

A MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT

HPA Members,

Well, this is my last article, you all have a new President! When I agreed to be President back in 2020, who knew the world would shut down and I would be doing this for a while.

There were definitely some ups (a few) and downs. I almost gave up but thank you to Nicole Conner who would not let this organization sink! I also want to thank the rest of my Board these past couple of years, Tony, both Laurens, Lauren Walker who keeps the Media going and this Newsletter and one of the few ups, Lauren Butler deciding to become a Paralegal again and joining back up during Covid, that made me so happy, and you will do a wonderful job being President! Also, Christi, being our Treasurer, Kate who has been keeping the Community Outreach going through out these couple of years and Jennifer who has joined, taken over NALA Liaison and now First Vice President, we love the enthusiasm!

Thank you all.

I also want to say good luck to the new Board, Lauren, Jennifer, Sally, and Kate.

It seems like everyone finally wants to get out of the house to socialize and we are beginning to get back to our regular routine. On May 22nd we will have a speaker and meeting at Brew Lab in Overland Park, please be on the lookout for announcements. During the summer we are taking a break, but we will be back in August with a Happy Hour. Don't forget, we will have our Annual Seminar at Thompson Barn on October 27th. We look forward to seeing everyone and a Big THANK YOU for all your patience.

--Marlene Lubowicz

Heartland Paralegal Association President, 2022-2023



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Membership News	2
Media Committee News	3
Election News	4
Student News	6
Community Outreach	7
Programs & Education	8
NALA News	9
This and That	10
2023 - 2024 Officers	11
Upcoming Events	12
Supporting Vendors	13

We want to hear from you!
Share new jobs, promotions,
awards, graduations, etc.

Email

lauren.sandefur.ls@gmail.com

STAY CONNECTED

facebook

Linked in

-----MEMBERSHIP NEWS-----

Jennifer Kempf, Chair

Current members: 46

Associate - 4
Voting - 27
Sustaining - 6
Student - 7
Honorary - 2



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Voting

Sherry Harrison, Ignite Emporia

Student

Rebekah Darrow, Johnson County Community College

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Networking – Connect with other area paralegals at monthly meetings, social events, annual seminar, and community outreach programs.
- Education – HPA provides quality continuing legal education opportunities during monthly meetings and at its annual Fall Seminar.
- Community Outreach – Join other members in serving the Kansas City Community with hands-on volunteer opportunities several times throughout the year.
- Discounted monthly meetings and Fall Seminar
- HPA Headnotes Newsletter
- Job Bank – Get the inside scoop on new jobs in the metro area

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

VOTING MEMBERSHIP - Open to individuals in Kansas City and surrounding areas, who qualify through education and/or experience as a paralegal or legal assistant. Annual membership is \$40.00.

PARALEGAL STUDENT- Open to individuals who are either full-time or part-time students in good standing in any college, junior college, or other school pursuing a course of study as a paralegal.

Visit our About Us page below for additional info and requirements. <https://www.heartlandparalegalassociation.org/Paralegal-Membership-Benefits>

JOIN NOW

WWW.HEARTLANDPARALEGALASSOCIATION.ORG

TIME TO RENEW - Membership Renewals

Already a member? Membership renewal started on April 1. Watch for your renewal invoice by email, or login at www.heartlandparalegalassociation.org to renew your membership.

Are you concerned you won't be able to pay the membership fee? Please reach out to [Lauren Butler](#) or Jennifer Kempf.

Amendments to HPA Bylaws and Standing Rules

An email went out to Voting members on April 18, 2023 with information regarding a few changes to our bylaws and standing rules, which will be voted on at our next meeting in May. Proxy information was also included with this email.

If you missed the email with the proposed changes and the proxy form, please reach out to [Nicole Conner](#) or [Lauren Walker](#).

----MEDIA COMMITTEE NEWS-----

Lauren Walker, Chair



New HPA Website??!

That's right, HPA may be switching to a new website provider. Stay tuned and keep an eye on your email! You may need to reset your username and password that will be tied to the new website. We are working with a new provider and our intention is to make the change as seamless as possible. Thanks for your patience as we do our best to make your HPA website experience even better!



