee be dissolved at this juncture, it is recommended that a "Suggestion Box" be made available at each meeting whereby a member could put his/her suggestion in the Box (with or without their name). If the Executive Committee feels that the suggestion needs further review and consideration, a special committee could be appointment for action on said suggestion at that time.

#### Student Membership

At the NALS Leadership Conference in Tulsa, we learned that we were erroneously advised that our state bylaws were in conflict with NALS in allowing student members to vote at our state meetings. NALS has advised that we are not in conflict; that there are many states who allow student voting particularly since these states consist of four-year and two-year community colleges from which students are encouraged to attend meetings and once they are graduates and in the work force, they are more likely to continue their membership in the local and state associations. NALS advised their bylaws were guidelines; that NALS has a different governing system than the state and local associations and NALS understands that the state and local associations could have more modified uniform bylaws to accommodate the members and encourage increased membership through student members in participation and voting of each state and local association.

#### State Meetings

It was discussed by the Task Force that perhaps a change in meetings could be beneficial in encouraging more members to attend such meetings. Inasmuch as NALS has cut out board meetings and is actually down to one annual meeting, perhaps it is time for MSLPA to also consider such a change in meeting schedules. Such a change is being suggested by the Task Force and have proposed same for two forums. These changes would cut down the expense for hosting a meeting and cut down the expense for each member attending, but still provide the business at hand including leadership and CLE sessions.

## 1. Annual Meeting and Mid-Year Meetings:

The Annual Meeting could be a one-day or two-day event and not three. Held on a Saturday: could have a morning session, lunch & learn, business meeting and following the business meeting or during the business meeting have the installation of officers and a short reception following same. This could be a one-day event and very economical for the host chapter planning the event and the members attending the event.

The Mid-Year Meeting – would be as it is currently – CLE and business meeting whereby election of officers take place. Again, just a one day event and economical for the host chapter and the members.

These meetings would delete the need for board meetings. The officers could meet at separate times as necessary to discuss the business and if any item must be voted on prior to the annual meeting or the mid-year meeting, it could be done by e-mail vote through the directors. This still occurs at times and nothing would change except it deletes the need for meetings (scheduled board meetings).

The newly elected officers would do, as they normally should do, meet prior to the annual meeting to come up with the new budget and any committee chairs /appointed officers which would be voted on at the annual meeting.

All issues of business would be voted on by the membership, not the director unless something comes up during the year which requires an emergency vote, then e-mails to the directors to present to the members would be necessary for action.

2. Annual Meeting only. CLE and business, election of officers and installation of officers can all be done at this one meeting. The officers would again be able to meet and if any emergency action is required, it can be done by e-mail through the directors throughout the year. This concept has been adopted by NALS and seems to work well.

One annual meeting would delete several committees that are not necessarily needed. Of course with any change in meetings or any of the above, it would also mean that the governing laws of the state association would need to be reviewed and revised.

These are just suggestions for consideration in changing the meetings. The concept could remain the same for a 3-day annual meeting and a one-day mid-year meeting. Just deleting the need for board meetings.

With such a change, members would be able to plan and attend more readily; it would mean less time they have to request off from work, less expense involved in attending the meeting requiring overnight stays, less expense in meals as the main meal would be the lunch; and the host chapter would have less costs and less stress in preparing and making arrangements for said meetings.

The Task Force understands that the change in meetings would require more discussion, but in trying to encourage more participation, more economical ways for the member and the state, this is a concept that deserves further consideration by the membership. The Task Force also believes that after everyone stops and seriously considers these proposals, they will find that it may be what is best for the members and the state association.

As to the concept for the need of more CLE, it is noted NALS still provides this at the one annual meeting it now holds, but that it has also gone the way of Webinars. Our state association has discussed this concept numerous times as the way to obtain CLE. The concept of holding an annual or semi-annual CLE seminar can be accomplished and would create the financial means to continue to operate the state association. There are many avenues for obtaining CLE that is being provided in this age of Technology and our Technology Committee is working on several opportunities.

#### OVERALL

All of the above recommendations are just recommendations. It is felt by the Task Force that we should explore new possibilities and until we do look at different concepts and forums, our membership remains basically the same -- poor attendance, lack of enthusiasm for participation and lack of good leadership. Decisions must be made, hard decisions, but in the end, it is what the member feels is best for the overall membership. Some of these suggestions/recommendations will be met with immediate objections, some will be met with possibilities, and the Task Force understands this. But this Task Force was asked to make suggestions/recommendations that would encourage more participation, encourage more leadership, encourage increased membership, encourage educational opportunities and marketing and create better communication among the state and local chapter members. The Task Force feels we have accomplished this with the above. If nothing else, we believe we have your attention!

What will it honestly take to resolve any or all the above – cooperation, sharing and communication.

And based on the above, the Task Force feels it has made progress in coming up with suggestions and ideas to help with the local chapter and the state association. It was a little difficult getting started at first, but we believe we are on the right track to get the members of MSLPA thinking, considering and sharing!

The Task Force would also like to take this opportunity to thank President Reba for establishing this Committee and appointing us to take on this task on behalf of you, the member, and our state association.

Respectfully submitted,

Billie Ruddick, PP, PLS

Leigh Branch

Jamie Roddey, PLS

Karen Kuhn, PP, PLS

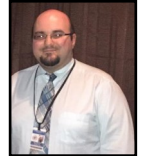
MS LPA 2015-2016 TASK FORCE

# *Congratulations!*

**Jamie Roddey, PLS**  
**2016 Award of Excellence**  
**Recipient**



**Barry Pickreign, ALP**



**2016 Cheryl Crayden, PLS, Memorial Scholarship**  
**Recipient**

**Karen Shearer**  
**2016 MSLPA Member of the Year**



## Memories from May 2016 MSLPA Meeting



## Finance Committee Report

We will have the 50/50 drawing at the September 10 Statewide meeting in Meridian. We will also have door prizes you try to win by purchasing tickets. So bring your cash! This is a fun fundraiser for the state association!

NEEDED:

## Door Prizes for Statewide Meeting

If you know of businesses that like to donate to nonprofits, please ask them about donating a door prize for our September 10 meeting in Meridian. The more the merrier!







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

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*Note from the Editor—Darleen Dozier, ACP*

I'm very excited to be taking on this project on behalf of Mississippi State LPA. I love doing these kinds of projects and I hope you will be pleased with the latest edition of The Profile.

I would like to make the disclaimer, however, that I'm still new to the organization and am still learning the "ropes". So if I made a blunder, please feel free to point it out to me in kindness and I'll do my very best to correct it for next time.

There's a lot of information and good works being highlighted and I hope you'll take a minute to read through and see what we're accomplishing throughout the state. In addition, Karen Shearer arranged for a great article to be submitted by Troy Odom, Esq. Thanks Karen! And a big thanks to Karen, Anita, and Reba for their assistance in putting this issue of The Profile together!

If you have suggestions, please email me at [ddozier@holmescc.edu](mailto:ddozier@holmescc.edu).