Spring 2023

-----ELECTION NEWS-----

Lauren Walker, Chair



Meet your new Executive Board!

You made your voices heard at our annual meeting on April 3rd, and we have a new executive board for the 2023 – 2024 membership year. They cannot wait to meet you and make HPA a great organization!



President, Lauren Butler

You've definitely seen Lauren around, since during the last membership year she served as our First Vice President and Membership Chair. Lauren has been a paralegal for over 15 years. She has worked in big and small firms in various areas of law, and currently works at Polsinelli in a very niche area of real estate law called defeasance. Lauren has been a member of HPA on and off for a number of years and has served in several Board positions. She is excited to see what this new year brings and wants to encourage our members to attend more in-person events and increase our membership numbers.



HEADNOTES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



First Vice President and NALA Liaison, Jennifer Kempf

This is Jennifer's second year as the NALA Liaison for HPA. She graciously accepted a nomination from the floor for the first vice president and membership chair position for 2023 – 2024. Jennifer is always willing to help out and is dedicated to making sure HPA is up to the NALA standard as an affiliated association. She has been an HPA member since 2021 and works as a paralegal at Creative Planning Legal, P.A.



Treasurer, Sally Melms

We love seeing a fresh new face on the executive board! Say hello to Sally Melms, an HPA member since 2021 and a paralegal at Creative Planning Legal, P.A. Sally specializes in wills, trusts, and probate law. She graduated from the paralegal program at JCCC in 2019.



Secretary, Kate Stuart

If you’ve participated in any of our community outreach events, then you’ve had the pleasure of meeting Kate Stuart, one of our long-time members of HPA. A part of our organization since 2015, Kate has been the community outreach chair for a number of years, and also writes for our blog on the website. When she’s not giving back to the community, Kate is a paralegal at Horn Aylward & Bandy, LLC. Thanks for stepping up to the plate, Kate!

An extra special thank you to the outgoing board members, Marlene Lubowicz, Christi Walker, and Nicole Conner. **THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND HAVE DONE!!** We appreciate your hard work!

----STUDENT NEWS-----

JCCC Holds Appeals Court Hearing on Campus



As the Johnson County Community College campus slowly returns to a pre-pandemic routine, the Kansas Court of Appeals finally returned to JCCC to hold oral arguments on April 11. This event was open to the public and is typically held every year in mid-April at the campus.

Per the Kansas Judicial Branch [News Release on April 6, 2023](#), these were the cases heard:

Appeal No. 125,187: State of Kansas v. Marquis Brandon Holmes

Leavenworth County (Criminal Appeal): Holmes appeals after a jury convicted him of aggravated battery arising out of the stabbing of another man. On appeal, Holmes contends the State improperly attempted to shift the burden of proof to him. He also contends the district court erred by admitting prejudicial evidence at trial. In addition, Holmes contends he is entitled to a new trial based on cumulative error.

Appeal No. 125,442: Guy Corazzin v Edward D. Jones & Co., L.P., d/b/a Edward Jones, et al.
Johnson County (Civil Appeal): Corazzin appeals after the district court granted summary judgment to Edward D. Jones & Co. He alleges he suffered injury when a chair he was sitting on broke. On appeal, Corazzin contends Edward D. Jones & Co. knew or should have known the chair was dangerous based on the assembly instructions.

Appeal No. 125,651: Jenny E. DeCavele v. Winbury Operating, LLC, Bear Partners, LLC, and Four B Corp., d/b/a Balls Sun Fresh Market.
Wyandotte County (Civil Appeal): DeCavele appeals after the district court granted summary judgment to the owners of Sun Fresh Market. She alleges she fell and suffered injury as a result of a hole in the store's sidewalk. On appeal, DeCavele contends the district court erred in finding the "slight-defect" rule barred her claim.

If you were unable to attend this event, you can view the video [here](#), and the [docket listing](#) and case [decisions](#). Case decisions are usually issued 60 days after oral arguments.

-----COMMUNITY OUTREACH-----

Kate Stuart, Chair

HopeBUILDERS KC



It's one of the longest ramps HopeBUILDERS has built at 137 feet, and a lot of the work was done on Friday, but on Saturday, April 15, the rain held off and we worked hard to finish. It was great time doing good work!





HEADNOTES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



HopeBUILDERS is a nonprofit that exists to help low-income older adults and people with disabilities in the Kansas City Metro area live in safe, accessible, and healthy homes, HopeBUILDERS does this by providing accessibility solutions (ramps, door widenings, and bathroom modifications) and other critical home repairs. Through these projects, HopeBUILDERS helps others age in place.

The HopeBUILDERS' philosophy is based on close cooperation between the homeowner, the nonprofit and many partner organizations. HopeBUILDERS provides the project management, labor and arranges with partner organizations and donors to secure the project funding.

--PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION----

DINNER & CLE – HOT TOPICS IN REAL ESTATE LAW

Monday, May 22, 2023 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Brew Lab
Overland Park, KS



Speaker: Bradley Farris, attorney at Chicago Title

[Click here to register!](#)

We'll dive into the fundamentals and essentials of real estate law:

- FAQs on common issues that come up with real estate closings
- Common mistakes made when preparing real estate documentation (and how to avoid)
- Current real estate market conditions (how it's affecting the real estate law specialty)

And more!! You won't want to miss out!



HEADNOTES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

HPA ANNUAL SEMINAR

Friday, October 27, 2023

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Thompson Barn,
Lenexa, KS



Registration coming soon!

Our annual seminar never disappoints! We'll have several different speakers covering a wide variety of topics, including legal ethics.

We've pushed it to this fall, so we can have some extra time to plan.

We'll need some help putting this together, so keep an eye out for an email from seminar committee!

-----NALA News-----

Jennifer Kempf, NALA Liaison



The annual NALA Conference and Expo is July 12 – 14, 2023 in Boston, MA; for more details, [click here!](#)





HEADNOTES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

-----THIS AND THAT-----

United States District Court – Kansas Propose Changes to Local Rules

Per the March 21, 2023 news release, The United States District Court for the District of Kansas gave notice of the amendment of local rules 83.5.3, 83.5.4, 83.6.5, and District of Kansas Patent Rule 4.5. More information and redline version of the amendments can be found on the court website [here](#). All comments were due on April 17, 2023.

The opinions expressed in *HPA Headnotes* are those of the writers and not the Heartland Paralegal Association. Information published in *HPA Headnotes* is submitted by HPA members. HPA assumes no responsibility for verification of the information submitted.

2023-2024 OFFICERS



President
Lauren Butler
Polsinelli
laurendhh@hotmail.com



First Vice-President
Jennifer Kempf
Creative Planning Legal
jkblr2000@gmail.com



Secretary
Kate Stuart
Horn Aylward & Bandy, LLC
kstuart@hab-law.com



Treasurer
Sally Melms
Creative Planning Legal
Hpatreasurer2015@gmail.com



NALA Liaison
Jennifer Kempf
Creative Planning Legal
jkblr2000@gmail.com



HEADNOTES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday May 22, 2023 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Dinner & CLE	Hot Topics in Real Estate Law Brew Lab – Overland Park, KS Speaker: Bradley Farris, attorney at Chicago Title
August 2023 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Summer Social	Location TBD More information coming soon!
Friday, October 27, 2023 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Seminar	Annual Fall Seminar Thompson Barn, Lenexa, KS More information coming soon!

More events coming soon! Check your email!

Visit HPA’s Events page for more information and to register.
<http://www.heartlandparalegalassociation.org/ParalegalCLEvents>



HEADNOTES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023



JOHNSON COUNTY BAR
association



ELITE INVESTIGATION LLC
(816) 550-6087



Reporting
Service, Inc.

888.273.3063
WWW.APPINOBIGGS.COM



complete legal

Rediscover eDiscovery



BRANCH LEGAL
RECRUITMENT, LLC

National Staffing Firm for the Legal Profession

Emily Branch, Founder & Legal Recruiter
emily@legalrecruitment.us